

THE VOTE,  
MAY 19, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

# Healing of the Nations.

C. DESPARD.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIV. No. 343.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 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 PRIME MINISTER AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

In a letter to the Prime Minister Mrs. Henry Fawcett, president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, stated that the very general rumour that the Government will deal with the franchise question before the General Election following the end of the war had caused some anxiety among suffrage organisations, because it was feared that the suffrage might be dealt with in a manner prejudicial to the prospects of the enfranchisement of women.

Mr. Asquith replied on May 7 as follows:—

Dear Mrs. Fawcett,—I have received your letter of the 4th. I need not assure you how deeply my colleagues and I recognise and appreciate the magnificent contribution which the women of the United Kingdom have made to the maintenance of our country's cause. No such legislation as you refer to is at present in contemplation; but if, and when, it should become necessary to undertake it you may be certain that the considerations set out in your letter will be fully and impartially weighed without any prejudgment from the controversies of the past.—Yours very faithfully,  
H. H. ASQUITH.

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### What? A New Pledge.

Mr. Asquith has footed it feately in his elegant *pas de deux* with Mrs. Fawcett. We welcome his assurance that "no such legislation"—that is, legislation such as the Government has definitely promised in relation to an overhauling of the registration and franchise difficulties—"is at present in contemplation," and we offer our sincere sympathy to those who believed they had good reason to assume that such legislation *was* in contemplation. The further promise that "the considerations set out in your letter will be fully and impartially weighed" leaves us cold. The almost identical pledge was given in relation to the Grey amendment to the dead Franchise and Registration Bill; but the impartiality, and the "free vote" so much advertised were weighted with the reminder that the House would not go back on its "considered decision." We would, if we could, study Mr. Asquith's utterance without—to use his own words—"any prejudgment from the controversies of the past"; but these pledges seem to involve their maker in such continual difficulties, we can hardly hope for better luck than the gentlemen who were promised a speedy readjustment of the franchise, or those others, too numerous to mention, victims to the Premier's facile pledge habit. It will not do to let ourselves be uplifted by the elegance of Mr. Asquith's phraseology; and there will be few suffragists who will not be indignant at the attempt to convert the *right* of representation into a *reward* for "the magnificent contribution which the women of the United Kingdom have made to the maintenance of our country's cause."

## An Object-Lesson.

We do not know whether it be more sad or comical to read the congratulatory statement of Mr. Herbert Samuel on the closing of prisons through the war. The denizens of our local prisons have fallen in number from 13,667 to 6,904; and the prisons at Brecon, Chelmsford, Devizes, Hereford, Knutsford, St. Albans, Stafford, and Wakefield have been closed and lent to the War Office. Reading Gaol is being used for aliens. Five other prisons may also be closed. Who, then, are the criminals, and why? Deducting the number of men with the Colours who are undergoing military punishments for offences not purely military, and who would otherwise have been sentenced by civil courts, we come to this conclusion: save people from the fear of starvation and idleness, clothe them, give them work and interest, and you will reduce the criminal population by half or more.

## "Compulsion—A Woman's Problem."

We recently called attention to the heavy additional burdens and responsibilities which will be thrust on women, without any accompanying authority or power of control, by reason of the compulsory military service of men who had not felt that their circumstances warranted their enlistment. We are now followed by *The Times*, which is apparently beginning to feel some compunction at the success of its campaign for conscription. The penny dreadful moans over the poverty that will be brought into the homes of the well-to-do, the necessity that will be on married women to seek employment, the absence of crèches to shelter their neglected babies, and the lack of business training which will handicap so many willing workers. "Compulsion," says this remarkable article, "is certainly a woman's problem as well as a man's." Is Saul also among the prophets? The wonderful "discoveries" made by the Press about women—that they can work, that they can adapt themselves, that they are patriotic, that they are courageous, that they have appetites like men and do not subsist on buns and tea because they like them better than beef and burgundy (but because their pay has never before permitted this indulgence), and last, but not least, that they are not too shy to go into restaurants and order meals and pay for them—all this is pure farce. One can only ask, Who are the absurd people for whom all this flapdoodle is concocted?

## Penny Wise and Pound Foolish.

London's streets are to go unwashed this summer because of shortage of labour. When fever hospitals are crowded, and the enemy of dirt at home slays its thousands, this false economy will stand revealed in all its seriousness, but too late. Women are quite capable of doing this important and necessary work.

## The Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.

At the annual meeting of the Union on May 10, the following resolution was passed: "As the present crisis has revealed the will and capacity of the women of this country, not only to perform the duties of citizenship, but to fulfil the urgent demands made upon them as a direct consequence of the war; it is more than ever a matter of primary justice that women should receive full citizens' rights." The confident hope was expressed that the enfranchisement of women would be put "in the forefront of the Liberal Party's programme of reconstruction at the conclusion of the war."

OUR BEST THANKS TO MR. HOLFORD KNIGHT for his interesting and enlightening lecture on "Civil Liberty."

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Friday, May 19.—COMPETITION TEA, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3-5 p.m. Tickets, 6d. each. COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 p.m.  
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. DARE TO BE FREE. 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.

Wednesday, May 24.—HYDE PARK, near Marble Arch, at 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 25.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Highbury Corner, 8 p.m.

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

Sunday, May 28.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. LECTURE on Shelley by Mrs. Despard at 129, East Dulwich-grove, S.E., 4 p.m. Tickets 1s. each.

Thursday, June 1.—L. B. C. Meeting, 6 p.m., at W. F. L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe road, 7 0 Speaker: Miss Lucas (Darlington).

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, May 29.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Jumble Sale. Tuesday, May 30.—PORTSMOUTH. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard: "Women and War Economy."

Monday, June 5.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30. Speaker: Miss A. Cooke.

Thursday, June 15.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30. Speaker: Miss George Lansbury.

Monday, June 19.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

## SCOTLAND.

Saturday, May 20.—EDINBURGH. Jumble Sale, Arthur-street Hall (Pleasance), 3 p.m. Helpers wanted, Friday evening and Saturday.

## We Call Special Attention to—

1. THE LECTURE by George Bernard Shaw, on "War Economy," to be given on Wednesday, May 24, at Clapham Public Hall, at 8 p.m.

2. THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN DAY, Caxton Hall, on Thursday, June 8, 8-9.30 p.m. The many interesting Russian features will include concerts, living pictures, children at play, dramatic performances, short lectures on Russian women in art and literature, their legal position, folklore, &c.; lantern slides of Russian scenes and people. The proceeds will be shared by the Russian Prisoners of War Fund and the Women's Freedom League.

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.

## A STAUNCH SUFFRAGIST.

## Francis Sheehy Skeffington.

When we went to press last week the facts relating to the death of Mr. Sheehy Skeffington—true friend and fellow-worker for the suffrage cause—were not known. The sympathy of the League goes out to Mrs. Skeffington in her great sorrow, and the loss of so staunch a supporter of the woman's movement will be deplored throughout the world.

## WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

## First Woman Church Warden.

Lady Rhondda, well known in the suffrage movement, has been elected as Churchwarden at Llan-wern, Monmouthshire.

## Appointments under Public Bodies.

The draft report of the Women's Local Government Society calls attention to the extension of women's employment under public bodies. There are now seven women relieving officers filling the head position under the Guardians, and thirty who are acting as assistants. Two new appointments have lately been made, one being at Hammersmith and one at Omagh. Lady Ebury at Watford and Miss Siddon at Huddersfield occupy the chair of the Board of Guardians; Mrs. Davies presides over the Aberdare Education Committee. One of the most notable directions in which women have responded to the call for their services is as medical officers of health; local authorities have gladly availed themselves of their help at the recognised salaries paid to men. Two other noteworthy appointments are: Dr. Esther Catling as county tuberculosis officer by the Berkshire County Council, and Dr. Evelyn Cohen as resident medical officer at the borough sanatorium of the Brighton Town Council.

## Customs Watchers.

"Under stress of war conditions the Government services are fast losing their prejudice against the employment of women," says the Civil Service Correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. Women are now to be employed as Customs watchers, and for the first time women will wear a Customs uniform. Their duties will be to watch dutiable goods, lock and unlock bonded stores. The pay is 21s. a week in London, 18s. in outports; 6d. an hour over a 48 hours' week. These positions have usually been reserved for ex-soldiers, sailors, and police.

## Secretaries.

A woman has been appointed secretary to the Barristers' Benevolent Association. Lloyds—once the sacred domain of men—now employs fifty women in various departments.

## Rate Collectors.

A woman has been appointed under the Eltham Board of Guardians to take the place of her brother, called up for active service. There are now between twenty and thirty women rate collectors. Recent appointments have been made at Enfield, Shifnal, and Middlesbrough.

## Certified Grocer.

Miss Amy E. Owers, of Woolwich, daughter of a grocer, and owner of her own business, has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Grocers.

## Dorset Farmers' Offer.

At a recent meeting of the Blandford Farmers' Club several members offered the use of furnished cottages free of rent to women who would work on the farms at a reasonable wage.

## Money Matters.

The following editorial note from the *New Statesman*, May 6, 1916, puts clearly some important facts in which women and children are vitally concerned:

"The Co-operative Wholesale Society—the largest purveyor of household supplies in the world, selling nearly a million pounds' worth a week—gives us some authentic particulars of the rise in prices of food of English working-class consumption. The purchasing power of a pound two years ago is now equal only to 11s. 2d.;\* the 5s. a week that the State grants to its old-age pensioners is now worth to them in food only as much as 2s. 11d. was then. An average weekly family order for grocery (including flour), which cost 6s. 5d. in 1914, now costs 8s. 9d. Lard, curiously enough, is cheaper. These figures emphasize the importance of the action that is being taken by the Minister of Munitions—unfortunately his machinery works much more slowly for raising wages than for making shells—to compel the manufacturers to pay their tens of thousands of women workers at least the pound a week minimum. The Central Tribunal is overwhelmed with complaints of cases in which the wages stipulated for by the Ministry of Munitions are not being paid. There are still adult women in controlled establishments, besides many others to whom Section 7 has been applied (forbidding them to leave their employment), not getting threepence per hour."

\*[This is the figure in the latest Board of Trade report. See *The Times*, May 8, 1916, p. 5.—Ed. THE VOTE.]

## Important Conference.

A conference on "Women in Industry after the War" has been arranged by the Central London Branch of the Women's Labour League for Saturday, May 27, to be held in the Kingsway (Small) Hall. Miss Mary Macarthur will preside; the speakers will be Mr. Fred Bramley (National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association), Dr. Marion Phillips, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., and Miss Maude Royden. The future of women who have become skilled in trades hitherto in the hands of men, and of untrained girls who have entered industry during the war will be specially considered. Tickets, 1s., may be obtained from Mrs. Davies, 38, Calais-gate, Cambridge, S.E.

## "Paolo and Francesca."

Miss Clara Reed has responded in most generous fashion to the appeal of the Women's Freedom League to members and friends to give their best to the cause of woman suffrage. Her lecture recitals have a double interest and value—they are intellectual treats and the willing gift of one of our talented members. Miss Reed told the appreciative audience which gathered to hear "Paolo and Francesca," that it was after hearing our president's lecture on Shelley, with its numerous quotations, that she determined to develop the idea of lecture recitals. By a happy arrangement Mrs. Despard presided last Sunday. Stephen Phillips' play is full of dramatic power and insight, and follows the direction indicated in Dante's reference in the "Divina Comedia" (L'Inferno) to the unhappy lovers when Francesca tells him they were reading the story of King Arthur, Launcelot, and Guinevere. The child, fresh from the convent, married for political reasons to an old, war-worn soldier, the handsome young brother who escorts her, the inevitable love story and final tragedy, the jealous older woman pining for motherhood and afterwards repenting of her cruelty, made a moving appeal to Miss Reed, and through her to her hearers. The power and sincerity of her interpretation made a deep impression, and there was enthusiastic response to the vote of thanks moved by Mrs. Despard.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.  
Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, May 19th, 1916.

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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.  
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## HEALING OF THE NATIONS.

If any group of people, at least in the belligerent countries, were asked what they wanted more than anything else in the world, one answer, we have no doubt, would leap from every lip: "Give us peace!"

Yet what we call peace may be only on the surface. Those who have studied, even superficially, the elemental forces which lie hidden in the cavernous depths of the human spirit know that while the body is, or seems to be, at rest, storms of passion may be raging within which, sooner or later, if not checked will burst the barriers that convention has set up, and in tumult, torture, and ruin make themselves felt.

So it is with society. Over and over again the question has been asked: How did this war arise? Why did multitudes of human beings with no quarrel one against the other rush into so hideous a conflict? Reams of paper have been filled with explanations. History will tell its own tale; but, as a fact, the root cause is not to be found in diplomats' note-books. To discover that we must look below the surface of things.

With this object in view, let us consider for a moment the intellectual, spiritual, and social tendencies of the Western nations during last century.

Everyone must admit that, whatever seeds of sorrow and discord it may have sown, the period was marvellous in its achievements. In every direction there was extraordinary growth—in discovery, in invention, in the power of human labour, in facilities for travelling, in opportunity for sensuous enjoyment of every kind. With these a strange development of individualism—intellectual force, domination by subtlety and cleverness, brute force—such proverbs being used as, in education: "Lick the little beggar into shape"; on the domestic hearth: "A woman, dog, and a walnut tree, the more you beat them the better they'll be"—power of the purse: "Take what I choose to give you or starve"; business capacity: The power that takes toll of earth's product and human labour for the few against the many.

What was the result? The subjection of the weak, on the one hand. Woman and learning went to the wall. Those who have read it can never forget the poignant life-story of Mary Wollstonecraft, one of the first of the modern women, and the biting satire of Dean Swift's later years drew its bitterness from the humiliations he endured in his youth as chaplain and tutor in a noble family. On the

other hand, since wealth must be protected, we have had the terrific growth of armaments which has characterised these later years.

Everything, in fact, goes to prove that war did not begin when, in 1914, it was proclaimed. In the world invisible, of thought, desire, and passion, the conflict was already raging; the spirit of good and the spirit of evil were at deadly grips one with the other, and this apparently sudden wave of inhuman fury was the manifestation in action on the physical plane of that long-drawn-out battle of the ages. For let us never forget that out of the heart of that terrible century came two great phenomena—a spiritual awakening which is gradually taking hold of the thought of the world, and a stirring—faint at first and tentative—amongst women which grew and strengthened in its growth until we have the not-to-be-hidden or suppressed women's movement of the twentieth century.

We ask: How is healing to come? Where is the force that will end war?

It is to be found, we believe, in the heart of these two great movements:—

"Ye are not bound: the soul of things is sweet;

The heart of being is celestial rest—

Stronger than woe is will."

That is the spiritual force. The other is woman—and we use the word in its largest signification—woman as representing the love-principle, as typifying not breaking up, but construction.

It is the healing of the nations that is sought; and who shall dare to say of either of these great movements that they belong to any particular people or class? Not to one nation alone did the lords of love come; not to one nation were the truths of the ancient wisdom spoken. "He hath made of one blood all the nations upon earth," is the word of the ancient seer. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," said the Master Christ to His followers, and woman! Patriotic we may be—and most of us are to our finger-tips—but we are international as well. All over the world our preoccupations are the same. In the pain and sorrow, in the joy and hope, in the disappointment and failure that wait upon our life-work for life, we have a common heritage. There is no true woman in this country who can read without a shudder of the piled-up dead before Verdun, or of women and children wasting for lack of food in German cities. If we are to be healed, this, which exists in the depths of our nature, must reveal itself, for when women all over the world refuse to tolerate these unnatural atrocities, war will cease.

As we try calmly to review the situation, it seems to us that the fatal error made by men—and especially by politicians—is in their misconception of the meaning and attributes of power. They are crass enough to treat it as only material. Because woman, to whom belongs the great constructive forces of life, does not possess, possibly, the brain subtlety of man—certainly his physical strength—she must, therefore, humbly accept his methods of organising the material universe; this is their contention, and out of this nothing but a miserable tangle could come. And, Heaven knows, it has arrived! Any more piteous spectacle than that presented by those who hold themselves responsible for the destinies of the nation to-day could scarcely be imagined; while, as for their critics—the yelping curs of a section of the newspaper Press—to fall into their hands would be infinitely worse. From those who represent the social system of to-day we look in vain for light and guidance.

What then? Are we to despair? No!—a thousand times no! That is never the word of woman. "Ceaselessly to strive, ceaselessly to fail," generation after generation to rise out of her seeming failure into fresh fields of life—this is her mission.

Let us not doubt that, having behind her the mighty spiritual force which brooded over chaos and wrought out of it beauty and order, she will make her voice heard amongst the nations for peace and healing. She will be in the future what she has been in the past—mother and healer.

But if this is to be, we must trust ourselves and one another.

C. DESPARD.

## DR. NÉLANIE LIPINSKA.

She was sitting in the club corridor, a small, silent, strong figure. A mutual Polish friend introduced us, and as I took her soft little hand I thought how it had helped the sick back to health by its calm and confident touch.

This, then, was Dr. Nélanie Lipinska, the Polish doctor of international fame, who has been crowned Laureate by the Académie Française for her book on "The History of Women Doctors." I had long desired to meet her, and was delighted to find her willing to give me some particulars of her life and permission to pass them on to readers of THE VOTE. It goes without saying that such a woman is keenly interested in the woman's movement.

"I was born," she said, "at Lomza, Ostrolenka, and I early manifested symptoms of rebellion towards conventions joyously obeyed by my sisters, who liked wearing 'nice white frocks' and playing with dolls, while I chopped off my hair to save time and tangles, ruthlessly destroyed my garments tree climbing, and aimed at boyish independence, before I could read. When that happy day arrived I was wedded to books, anything and everything I devoured and digested. I liked the quiet and the peace of the church so I took my books to it. My mother's objection to my studying there seemed incomprehensible to me."

"I expect it was difficult for your mother to fit you into the family groove as you grew older, Dr. Lipinska?"

"Yes, I had a chequered career during school years. There were constant changes of school and college, but, thanks to a natural love of study [Dr. Lipinska is a veritable glutton for work] and a quickness of mind, I was able to master many obstacles."

"Was it to secure financial independence and freedom of action for yourself that you first thought of being a teacher?"

"Yes, I passed all my examinations with ease and was so proud to look at my certificate which stated I was qualified to do some work to help others. Being called one day to the bedside of a dying peasant woman decided me; I would be a doctor."

"I suppose this meant more opposition?"

"Yes, mountains of it," said Dr. Lipinska with a sigh, "but at long last I prevailed; I obtained pupils, and at the same time attended college in Warsaw. Books on natural science and sociology interested me more than novels. These were the books I studied in church!"

"How did you get on in a country town?" I asked.

"Naturally, the larger, freer air of a big city attracted me, and in Warsaw I took extra courses in mathematics, algebra, geometry, chemistry,

physics, and Latin. During my holidays at home I wanted to start a scientific library in the town, but this provoked violent opposition."

"How did your bold spirit tackle the Asquiths of your village, the 'Wait and Sees'?"

"I had brought many books from Warsaw for the proposed library, but no one would lend us a room even to discuss matters. On fine evenings we had to hold our meetings in the cemetery; when it was wet in a covered market cart. These difficulties never discouraged me; they strengthened my determination to keep my aim always in view."

"No wonder, Doctor, that, notwithstanding centuries of murder, fire, and sword, we read that the Pole remains a persistent type. A wonderful race is yours, with wonderful women. Few English people grasp the situation of crushed and martyred Poland."

"Hush, I cannot speak or think of it," said Dr. Lipinska sadly.

"When did you go to Paris, the Mecca of all good Poles?"

"Soon after the cemetery incident," laughed the Doctor. "I then deemed it politic to let my hair grow, and dress better. I soon met many interesting people, watched many experiments in hypnotism, noted its horrors, too; and began to gravitate towards becoming a psycho-physician. I felt that the medical profession could be greatly reformed—and by the Woman Doctor, with her power of heart and understanding. I also heard of Lipalski, a hermit-peasant, living in a forest on potatoes and coffee, whose light touch seemed to penetrate to the diseased internal organs, regulating circulation and curing ills when perspiration began in the affected area. I found myself possessed of considerable 'healing power,' too; in one case all pain disappeared from a patient's eyes by the application of my hands for ten minutes or so. This was in a case of 'iride choriditis.'"

"What work occupied you during your study of Lipalski's methods?"

"I was then in my second year, working at osteology and anatomy, but I had plenty of time to consider the Lipalski treatment scientifically."

"Was it magnetism, suggestion?"

"I did not know. I decided to take a course in psychology from Ribot at the Collège de France. I watched the patients and helped to equilibrate them by sympathy."

"And now about your book, Dr. Lipinska, your 'History of Women Doctors from Primitive Times to the Present Day.' How long did it take you to compile this splendid work for which all suffragists owe you a debt of gratitude?"

"Just four years, and I wrote the greater part in Paris, and in French, but, of course, I was glad to gather my materials anywhere, from all cities on the Continent."

"In the book there are quotations in Latin, Greek, Spanish, Italian, German; you are a linguist like all your compatriots?"

"Yes, I speak several languages, and hope soon to acquire more fluent English. I have travelled in many countries. I once visited Holland under rather droll circumstances. The National Medical Congress was being held in Zwolle; a friend of mine, editor of *Janus* (a newspaper) had specially invited me to attend. The convention was that women were strictly excluded; but there was no help for it; the doctors simply had to be very nice to me, but their wives were kept waiting outside."

"It was an excellent idea to divide your book into sections. We are grateful to you for pointing out that Socrates' mother was a famous and skilled midwife, for we are never allowed to forget his wife's temper!" Dr. Lipinska smiled.

"I am deeply interested in you English suffragists. It is informing to find that in some savage tribes a man doctor has to adopt a woman's attire and pose as a woman in order to get any attention paid him. It seemed to me a good plan to arrange my book in sections, and thus to show how through long ages women have done valuable medical work. The first part deals with women doctors in primitive times; the second with Egypt, Greece, Rome, and their medical women; then we come to the Middle Ages, and women aiding in days of chivalry, also the *médiennes* of France, Germany, England, and Poland, and nuns skilled in medicine, as, for instance, St. Hildegarde. The fourth part describes later times; women doctors in Switzerland, Germany, &c., from the 16th to the 18th century, and tells of a Polish woman, Dr. Halpir, who was seriously persecuted for her ability. Celebrated midwives are dealt with, and the final chapters relate the progress of medical women in Europe, not forgetting a graphic account of Florence Nightingale, your pioneer of nursing and strong advocate of sanitation."

"Who has translated your book?"

"That work has been kindly undertaken and most carefully carried out by Lady Muir Mackenzie, who has all the Irishwoman's aptitude for the French language. She has now finished the last chapter, and ere long we hope the English version will see the light."

"Our British Academy is a very young institution," I murmured apologetically, "and it would astonish me if it showed a generous spirit towards the work of women, as the Académie Française has done."

"Societies in my country," remarked Dr. Lipinska, "discourage research and science applied to industry, especially women's part in such work. But that cannot be laid to the charge of British suffragists!"

"They will, however, greet with joy the appearance of the English edition of 'Women Doctors.' One day you will perhaps come and meet the members of the Women's Freedom League."

"A bientôt, Madame, mille remerciements."

MARION CUNNINGHAM.

### In Honour of Florence Nightingale.

To commemorate Florence Nightingale's birthday and to honour her work, the Women's Freedom League held a meeting in Hyde Park last Friday afternoon. An eager crowd gathered as soon as Mrs. Tanner mounted the platform, and in her introductory speech from the chair she emphasized the fact that the opposition to Florence Nightingale during her active life-time has changed into honour after her death. Miss Murray spoke of her as a suffragist, and Mrs. Whetton dealt with the common-sense and justice of the demand for women's enfranchisement. The injustice of the delay was realised when Mrs. Tanner pointed out that Miss Normanton, who gave some telling anecdotes of Florence Nightingale, had no vote, though she had two qualifications—University graduate and occupier. Great interest was aroused by the different points of view put forward by the speakers, and despite a shower of rain the crowd was very unwilling to disperse, but kept Mrs. Tanner busy with questions, grave and gay, reminiscent of the old days when suffrage speakers were a greater novelty than they are now.

ALL OF US WHO KNOW MISS NINA BOYLE, and keenly appreciate her untiring work for our Cause and our League, will feel deep and personal sympathy for her in the great sorrow that has fallen upon her.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

### LET WOMEN HELP!

The following letter has been sent to the Prime Minister:

144, High Holborn, London, W.C.

May 5th, 1916.

The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.,  
10, Downing-street, S.W.

Sir,—I am instructed by my executive to approach you on the subject of the committee which is to submit a financial scheme in relation to the provision to meet the difficulties of attested married men. We understand that this scheme will be retrospective.

I note that no women have been mentioned for service on this committee, and urge most strongly that, as the great majority of the inquiries will have to be made from women, and will deal quite as much with the affairs of married women as of married men, representative women be chosen to sit on this committee. We furthermore ask that the commissioners who carry out the inquiries shall not necessarily be barristers, as has been suggested, but shall be persons chosen for suitability, and that there shall be women commissioners as well as women on the committee.

My executive instructs me to point out in regard to the local administrative committees which it is proposed to set up, that this work could be admirably carried out by the local committees which were formed at the beginning of the war to administer relief to persons other than paupers who should find themselves in distress owing to the outbreak of war.

These committees were chosen entirely on the representative system, and have done admirable work; but the circumstances no longer call for their services to the same extent as was the case in the early days of the war. They would, therefore, be excellent bodies for carrying out the work which will now have to be done, and would inspire public confidence to a greater extent than any new committees organised on the basis of the tribunals, which have given rise to such an extraordinary amount of ill-feeling and discontent.

I would point out that it is more economical in every way to call together again, and perhaps enlarge, these already existing committees, who have gained a sound knowledge of the conditions of the country and of business and industry in the course of their work, than to form new ones whose experience will be all to gain. I trust, therefore, that these suggestions, which we urge very earnestly, may commend themselves to His Majesty's Government.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,  
C. NINA BOYLE.

### WHIST DRIVE AT CLAPHAM.

A very successful whist drive in aid of the Despard Arms and the Branch funds was held at Wirttemberg Hall, Clapham, on May 10. More than one hundred people were present, and a hearty welcome was accorded to Mrs. Despard, who presented the prizes and gave a short and exceedingly interesting account of our new "public-house." The prizes were as follows:—First lady's—silver-plated vase, presented by Miss Murray, won by Mrs. Pierpoint; second lady's—copper kettle and stand, presented by Miss O'Halloran, won by Mrs. Grumbridge; highest score either half (lady's)—silver spoon, presented by Mrs. Carey, won by Mrs. Dymes; lowest score (lady's)—china trinket pots, presented by Mrs. Heighway, won by Miss St. Clair. First gentleman's—picture, presented by Miss Underwood, won by Mrs. Heighway; second gentleman's—case of silver teaspoons, presented by Mrs. Corner, won by Miss Stoker; highest score either half (gentleman's)—book, presented by Mrs. Despard, won by Miss Paul; lowest score (gentleman's)—Transvaal pottery, presented by Miss Nina Boyle, won by Mr. Dymes. Warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Heighway and Mrs. Pipe for their splendid help in organising, and to Mrs. Pipe also for undertaking the arduous work of M.C., which everyone agreed she did (as women do most things) splendidly. A beautiful prize from Mrs. Fox-Bourne arrived after the whist drive was over, but will be most welcome for the next occasion.

THEY SUPPORT US!

### ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

#### Women's War Work.

Edited by Lady Randolph Churchill. Pearson. Price 2s. 6d. net.

Among the books dealing with women's war activities, one, "Women's War Work," contains a number of chapters by different writers, with a preface by Lady Randolph Churchill and a word of conclusion by Christopher St. John. The writers attack the unclassified wilderness of material on this subject more from the journalistic and story-telling point of view than from the scientific or sociologic. They refer to the work of women of various countries, including the Overseas Dominions, U.S.A., and briefly to Germany and Austria. The reference to the "Colonies" is so childishly superficial that it is a pity the author could not have interviewed the Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, to mention one source of information. An interesting contribution is that dealing with the feminists, which might more accurately have been entitled, "The Suffragists in War Time." This shows what an immense national asset those women, who had practical experience of organisation in suffrage societies in peace times, have proved to be in this collapse of civilisation. The chapter covers the splendid work done by the Women's Hospital Units sent to the various fronts by the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, and gives a condensed view of the life-saving work of the Women's Freedom League in establishing a children's Guest House and a cost-price restaurant at Nine Elms. All the societies—actresses, women of leisure, working women of the East End—have been to the fore, while the efforts of the Women's Emergency Corps are too many to tabulate.  
S. M. F.

### MARCHING ON!

British Columbia is to have an opportunity to follow the example of Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan in putting women on a level of full equality with men. A referendum on woman suffrage will be taken at the coming general election in British Columbia, and, if the electors approve, women may vote after January 1, 1917. Premier Bowser stated in Victoria, on April 14, that the same legislation which would amend the Elections Act to extend the vote to soldiers would also provide votes for women.

### 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.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE VOTE."

#### WOMEN AND DRESS ECONOMY.

MADAM,—Will you of your courtesy allow me space in your paper to express an opinion opposite to that generally held on the subject of women's dress? When I left London some weeks ago placards were about asking women to economise in their dress. Now, is this fair? Who ordains a change in fashion? Men. Who own the large shops? Men. Who have entire control over women's clothes? Men. Simply because they have entire control over the productive market. When the moderate skirts went out, and those—in many cases indecently—tight skirts came in, what woman could get a ready-made gown of reasonable width? Then after war began, men were afraid that women would economise in their clothes, so they changed the fashion to the other extreme, and just when all looms and materials ought to be em-

ployed on necessities, they have added at least one or two yards of material to every dress. It was not women who did this; yet they are powerless to resist. Most men like to see their women well turned out. Most women like to feel they are smart and up to date, but few to-day have time for dress-makers, so, being stock size, they go into a shop, and there, willy-nilly must buy a dress while utterly disapproving of it. There they are cried down by a certain section as if they were to blame instead of being victims to male commercialism. They have to buy and wear things of which they disapprove because men have made it impossible for them to do otherwise. The question of dyes is a serious one; yet what have the manufacturers of materials done to simplify summer colouring?—Yours truly,  
LILIAS M. LLOYD.

### "THE SHIELD."

*The Shield*, that powerful and well-informed organ devoted to opposing anything in the nature of the State regulation of vice, and to supply reliable information in regard to infectious disease and the social conditions which breed it, has come out in a new, enlarged, and improved form. It is now a review which may take its place in the sociological world with dignity and in accordance with its extreme value and importance. Dr. Helen Wilson and Miss Alison Neilans are greatly to be congratulated on this first issue of the new form, which contains matter of grave interest on which we hope to comment later.

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

The British Women Workers' Exhibition is open till the end of this week, and we hope all readers of *THE VOTE* will visit our stall, No. 135, before it closes, and ask for a copy of our new leaflet describing the work of the Settlement. Grateful thanks to Miss Riggall for 1s.; Mrs. Simon, butter muslin; per Mrs. Delbanco, child's hat; Miss Janette Stutchbury, toys; Mrs. Harrison's children, cowslips; F. S. Blackwell, Esq., lowt. of jam; Miss Fluff Reed, Christmas cards; Letchworth Working Party, per Mrs. Harrison, children's overalls and knickers; Mrs. Clark, child's frock; Mrs. Delbanco, camp bedstead; Miss M. Holmes, lilies of the valley; Mother of Three Guest Children, 1s. Will any ingenious reader make us some carpet or other slippers for house wear for our guest children to save their boots and our floors? We also want some thin socks for summer wear.

### The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W.

We send our warmest thanks to the Clapham Branch of the W.F.L. for their kind and practical effort in organising a whist drive to help us, and hope that, as a result of the interest awakened by Mrs. Despard's speech when presenting the prizes, many friends will pay us a visit and make us more widely known.

### IN HYDE PARK.

The first of the meetings in Hyde Park organised by the London Branches Council was held last Sunday. A large crowd gathered and stayed to the end of the meeting, and was most interested and sympathetic. Miss Murray was the speaker, and Mrs. Le Croisette was in the chair. Next Sunday, at noon, Miss Boyle will speak, and Mrs. Adams will take the chair.

A GOOD COMRADE.—Through the death of Mrs. Munn, of Denistoun, the Glasgow Branch loses a well-known member, devoted worker, and good suffragist. The League expresses its sympathy with her family in their sorrow.

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1044.

FRIDAY,  
MAY 19,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Croydon Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

Cut-out garments will be ready for members and friends joining the Needlework Party on May 19, after the Competition Tea. On the second and fourth Fridays the members meet at the office, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., either to sew or to get fresh garments to make. Parcels of material will be greatly welcomed. *Still wanted:* Goods for Jumble Sale. Please send to Secretary, 9, Morland-avenue.

### Dundee.

The annual business meeting was held in the Steeple Club on May 11. Satisfactory reports on the year's work were given by Mrs. Mitchell, secretary, Miss H. Wilkie, treasurer, and Miss J. A. Smart, literature secretary. The office-bearers were re-elected for the ensuing session. It was agreed to hold open-air meetings, and to ask Miss Boyle, when in Scotland, to give Dundee a few days for that purpose. Correspondence from Headquarters was considered, and the members resolved to hold work parties for the "Green, White and Gold Fair" in November. Members are urged to come to the work party or send their work to Miss Husband. Though engaged in war work, members will feel that they must support the League in this time of stress and strain. Miss Helen Wilkie, M.A., read a short paper on "Utopia," which was much enjoyed by those present.

### Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath-street.

We call the attention of members and friends to our new address, and they will see that the Women's Freedom League will now hold up the suffrage flag in the centre of the city. We hope that as a result of our removal the splendid work of our Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, our work for

prisoners of war, for the wives of soldiers and sailors, for hospitals, and many other activities will come more prominently before the public, and we trust that all our members and friends will help us to make our new home not only an office, but a strong suffrage club.

### Ipswich.

We are now busy teasing tow for padding splints in connection with the War Supply Depot here. Miss Howard has kindly offered us her garden for an "At Home" on May 25, from 3 to 7, and to provide tea. We hope to have competitions, and by charging a small sum for tea and for entrance fees to make a little more for our Branch contributions to the 50,000 Shilling Fund. We offer our warmest thanks to Miss Howard for her excellent help. We have also to thank Miss Lily Will for making a very pretty overall for a boy for the "Green, Gold and White Fair." We hope other contributions may arrive ere long.

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

A Branch meeting was held on May 8, at which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given, also one by Mrs. Wilson, W.F.L. representative on the Tipperary Club Committee. Arrangements were made for future public meetings, and it was decided to hold a Jumble Sale during the last week in May. Members and friends are earnestly requested to contribute anything saleable for this occasion. Goods can be collected if desired on communicating with the secretary. The W.F.L. takes charge of the Tipperary Rooms the week commencing June 12, and we shall be very pleased if members will volunteer to help during that week.

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3. **WHITE SERGE COSTUME**; full-pleated skirt, 3-coat, trimmed white silk braid; tailor-made; skirt 40in., waist 25½in.; 25s.

All above can be seen by appointment at **THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.**

**LADY'S CYCLE**, 24in. frame, splendid condition, £3 10s. Also Humber, suit medium or tall rider, 25in. frame, nearly new, £5 10s.—**GODFREY, 41, Colville-gardens, Bayswater.**

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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**WANTED**, by member of the W.F.L., second-hand copy, in good condition, of "In This Our World," by Mrs. Perkins Stetson (Gillman).—**Box 22, VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn.**

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