

THE VOTE,
Nov. 26th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

WHY NOT THE V.C. FOR WOMEN ?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, NOV. 26, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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THE NEW REGISTRATION BILL—WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

Imperative Need for Watchfulness by Women Suffragists.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

As we go to press, the new Registration Bill is exploded, with suspicious suddenness, on the House of Commons and the country. The object of the Bill is threefold: to postpone a general election—lengthening the life of the Government; to secure the principle of the Plural Voting Bill; and to grant a redistribution of seats—as a sop to the Conservative section of the Coalition. The measure is announced as "non-controversial"; and it is foreshadowed that any attempt to introduce the question of the enfranchisement of women will be an infringement of the beautiful harmony which makes such a Parliamentary sandwich of interests possible. There are, however, not wanting signs that the harmony is not so melodious as we are given to understand; and after two postponements, we may yet hear of further changes.

Never before, surely, has so remarkable a collection of party flotsam been presented to the public as non-controversial. One wonders whether anything controversial will ever be found again; or, alternatively, why it was that these same matters were the source of such prolonged and bitter controversies before the war. And furthermore, an idea seems to have gone forth that under the plea of reform in registration methods, a measure of manhood suffrage will be worked in. We cannot imagine anything more unconstitutional than to attempt alterations of the franchise qualifications in a Registration, not a Franchise Bill. To alter the basis of representation at all, while half the electorate is unable to express an opinion, and when that blessed panacea, the "mandate"—of which we used to hear so much, and were so taunted with not securing for the women's bills—is still absent, would be taking a treacherous and shameful advantage of the emergency and the reluctance felt by all classes to make serious attacks on the Government at a time like the present. The suggestion, indeed any mention of franchise "reform" which does not include women is bound to create profound feeling; and it is a dishonourable way of responding to the unbroken truce maintained by the women's suffrage bodies.

We make no apology for printing, in this connexion, the letter addressed to Lord Lansdowne and the Prime Minister, on the occasion of Lord Willoughby de Broke's recent venture into legislation. The Women's Freedom League will stand by the position taken up in that communication, and will resist any attempts to tamper with the constitutional rights of the people, especially at a time when the people are debarred from expressing their opinions and wishes in the usual manner.

The various suffrage societies will take counsel together and shew their watchful determination to let no possibility of treachery take them by surprise.

C. NINA BOYLE.

The Women's Freedom League and the Registration Bill.

The following telegram and letter were sent by the Women's Freedom League to Sir John Simon, Home Office:—

SIR JOHN SIMON, HOME OFFICE.

Women's Freedom League urges you to remember your pledges to women when introducing Registration Bill to-day. Women's disfranchisement greatest anomaly of electoral law.

DESPARD. UNDERWOOD. KNIGHT.

November 23, 1915.

Sir John Simon, K.C.V.O., K.C., M.P.,
Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

SIR,—In confirmation of our telegram to you this afternoon, the Women's Freedom League urges you, as a suffragist, to remember the claims of women to political enfranchisement when you are dealing with the Registration Bill which you are to introduce in the House of Commons this afternoon. We feel sure you cannot fail to agree that women's continued disfranchisement is the greatest anomaly in the present electoral law, and we appeal to you as a supporter of woman suffrage to remove this anomaly by including women on equal terms with men in this Registration Bill. Women are now serving in every capacity in which non-combatants can serve, and they have not only given service but have willingly sacrificed their lives for their country; their patriotism is unquestioned; they are paying full share of the expense of the war in increased taxes; so that we think the present time is most opportune for removing a great injustice by granting Votes to Women, thus conferring on them the highest privilege of citizenship.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

F. A. UNDERWOOD,
Secretary to Women's Freedom League.

A similar letter was sent to the Press last Tuesday.

Early in November, immediately Lord Willoughby de Broke introduced his Bill into the House of Lords, the following letter was sent to Lord Lansdowne:—

The Rt. Hon. the Marquess of Lansdowne,
K.G., G.C.M.G., etc.

My Lord,—My League notes with grave concern the debate on the Bill introduced into the Upper House by the Lord Willoughby de Broke, and the promises in connection with it given by his Majesty's Government. The matters in regard to which these changes and re-adjustments are proposed, are of the highest constitutional importance; and the attempt to inaugurate such far-reaching innovations should not, in fairness to the community, be made at a time of great public excitement and emotion, with an immense proportion of the electorate absent, and an appeal to the country postponed.

I desire to point out to you, in regard to Lord Willoughby de Broke's suggestion, that the franchise is a constitutional right, and not a reward for service. Representative government establishes the right of the governed to control their government; it is not a privilege granted by governments for good behaviour or service, to this or that portion of the community. To introduce such a principle now would be subversive of the very foundations of representative institutions, and we protest vigorously against any such alteration in principle until the country has been consulted.

I would further call your attention to the long overdue reform for which women have agitated many years—the inclusion of women in the rights as well as the penalties of citizenship. No alteration of the franchise conditions which does not specifically include a removal of the wrongful disability under which women suffer in being excluded from the voters' roll, will be allowed to pass without a renewal of strenuous protest by active suffrage societies.

If emergency measures of such immense scope may be passed at the present time by agreement between the political parties represented in the Government, the time would appear ripe for some of this legislation to be enacted in the interests of the women citizens, on whose steadfastness, endurance and adaptability the nation will have to rely for the success of our armies in the field and the avoidance of national bankruptcy. We ask this as our clear right. The Prime Minister has declared the enfranchisement of women to be a measure cutting athwart the lines of party; but with the alleged elimination of party a non-party measure of justice, in which both parties or neither party would be involved, would be wise and seemly.

I trust that your Lordship will give the same amount of weight to these protests from representative women who demand inclusion in a measure to confer constitutional rights, as was given by Mr. Walter Long to the same kind of protest when it was a question of including women in a measure of coercion. The Government has included women in the National Insurance and the National Registration Acts, and there should be no further delay in including them in the national representation.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,
C. NINA BOYLE,
Head of Political and Militant Department.

and French refugees—can be purchased at this Fair, also Christmas presents for one's friends, and toys for children. Mrs. Snow's stall in aid of our Merchandise Department deserves special mention; it is being stocked with a splendid assortment of useful and beautiful articles of all kinds and descriptions. There will also be an Old Curiosity Shoppe with a fine selection of antiquities. A Women's Orchestra will play during the afternoon and evening in the large hall, and a very choice programme of entertainments has been arranged by Mrs. Corner in the Council Chamber, beginning each day with a Grand Russian Concert in which Madame Marie Levinskaja, Miss Felicia Borell and Madame Fromont-Delune will take part. Recitals will be given by Miss Edyth Olive, Miss Edith Carter and Miss Clara Reed, who is also arranging a performance, with songs and dances, by the students of Hasluck's Academy. Miss Bigg (the matron of the Women's Hospital for Children, Harrow-road) is arranging some exhibitions of nursing, and Mrs. Garrud exhibitions of Ju-Jitsu. Among other friends taking part are Miss Inez Bensusan, Madame Anna Carola, Miss Anne Squire, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corner, Miss Violet Clark, Miss Kathleen Boutall, Miss Ethel Rayson, Miss

Margery Gush, and Miss Janet Hope. Psychic delineations and character readings will be given by Mrs. Thomson Price, Mrs. Davidson and the Gipsy Fortune-teller, so there should not be a dull moment from 2.30 p.m. till 9 p.m. at the Fair. We are hoping to have wounded soldiers among our guests each day, and we shall be delighted if our many friends will help us to entertain them. Refreshments, at any hour under the capable management of Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Harbord and Mrs. Pierotti, will be served at reasonable prices. Tickets of admission can be obtained at Caxton Hall, the prices being 1s. before 5 p.m., and after 5 p.m. 6d.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon, Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., will speak at St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury (near the British Museum) on "The Paradoxes of the Balance of Power," and the chair will be taken by Miss F. A. Underwood at 3.30 p.m.

Votes for Women Rally

Sunday afternoon, December 5, we shall have a special suffrage meeting at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, when the speakers will be Mr. Laurence Housman, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner. Tea will be served from 3.15 p.m. to 3.50 p.m., and speeches will begin at 4 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office at 1s. each. In view of the present grave situation, we urge all suffragists to come to support a plain, straightforward demand for women's political enfranchisement.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

How Women are Protected.

Protests against the working of the Munitions Act are so serious that some amendment is to be made. The *New Statesman* declares that "slavery" is hardly too strong a word to use, and calls attention to a disgraceful case concerning some girls who insisted on leaving a factory because of the literally indescribable behaviour towards them persisted in by a foreman. Their discharge was refused; they appeared before the Court that hears appeals and their submissive return to work was insisted on in Court by the employers. The girls were too shy to state plainly to a tribunal excessively masculine what the foreman had done. The presiding lawyer made light of it, and was about to order the girls back with a fine when it was quietly intimated to him that such a decision would immediately be followed by a criminal prosecution. He then decided to give the girls leaving certificates. This case has been brought to light; in how many others, we may ask, has protection been denied?

Why not The V.C. for Women?

"Men first" insisted the nurses on board the hospital ship *Anglia*, sunk off Dover last week. "Our nurseys are just wonderful; they refused life-belts for themselves," says one of the wounded men saved from the disaster. "They worked heroically," says another account; "it is due to them that so many were got away; slowly, but surely, sinking, it required the coolest nerves." One of these devoted women lost her life. Twelve or more Australian nurses were drowned when a troop ship was torpedoed near Salonika, but the cry was "Fighting men first!" All the officers were saved. Is not this the valour on active service which the Victoria Cross honours? Why not give it to women? Why make sex distinctions, when heroism is shown by men and women? We note the enlargement by Royal Warrant of the Order of the Royal Red Cross, instituted by Queen

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Victoria on St. George's Day, 1883, for zeal and devotion in nursing sick and wounded sailors, soldiers and others with the army in the field, on board ship, or in hospitals. This is all to the good, but we maintain that devoted and heroic service should be honoured by the same reward for men and women. This war has taken toll of women's lives on active service. "For Valour" may well be their epitaph.

Nurse Cavell's Heroism.

Miss Elizabeth Wilkens, who took over the management of the nursing institution at Brussels, of which Miss Edith Cavell was director, when that heroic woman was arrested, has now arrived in England. She gives a different version of Nurse Cavell's death from that already received. The story that she fainted and was shot by an officer is not authenticated. Miss Cavell, declares her friend, was driven, about 5 a.m., on October 12, by motor car from the prison of St. Giles to the Tir National, where, with eyes unbandaged and hands unbound, she met her fate with calmness and courage. Will this story move the Prime Minister to put his glowing tribute into practice, as Mr. Bernard Shaw suggested, by enfranchising her sex?

East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

A PUBLIC MEETING

IN AID OF THE
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Bernard Shaw will speak on the "Nation's Vitality."

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Chair: Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Tickets 5/-, 2/6, 1/- and 6d. at International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Strand. E.L.F.S., 400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair.

We hope that not one of our readers in London will miss paying a visit to the Fair that we are holding at Caxton Hall this Friday and Saturday. It will be opened by Mrs. Despard on Friday at 2.30, and by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson at the same hour the following day. Stalls have been taken by the Women's Freedom League, The Women's Freedom League Settlement (Nine Elms), The East London Federation of Suffragists, and The United Suffragists. Comforts for sufferers in the war—for wounded soldiers and sailors, British prisoners of war, nurses in Serbia, Belgian, Polish,

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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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RECONSTRUCTION.

Lord Milner's Appeal to Women for "Clear Ideas."

The general eulogy on women which is poured forth day by day in the Press might lead us to the conclusion that the enemies of women are all dead. In our less sanguine moments, we incline to the view that they are but hibernating.

Presiding at a lecture at King's College, given by Mr. A. L. Smith, Dean of Balliol College, Oxford, on Wednesday of last week, Lord Milner is reported to have said:—

"While the flower of our manhood were fighting for the preservation of the Empire, the elder men and THE WOMEN could not be better employed than in getting some clear ideas as to what ought to be done for it and with it the moment the war was over."

We have known Lord Milner as an Anti-Suffragist, but it is difficult to reconcile the above utterance with the refusal to admit women into the counsels of the nation. For why should he call upon women to cudgel their brains and to clarify their ideas if these "clear ideas" cannot be made effective in the solution of those problems of Empire, on the importance of which both he and the lecturer laid such great stress? Perhaps, a year ago, he was ignorant that there were "thousands of such women," possessing brains, as well as love of country and the capacity for devoted service.

"Nothing," he said, "was more impressed upon him that anything like progress in constructive Imperial work was absolutely impossible in a democratic country—much more in a group of democratic countries—unless the mass of the people took a real interest in the work."

But, the very object of the Anti-Suffrage League of which, we believe, he was for some time a distinguished member, was that of preventing half the democracy of the country from taking an interest in Imperial affairs. Many of the members of the Anti-Suffrage League held that the sphere of domesticity was sufficient to engross the energies of women, though there were others who were graciously willing to permit women to take a part in local government. Is it possible that Lord Milner may be beginning to recognise that, as the whole is greater than the half, a more real interest in "constructive Imperial work" may be expected when an appeal is made to the whole of a people rather than to the half.

"He was glad that the word 'Empire' had not been abandoned for people now had come to realise that, when men spoke of the British Empire, they meant not domination, force or militarism, but the permanent organic union of Free States to maintain the great human ideals which were common to them."

But, for the last decade, "domination, force and militarism" have borne a special significance to women. Though for long ages, they may have been under the domination of men, men cannot altogether be blamed for exercising that domination until women showed unmistakably that they wished to be free. How did Lord Milner and those who worked with him meet the cry for freedom on the part of women? Was not that cry met by force and even by "militarism," in a very real, if not in a technical sense? And why did women struggle for freedom if it was not for the sake of "great human ideals" which they believed to be impossible of realisation without their co-operation?

It was in particular in regard to what are known as Imperial questions that Lord Milner was speaking. But, as was pointed out at a recent meeting of our League, it is difficult to define what are Imperial questions. Perhaps the most important of all Imperial questions is that of the next generation—their up-bringing, their education, their general welfare. There can be no Empire without them and, with Ruskin, we may agree that the glory of the Empire must consist "in the producing of as many as possible full-breathed, bright-eyed and happy-hearted human creatures." One glance at the life around us shows that men have not been able to produce such a civilisation, even in time of peace and we are immeasurably farther from it during a time of war.

What are the subjects upon which it is advisable for women to have "clear ideas"? To facilitate the mental process of selection, we may imagine that we have to settle a community of two or three hundred families on a tract of land. What are the needs which we should have to supply, in order that we might build up a healthy, vigorous community? In addition to the primal needs of food, good water, clothing and shelter, we should have to deal with sanitation and the prevention and cure of disease, with the organisation of the work and material resources of the community, with the care of mothers and children, old folk and the incapacitated and incurable, with the protection of the community from outside enemies and from the effect of anti-social conduct within. We should have to deal with law and order, building this up from crystallised public opinion. And having laid the foundation of an Empire founded on social justice, we might proceed to make the wilderness flourish like the rose, fostering the arts and beauty of life. As our State grew and entered into relation with its neighbours, we should have to insist upon a high standard of international morality and to devise some system by which states could live in peace—disputes between nations being settled by recourse to an international tribunal just as individual disputes are arranged by a national Court of Justice. How could we risk casting to the winds that civilisation which had been built up with so much labour? Nor would we chance setting the world on fire or soaking continents in blood.

Perhaps these are some of the vital problems on which Lord Milner thought it would be well for women to have "clear ideas." It cannot have escaped him that the value of the co-operation of women is being recognised in this dark hour. They are even necessary to the carrying on of the art of war, which belongs so clearly to the man's sphere of action. Whole armies of women are clothing the troops but unfortunately, they are not allowed to feed them, though they are feeding the guns. The work of professional nurses in war has been appreciated since the days of Florence Nightingale. They receive their meed of praise day by day. These "regulars" are reinforced by thousands of women who have come out of their homes and are serving in hospitals at home and

abroad. The activities of women directly connected with the war are so various that it is impossible to enumerate them. Thousands of other women are devoting themselves to caring for the needs of women and children through such agencies as that of the work being carried on by the Women's Freedom League in Nine Elms. It is a question whether this army of women who have given themselves to the work of the nation in time of their immediate surroundings, in which many of them considered their whole duty to lie before the war called them out into a larger world. When peace comes, will they not be ready to bind up the wounds of a world sick at heart and can they not be counted upon to do their part in the necessary reconstruction of the life of the nation?

If from the "clear thoughts" of women springs the conviction that the future largely depends on the intensity of purpose of the men and women of to-day, then we may find elements of hope in the situation which we shall have to face when the war is over. And the more women recognise their responsibilities towards the "great undone" in the life of the nation in normal times, as they have recognised their responsibilities in war time, the more they will desire to exert direct influence in national affairs, through the exercise of the Parliamentary Vote.

E. M. N. C.

Triumph for a National Registration Register.

Last Monday morning Miss K. Raleigh was summoned to appear at the Uxbridge Police Court because she failed properly to fill in her Registration form. The five magistrates on the Bench were told all about the history and purpose of the Registration Act by the solicitor for the prosecution, who added that it was passed at a time of "national abnormal conditions." He proceeded to state that on August 15 last, the date on which everyone between the ages of 15 and 65 had to fill in a form, the lady was temporarily staying at Stratford-on-Avon. She filled in her name, but she omitted to give her exact age, merely saying she was of full age, did not state whether she was married or unmarried, and instead of giving the required information in other matters wrote a good many irrelevant remarks. For instance, to the questions asking whether she had any people who were (a) wholly dependent, or (b) partially dependent on her, Miss Raleigh left the former question unanswered, but stated that amongst those partially dependent on her were Members of Parliament. She also went so far as to write on the Registration form that she and other women were demanding the Parliamentary vote, and did not agree with legislation passed by the representatives of men only.

The solicitor pointed out to their Worships that as soon as the Stratford-on-Avon authorities perceived that the Registration form was not properly filled in, they immediately "took quick pains" to induce Miss Raleigh to comply with the regulations. She was summoned in the Police Court, and convicted for her refusal to add anything to the form. She was distrainted upon in Uxbridge because she refused to pay the fine, and the sergeant

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was called as a witness of that fact. Since then every art of persuasion that could be used had been used by the sergeant, the solicitor and the Urban District Council to induce Miss Raleigh properly to complete the Registration form, but the lady had maintained an attitude of "perpetual defiance" to all their entreaties, and, acting on the advice of the Local Government Board, the solicitor had brought the case before the magistrates at Uxbridge. Miss Raleigh had been summoned to appear that morning, but had defiantly disobeyed the summons.

Mr. Gush, who appeared for the defence, asked the solicitor for the prosecution if he could prove that this client was of registrable age? The solicitor stoutly maintained that the fact that Miss Raleigh had been convicted at Stratford-on-Avon was conclusive evidence that she was of registrable age. Mr. Gush did not agree, and then asked him if he could produce any proper authority for bringing this case against Miss Raleigh? The solicitor became purple with indignation, and declared that in the whole course of his 25 or 30 years' experience

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his authority had never previously been questioned. Mr. Gush continued to ask other questions, which increased the anger of the solicitor, who, in a fine rhetorical effort, appealed to the Bench of magistrates that when such a great principle was involved they should not let the case be upset by mere technicalities. Mr. Gush persisted, and the magistrates became more and more puzzled, and adjourned for lunch so that they could think the matter well over. The result was that the case was dismissed with costs! Mr. Gush and Miss Raleigh were warmly congratulated by their friends.

Mr. John Scurr on "The Two Demands."

At our "Wednesday" on November 17, Mr. John Scurr, reviewing the history of this country since 1776, said that two demands had been growing up—one a class demand on the part of those who worked for wages or salaries, for better conditions and wider representation, and the other a demand on the part of women who were generally treated worse than working class men, for a direct influence in the counsels of the nation. Governments all over the world had resisted these new Movements. They failed to understand them, and used all their powers to preserve the *status quo*. With regard to the future, Mr. Scurr declared that one of the chief results of this war would be tremendous exhaustion, and it rested with the peoples either to worsen things because they had learned nothing from the lessons of this war, or to become chastened into doing things in a more sensible way. War was only an incident in human history; peace time was longer and more important. Now was the time to think out the problems we should have to solve. The Dominions would be called in to consider the terms of settlement. The women of Australia and New Zealand would be represented in these counsels. Would the women of Great Britain and Ireland, Canada and our other Dominions remain unrepresented? In wartime, he added, we had stopped the spending of £25,000 for research work for saving the lives of babies. Was that economy? Mr. Scurr declared that it was pure waste. On the other hand, compare our stupid system in the appointment of Lord Chancellors. The exigencies of party claims had resulted in the shifting of Lord Halsbury, Lord Loreburn, Lord Haldane, and Lord Buckmaster into and out of this office, the one who retained it having £15,000 a year for his services, and all the others £5,000 a year for having held the post! In regard to education, Mr. Scurr maintained that our chief Universities were merely wealth schools; our educational system precluded any attempt to develop the individuality of either pupil or teacher, and a great deal of money was wastefully spent in bolstering up this system. The old human personal relationship between employers and employed had been done away with, and while the bigger companies with their trusts and combines were ousting the smaller business there was a growing demand on the part of the employed to get some controlling voice in the industries in which they worked. We must think things out. No course of action was inevitable. If the people decided on an extension of democracy, and women were enfranchised, women must make a real living democracy. We do not want a double dose of ignorance, concluded Mr. Scurr, let women see to it that intelligence is exercised in dealing with the vital interests of our country.

We hope to give our readers, in a future issue, the chief points of Mrs. Tanner's excellent speech on "Our Day." Mrs. Mustard presided, and said that men, confused by the statements of the Prime Minister and Lord Derby about recruiting, would now understand women's distrust of the pledges of politicians.

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



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th. Green White and Gold Fair. Caxton Hall, 2.30-9 p.m. Stalls, Women's Orchestra, Ju-jitsu, Exhibition Dancing Musical and Dramatic Entertainments, Nursing Exhibitions, etc., etc. Tickets of Admission: 1/- before 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m., 6d.

Wednesday, December 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., on "The Paradoxes of the Balance of Power," and others. Chair: Miss Underwood.

Thursday, December 2.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 4.—JUMBLE SALE, Tolmer's-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, N.W., 2 p.m. DESPARD ARMS, Informal Dance; tickets, 1/-.

Sunday Dec., 5th.—Votes for Women Rally, Bijou Theatre, (Hasnuck's Academy), 3, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C., 3.15. Tea (6d.); 4 p.m., Speeches by Miss Boyle, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner. Admission Free. Reserved Seats 1/-.

Friday, December 10.—"AT HOME," W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m.

Monday, December 13.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, N., 7.30 p.m.

NINE ELMS, VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-street, 1d. and 3d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Play Club.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d.), and recreation. Week-days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, November 29.—MIDDLESBROUGH, "At Home" (in aid of Children's Clothing Fund), W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30.—PORTSMOUTH, Café Chantant, Unitarian Schoolroom, High-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Tickets, 6d. each.

Wednesday, December 1.—SOUTHAMPTON, Public Meeting, Morris Hall, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, "Women's Duty during the War." Chair: Mrs. Whetton (Portsmouth).

Thursday, December 2.—IPSWICH, Afternoon Meeting, 22, Queen-street.

Monday, December 6.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Annual Business Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, December 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Social Evening, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

SCOTLAND

Thursday, December 2.—GLASGOW, Branch Meeting. Address on "Union of Democratic Control."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, November 28.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION & STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, "Women's Work in War Time." SOUTH LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, S.E., 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Men and Manners."



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Our restaurant, with its white walls and green paint, its warmth and comfort, its excellent hot meals, makes a strong appeal to men and women at work in the neighbourhood or chance passers by. They are glad to discover that our Rest and Recreation Rooms are at their service after the meals are finished for as long as their spare time allows. A social life is growing up which is an added attraction to the women at work who rejoice to find clean, comfortable beds available at the very moderate cost of 4/- per week. Concerts, lectures, dances are arranged quite informally; daily and weekly papers are available and special Despard Arms writing paper and envelopes may be bought.

That we are open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. is a boon to soldiers and sailors waiting for trains or on leave; they come sometimes with wives or sweethearts and have a meal, then sit and talk or join in the social life going on. Among the welcome gifts we have received is a piano, and another good friend supplied five new beds and bedding. Practically all our furniture has been given or lent and a financial loan (some friends lent £5 without interest for twelve months) has helped us to meet initial expenses. We are convinced that in time The Despard Arms will be self-supporting. But till that happy time arrives we have to look for help from those who realise that excellent national service is being done—service which will outlast the war—in providing a clean, wholesome place of refreshment and recreation, to which no stigma attaches for men and women. The cry for such places resounds throughout the land.

Luncheon, tea and supper parties may be arranged and the rooms at certain times may be hired for private parties.

We acknowledge with gratitude the great consideration and kindness of our landlady, in enabling us to take the spacious shop and house. Our housekeeper—known to everyone as "Auntie"—our cook, waitress, and cleaner work with keen personal interest in the success of the scheme. More voluntary helpers are urgently needed for duty on fixed days, especially afternoons and evenings, both in the restaurant and the recreation room. We invite all interested to pay a visit at any time to The Despard Arms, and thereby discover how they can best lend a helping hand.



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1915

THE VOTE

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT

1, Everitt Street, Nine Elms.

Gifts in money and in kind for our Freedom League Settlement stall at the Green, White, and Gold Fair are very gratefully acknowledged from Mrs. Clark, Miss Ibbotson, Mrs. Tritton, Henry Fry, Esq., The Misses Brown, Miss Oliver, H. O. Sapell, Esq., Miss Alder, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. and Miss Lewis, Miss Gladys Pitt, Mrs. P. H. Miller, Mrs. Secker, Mrs. Thorne, Miss Riggall, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. O'Dwyer, Miss Kearton, Miss Hyde Harrison, Miss Kemp, the Misses Phyllis and Judith Kemp, Mrs. Frairy, Mrs. Presbury, and Mrs. Corner. We also gratefully acknowledge the gift of the payment of our fire and burglary insurance from D. Delbanco, Esq., £3 from A. Gascoign, Esq., 1s. from Miss Riggall, a lamp from Miss Ibbotson, apples, etc., from P. H. Miller, Esq. More pounds of groceries are urgently needed for our stall to do it the justice that a Freedom League Settlement stall deserves. Freedom Leaguers, help us to make it a big success! I.C.T.

BRANCH NOTES.

Golders Green.

On Friday, November 19, a meeting of the branch was held at 13, Temple Fortune Court, N.W. Miss Hodge, the hostess, was in the chair, and Miss Underwood addressed a small but interested and attentive audience upon the aims of the Women's Freedom League, and the work that it has done, is doing, and intends to do, including the coming Green, White and Gold Fair. An animated discussion over tea, showed how keen an interest had been aroused in the prospects and progress of the Women's Suffrage Movement. Some of the audience were visitors and not yet members of the League, and therefore, may be counted as distinct gains to the Cause, as all were unanimous in supporting Miss Underwood's able championship of it.

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

At our meeting of November 14, at which Miss Goddard presided, Miss Purvis, Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, gave an address on "The Nursing Profession in War Time," and spoke of her recent visit to the military hospitals in Newcastle and of the splendid work being done there. She urged the necessity of proper training of nurses before offering their services for the front.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A branch meeting was held on November 16; Mrs. Hodder presided and Nurse Jago read an interesting paper on "Infant Mortality." She gave facts at first hand, as she found them in her daily work. We are greatly indebted to her for sparing us an hour or two out of her busy life. A good discussion followed. Arrangements were made for the Café Chantant on November 30. Madame Prior has arranged an excellent programme, and Miss Boyle will be a great attraction as speaker. The tickets are going well, so we are anticipating a "full house." Time, 7.30. Place, Unitarian Schoolroom. Tickets, 6d. each.

West Hartlepool.

On November 20, an "At Home" was held in the Tipperary Club, Park-road, at which Miss Nina Boyle was the speaker. She pointed out the need for women to keep a close watch on the politics of the day; men having at the call of patriotism left their homes and country, it behoves the women to see that the liberties are not taken away for which our forefathers fought so hard in days gone by. Miss Boyle also spoke of many directions in which women could extend their work both socially and commercially. Many questions were asked, and an interesting discussion followed; Miss Murray gave an account of the founding of a Municipal Maternity Centre in West Hartlepool, largely due to the efforts of the Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Goddard presided, and music was given by Miss Guy, Mrs. Garbutt and Miss Mary Hunter.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Entrance in Little Russell-st. (Near Holborn, British Museum and Tottenham Court-rd. Tube stations) every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Dec. 1. Speakers: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., on "The Paradoxes of the Balance of Power," and others. Chair: Miss Underwood.

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