

THE VOTE,
Nov. 5th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

BRITISH WOMEN IN SERBIA.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 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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"SAVE THE BABIES."

Meetings at the Guildhall, London, and at Middlesbrough.

On October 26 a very large gathering assembled at the Guildhall to hear two Cabinet Ministers, two distinguished doctors and a Duchess discourse on the "Welfare of Motherhood and Infancy."

With one brilliant exception (that of the Duchess of Marlborough), the speeches were fatuous and unconvincing in the extreme. We were told so often that poverty is among the least operative of the causes of infant mortality, that one began to wonder if it were not positively dangerous for children to be born of parents who earned more than 30s. a week. It would be interesting to know the rate of mortality among Cabinet Ministers' babies.

Nobody explained why, if poverty has nothing to do with it, the babies born in Poplar or Nine Elms die off so much more rapidly than those born in Mayfair or Hampstead. We heard a great deal of the "liberal allowances" paid to soldiers' wives "not always wisely spent," of "dirt, ignorance and neglect," of "industrial employment of mothers" as causes of infant mortality, but not a word of the slum landlord, the sweating employer, or the food adulterator; not a word either of the laws which have deliberately placed a higher value on property than on human life. Mr. Walter Long said: "My mission is to ask the women of England to come out and help us in this task of social reform rendered doubly important by the war." The women of Britain have been asking for years to have a share in making the laws on which the welfare of the nation depends. They have long realised that it is only by wise laws wisely administered that social ills can be remedied and social conditions improved. British women did not need a European war to teach them the value of human life.

"More babies, and still more" was the burden of the song, both of Mr. Herbert Samuel and of Dr. Crichton Browne. Both gentlemen evinced a most unpatriotic admiration for German methods. Mr. H. Samuel pointed out that Germany increased her

population by 8½ millions every ten years, while the United Kingdom by only 3½ millions in the same time. Sir J. Crichton Browne wished to have all pamphlets on Neo-Malthusianism prohibited. He considered the industrial employment of women a great factor in infant mortality. He did not mention that the two counties of Durham and Glamorgan, where the rates of infant mortality are among the highest in the Kingdom, are both mining districts, where women are not employed to any great degree. He also said that doctors' babies died at the rate of 40 per thousand in the first year of life, whereas miners' babies died at the rate of 160 per thousand in the first year. He said the difference was because doctors knew how to take care of their babies and miners did not. While admitting the superior knowledge of the doctor, might one venture to suggest that there is also a slight superiority in the housing conditions of the average doctor over those existing in a crowded mining district?

The one note of sympathetic understanding was struck by the Duchess of Marlborough. Speaking quietly without emotion but with obvious sincerity she pleaded for more women to be appointed as sanitary inspectors and health visitors. "The fact that out of 800,000 children born we lost annually 100,000 in the first year of life, and another 100,000 between the ages of one and fifteen, as well as 120,000 unborn babies, was a direct challenge," she said, "to that instinct of preservation which we call motherhood." She also made a very touching appeal for more consideration for the illegitimate child and its mother. She said that to enable the mother to keep her child with her was the best way of saving both mother and child. I wondered how many of those who so loudly applauded that sentiment knew Mr. H. Samuel's attitude towards the illegitimate child and its mother when the Workmen's Compensation Bill was being drafted.

The impression left on my mind by the meeting was that women need to be on the alert more than ever to see that fresh burdens and fresh tyrannies are not laid on them. As I came home I saw on a hoarding advertising a new film: "Are all Men Liars?" Somehow it seemed *apropos*.

KATHLEEN TANNER.

MEETING AT MIDDLESBOROUGH.

Woman's Voice Must Be Heard

Our enterprising Middlesbrough Branch succeeded in bringing the subject home to the authorities and public in Middlesbrough by organising important meetings, held on the same day as the Guildhall gathering, and addressed by Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky. In the afternoon she had a conference with the Corporation; in the evening the Mayor presided at the Town Hall meeting; he was accompanied by the Mayoress, and representative women were on the platform. The Marchioness of Zetland telegraphed regret for her inability to attend. Dr. Tchaykovsky maintained that the question of saving the babies went to the root of our national existence and demanded immediate attention. It must not be put off because of the war; it was just because of the war that everybody understood that greater efforts must be made. Middlesbrough has an unenviable record in the matter; according to a Local Government Board return it has the highest infantile mortality in the country amongst children under five years of age,

and is fourth on the list for mortality amongst children in the first year of life. Last year out of 4,000 babies born in the town 628 had died within twelve months. Dr. Tchaykovsky declared that it was essentially a woman's problem, and urged that women must have a say as to the conditions under which children were brought into the world, were nurtured in the world, and were reared to work in the world. There must be no economising in public health; the damage rate, as well as the death rate, must be brought down. "The sooner," she said, "we surround the expectant mother with all that she needs, the sooner shall we begin to curtail our expenditure on the failures in life who fill our prisons, our workhouses, and other institutions."

Dr. Tchaykovsky's convincing appeal for the establishment of infant clinics where mothers could get help, of maternity and infant welfare centres throughout the land, and the appointment of health visitors in the proportion of one to every 500 births, led to Middlesbrough taking home the lesson by passing unanimously the following resolution:—

"This meeting is firmly convinced that, in the interests of national life, it is the immediate duty of the Public Health Authority in Middlesbrough to take serious steps to provide for maternity and infant welfare, as urged by the recent Local Government Board circular."

Congratulations to our Middlesbrough Branch on their achievement.

Olde Curiosity Shoppe." Parcels will be gratefully acknowledged from this Office by Mrs. Fisher or Miss Mitchell. A splendid list of entertainments is being arranged by Mrs. Corner.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday Miss Margaret Douglas, who has just returned to England, will speak on "My Recent Visit to France" at St. George's Vestry, Hart-street. Those who heard Miss Douglas earlier in the year, when she dealt with the subject "The Real Issue," will be glad of this opportunity of listening to her again. Miss Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Huntsman at 3.30. The following Wednesday the speakers will be Mr. John Scurr and Mrs. Tanner, the title of Mrs. Tanner's address being "Our Day."

Sunday Afternoon Lecture Recital.

Sunday, November 14, Miss Clara Reed will give a dramatic lecture-recital of Stephen Phillips' masterpiece "Herod" at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., the chair being taken by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., at 3.30. The programme will include special classical music, and tea will be served after the performance. Readers should purchase their tickets beforehand from this Office, the prices being 2s. (numbered and reserved) and 1s. (reserved but unnumbered).

Green, White and Gold Fair.

We are making great preparations for this Fair, which is to take place at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27, and we specially appeal for gifts for our various stalls—for comforts for sufferers in the war, Christmas presents for your friends, home-made produce, and for "Ye

of the 7th and 8th as simply terrific. During the bloody tumult of the street fighting they managed to make their escape, and were last reported safe at Jagodina, having lost all their equipment. The Troubridge unit has also "retired in order" from Belgrade. There is little doubt that many of these brave women are now nursing enemy and friend alike.

Doctors and Nurses for Salonika.

The Girton and Newnham Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is expected to reach Salonika this week; its administrator is Mrs. Harley, sister of Mrs. Despard and Sir John French. The unit, which was equipped by past and present students of Girton and Newnham, was stationed at Troyes, 90 miles south-east of Paris, where accommodation was provided for two hundred patients under canvas. The order to proceed to Salonika came from the French military authorities, and in view of the fact that there are very few instances on record where a voluntary hospital has been attached to an expeditionary force is regarded as a high compliment to our doctors and nurses. Dr. Louise M'Ilroy, who has been given the title of Médecin en-Chef by the French authorities, is the senior surgeon. Other members of the medical staff are Dr. Honoria Keer, of Kilmarnock; Dr. Mabel Hardie, of London; Dr. Jean Paton Gordon, of Wigan; and Miss Edith Stoney as radiographer. The sister in charge is Miss Kate Cary, of Kensington, and the sister of the surgical section Miss Isobel Swan, of the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. Four women chauffeurs are attached to the unit, which has an X-ray travelling car.

A Welcome Innovation.

The appointment of Miss Pressley Smith, a leading suffragist organiser, to a secretarial post at the British Legation at Christiana, is a notable success for women. Representations were made to Mr. Asquith a short time ago urging the desirability of opening the higher branches of the Civil Service and other Government appointments to women with University attainments. Suggestions were made at the same time that diplomacy offered a suitable field for women's abilities. Miss Pressley Smith's appointment is evidently the first result. More should follow. It is also a tribute to suffragists. Miss Pressley Smith has been organiser in Edinburgh for the National Union for two and a half years. Since the war she has been engaged in relief work. Last summer she worked as fruit picker, and gained valuable experience of conditions of employment.

Bell Ringers.

Nearly all the Parish Church bellringers at Penn, Bucks, having enlisted, the vicar (the Rev. B. J. S. Kerby) has formed a Guild of Women Bellringers to take their place during the war. A dozen ladies of the parish have enrolled themselves as members of the Guild. Practices now take place on four afternoons and evenings in the week, and excellent progress is being made.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Nine Elms Restaurant and Guest House.

Mrs. Tippet is most grateful for the following gifts:—Per Miss Triplett, 4s. 6d.; Miss Riggall, flowers and 1s.; Mrs. Douglas Wilson, 4s. 6d.; Madame Bridge, 3s.; per Miss Nunn, 2s.; H. T. Tippet, Esq., jam and armchair for Guest House; Mrs. Corner, vegetable slicer; Miss Kearton, butter and margarine; Mrs. Clark, bread; Mrs. Tippet, stain and brushes, etc., for Guest House; Margaret O'Dwyer, toys for Guest House. Who will deliver us from the indignity of dining off the floor? A table is urgently needed for the Guest House—secondhand, anything on four legs (wooden) would be acceptable. Also wanted for new Guest House:—Tin Kettle; coal scuttle; soft broom; and an O-Cedar mop.

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MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT: Mrs. Snow's Help.

Members will be glad to learn that Mrs. Snow is taking a stall at the Green, White, and Gold Fair, the whole takings of which are to be given to the Merchandise Department. She will not be sufficiently strong to be in charge herself, but Mrs. Fisher has kindly promised to act in her place. We are sure that all our members will avail themselves of this opportunity of showing in a practical way their appreciation of Mrs. Snow's work and time given so generously in the past to help the financial position of THE VOTE.

The staff at Headquarters are delighted to know that the flowers they sent to greet Mrs. Snow on her return home a few days ago gave her pleasure. They carried with them good wishes for her speedy restoration to health.

W.S.P.U. A Protest Meeting.

We have been asked to insert the following:—On October 22 a meeting was held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, at which a representative gathering of members and recent members of the Women's Social and Political Union passed the following resolution:—"That this meeting of members and recent members of the Women's Social and Political Union reaffirms its unshaken faith in the Women's Movement and its belief that only by the attainment of the aims for which the women of the W.S.P.U. have striven and suffered can the uplifting of the human race be achieved; that these aims can only be attained by continuing to realise the unity of women throughout the world based on their political helplessness and common sufferings, and by faithfully safeguarding the interests of women at the present critical time in their economic and social history. This meeting further protests against the action of the W.S.P.U. officials whereby the Union's name and its platform are no longer used for woman suffrage, and to remedy the innumerable disabilities of unenfranchised womanhood, but for other purposes outside the scope of the Union; and this meeting calls for a properly audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Union's funds, no financial statement having been issued since the spring of 1914." The chair was taken by Mrs. Lamartine Yates; other speakers were Mrs. F. E. Smith, Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Amy Houghton, B.A., and Miss Dorothy Evans.

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FRIDAY, November 5th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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THE SHADOWS AT HOME.

The air is thick with rumours; some may be well founded; some may be the figments of diseased imaginations; but one truth seems to emerge from the mists. When the curtain drops upon the world's great battlefields, when the silent dead are left to their long sleep, and those who survive awaken—many of them from a dream of horror—to begin to put together their shattered lives, a surprise, it may be even a shock, awaits them.

The peoples of the belligerent countries blundered into this war. The blind herd were pushed forward by leaders blinder than themselves. Before the nation which, we feel, has most deeply sinned, flattering and bewildering illusions were dangled. A brief war, a glorious war, a victory that was to give to them the leadership—the practical control—of the whole of the civilised world; and, after victory, the peace of the mailed fist. On the other hand, the nations of the West, on whom the dream of liberty has dawned, with the autocratic governments that, in the throes of a life or death struggle, are learning their limitations, did, in the early days of the war, over-estimate their resources, and, apparently, throw away their opportunities.

So the course of events has run. Omnipotent silences, in the meantime, and secretly fostered illusions have kept quiet those whose interests are chiefly involved.

Now, at last, on all sides, the truth is beginning to leak out. Even the German Press has been unmuzzled. The *Vorwärts*, under the heading, "The Miseries of War," describes famished crowds waiting at the barracks for the remains of the soldiers' food. Under the strong and awful stress even German internal organisation has broken down. The *Berliner Tageblatt* voices the people's woes. "Whenever we plunge beneath the flag-waving, music and band-celebrating triumph of arms, this note of misery is apparent." The "shadows at home" contrasting with and to some extent clouding the achievements of Germany abroad.

The cry from France is of a different order. More spiritual and further advanced in civilisation than the Teuton, the Latin soldier feels in and for himself the horror of war. That does not affect his fighting ardour; nay, it intensifies his resolution never to flinch or yield, for he is warring against war. As a result of the victory which he and his Allies are bound to win, guarantees are to be imposed which will make a future war impossible.

All this is vividly brought out in a woman suffragist's account of her recent visit to France, given in the last issue of the *Nation*.

Pathetically the human touch appears in her interviews with French soldiers, and here, too, the

home shadows are felt. One speaks of his first efforts to kill. "It didn't seem real. It doesn't now. Before my last charge the lieutenant and I were filled with the beauty of the night. We sat gazing at the stars. Then the command came, and we rushed forward. It did not seem possible I was killing human beings."

Another is asked whether he has any children. "No," he answers; "thank God!" But why? "Because," comes the fierce reply, "if I had a son, I had rather he deserted than see what I have seen."

The soldiers—not the women—are beginning to say: "We will have no more children unless there is no more war." We would that women everywhere might echo that cry.

In fine, the word of the French soldier is: "Germany must be defeated; then we will build up a lasting peace."

All this is interesting and worthy of note. But we wonder whether it has dawned upon these—upon the non-combatants in Germany who are suffering so cruelly, upon the French who, liking it not, have gallantly given themselves to preserve their country intact, upon the men and women of Great Britain, upon whom the shadows have not yet fallen so deeply as they have upon these others—that without a freer, a nobler, a more democratic home-life, we shall never have a lasting peace. For peace and freedom go hand in hand.

It is well that this should be understood here. We have not suffered like the other belligerent nations. Our sea and our splendid ever-watchful navy have so far preserved us. We have been immune from invasion. Sorrow has been experienced in myriads of homes, and bitter anxiety and pain for the pain our brave men are suffering. These are the ordinary accompaniments of war. But there is something else. Slowly, scarcely to be observed, not noticed at all by many, there is stealing towards us a shadow which, if it is allowed to spread and rest, may darken not only individual lives but the corporate life of the nation.

If the liberties for which our people in the old time fought are taken away, if forced service in any form is to replace voluntary service, if the people, made frantic by fear of what does not actually exist, submit themselves tamely to the domination of an unscrupulous Press-cabal, a shadow, worse than that of war will envelop us and the fulfilment of our hopes—especially the hopes of women—will be indefinitely delayed.

This, then, is no moment for us to relax our efforts or to restrict our vigilance. Rather we should put forth our full energies. For the life of civilisation is at stake. Our nation and the nations of Europe will never be truly democratic, will never be able to achieve real freedom, will never chase away the shadows which these long months of misery have engendered, until the citizenship of women and their equal status with men are recognised and established.

Let the thought of this—our duty and service to humanity—make us strong to resist and endure!

C. DESPARD.

BRAVO! MANCHESTER MEN!

We are delighted to hear that the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage is endeavouring to arrange for a united demand on the part of all non-party Suffrage Organisations for the vote to be granted to women immediately the war is over, if enfranchisement has not already been secured. We offer this League our hearty congratulations for its determination to keep the suffrage flag flying, and we shall be only too glad to co-operate with its members in their efforts on behalf of the enfranchisement of women.

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MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN ON "SALVATION NOW."

Mr. Laurence Housman had a very cordial reception when he lectured at our "Wednesday" on October 27; Mrs. Mustard's words of welcome from the chair were enthusiastically endorsed by the audience at St. George's Vestry Hall. As was anticipated, Mr. Housman's address on "What Price Salvation Now?" proved to be a masterly review of the situation to-day, with incisive comments but with insistence on the high ideal of the true spirit of suffragists in the crisis. He pointed out that the Cause which suffragists believed in and loved was a new bond of fellowship between women the world over, and through women a new bond for humanity. Instead of these links of peace and good will, the product of male government was conditions of peace that was no peace—rivalries, jealousies, intolerable burdens, a veritable powder magazine: then a hand—no doubt whose—applied the spark, and civilisation broke down. The breakdown of democratic institutions under the "imperious necessities of war" does not insure just government and just minds in those who rule with improvised autocracy or in those who consent to be so ruled. The nation which still stands unmoved by the injustice of its own bad laws, is not to be trusted now to advance uncriticised. The real fight of the Twentieth Century is not between German and Anglo-Saxon, Teuton and Slav, but between governments and governed. He did not agree with the dictum: "Only the Government knows the facts, therefore we must trust the Government to decide." If suffragists had acted on it they would have been nowhere; half their fight had been to get the facts out of the Government into the ear of the public. Victory in the war may bring the reverse of salvation if it expresses the side of national life which extends protection to any system of exclusion, advantage, or privilege. It is far more easy to be involved in war in a just quarrel than to come out of it with clean hands. Referring to the idea that there should be no talk about terms of peace, Mr. Housman maintained that if each nation within the sphere of the war, whether beaten or victorious, were to proclaim their terms of peace the moral effect would be so great that it might bring peace. The concluding part of his address had reference to the death of Nurse Edith Cavell and his idea of "the true suffrage view of that terrible deed." It was the rigorous and ruthless application of military law. She resisted unconstitutional government and broke its laws; to women with noble records who have resisted unconstitutional government in this country it was always declared: "The law must be enforced." He denied the right of those who spoke thus to make so much ado now about Edith Cavell. She broke the law, knowing the price she might have to pay, and would have been less noble if she had taken up the anti-suffragist cry of woman's special immunity as woman. Reading out her noble words "I realise that patriotism is not enough; I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone," he protested against using her death to arouse hatred. He said, "Whether we win or lose, we shall only find salvation in her spirit."

Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Sproson, and others joined in the expression of appreciation of Mr. Housman's impressive address.



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The International Alliance.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I have read with much interest the statement of the Editor of *Jus Suffragii* on my leading article commenting on the failure of the International Alliance Board and its organ to give a lead and a rallying cry to suffragists during the war. The Editor denies that the Board was in England on the outbreak of hostilities; yet one of the first events was a "peace" meeting, or protest against war meeting in London, in which prominent members of the Alliance took part. I may be pardoned, therefore, for having supposed that enough were in this country at the time to form a quorum. It was, at any rate, an error very widely held.

With regard to The Hague Conference, the Editor says "it was important that suffragists in all countries should be informed of an important international meeting of suffragists, at which women's suffrage in relation to war was one of the chief subjects discussed." Part of my complaint is, that leading suffragists in charge of our Alliance should have chosen that time to lead off on an entirely different line, which suffrage bodies had

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never discussed and which was open to strong difference of opinion, and that the resolutions passed should be represented as being the opinion of suffragists in general in relation to war. The opinion of journalists that "the whole thing was a suffrage conference pure and simple" is not borne out by the resolutions carried, only a minority of which bore any relation to suffrage.

The Editor says that it is incorrect to say British women were not present at the Conference, and that the British Committee was "represented" by three. Against how many German, Dutch, Swedish and American she does not say; but it is playing with words and phrases to call this "representation," and I do not think Miss Sheepshanks was in earnest in putting this forward.

I could not in any way object to a report of the Conference appearing in *Jus Suffragii*. But I do object to the preponderance of articles putting the point of view of the peace propagandists, not only before, but ever since the Conference. I accept unreservedly the statement that the Editor intended to keep the balance even; but I do not agree that she succeeded. And that I am not alone in this view, the protest from Madame de Witt Schlumberger makes clear.

I do not underestimate the difficulties of editorship just now; and I do admit that it may not be fair to lay the blame on *Jus Suffragii* and not on the affiliated societies. But I do blame these societies very much. Whatever excuse the suffragists of belligerent countries may have for ceasing work—and the experience of the Women's Freedom League in this country shows what a realisation has come over the public, through the war, of what nationality means to women—there is none at all for societies in neutral countries. If the energy expended in pursuing this new objective had been devoted to getting into touch with suffrage societies, and putting together facts showing the loss and damage to nations through the exclusion of women from the political world, the gain would have been enormous. As it is, what some of us are feeling is that in our hour of utmost need, many of our leaders failed to realise the possibilities of the situation, and shrank from difficulties which should surely have nerved them to still greater efforts.

And having said this, I want also to say how much I feel the difficulties with which the Editor of *Jus Suffragii* has to contend. If all members of the Alliance would look upon it as something which belongs to us all, and not as something intangible and remote, and would supply her with news and comment, her task might be materially lightened. We are all defaulters in this respect, and I take my share of the blame, and will try to do my duty more efficiently in the future.— Faithfully yours, C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMEN'S WORK AND WAGES.

DEAR MADAM.—May I call your attention to the fact that the *Times* of October 23 furnishes us with one more illustration of the most unjust rule:—"Salary according to sex." In its advertisement columns I read the following:—

"WANTED, immediately and for the duration of the war, to take charge of a junior form of boys (average age 10), a MASTER (not eligible for military service) or MISTRESS, with good discipline, teaching powers, and ability to help with general school activities; salary £130 (men), £110 (lady), non-resident.—Apply, H. G. Abel, Barnstaple Grammar School, N. Devon, for form, to be returned with recent testimonials."

Perhaps, "salary according to qualifications" will take its place when the Golden Age returns to humanity.—Faithfully yours, ENID LEALE.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS : W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, November 9.—SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 10.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury (entrance in Little Russell-street), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Margaret Douglas, "A Recent Visit to France," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

Friday, November 12.—CROYDON, Sale of home-made cakes, 3.15 p.m. Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson. At W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

Sunday, Nov. 14. Lecture-Recital by Miss Clara Reed, 'Herod' (Stephen Phillips), at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford St., Strand, W.C. 3.30. Music, Refreshments. Admission by Ticket, 2/- Numbered and Reserved; 1/- Res. rved, from W.F.L. Office 144, High Holborn., W.C. Chair: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A.

Monday, November 15.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17.—PUBLIC MEETING, St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell-street). Speakers: Mr. John Scurr and Mrs. Tanner. 3.30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18.—POSTER PARADE, to advertise Green, White, and Gold Fair, leave Office at 10.45 a.m.

Saturday, November 20.—CROYDON, Whist Drive, at W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 23.—POSTER PARADE, leave Office at 2.15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell-street), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: The Rev. C. Ord Warlow, on "National Co-operation v. Private Competition," and Miss Boyle.

Thursday, November 25.—POSTER PARADE, leave Office at 10.45 a.m.

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 Exhibition, etc., etc. Tickets 5/- Admission: 1/- before 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m., 6d.

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PROVINCES.

Monday, November 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Business Meeting, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, November 15.—LIVERPOOL, Public Meeting, Hardman Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Our Bounden Duty." MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade Linthorpe-road, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Purvis.

Thursday, November 18.—READING, Branch Meeting, parlour, Palmer Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Ruth Hinder.

Friday, November 19.—ANFIELD, Branch Meeting, 139, Oakfield-road, Liverpool. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Saturday, November 20.—WEST HARTLEPOOL. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Monday, November 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

SCOTLAND

Wednesday, November 10.—EDINBURGH, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Speaker: Lady Ramsay.

Friday, November 19.—EDINBURGH, Assembly Hall, The Mound, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: M. Vandervelde, the Lord Advocate, and Miss Murray. Chair: Dr. Sarolea. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and 3d.

WALES.

Friday, November 5.—CARDIFF, Branch Meeting, Welsh Industries, Queen-street, 8 p.m. Report of Conference, and discussion of last month's paper.

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OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 8.—NATIONAL BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, St. George's Hall, Wimbledon. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Woman's Duty during the War," 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 14.—LIVERPOOL, Church of the New Ideal. Speaker: Miss Boyle on "Our Priceless Possession."

Wednesday, November 17.—LIVERPOOL, Women's Social Guild, 7.45 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "What is Reform?"

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."

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—Saturday, November 6, Intercession Service, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Preacher: The Bishop of London. 3 p.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

A very successful whist drive and dance was held at the Oddfellows' Hall, Charles-street, on October 27. Our thanks are given to Mr. Ferrier, who acted as M.C., and Mr. Hosgood, upon whom rests the success of the evening, for their energetic work and their success in selling tickets. The arrangements were admirable. We hope to hand over profits enough to keep the Branch going for some little time.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

On October 29 Mrs. Tanner spoke at our afternoon meeting, her subject being "Our Day." She showed particularly that "Our Day" has only partially arrived, and therefore bade her audience work for and look forward to a more perfect day, when women shall enjoy a greater freedom and power for service. Madame Anna Carola appealed for gifts of various kinds for the W.F.L. Fair, to be held at the end of November. At our next afternoon meeting, which will be held on November 12, Miss Jessett has arranged to hold a home-made cake sale for the benefit of the Merchandise Department. Will members do their utmost to make the sale a success, by promising contributions and bringing friends to make purchases at 3.15 p.m.? On Saturday, November 20, at 6.30 p.m., a whist drive will be held for the benefit of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps work. Tickets, 1s. each, from the hon. secretary, who will also be pleased to receive gifts for the Fair at Caxton Hall on November 26 and 27. Goods for the provision stall should be sent on November 25. More jumble goods are needed.

Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

Mrs. Leslie McKenzie addressed the Branch on Wednesday on the subject of Infantile Mortality and the care of children under school age. As always, her speech was full of accurate information and practical suggestions. From the number and nature of the defects found in children entering school for the first time, she proved the need for some organised system of medical supervision for the pre-school age child. The figures for 1913 for Scotland show a total of some 26,000 deaths before or soon after birth (the number born alive being 121,000), and these figures alone should stimulate public authorities to make the fullest use of their powers under the new Notification of Births (Extension) Act. Mrs. McKenzie strongly urged on women the duty of acquainting themselves with the terms of this Act. A public meeting in aid of the "British Gifts for Belgian Soldiers' Fund" has been arranged for Friday, November 19. Monsieur Emile Vandervelde (Belgian Minister of State), the Rt. Hon. Robert Munro, K.C., M.P. (Lord Advocate), and Miss Eunice Murray will speak. Dr. Sarolea, Belgian Consul, will be in the chair. As we have again been granted the use of the Assembly Hall, all members are asked to make a great effort to make the meeting known. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and 3d., can be had at the shop, or from Miss Thomson ticket secretary, 34, Gillespie-crescent.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE and Miss EVA GORE BOOTH

Will speak on "Why Women should have a Voice in the Future Peace Settlements."

On FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 3 p.m. at Central Hall, Westminster (Room B). Entrance in Matthew Parker St.

For Reserved Seats apply 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C. Tickets 2/6 and 1/- (including Tea), and 6d. Admission Free. Discussion invited.

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FRIDAY,
NOV. 5,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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

A very successful "At Home" was given on October 18, at which Miss Cook, of West Hartlepool, delivered an address on Masefield's "Widow in the Bye Street." She pointed out that Masefield strikes a new note, putting before us the deeper feelings of the working classes, and showing there is as much true heroism in the cottage as in the mansion. Miss Purvis made an excellent chairman, and music was given by Miss Lofts, Miss Steel, and Mrs. Walker. Miss Hawkins very kindly looked after the refreshments. On October 25 a Branch meeting was held. The business included arrangements for Miss Boyle's meeting on November 22. On October 21 Miss Goddard gave an address on "Elizabeth Fry" at the Unitarian Chapel, Corporation-road. The Rev. J. H. Smith presided. For the week, October 24 to 30, the W.F.L. had charge of the Tipperary Rooms. An excellent concert was organised on October 26 ending with a dance, and a whist drive was held on October 29. Thanks are due to Mrs. Schofield Coates, who gave a donation to commence the week, to Miss Gibbon, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Hawkins, and Miss Goddard who gave prizes to Mrs. Walker and the Misses Davies who provided music, and to the numerous members who came daily to help with the refreshments.

Paisley.

At our social meeting in the classroom, Central Halls, on October 20, Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., gave a splendid address on the "Responsibility of Women in War Time," which was greatly appreciated.

Reading.

A full and interesting account of the Conference proceedings was given at a members' meeting on October 28 by our delegate, Mrs. Corry. Discussion on various points followed. Mrs. Corry specially urged all members to take one or more copies of THE VOTE weekly, she herself promising to undertake the distribution. The meeting was held, by kind invitation, at the house of Mrs. Sacret. Members promised gifts for the Green, White, and Gold Fair. Miss Ruth Hinder will address our next meeting on Thursday, November 18, at the Palmer Hall.

Sale.

A social evening was held on October 25 at the Y.M.C.A. rooms. Miss Andrews presided, and Miss Fildes gave a short account of the Conference in London. Songs were sung by Miss Sands, Miss Lawrence, and Miss Vaughan, and other members helped to make the evening enjoyable. Social evenings will be held monthly.

The Vote: A Practical Offer.

Miss Adams, hon. secretary of our East London Branch, and a good friend at all times, has generously promised to set aside a certain portion of her income for the purpose of paying off the outstanding liabilities on THE VOTE, and will try to get others to co-operate. The directors thank Miss Adams for her practical assistance and wish her welcome effort every success. Received:—Miss Adams, 1s.; Miss C. N. Boyle, 1s.; Anon, 1s.; a busy member, 1s.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

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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. Nov. 10: Speakers: Miss Margaret Douglas on "My Recent Visit to France," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester, Wednesday, November 17, at 7.30 p.m. Recital of Works for Two Pianofortes, by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick. Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126 Deansgate, and at the door.

Miscellaneous Advertisement Charges.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE. PUBLIC MEETING, Central Hall, Westminster (Room B), Friday, November 12, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Eva Gore-Booth, on "Why Women should have a Voice in Future Peace Settlements."

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