THE VOTE, MAY 26, 1916. ONE PENNY.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 26, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Offices which can be Filled by a Woman. E. G. Murray. The Prime Minister and Woman Suffrage:

Letter from the Deputation Committee.

What will Mr. Asquith Say? - C. Nina Boyle.
50,000 Shillings Fund. Keeping the Flag Flying.

WAKE UP, SUFFRAGISTS! -Margaret Hodge. OUR POINT OF VIEW. WOMEN IN WAR TIME. SHAKESPEARE'S WOMAN KNIGHT. QUEEN ALEXANDRA AND THE W.F.L. SETTLEMENT.

OFFICES WHICH CAN BE FILLED BY A WOMAN.

In these days, when so many new occupations and posts are daily opening up to women, it is interesting to note what posts the law has always allowed women to fill. From the pages of an old law book I take the following: "A woman may be queen regnant, marshal, great chamberlain, and champion of England, returning officer for members of Parliament, great a workhouse graphs governed Parliament, governor of a workhouse, gaoler, sextandament, governor of a workhouse, gaoler, sexton, common constable, and public executioner; for all these being only ministerial offices, may be executed by her by deputy, agent, or minister. A woman cannot fill a judicial situation which depends solely upon the judgment of the person executing the office, and which must be executed in On studying the list one is struck by the person.' variety of occupations. Whether or not any woman in England was ever an executioner I canwoman in England was ever an executioner 1 cannot say, but evidently in France women executioners were not unknown. In Kenneth Graham's little book called "The Headsman," he draws a pleasing picture of the charms of Jeanne, the public executioner. She claimed the position of headswoman in her native town, an hereditary office. "The late lamented official left only a daughter—she who now stands before you daughter—she who now stands before you. She has formally applied for the family post with all its-er-duties, privileges, and emoluments, and her application appears to be—er—quite in order. There is nothing left for us, therefore, but to declare the said applicant duly elected." So spoke the mayor. In this country, at any rate, do not think many women would compete for the position. It is a sex equality which has never been put into use, even in the Dark Ages, and now, in our so-called enlightened days, it is still less likely to commend itself to public opinion,

Queens and Regents are familiar to us all. Queen Victoria, judging by the last book written about her, "The Widowhood of Queen Victoria," seems to have entertained the poorest opinion of the capacity of her own sex, except with regard to Florence Nightingale, whom she wished could have been at the War Office, and would have taken every post away rather than have opened new ones to them. An amusing story is told how Lord Granville proposed, on the death of the Poet Laureate, that a woman should fill the position. The Queen was duly shocked; the idea of a woman writing an ode about a woman seemed to her entirely unsuitable. Lord Granville had not the courage to explain that, in his opinion, if a woman could reign and govern a country and an empire, another woman might set her achievements forth in verse. It is pathetic that the great Queen's dictum was: "Women require men to guide them.'

It seems odd that women can act as returning officers for members of Parliament, yet cannot do that simple thing themselves—"make a cross against a name." A few years ago Miss Chrystal Macmillan claimed the right of acting as returning officer at a by-election in Glasgow. Although not effusively welcomed by the powers that be, they knew she had the right to be there, so being powerless to reject her, there she stayed. If we search our memory we may recall the names of women in bygone days who have occupied the various posts mentioned in this ancient law-book. To-day, however, we rejoice that the Victorian leaning, propping age is a thing of the past, and with pride and joy we watch women coming forward to fill many new positions and to work beside men.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.

Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

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

Sunday, May 28.—Open-Air Meeting,

Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, 12 noon. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Miss Spriggs. Lecture on Shelley by Mrs. Despard at 129, East Dulwich-grove, S.E.,

4 p.m. Tickets, Is. each.

Wednesday, May 31.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park, Marble Arch, 4 p.m.

Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

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 Meetings, Hyde Park (near
Marble Arch), 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair:
Miss Eggett. Brockwell Park, 3.30. p.m.
Wednesday, June 7.—Open-Air Meeting, Hyde Park, Marble

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

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and \(\frac{1}{2} \)d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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.

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, Suffrage Rooms, 2, Kent-road, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard on "Women and War Economy." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, May 31.—Portsmouth. Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, June 5.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage

Centre, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss A. Cooke.

Wednesday, June 7.—Southsea. Garden Whist Drive, 17,

Duncan-road, 3 p.m. Tickets Is. each.

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

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

Thursday, June 22.—SWANSEA. Branch Meeting, 105, Walter-

We Call Special Attention to-

1. THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN DAY, Caxton Hall, on Thursday, June 8, 3-9.30 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.

2. 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.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The following letter sent to the Prime Minister on May 19, 1916:-

27, Chancery Lane, W.C., May 19, 1916.

SIR, -On behalf of an influential body of men and women, representing a large number of Trade Unions and political organisations, whose names we enclose, we desire to express our appreciation of the undertaking given by you in your letter to Mrs. Fawcett, published in *The Times* on May 16, that the claims of women "will be fully and impartially weighed" if and when it becomes necessary for legislation to be effected dealing with the Parliamentary franchise.

We are at the same time aware of the possibility that the franchise may be dealt with by such a reform of the Register as would bring in numbers of fresh voters without recourse to fresh legislation, in which case the claims of women would be once more evaded; on the other hand, if fresh legislation should be found necessary, there is every probability that this would be precipitated by some crisis in such a way that it would not be possible for you to consult those most concerned in women's interests when the Bill is before Parliament. We, therefore, most earnestly ask you to make it possible for our deputation to meet you and the leaders of the two other Parties of the Coalition, Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Henderson, at some early date, in order that you may be in possession of our point of view, and we in possession of yours, before the time comes for the Government to deal with the matter.

We are fully aware, in making this request, of the many claims upon your valuable time. Only our deep sense of the value of unity in the nation at this hour of crisis, and of your power to seal that unity by a beneficent act of statesmanship, impels us to make this claim (which we undertake shall be a very brief one) upon your courtesy and consideration.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) BARBARA AYRTON GOULD

(Hon. Sec., Deputation Committee).

DEPUTATION.

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Despard, Mr. H. H. Elvin (Secretary of the National Union of Clerks), Mr. Vernon Hartshorn (of the Miners' Federation), Miss Winifred Holiday, Lady Muir Mackenzie, Mr. John Masefield, Mr. H. W. Massingham, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, ex-Provost Perry, Miss E. Phipps (President of the Women Teachers' Federation), Mrs. Spring Rice, Lady Forbes Robertson, Mr. W. C. Robinson (Secretary of the Association of Machine Workers), Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. Robert Smillie (President of the Miners' Federation), Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Mr. Ben Tillett (Secretary of the Dockers' Union), Councillor Ben Turner, Mr. Frederick Whelen, Mr. Robert Williams (Secretary of the National Transport Workers' Federation), Muriel, Countess De La Warr.

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING DEPUTATION.

Belfast Suffrage Society, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, Irishwomen's Reform League, Irishwomen's Suffrage, Irishwomen's Reform League, Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage, Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, North London Men's Political Union, Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage, Sligo Suffrage Society, Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U. United Suffragists, Women's Freedom League, Women Sanitary Inspectors' Suffrage Society, Women Teachers' Franchise Union, Women's Tax Resistance League, Women Writers' Suffrage League.

WHAT WILL MR. ASQUITH SAY?

The question of registration or franchise reform which has been dangled before Parliament month after month is now being brought sharply forward,

and the above pronouncement from the pen of Mrs. Ayrton Gould will be recognised as a genuine attempt to discover what the intention of the Government is. Mr. Asquith's pronouncements have been so ambiguous—that the matter was receiving "some" of the Government's attention; that "no such legislation . . . is at present in contemplation"; that the matter was receiving " attention: each in succession—that even his admirers and intimates may well be puzzled. He has finally announced his intention of making a statement "shortly," and its purport may perhaps be gathered from an expression of opinion in The Westminster Gazette, which is supposed to possess the Prime Minister's confidence. An expert on "registration procedure" is quoted as saying that a revision of the voters' lists is "quite impossible," and that nothing effectual can be attempted until the men come home. It is then that this expert anticipates "special arrangements" to deal with the circumstances. He "cannot think it likely that the Government will authorise the making of new lists (with its heavy expenditure) at the present time with all to be done over again later on; nor can he conceive of a General Election until the war is over, and points out that a Parliament

E'RIDAY, MAY 26, 1916.

tion" could retain office for five years. It is, therefore, possible that the "attention" meted out by the Government to the question has resulted in the decision to do nothing, in which case Mr. Asquith's answer to Mrs. Fawcett was less evasive than usual, and actually represented something akin to fact. But Mr. Asquith's mind changes like the weathercock, and the joint deputation from the suffrage societies may be told something entirely different. Nothing could be more irritating than to have the question left in uncertainty, a constant anxiety to suffragists and a willo'-the-wisp to lure away possible supporters.

elected on the question "for or against the Coali-

Now, if ever, is the time for suffragists to be vigilant and ready for action. In spite of the constant calls upon the services of women, their claims are still treated with contempt and indifference. It were well for all suffragists to read the impudent outpouring of Mr. Edward Mitchell Innes, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the League for Opposing Woman Suffrage. This gentleman resents any reminder being given to the Government that women have served the nation well in its emergency; he says "the Parliamentary vote is not something to be bartered away for any 'services rendered'; it is not a right but a duty and a responsibility; it is not a sort of D.S.O. decoration, but a trust imposed by the State." from the trifling fact that you cannot "impose" trust, it will suit us well to agree with part of this worthy person's case. He puts it well when he says it is not something to be bartered away for services rendered, not a sort of D.S.O. decoration. We have always steadfastly maintained this point, and we trust Mr. Innes will stand to his guns when frantic efforts are made to give the vote to every man who has served in the King's forces. Where we differ from him is when he calls it a duty and a responsibility. We do not deny that it should be so regarded, but challenge him to prove that it was ever so recognised in the successive political struggles that resulted in its extension—not because Parliament "imposed" trust, but because people clamoured for a right. The vote, historically and in fact, is a weapon of defence—a constitutional weapon necessary to a civilised community which believes in representative Government.

C. NINA BOYLE.

FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLINGS.

NEXT WEEK the second list of this fund will appear in The Vote. The first list amounted to 4,734 shillings. Please send your SECOND CONTRIBUTIONS in to me at once so that we may show as good a result in the next Vote. Said a penny to a shilling: "I am twice as big as

I am round and bright, and of a copper-colour

hue " "That is so," the shilling said; "but hear what I

can do-Joined by my 50,000 friends I'll win the Cause for DO YOUR BIT. E. KNIGHT. vou."

KEEPING THE FLAG FLYING.

The Campaign at Reading.
Great interest was aroused during our campaign at Reading. Meetings were held in the Market Square, at which Miss Anna Munro and Miss Alix M. Clark were the speakers. The Palmer Hall was crowded with an enthusiastic audience at an evening meeting, when Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle were also present. Miss Munro, from the chair, pointed out that suffragists must not be led away by flattery, but must still insist on making their demand heard. Miss Boyle's able and humorous speech aroused cheers and applause as she touched on the great problems of the day: infant mortality, women in industry, the need of the women's voice in the guidance of national affairs, and the loss to the country because votes for women — a measure of progress, justice, patriotism, and commonsense-were still denied. Mrs. Despard, who had a most hearty welcome, spoke of the discovery, through the war, of the worth of women's work, and how the resources of the country were being wasted because one sex tried to do what it thought to be necessary things. Nothing good could come out of an arid soil, and the worst evil was the soil of subjection in which women had been kept. Suffrage literature and 120 copies of The Vote were sold.

Successful Debate at Westcliff-on-Sea.

The promised suffrage debate at Westcliff-on-Sea took place on May 14, and resulted in a unanimous vote in favour of the enfranchisement of women. The lounge of the hotel was crowded, and the antis gathered in force. One of them, declaring his conversion, thanked Mrs. Cunningham for her logical and intellectual speech and answers to questions.

Miss Clara Reed, writing from Hasluck's Academy, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, sends us the following information, which will, no doubt, interest many of our readers:—"We have a membership (fee 5s. per annum) which entitles those who join to participate in many of our activities, and is a social link which has been widely welcomed; it is a somewhat unusual feature in educational places such as the Hasluck Academy." We are grateful to Miss Reed for her renewed offer of willing help for the Women's Freedom League.

Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

EDINBURGH VOTERS' PETITION Calling on the Government to include Women in the New Parliamentary Register.

MASS MEETING. SYNOD HALL, EDINBURGH Wednesday, June 7th, at 8 p.m.

MRS. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT. MR. BEN TILLETT,
MRS. CAVENDISH BENTINCK, and Members of the Town Council.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 26th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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.

At Home and Abroad postfree, 6/6 per annum,
"The Vote" may be obtained through all Newsagents
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

WAKE UP, SUFFRAGISTS!

"You cannot see the wood for the trees" is a well-known German proverb, and the truth of it is aptly illustrated by the attitude of the majority to-day. While we are all fixing our eyes on the gigantic tree of Prussian militarism, the rest of the forest is neglected; seeds are sown by the winds and watered by the rains, and strange forms of life are growing up and developing, while other products of mother earth, essential to the welfare of the community, are being strangled by pernicious weeds. Why do wars loom so large on our horizon? They are temporary paroxysms, not permanent conditions of human life. War is the apotheosis of a male creature. He is, metaphorically, spreading out his tail, like the peacock, from the beginning to the end of the strife, and the chronicler of his age and country helps him in his efforts to overshadow all other interests.

The orthodox historian puts
In the front rank the soldier thus,
The "Prussian" bully in his boots,
Who hides the march of men from us.

This is, indeed, the greatest evil of war, that it provides for the sensation-loving public an exciting panorama, which obscures and even actually hides all that is of really vital importance and permanent interest to the human race.

Before the great catastrophe of this war overwhelmed us, we were all watching with interest and enthusiasm signs of wondrous portent, the forerunners of a new renascence. In all the countries of Europe and in the newer lands of the Southern and Western hemispheres, labour was lifting its head, workers were demanding better conditions, a higher standard of living, in the interests of the race. Education was beginning to be understood to mean something better than a superficial knowledge of the so-called "Three R's." A social conscience was awakening, and some among the rich were beginning to see, vaguely and dimly, it is true, that a prosperous nation ought not to number among its inhabitants millions of half-starved, sweated workers. Above all, women were demanding a voice in the national housekeeping and the national nurseries so deplorably mismanaged by a male cabal. In pre-war days the toll of infant life in our great Metropolis was felt to be a scandal in a civilised and scientific age, yet the enormous increase in infant mortality during the last eighteen months has raised only a few protests in letters. tucked away in the unread corners of the newspapers. The sweating of workers was a subject of great agitation in the first decade of this century,

yet women and children are being disgracefully sweated to-day and no one raises a protest, because we are all absorbed in the doings of our forces, and those of our Allies, and our business is "to win the If that consummation devoutly to be wished is reached, what then? With a diminished birth-rate, an enormously increased infant mortality, a maimed and nerve-racked generation to produce the inhabitants of the islands, nay, of Europe itself, a drained exchequer, and a heavy load of debt, making all reforms impossible, what a labour of Sisyphus will reconstruction be?

Let us see to the really vital things while there is time. If the Empire is to be worth saving, the women, who are as yet impotent as citizens, must bestir themselves and claim their share in the responsibilities of Government to save the race from destruction. The British Dominions Woman's Suffrage Union, which struggled to birth in the midst of the great militant agitation so utterly misrepresented in the Press Overseas, held its first Conference in July, 1914, just before the world war broke out, and has not only survived this cataclysm, but has been extended and strengthened by the very characteristics which this war has brought out. The immense enthusiasm for the deeds of the heroic Anzacs in Gallipoli, for the courage of the Canadians in France and Flanders, and for the South Africans, who have quelled rebellion without bloodshed, and conquered the German Colonies and the German influence in their midst, have drawn ever closer the ties which bind the Motherland to her daughter countries—ties light as air, but which have proved stronger than links of iron. The women of these Dominions have shown their kinship with and their insight into the needs of the people in the Homeland by generous gifts of clothing and money through the channel of the Suffrage Union. The touching and loving messages sent with the carefully-stitched garments, and the eager interest in the poor or sick children who benefit by the fund, show that these Oversea Britons have never lost touch with the race from which they have sprung. In two of these Dominions the women have already the power to co-operate in the moulding of a nation, and Canada, even at the height of the War fever, has enfranchised two of her provinces. In the purer atmosphere of the newer lands the need for the woman's help is more keenly felt.

It is to bring together all women suffragists that the Overseas Union is this year holding a Conference to discuss questions of vital interest to the race. The question of the loss of nationality through marriage has been brought very prominently forward by the cruel sufferings this war has brought upon many women of British and German birth. It was a question that excited very little attention among the general public before this time, because it appeared to the uninitiated to imply no particular grievance when Europe was at peace. Even then, however, the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, following the work of many enlightened people, who were fully alive to the dangerous potentialities of the law involving loss of nationality through marriage with an alien, sent a deputation to interview the Colonial Secretary upon this subject in July, 1914. The foresight of the goddess Frigga has, indeed, descended to the daughters of her worshippers, for, although the Colonial Secretary waived their objections then. he can hardly fail to realise their practical value now. Sex morality and sex education will be another subject for instruction and discussion. Perhaps of all our war problems the darkest and most terrible is the undue prominence that is given at this period to the sex relation and the awful degradation of the sacred sex function.

"Cairo has been more fatal to our soldiers than Gallipoli," said an Australian political leader, and, in these words we have the strongest incentive to bestir ourselves to insist upon the urgent necessity of an adequate training in self-control for the sake of the future of the race. The economic condition of women and children is intimately connected with the preceding subject, for women and children are often driven on to the streets by starvation wages. Australia and New Zealand, where women have enjoyed political power for fourteen and twenty-two years respectively, compare very favourably with all other countries in their legislation for the payment of fair wages and the insuring of the comfort of the workers. Child labour has ceased to be remunerative to the employer at the minimum wage he is required to pay—an appeal to his pocket, which is much more effective than a faith in his philanthropy.

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1916.

Meetings for the discussion of all these questions, of such vital importance to the race of whom women are the natural guardians, should appeal to all suffragists, and a number of suffrage societies have already intimated their intention of taking part in the Conference. Discussions and resolutions, however, are futile, unless women are armed with political power so as to enforce their wishes. and, therefore, a suffrage meeting will form a most essential part of the programme. Through the medium of The Vote we make an urgent appeal to all those who are interested in the well-being of their race and in the welfare of humanity to prove that interest in a practical way by helping to make these meetings productive of definite and permanent

"You cannot see the wood for the trees." Look at the wood. Gaze on the ruin that has been wrought, then turn your eyes to the weed-grown or the barren soil, where the good seed needs your nurture if it is to prosper and bring forth fruit. "When the oak is felled the whole forest re-echoes with the fall, but a thousand acorns are sown in silence by an unnoticed breeze." Help these in their struggle for life, O ye world mothers, and remember that you are the daughters of Frigga, the goddess, who always had her steadfast gaze fixed on the future, that future whose secrets she alone of all the gods was permitted to know. MARGARET HODGE.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Tender Care.

Another body of citizens has been giving proof of the solidarity of the nation—and of masculinity. The Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers at Sheffield on Monday declared its undying opposition to the employment of women as tram-drivers. These high-spirited Britons based their objection on two fine points—the danger to the public, and the danger to the race and its future generations. The danger to the public, if one may judge from the amazing accident statistics. is not confined to women drivers (who have not yet killed anybody, and may possibly never do so), while as to the other danger, if these Pharisees would really consider the welfare of future generations they would deal first with the far greater danger-the immoral habits of their own sex, the gravest of all menaces to future generations. the very small number of women likely to be injured as tram-drivers, no great menace can be found that is not already provided by scrubbing and various other "womanly" occupations, such as the carrying of heavy babies by little girls of eight and ten. In all matters related to their industrial monopoly men workers persistently adhere to this

paltry pretence of caring for the physical welfare of women. The very men whose homes bear the burden of a new baby every year, without privacy, decency, proper food, or proper nursing for the over-burdened mother, will solemnly put forward arguments such as those advanced at Sheffield and expect to be treated seriously. The menace to future generations comes, not from the employment of women, but from the habits and prejudice of men, and so long as they persist in straining at gnats-which are all too frequently merely the product of mental "jim-jams"—and swallowing camels, so long we must hold them unfit to give opinions relating to our welfare.

Beauty First.

THE VOTE.

We remember the time when women were informed that their judgment could not be trusted in the matter of choosing representatives, as the lot would always fall on the best-looking man. What are we to think of the outpourings of The Daily Mail, The Weekly Dispatch, and other organs, which, with the utmost degree of badbreeding as well as silliness, give us to understand that important Government departments choose their women clerks on a basis of beauty, not capacity? One would have thought the need of these women's services might have saved them from such impertinences, but among certain men there are no limits to bad breeding where women are concerned.

A Word to Mr. Wells.

Of equal futility and impudence are the articles recently furnished by Mr. H. G. Wells to The Daily News and The Evening News on the subject of women. This profound thinker has made two or three startling discoveries. He has found out, for instance, that there are two or three, or several. different kinds of women; that these different kinds of women do not all think or act alike; and that there is possibly some reason or point in the various fashions of expressing themselves. We hope there is a public that appreciates Mr. Wells's discoveries and admires him for making them, but, for us, the impertinence of this persistence in explaining, or apologising, for women is more offensive than amusing. If these superior persons, with a mania for explanations that explain nothing about things that do not require explanation, would only leave them alone, or, if they cannot refrain from explaining and apologising, would do so about things of which they may presumably know something -i.e., their own very extraordinary doings and sayings and thinkings—it might be less irritating. We offer Mr. Wells a profound thought for his study and improvement. Men do not act in the lump like a flock of sheep, nor do women, because, like men, they happen to be human beings, of varying degrees of intelligence. If he will give this time to soak into his mind, he may glean an idea or two, but we hope it will not make him write another article!

Dr. Nélanie Lipinska.

Mrs. Cunningham writes: Owing to absence from home, the proof of my interview with Dr. Lipinska did not reach me, and I wish to make it clear that the remark attributed to the Polish "Societies in my country discourage doctor . research, . . . especially women's part in it, was in reality a statement of mine. "My country" is Britain, not Poland. Readers may be interested to know that Dr. Lipinska has been visiting physician to various hospitals in Paris and consulting physician for several seasons at different thermal stations in the Vosges mountains. She is now teaching massage in London.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Florence Nightingale's Statue.

The anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday last week (May 18) was marked by the addition of her name on the front of the statue in Waterloo-place, with a record of the date of her birth and death, also two new side panels portraying scenes from her life. The initial folly and insult of placing her name at the back of the pedestal has at last been repaired. The lettering now corresponds to that on the companion statue of Lord Herbert of Lea.

Tribute to Women's Work by the Royal

Geographical Society.

Dr. Douglas Freshfield, President of the Royal Geographical Society, paid tribute, at the annual meeting on May 22, to the work of women Fellows. He said that Miss Ethel Finlay, of the Ladies' College. Cheltenham, had devoted her spare time and much of her vacation to the preparation of the series of maps, showing the boundaries in Europe for the last one hundred and thirty years, undertaken by the Society. Miss Finlay had not been able to finish, owing to well-deserved promotion, but the work had been placed in the hands of Mrs. Rolland. Miss Gertrude Lothian Bell is among the Fellows of the Society who have disappeared into the East on special work. Dr. Freshfield said that, in reviewing the amount and variety of the geographical work carried out under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society by women, he felt the Society owed a debt of gratitude to Lord Curzon for asserting his influence during his presidency in removing the bar to the election of women as Fellows.

Guardians in the Art Gallery, Birmingham.

The Corporation of the City of Birmingham has not deemed it necessary to close the Art Gallery in war time, but has added the new interest of war cartoons, including a striking series by Raemaekers, and from Punch and other papers. The Corporation has shown its wisdom in dealing with shortage of men on the staff. Every day from 12 to 2 members of the Women's Volunteer Reserve are on duty while the men guardians go off for dinner. When the women in uniform go on duty they march in single file through the rooms, leaving one of their number in each; when they leave each falls in as the procession passes through the Gallery. They take their responsibility very seriously, are most courteous in answering inquiries, and show special interest in the women's work on exhibition.

Protest against the Sale of Alcohol.

A few days ago, says the Daily News, Glasgow witnessed the largest demonstration by women ever held in the North, at least thirty thousand parading to mark their approval of a policy of prohibition of the sale of liquor during the war. Assembling at five centres, the huge procession, headed by bands, marched to Glasgow Green, where, after the National Anthem had been played by the massed bands, speeches were made by Lady Bilsland, the Hon. Mrs. Campbell, and other promilocal women. The demonstration was intended as a dignified protest against the manufacture and sale of alcohol during the war. Large crowds were attracted to the line of route and the scene of the mass meeting.

SHAKESPEARE'S WOMAN KNIGHT.

Shakespeare would not have been surprised by what women are doing to-day," said Mrs. C. Carmichael Stopes at the Tercentenary dinner at the Lyceum Club on May 22. He portrayed the woman knight, the woman who was the defender and helper; the woman intensely loyal to her own

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sex, giving chivalrous service and devotion. Mrs. Stopes instanced, among others, Emilia, in Othello, the devoted friend of Desdemona, who died with her, and Paulina, in Winter's Tale, whose devotion to the wronged Hermione lasted sixteen years and more; she was the wise counsellor of the King and the means of his regeneration. Lady Muir Mackenzie pointed out that Portia was not a fancy portrait; in mediæval Italy women studied law and medicine. In the University of Bologna there were two women lecturers on canon law, to whom students flocked from many

countries, including England.

Lord Bryce and Sir Sidney Lee paid tribute to
Miss Zabelle Boyajian's share in organising the Armenian festival to Shakespeare on May 16, to her admirable speech on the occasion and to her beautiful poem in "The Book of Homage to Shakespeare.

Mrs. Carmichael Stopes Honoured by the British Academy.

On the occasion of the annual Shakespeare lecture before the British Academy Lord Bryce announced from the chair that the Academy, out of the grant left to it in trust by Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshay, had awarded the prize (£100) to Mrs. C Carmichael Stopes for her books on "Shakespeare's Industry" and "Shakespeare's Environment." This is the first time that the British Academy has honoured a book by man or woman; it is a just recognition of Mrs. Stopes's important contributions to Shakespeare lore. Mrs. Stopes is well known as a staunch champion of woman suffrage.

In Sympathy.—Miss Eva Slawson, a member of the Women's Freedom League and a good suffragist, has passed away suddenly. We express our sympathy with her family in their sad loss.

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

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Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Ltd."

"Vote" Selling: A Special Appeal.

I hope members will make a special effort to keep up our Vote sales. Will six London members volunteer to sell outside Selfridge's and Eustace Miles's Restaurant one hour each per week? Arrangements will be made for the copies of the paper to be delivered to sellers at the different pitches, if necessary. I am particularly busy this month, and rely on members to help. Offers should be sent to The Vote Secretary, who is doing everything possible to assist. The practical help of Mrs. Giles, of Blackpool, is most welcome, and is an excellent example to other members. Mrs. Giles has a standing order for thirty copies of THE VOTE, ALIX M. CLARK. which she sells each week.

Debate at Headquarters.

A very successful debate took place at the Women's Freedom League Restaurant between Mrs. E. M. Moore and Miss Nina Boyle on May 18, Mrs. Moore contending "That the Nineteenth Century presents one of the darkest pages of Civilised History," and Miss Boyle opposing that view. Mrs. Moore was scathing in her criticisms of the hypocrisy, the "respectability," and the commercialism of the century that has gone, but Miss Boyle found that there was much to its credit, that more progress had been made in the nineteenth century than in any of the preceding ones. After all, were not both Mrs. Moore and Miss Boyle products of the nineteenth century? There was an excellent discussion, and when Miss Ada Mitchell (who presided) put the resolution to the vote, it was lost by a large majority.

On this occasion our new restaurant was crowded, and the general consensus of opinion was that we should have many more debates there on similar

To Help "The Vote."

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FRANCIS SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE VOTE."

Dear Madam,—I trust the W.F.L. will not be content simply to express its sympathy with Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington in her sorrow, but will join in the demand made by another Suffrage Society for a public inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of her husband. The charges made are quite definite and very grave, and require the fullest possible public inquiry. The idea of a secret investiga-tion ought not to be tolerated for a moment.—Yours K. S. TANNER,

Queen Alexandra and the Women's Freedom League Settlement.

In the course of her visit to the British Women Workers' Exhibition on May 18 Queen Alexandra visited the stall of the Women's Freedom League Settlement and gave a generous contribution to the collecting-box. She showed her interest in the work and expressed her surprise that a dinner could be supplied for a penny.

be supplied for a penny.

The exhibition closed on May 21, and we cordially thank our friends who relieved the Settlement staff of the charge of our stall: Mrs. Bagot, the Misses Brown, Mrs. Clark, the Misses Cadogan-Ogg, Miss Collis, Mrs. Delbanco, the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, Miss Stella Miles Franklin, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, Mrs. Hope, Miss Hodge, Miss Kemp, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Presbury, Mrs. and Miss Shorland, Mrs. Shone, Miss Stutchbury, the Misses Triplet, Mrs. Tritton, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Ussher, Mrs. Varwell, the Misses Walker, and Miss Gottschalk, who did some effective lettering for us at very short notice. The dishes made by the Misses Cronin and Miss Harris, pupils of the Vegetarian School of Cookery, sold well, and their demonstrations attracted a good deal of attention. The staff are especially grateful to Miss Janette Stutchbury, who stayed at the Settlement during the whole of the exhibition, and made it possible to keep our stall going without detriment to the work at Nine Elms. Many thanks to Miss Leech, for rhubarb and cauliflowers; Miss Sykes, bread, butter, and marmite; Mrs. C. Harvey, cauliflowers; Mrs. Thomas, 2s.; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Mrs. Clark, a toaster; Miss Deacon, paper-bags; Mrs. Delbanco, slippers for the Guest House children; Mrs. P. H. Miller and Miss M. Holmes, flowers.

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FRIDAY. 1916.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Bournemouth.

We urge all members and friends in this neighbourhood to attend our meeting, which will be held (by kind permission of Mrs. Hume) at Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliffgardens, to-day (Friday), at 4 p.m., when Mrs. Mustard will speak on "Women and War Economy," and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Whetton. Admission is free, but there will be a collection in aid of the funds of our Bournemouth Branch.

Chester. Suffrage Shop, 45, St. Werburgh-street.

Our Whist Drive in aid of the 50,000 Shilling Fund took place on May 17, and proved to be most enjoyable. Many thanks are due to the Committee, and all our friends, who helped to make it such a success by assisting in various ways and by giving some of the refreshments. We are particularly grateful to Mrs. Harry Brown, who paid for the hall; to Mrs. Young, who made such delicious tea and coffee; and to Mrs. Laybourne, who acted as M.C. Miss Taylor presented the prizes, and afterwards Miss Neal, who kindly came over to see us from Manchester, gave a short address on the attitude of the League during the war and how much has been done by its various War Funds; after a little dancing we dispersed. We hope to realise over £4, but cannot give the exact amount until a meeting is held this week. Miss Woodall, on her way to West Kirby on business, paid us a flying visit, and just arrived in time for Wednesday evening. The Committee organising the taking out of the barrel organ have arranged to go out again on Saturday next if the weather permits. Also we are shortly holding a members' meeting, to be announced probably by letter.

There will be a Very special meeting at 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, on Monday, May 29, 1916, at 6.15 p.m. All members, who have the welfare of the Branch at heart, will cut all other engagements and make a point of being present.

Suffrage Centre, 231a, The Arcade, Middlesbrough.

Linthorpe-road.

On May 15 a lecture was given by Miss Beatrice Kent on her recent journey through the United States and Canada, taken in order to attend the Conferences of Nurses at the Panama Exhibition, San Francisco. She awakened much interest by her description of the various States in which women are enfranchised, and showed how beneficial has been the influence of the women's vote on the social conditions of those States. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. Goods are still wanted for the Jumble Sale; will members kindly let us have their contributions before May 29? Members and friends are earnestly requested to help at the Tipperary Rooms the week commencing June 12. If not able to give personal service, the secretary will be very grateful for articles suitable for prizes for the Tipperary whist drive.

Portsmouth.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Mustard will speak on "Women and War Economy" on Tuesday, May 30, at 3 p.m., at The Suffrage Rooms, 2, Kent-road. Members are urged to come and bring many friends. On Wednesday, June 7, by kind permission of Mrs. Speck, there will be a Garden Whist Drive in aid of the Birthday Fund, at 17, Duncan-road, Southsea, at 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. each. Fortnightly work parties are held at 17, Lombard-street for the Green, White and Gold Fair. For dates, see Forthcoming Events.

Swansea.

On May 17 a committee meeting was held at Mrs. Hutton's. The treasurer reported on the result of the Entertainment and Jumble Sale held at the end of March. It was decided to send £7, the proceeds of the Jumble Sale, to Headquarters, and £3 10s. 5d., realised by the Entertainment, to the local Prisoners-of-War Fund. One guinea was also voted towards the expenses of the Suffrage Campaign at Buxton during the week of the Teachers' Conference. Members are asked to make an effort to attend a Branch meeting, to be held on June 22, at Miss Kirkland's, 105, Walter-road, to discuss work for the November Fair.

The Neglect of Science.—"A Woman Engineer" writes to say that Col. Crompton, who blamed women nurses and their objection to chemicals being spilled on carpets for the neglect of science teaching, entirely approves of women being taught science if they are so inclined and capable, and is generous and open-minded in his assistance to both sexes. We are glad to hear it, but at the meeting his only reference to women was to blame nurses.

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