

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.  
 Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Vol. II.—No. 7.

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST, 1915.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,  
 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

**SUFFRAGE CLUBS.** Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.  
 Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10 p.m.

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, May 1st, 3.30 p.m.—Poster parade, starting opposite Stratford Town Hall.  
 Sunday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Mackinlay.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Alison Neilans, Mr. Everett, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.  
 8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Schlette.  
 Monday, May 3rd, 8 p.m.—Workmen's Hall, Romford Rd.—Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Walshe  
 8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd.—Mr. Everett.  
 8 p.m.—Peacock—Mrs. Bouvier, Chair Miss Manicom.  
 Tuesday, May 4th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Miss Manicom, Mrs. Walker.  
 3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Mary Richardson, Chair: Miss Beamish.  
 8 p.m.—Limehouse, Salmon Lane—Miss Feek, Chair: Miss Beamish.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Scurr.  
 8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Coombs.  
 Wednesday, May 5th, 8 p.m.—Chrip St.—Mrs. Walker.  
 7.30 p.m.—Romford Rd., "The Pigeons"—Miss Beamish, Mr. Everett.  
 8 p.m.—Ford Road—Miss Lynch.  
 Thursday, May 6th, 7.30 p.m.—Forest Gate Station—Mrs. Bouvier.  
 8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. Parsons, Miss Lynch.  
 8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Miss Mary Richardson, Chair: Mrs. Walker.  
 Friday, May 7th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.  
 8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.—Mr. Everett.  
 8 p.m.—Stratford Town Hall—Public Meeting.  
 Saturday, May 8th, 3.30 p.m.—Poster parade, starting outside Stratford Town Hall.  
 Sunday, May 9th, 8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Mary Richardson, Mr. Peter Petroff.

## MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town; also gifts of:

Eggs.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL and MALT, GLAXO and VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town.

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

## OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley, Id.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.)

Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices?

## OUR FACTORY.

Price lists for our toys, and shoes may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Help us to produce skilled work at a living wage.

WANTED.—Friends to act as Voluntary Commercial Travellers for our Toys.

Women's Exhibition **CAXTON HALL,**  
 MAY 10, 11 & 12, 3 to 10 p.m.

**TOY MAKING EXHIBIT**  
 Arranged by the E.L.F.S.

**SWEATED INDUSTRIES**  
 Arranged by Dr. Tchaykovsky.

**INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT**  
 Arranged by International Suffrage Shop.

**FOOD PRICES EXHIBIT**  
 Arranged by Miss Margaretta Hicks.

SPEAKERS from all the SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Admission 1s., after 7 p.m. 6d.

SEASON TICKETS, 2s. 6d.

From 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

can be got for it in England, less the cost of transport.

The Indian people cannot pay the present price of wheat, and, unless the prices are reduced, they must go without at a time of exceptional plenty, as surely as though there were a famine.

To meet the situation, the Indian Wheat Committee, appointed by the Cabinet Committee on the Food Supplies, announces the taking of measures to deal with the problem that might well be adopted in this country.

The Government of India have prohibited the export of wheat by any private person from March 31st, 1916.

the people must rely for their food on anyone rather than the Government. Obviously the Government's buying has not kept the prices down! Why has it ceased? Why cannot the truth be told? It seems very much like a discreditable bargain between the Government and the traders concerned, in order that the high prices of wheat may continue.

Mr. Houston called attention to the fact that freight charges for wheat from the Argentine had fallen from 75s. on February 1st to 60s. on April 1st, yet the price of wheat in this country has continued to rise.

Mr. Runciman answered evasively, but admitted that whilst bread here costs 8½d. it is only 7½d. in Paris. Mr. Houston pointed out that freight charges to France are usually 2s. 6d. to 5s. a ton higher than in this country.

## WAR BABIES AND THEIR MOTHERS.

"A certain amount of charitable amateur effort is being made to meet the needs of the case, by ladies who have become aware of the facts. These ladies propose to start 'schools for mothers,' where the girls may learn how to care for their own health and that of their babies, and may also be helped to preserve their self-respect. This is the right spirit, and a move in the right direction. But it must fall far short of the requirements. What is wanted is for the religious leaders of the nation, in the first place, to come forward with an honest and courageous pronouncement that under existing circumstances the mothers of our soldiers' children are to be treated with no scorn or dishonour, and that the infants themselves should receive a loyal and unshamed welcome. In the second place, the Government should at once pass legislation drastically reforming—even if only as a temporary measure—the laws of bastardy. It also has to be considered how provision is to be made for the fatherless children, whose girl mothers have no separation allowance, no separate homes of their own, and no means of support. If nothing is done, thousands of them will fall upon the rates. Better that they should be boldly adopted as the honourable children of the State than that they should sink through life as the children of shame and the parish. The precise method by which the object in view can best be accomplished may tax the wisdom of statesmen; but the immediate urgency of the problem is not open to question."—Mr. Ronald McNeill in the Morning Post.

Nine months ago the peace of Europe and of England was broken, and large numbers of our troops invaded many of our hitherto civil communities, bringing with them a wave of enthusiasm, hero worship, and passion, for the defenders of the homeland.

And as our soldiers passed over to the continent, some never to return, they left behind them mothers of future war babies (many little more than children themselves), who are now about to face the ordeal of motherhood, with the knowledge that their babies can never claim a father's name or protection, with the knowledge too that they, and they alone, are the legal parent, and in the eyes of the law solely responsible for the maintenance of the child. It is a quaint outcome of our laws that a mother to be the legal parent must not be a wedded wife, and the women's movement has done much to convert the repugnance of sheltered women into honour and pity at the prospect that lies before these unfortunate mothers and their hapless babes.

(Continued on page 239, col. 3.)



OUTSIDE THE BABIES' HOUSE.

## DANISH WOMEN WIN THE VOTE.

On Friday, April 30th, the Danish Parliament adopted a new constitution which grants Votes to women, and abolishes all sex disabilities.

Hearty congratulations to our Danish sisters on their victory!

## ENORMOUS WAR PROFITS.

Messrs. Spillers and Baker, a Cardiff corn and milling firm, made a profit in the year ending February last of £367,865 as against £83,889 in 1913-14, £126,614 in 1912-13, and £183,016 in 1911-12.

At a meeting of the Cardiff Board of Guardians a resolution was moved by a Conservative, seconded by a Labour member and carried unanimously calling attention to these enormous war profits in view of the increased cost of bread which is causing such grievous hardship to the poor.

The very day the balance sheet of this firm was issued, it was announced that the price of Cardiff bread was to be raised to 8½d. a loaf.

Cardiff working class organisations and their leaders are demanding that the Government shall take action to keep the prices down. Mr. James Griffiths, the vice-president of the Cardiff Trades Council, declares that: "it is no use talking of starving Germany whilst our people are being starved by our own monopolists."

It is said that the present state of affairs is seriously hindering the progress of recruiting in Cardiff.

## BREAD.

It is estimated that this year's Indian wheat crop is 10,293,000 tons, as compared with 8,427,000 tons last year, and that there is at least 2,000,000 tons more wheat than India normally consumes.

Yet the price of wheat in India is very high, because the dealers there refuse to sell it at a lower price than

Firms ordinarily engaged in the export of wheat from India have been appointed agents to the Government, to carry on the wheat trade on the Government's behalf, and under its orders.

The Government of India will fix maximum prices, and gradually reduce these as the season advances, to remove all temptation to hold stocks.

The differences between the low prices to be fixed by the Indian Government and the high prices which the wheat will fetch if sold in London, will be retained by the Indian Government as part of its revenue. But why should we in England be left to suffer from high prices? When will the British Government regulate them? Bread at 8½d. a loaf means further privations for millions of already poor people.

The management of the Government's wheat business, both in India and England, is left entirely in the hands of men. It is time that women were placed on the committees.

In the House of Commons, on April 22nd, Sir Harry Verney stated that from the beginning of last December, certain purchases of wheat had been made on behalf of the British Government "under instructions from the Cabinet Committee on Food Supplies, by a committee comprising representatives of the War Office, Admiralty, Board of Trade, Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Treasury. We have been in communication with the corn trade, on whom the nation must mainly rely for bringing supplies of breadstuffs to this country, and they were informed that the purchases on behalf of the Government ceased some time ago. It would not be in the public interest to announce the details of the transaction at the present time."

The italics are ours. It seems that



E.L.F.S. Bow Branch and R.S.P.U. Joint "MILK FUND" SOCIAL, SATURDAY, MAY 8th, at 8 p.m. WOMEN'S HALL, 400 OLD FORD RD. Tickets 3d each

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name..... Address..... I enclose 1d. to cover membership and postage.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

Woman of 49 wants work to keep home going. Husband unable to work.—Mrs. Levy, 12 Oxford Street, Barking, Essex. Norwegian Lady, who has managed a Boarding House in Christiania, desires situation in London.—Apply "Box 10."

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name..... Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought. Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E. Telephone EAST 1787.

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Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d. Vol. II. No. 7.—Sat. May 1st, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

WAR BABIES.

A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. The problem of the "War Babies," those children of unmarried mothers who are to be born because large bodies of men have been taken from their accustomed homes, and either quartered in camps or billeted in private houses up and down the country, focusses for us anew the saddest and most cruel failure of our imperfect civilisation. The problem is not a new one, although, as some people tell us, it may be one of increased volume.

The terrible social tangle of irregular sexual intercourse, arises partly from our harsh competitive economic system, which carries with it the purely material question of the helpless infant's maintenance, and the awful prevalent tendency to turn to marketable account everything—even that which should be sacred to the affections. In this connection, we must remember, when War broke out, immense numbers of women lost their work and became absolutely destitute.

The other half of the problem, not the less sad because it is subtler and more difficult to set right, springs from the imperfect development of our general human nature, and the unequal advance towards the capability of a strong spiritual monogamous affection that individuals have made.

In matters of sexual union and the affections, the judgment of society and of the individuals of which it is made up is perpetually clogged by purely material and economic considerations. A contract concerning goods or money—lifeless things that rust and pass away—is more seriously regarded than the plighting of the affections. Even in regard to unions between men and women, which should be primarily dependent upon sympathy and affection, too often the purely physical aspect is alone taken into account. It is too seldom

realised that a deep, strong affection is a precious thing, that love and enthusiasm are the greatest and most essential forces in the world, and that the giving of a young heart's love is wonderful and sacred, and that it should be guarded as a trust.

We cannot measure the loss to human evolution, which is constantly occurring through the love of young hearts being wasted and exploited, so that it leaves behind it only the ashes of disappointment and cold distrust. The most precious qualities of our inner, and as yet but half-developed, selves are both fugitive and rare. Too often we forget to recognise their worth, both in ourselves and others. Cruelty and meanness are too often more easily forgiven than the absence of calculating self-protectiveness. Let us remember this, in dealing with the problem of "War Mothers," or any other mothers outside the sanction of the law. Let us try to remember that people should be judged rather by the motives that prompt their acts than the results of what they do.

There are some few terrible cases like that which has resulted in the trial of a soldier at Bury Petty Sessions, which we report on page 239, and like that of little Maggie Nally, in which the child victim is not always killed. It is usually assumed that in most of the cases both the man and woman have acted lightly and frivolously, without any genuine affection for each other, or wish for a permanent union, without thought of the possibility of bringing a child into the world, or care for the child's future should it come.

Such cases (at least on the woman's side, for nature's basic laws are always working to mould her otherwise) are infinitely rarer, we believe, than is asserted. And if the problem dealt with on the assumption that this frivolousness is the guiding rule, much injustice will be done and much harm will result. Yet we cannot forget that our social organisation does much to make men think lightly of the faith they owe to women.

We know that there are such cases as that of the corporal in the Scotch Guards, which we reported recently, in which the man deliberately deceived a good and affectionate girl and contracted a bigamous marriage with her, and when he was brought into court and pleaded guilty, he was at once discharged without a word of rebuke.

But we know that there are many men in the Army who have begged in vain for leave to come home to marry the women whom they love and who are deeply distressed because of the misery and privation that these women are made to suffer.

But how to deal with the problem practically? Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky urges that it shall be made compulsory to register the birth of every child within 36 hours of its birth. Lady Aberdeen wishes to have the fact of the expected birth notified three months before.

The object of such provisions may be understood readily. We must all know that it is in the first weeks that the child holds most precariously its little thread of life. As for the unmarried mother it is in the time of her weakness and desolation that her need is most imperative, and the conventional outlook of society upon her may make it, according to her temperament, peculiarly difficult, or even impossible, for her to go to anyone for aid.

Officially, society does not know of the desolate unmarried mother, and her baby, so long as the child's birth remains unregistered. But registration is useless society is then prepared to assume responsibility.

In Norway it has just been made the law of the land that an illegitimate child shall be maintained by its father according to the father's status and income, on equal terms with his legitimate children. The illegitimate child may also claim its

father's name and inherit equally with other children. The father is, also made responsible for the care and maintenance of his child's mother during the time in which she is incapacitated owing to the birth of the child.

Soon, let us hope, we shall be sufficiently advanced in our ideas of justice and humanity to follow the example of Norway. But, in the meantime, what shall we do in this crisis?

France and Hungary have decided that soldiers may marry by proxy from the trenches. Cannot we also do this? In Scotland, and every other European country but this, it has long been possible to legitimise a child after birth. Cannot we have an emergency Bill to do this?

After much agitation, allowances equal to those of legally married wives have been granted by the War Office to the unmarried wife, who has lived with and has been entirely maintained by the soldier. Cannot such provision be made also for the woman whom the soldier would marry if he could return, or, whom he ought to marry?

But what is to happen in those cases in which the man who has caused an illegitimate child to be brought into the world has already a wife and children who are drawing separation allowance or pension? If we could know the whole of the facts in numbers of these cases, we should no doubt, all of us, say that the woman deserves both sympathy and compensation for what has happened and should be treated as though she were a soldier's widow.

But we shall of course be told that some of the mothers, even before the War, were no better than they should be, and that some of them are not fit to have the care of children. Perhaps there are such cases. But remember that security from destitution has a wonderfully reformative influence on those who have left the accepted paths under economic pressure, or because their lives were utterly barren of legitimate interests and joys.

In dealing with the problem of difficult cases, we may learn something from a consideration of the Hungarian method of dealing with destitute and unwanted children, which, before the War, was held by many experts to be the best in the world, although, of course, Hungary is not popular here now.

The Hungarian State never refuses to accept the care of any child that is offered, but those to whom the child belongs may reclaim it at any time, and may visit it and carry on a free intercourse with it all the time.

The parents who leave their children in State care always know where they are, are advised to visit them, and are at once informed if they are ill. The child is accepted and placed in the hands of those whose business it is to wash and feed and clothe it, before a single question has been asked. If it is ill, it is at once placed in the hospital of the reception bureau. If it is well, it is sent to the "Children's Hotel," until a home for it has been found.

The State has hitherto cared for the children till they were 15. When I was in Budapest, a year ago, powers were being sought to watch over them till their majority, which, in Hungary, is 24.

Permanent homes for the children are found with foster parents who live in 374 specially selected villages—the number of districts being limited to minimise the difficulty of inspection. Before a child is placed in the care of foster parents the house is examined by a Sanitary inspector, and the parents and their family by a doctor. The family must further provide themselves with a certificate of good character from the community in which they live. When a child has been placed in a family, the local inspector, always a woman, makes frequent calls upon it and a superior woman inspector calls twice a year to satisfy herself, not merely that the child is well-fed and clothed, but that it is happy, and that it lives in relations of affectionate confidence to-

wards the foster parents and the local inspector to whom its character, habits and material conditions must be intimately known. In each district there is also a special children's doctor, who consults with the local inspector and the foster parents in regard to the health and needs of the child.

The Hungarian State pays the foster parents for the child's maintenance and provides clothes and medicines. It takes responsibility for the education of the children, their apprenticeship and placing in employment. Where the children show special aptitude the State provides secondary education.

The Hungarian State makes money grants to many poor mothers, especially when the families are large, from the birth of their babies until they are a year old. These mothers and their children are visited by the children's inspectors.

But the arrangements made for children placed by their parents, or others, in State care, do not apply to poor women who cannot afford to maintain their children, and who yet wish to keep them at home with them. It is admitted that in most cases it would be best for the child to be boarded out with its own mother. The only reason given for not doing so is that it would be more costly to so maintain the child in comfort, because at present the children are boarded out with people who are not in need of State aid for their own maintenance, and have already a well appointed home.

But Great Britain is not so poor a land as Hungary. She can afford to supply adequate maintenance to every one of her little children that is in need and can afford to keep mother and child together.

It may be best in the case of many of these unmarried "War" mothers that after they have grown well and strong they should work for their living outside their homes. It is suggested that hostels should be provided for them where there will be day nurseries for the children.

Many good schemes may be devised, but it is essential, if any are to be permanently successful, that the Government should shoulder the responsibility. It is too big to be left to the fluctuations and caprice of private charity.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Our "At Home" on Friday, April 23rd, was a tremendous success. Everyone agreed that the "Babies' House," which was opened that afternoon, is as nearly perfection as possible. Please send a gift towards its maintenance.

Remember this is Self Denial Week! ESCAPING RESPONSIBILITY.

The regulation under which the sailor's wife is not entitled to separation allowance for herself and her children, unless her husband chooses to make an allotment, places her in a terribly precarious position, from which the soldier's wife is saved, because the soldier's allotment to his wife is compulsory. Yet in the case of the sailor it is especially necessary that the maintenance of the wife and children should not be left to chance, because as sailors customarily spend the greater part of their lives away from their homes, they are less likely to feel the human pressure of their responsibilities than men who go home every day, and are in constant close affectionate intercourse with their families.

In the House of Commons on April 20th, Mr. Cathcart Watson said that where a man has been legally judged to be the father of an illegitimate child, and ordered by the Court to pay towards its keep, he can escape his liability by joining the Navy. The War Office has power to deduct a monthly allowance from the soldiers' pay to be remitted to the mother of an illegitimate child. He asked that the Navy should do the same.

Dr. Macnamara replied that this could only be done by legislation and that he did not propose to ask for such legislation.

TERRIBLE BURY CASE.

At the Bury Petty Sessions, on April 17th, William Aisthorp, a private in the Suffolk Regiment, was charged with an assault on Mary Fisher, the wife of an engine driver on the G.E.R. About quarter to ten in the evening, Mrs. Fisher was returning home, and she took her little dog down a lane leading to a farm for a run before going to bed, as she did every night. She saw a soldier leaning as though he could not walk. He said he felt "very bad," and caught her arm as though to save himself from falling, and said that he had been wounded in the knee, thigh, and shoulder. He said he lived at the end house, and asked her to stay with him a few minutes until he felt better.

Mrs. Fisher thought the man's manner strange, and said she would go to the farm for assistance for him, but he threw her to the ground and attempted to assault her. He crushed her face against the ground and put his knee between her shoulders, saying: "If you don't be quiet you shall not live another few minutes." She offered him her purse, but he said that he did not want that. She heard the voices of a man and woman passing near, but the soldier put one hand over her mouth and one round her throat to stifle her, and said: "I have been killing Germans and I will kill you, you—." He struck her with his clenched fist on the side of the head, tore her clothing, and dragged out some of her hair.

She heard a window opened, then a door, and footsteps coming. She called for help. A man's voice answered. The soldier released her and ran away. The man who came to her rescue was the farm bailiff. He struck matches and found a soldier's cap and belt, and helped her back to her own gate. The farm bailiff said in the witness box that Mrs. Fisher's hair had been pulled down, and that there was blood and soil on her face.

The Evening Chronicle says:—"It is to the honour of France that even in war time she can find time to think of social reform."

One of the most urgent and far-reaching measures was dealt with by the Senate when it examined a Bill imposing a minimum wage for women workers at home in the clothing and other industries.

The measure will apply to more than a million girls and women, victims of the sweating system. It was stated in the debate that three-fourths of the women working at home in Paris in the lingerie and like industries do not earn more than 20 centimes (2d.) an hour; while in the provinces women of similar categories are obliged to live on a maximum of £8 a year.

The "reporter" of the Bill gave a fearful picture of the miserable, anti-hygienic conditions in which such victims of the sweating system are condemned to exist.

He insisted that the only remedy is the institution of a minimum wage, which could be fixed by special labour committees in the chief regions of the country; the wage varying naturally according to the conditions in the different districts.

The Senate adopted the measure. If France, which has actually been invaded, can make provision for the protection of women workers, there can be no question as to Great Britain's ability to do so. Let the Government at once put an end to the sweating of women employed on Army contracts. It could send out an instruction to the Wages Boards that the minimum wages fixed by them must be raised, and Wages Boards could be set up in all, not merely in some of the sweated trades. But the most essential weapon for the working woman is the Parliamentary vote—let the Government give her that!

For Sweated Industries Exhibit, visit our Gaxton Hall Exhibit.

Sir William Chance says:—"In a certain industry in the West Country carried on almost entirely by women, the managers refused an offer from the Central Committee on Women's Employment, of 2s. 9d. per dozen for making socks, because they would not give any countenance to such sweating."

A woman official of the Postal Telegraph Association has stated that, as far as she knows, no women have accepted the 2s. a week offered for night-work in the telephone exchanges, where men have always been paid 30s. This is the spirit we want to see amongst all women workers.

important thing in the world to-day is that ammunition shall be made." But the best work and the greatest quantity of work can be turned out when the workers are employed on three shifts of eight hours each and as there is no scarcity of women's labour, there is not sufficient reason why this should not be done, although, if the workers are to have a living wage, it may appear to be a little more costly to do so.

(Continued from front page.)

"Tout comprendre est tout pardonner." The magnificent appeal of Mr. Ronald McNeill in the Morning Post and Westminster Gazette, of April 13th, should be written up in letters of gold wherever men and women congregate.

To understand means for most of us to act. It has always been women's province to save life—in the home, the school, the hospital, on the battlefield—and from every woman's platform has come the demand of women to control the conditions of life in the home and out in the world.

Our national crisis has swept away barriers of class, and sex, and race. Help is gladly given and freely taken by all, wherever it is needed.

Our beautiful youth is shedding its blood on the battlefields to save the life of Britain, and the women of Britain are nursing the wounded back to health.

But here at home new life is coming into being, and the "war babies" about to arrive are handicapped by that most grievous of all wounds—bastardy. In times of peace, of our 800,000 babies born each year, 114,000 die before they reach their first birthday—one-fifth of the total infantile mortality occurs in first week of life, one-third in first month, half in three months.

But we are now faced with an emergency that is difficult at the moment to gauge in number, though, assuredly, an exceptional number of illegitimate babies will enter a world that is always cold and barren of baby comforts for them, hence their high death rate.

We are losing heavily on the battlefield. We are about to receive an abnormal number of new lives. Shall we, knowing the facts of their arrival under conditions that kill and maim, stand aside like the crew of the German submarine, watching the death struggle in the water of their unfortunate victims of the torpedoes "Falaba"? Shall we throw out no life-line to save those who may fill up the gaps in our nation's loss?

Most babies are born healthy, and if the military doctors have been doing their "duty" towards the troops, these "war babies" should be healthier than illegitimate children in general, just because their fathers have been living with a higher standard of health and hygiene whilst under military discipline and medical control.

Woman's work then is clear—to secure to these "war mothers," for the sake of their babies, what Sir George Newman calls the minimum requirements of healthy motherhood:

- (1) Relief from heavy labour before and after childbirth. (2) Adequate nourishments for mother and, therefore, child. (3) Intelligent management of infancy.

Attempts are being made to ascertain the approximate number of prospective "war mothers," in order to deal with the emergency on national lines, and to press on the Government the need for legislation, and on local authorities for the immediate establishment of—

- (1) Lying-in hospitals and mid-wifery assistance in homes. (2) Feeding centres for expectant and nursing mothers. (3) Establishment of schools for mothers. (4) Extension of staff of health visitors in their public health departments.

It is probably impossible to know beforehand of the coming child, but by the Notification of Births Act, 1907 (at present an adoptive act), the birth of a child has to be notified within 36 hours, whenever the Act is adopted, to the local public health authorities, who can immediately set their health visitors at work to advise the young and often very ignorant mother how best to safeguard the child's life.

With our terrible shortage of doctors and nurses, and midwives, certainly the most efficient, and therefore most economical, way would be to establish lying-in hospitals in every

district where "war babies" are likely to arrive, and to secure the help of intelligent large-hearted women to work under the supervision of one or, at most, two skilled midwives or doctors for several hundred normal cases.

In this way, in a few weeks, our available staff of skilled assistants would be considerably augmented, and would be ready to receive "war babies" arriving in the coming months.

Ophthalmia of the new born is responsible for much blindness (30%—79% of all blindness are figures given for England and other countries), and with skilled help on the spot much of this could be dealt with immediately.

The establishment of maternity homes where the "war mothers" could live with their babies, going out to work in the day, and returning at night, would go far to keep intact the link between mother and child.

When we remember the remarkable drop in infantile mortality in New Zealand and Australia (now 50 to 78 per 1,000 births respectively—England 109 per 1,000) since women had a voice in the control of child welfare, surely the best we can do at this moment is to press unceasingly for the enforcement of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, throughout the land, and for the immediate extension of local public health activities.

A conference is to be called very shortly at "Londonderry House," and in the meantime let us remember the words of the Home Secretary, applied to other remedial legislation, "Whenever public opinion is strong enough on any subject, the hands of Parliament can be forced."

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

THE FRENCH PROBLEM.

Miss Cicely Hamilton writing from France to the Manchester Guardian gives an account of the measures taken by the French Government to deal with the problem of those unhappy women of France who have been violated by German soldiers and are about to become mothers. In any commune that has been occupied by German troops, a doctor's certificate of pregnancy sent direct to the local prefect and not handled by subordinate officials, will entitle a woman to gratuitous treatment and payment of the necessary expenses. Should the woman wish to leave her home and to conceal her condition even from the local doctor, she can procure admission to a Paris Maternity hospital without any other formality than the proof that she has lived in the part of the country where the Germans have been. Some of the women who apply may not have been violated by Germans—the French Government will take the risk of that.

If the woman wishes to part with the child to which she has given birth, it will be adopted as a foundling by the State. It will be reared in Paris and registered as from there in order that all trace of its origin may be obliterated.

Miss Hamilton does not say what help will be given to a mother who wishes to retain her child in spite of its alien fatherhood.

MUNICIPAL SWEATERS.

The Brighton Tramway Committee is submitting a scheme to the Town Council for the employment of women conductors on its trams at a wage of 4d. an hour, and "bell-girls" at 1d. an hour! We should like to know what the men employed at this work were paid. Certainly more than 4d. an hour!

Mrs. Lillian Payne has very kindly agreed to take a Vegetarian Cooking Class at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, at 3 o'clock, on Wednesday afternoons. Fee 1d. per lesson.

WANTED. Housekeeper's place. Stillroom trained. Good needlewoman. A. Frisby, 11 Priory Park Road, Kilburn, N.W.

WE want a table and some more cots for the Babies' House.



## DISTRICT REPORTS.

## BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.  
At Home was a great success. Many thanks to all who helped. Mrs. Crabb made 27 new members—29 joined in all.

Will all those who have not taken a card, or who have not done anything in Self-Denial Week, please do so now?  
Members thanked who helped by chalking and bill distributing for Sunday's meeting, which resulted in a better attendance, but will those who come please try to arrive by 8, when the music starts? Will any who can help by chalking and canvassing please volunteer? Also any who can help with stall. Please pay your April subscriptions now, if you have not done so yet, as it is now nearly May. The subscriptions this month are much more numerous than last, and many have paid up their arrears. That is excellent, but those who are still behind should make haste with their contributions.

## BROMLEY.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:  
Mrs. MCCHEYNE & Mrs. MANTLE,  
53 St. Leonard Street.  
Mrs. Bouvier was speaking last Tuesday evening, and her address was much appreciated. Who will take collecting boxes for Self-Denial Week, pretty little cardboard ones, and nice red pillar boxes, can be had at the shop; so please all come along. Our best thanks to all who assisted us by helping with the refreshments at the "At Home" on Friday, which was a great success.  
Don't forget Tuesday evening meetings; we should like to see more friends of members attend them.

## POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.  
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.  
We all enjoyed the excellent speeches by Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Davies. The singing also was very good indeed. This was on Sunday, April 18th, and these meetings are held every other Sunday. The next will be this Sunday, May 2nd. Our speakers will be Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Alison Neilans and Mr. Everett, so please bring along as many friends as you can and make this meeting a good one.  
Remember our club nights are Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p.m. Games, music and refreshments are provided.

Mr. Everett had a good meeting in Christ St. on Wednesday evening. Friday meetings were abandoned owing to the "At Home" at 400. We shall have them as usual this week—3 p.m. Women's Hall, 8 p.m. Piggott St.  
We have received a subscription of 5s. towards Club funds from Miss Di Benningfield, who so kindly assisted us with the milk at Christmas time.

Our Speakers' Class will be held on Monday, at 8 p.m. Please try and come along to this. Miss A. Hicks will be the teacher.

Collected in Poplar Hall this week—Mrs. Bird 13s. 6d., Mrs. Drake 9s. 7d., Mrs. Neuss 3s. 2d. in Restaurant. *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending April 23rd—110.

## SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.  
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,  
94 Ravenscroft Road.

An interesting speech was given by Mrs. Bouvier on Thursday. No Beckton Rd. meeting owing to the "At Home" at Bow. It was nice to see so many of our local members there. Now, members, this is Self-Denial Week; please get your card full up and come to Fife Rd. for another one. If you would rather, you could have a small money-box to collect in. Last year we made £3 2s.; let us do much better this time! All cards and boxes must be returned to 94 Ravenscroft Rd. or 55 Fife Rd. by May 3rd. If any of our friends are spring cleaning and have any linoleum, will they please remember our Shop?

## HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE  
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).  
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.  
We were very pleased to see several Hackney members in Bow at the "At Home." Many thanks to Mrs. Butcher for her help in canvassing, also to Mrs. Milward for collecting.  
Good open-air meetings were held last Monday and Thursday evenings.

We want to form a *Dreadnought* Committee this week, so please come well prepared with suggestions.  
Please keep May 20th free, as we shall be holding a large Public Meeting in Hackney on that date.

We must again thank Miss Young for her work, but will someone else help with the distribution of papers? *Dreadnought* sales still very low. We must try to do better.  
Please remember that this is Self-Denial Week, and that we must all collect as much as we can. Monday is the day for sending in the subscriptions, so you have still a few days left. Make a special effort this week-end!  
Papers sold 12; distributed 150.

## SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN,  
39 Ranelagh Street, Peckham.  
We are making steady progress, and sale of *Dreadnoughts* going up. Will members and friends support open-air meeting at Avondale Square on May 6th, at 8 p.m.? The speaker will be Mrs. Leigh Rothwell. Members who are paying monthly subscriptions please note they are now due.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

## NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. EVERETT,  
c/o Mr. Tames, 31 Baines Road, Southgate Road.  
Good meeting held last Tuesday, and in Finsbury Park on Sunday. Meeting as usual next Sunday.

Secretary will be glad to receive donations towards the Self-Denial Week of the East London Federation of Suffragettes, which all our members are asked to support.  
We are hoping to hold a big open-air demonstration in Finsbury Park soon. Full particulars shortly.

## VOTES FOR SOLDIERS AND THEIR WIVES.

On April 20th, Mr. Samuel Samuel again raised the question as to whether a Bill should be introduced granting the franchise to all soldiers serving with the colours, in order that they may vote without any qualification on returning from active service.

We should like to suggest to those who are anxious to secure that every soldier shall have Parliamentary representation that the wives and mothers of soldiers should at once be enfranchised, in order that, should the opportunity arise, they may be the proxies of their men who are at the front, and take the places of the men at the ballot boxes, as all of us women are asked to do in the industrial field.

We must insist most emphatically that the question of the franchise cannot be touched at all unless the long overdue reform of votes for women is introduced.

Every woman is asked to volunteer for War Service—every woman should have a vote!

On April 20th, in the House of Commons, Mr. Joyce drew attention to the case of Mrs. McKnight of Limerick, who has seven sons in the Army, three of whom are married and four unmarried. This woman has had only 6s. a week granted by the Limerick Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association to live on during the winter.

Sir J. D. Rees called attention to the fact that smaller allowances are paid in respect of married men who are billeted in their own homes, than in respect of men billeted elsewhere. Wives are always expected to manage with less!

## CHILD LABOUR.

In the House of Commons on April 20th, Mr. King asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture what steps are being taken to ensure that the conditions which the Government laid down for governing the employment of children in agriculture shall be actually observed.

Sir Harry Verney replied that his department had no means of enforcing the conditions referred to. We may therefore infer that farmers and Local Authorities (the majority of whose members are frequently farmers) are being allowed to do as they please.

Mr. Addison on behalf of the Board of Education, stated that 243 schools have been taken by the Military authorities, 131,778 children being turned out. Other accommodation had been found for the majority, but for 6,012 children no school room had been found.

## STARVING THE OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

In the House of Commons on April 20th, Mr. Anderson, (Lab.) again asked that the old age pension should be increased to meet the admitted increase of 25 per cent. in the cost of living. Mr. Alden, (Lib.) also pressed this point. Mr. Lloyd George on behalf of the Government again refused an increase. Mr. Will Crooks, (Lab.) asked whether the Guardians might give additional relief to old people without endangering their pensions. Mr. Lloyd George said he would consider it.

To mark their disapproval of the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund, the South Wales Miners' Federation has decided to discontinue their levy of 6d. per week to the fund. They have contributed nearly £100,000 to the fund.

## HYPOCRISY (?)

On April 20th, in the House of Commons, Mr. Wing moved:—  
"That this House is of opinion that, during the continuance of the War, no alcoholic liquors shall be sold in the refreshment rooms or at the bars attached to the House of Commons, and requests the Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms' Committee to arrange accordingly."

The motion was not voted upon. It was attacked as "pure cant," and "following the example of the Pharisee."

We do not know why Members thought it would be so intensely hypocritical to carry this motion, unless it is that they felt their labours to be so much less important to the nation than those of the munition workers that it does not matter at all whether their vitality is lowered by alcoholic drinks or not.

Evasive in the extreme was Sir Edward Grey's reply to the many questions that were being put to him in Parliament, on April 20th, on the subject of Japan's demands upon China. He concluded by saying that "in the future, as in the past, His Majesty's Government will endeavour to secure the open door for British commerce in all parts of China."

Is that all that matters? Is the question of freedom for China herself to be left out altogether?

If the stronger nations decide China's future entirely in the light of their own commercial aspirations, they will certainly lay up for the world another war!

## COAL.

Many questions have been asked in Parliament as to what action the Government will take to carry out the recommendations of the coal committee, but there has been no definite reply.

The price of coal fell slightly after the publication of the Select Committee's report, which showed that exorbitant war profits had been made during the winter months. Now the price of coal is again rising. What does the Government mean to do?

Councillor P. J. Dollan has given notice of his intention to move in Glasgow Town Council for the appointment of a committee to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a municipal coal supply.

Poplar Women's Hall,  
20 RAILWAY STREET.

SUNDAY, MAY 2ND, 8 P.M.

Speakers: Miss S. PANKHURST  
Miss ALISON NEILANS  
Mr. EVERETT

Preparations for the Women's Exhibition in the Caxton Hall are well in hand.

The speakers will include:—  
Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Schlette, and Mrs. Bouvier, representing the East London Federation of the Suffragettes; Miss M. A. Bell and the Rev. W. C. Roberts, representing the Church League for Women's Suffrage; Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Anna Munroe, representing the Women's Freedom League; Mr. Laurence Housman and Mrs. Ayrton Gould, representing the United Suffragists; Mrs. Strickland and Miss Anna Martin, B.A., representing the Free Church League; Mrs. Davies and Miss Fedden, representing the Forward Cymric Suffrage Union; Miss Georgina Brackenbury and Mr. George Lansbury.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS  
For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives  
and Relatives.

Monday, May 3rd,

AT 8 P.M. IN THE

## St. Leonard's Rd. School

SPEAKERS:

Miss S. PANKHURST  
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY  
Mr. A. A. WATTS  
Mrs. THOMPSON

## East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

## PUBLIC MEETING

ON

Women's Part in International Politics.

AT THE

## Stratford Town Hall,

Friday, May 7th, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7.30

Speakers—

Mrs. DESPARD

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST

Mr. GERALD GOULD

Chair: Mrs. Walshe. Admission Free.

## WOMEN'S MAY DAY.

Remember that on Sunday, May 30th, we hold our third Women's May Day in East London. That day we shall send greetings to our sisters who are struggling for freedom in other lands, and shall re-affirm our demand for political and economic enfranchisement at home.

Processions will form up at Beckton Road Canning Town, at 3.15 p.m., East India Dock Gate, at 3.45 p.m., corner of Ford Street and Roman Road at 4.30 p.m. The meeting in the Park will take place at 5.30 p.m.

Members and friends are asked to make banners and garlands for use on Women's May Day. Begin now!  
Please note that we are changing the date from the 23rd to 30th.

## ORCHARDS.

By THEODOSIA GARRISON.

Orchards in the Springtime! Oh, I

think and think of them—

Filmy mists of pink and white

above the fresh, young green,

Lifting and drifting—how my eyes

could drink of them!

*I'm staring at a dirty wall beyond*

*a big machine.*

Orchards in the Springtime! Deep

in soft, cool shadows,

Moving all together when the west

wind blows

Fragrance upon fragrance over road

and meadow—

*I'm smelling heat and oil and sweet,*

*and thick, black clothes.*

Orchards in the Springtime! The

clean white and pink of them,

Lifting and drifting with the winds

that blow.

Orchards in the Springtime! Thank

God I can think of them!

*You're not doctored for thinking—if*

*the foreman doesn't know.*

## FOR OUR MEMBERS' HOLIDAYS.

Mr. Jenkinson of Saffron Walden has kindly placed Bridge House, Saffron Walden, Essex, at the disposal of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes for country holidays. This house will accommodate 17 guests. Further particulars on application to the Hon. Secretary, E.L.F.S., 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

## GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND. B. T. Petley, Esq. 2 10.0, Mrs. Dreury 10.0, From Tasmania per Miss Burgess 5.0, Miss Jacobs (sale of flowers) 1.2, Mrs. Gouge 4.0, Hackney W.S.P.U. 3.0, Collections—At Home 7.3.10.10, Women's Hall 2.74, Hackney 1.3, For "At Home"—Poplar 10.0, Ruby Crabb 9.0, Mrs. McCheyne 8.94, Mrs. Crabb 3.6.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Entertainment given by the Civil Service Women's Suffrage Society 16.16.0, C.A.G. 2.10.0, F. Stevens, Esq. 11.0, Anon. 5.0, Mrs. E. M. Fox 2.0, Anon. 1.0.0, "For Sylvia's Babies" 10.0, Miss E. Getsam 10.0, Mrs. Bevan (2.6 weekly) 10.0, Miss Yeoman (weekly) 10.0, Miss Weaver 10.0, Lady Wolsey 10.0, J. W. Jones, Esq. 10.0, Anon.—Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Miss T. Bonwick (monthly) 10.0, Miss D. Hollis 10.0, Mrs. E. S. Guppy 10.0, Employees of Messrs Ross, Ltd. per Miss Young 8.0, Miss A. Chester 6.0, Mrs. Durrant 5.6, Mrs. Hulme 5.0, Sylvester Horne, Esq. M. D. 1 dol, I. B. 5.0, Miss L. Macklin 5.0, Mr. Hewitt 3.0, Miss Watts 2.04, Miss Dubock (monthly) 2.6, Nurse Woolf 2.0, A.H. 2.0, Miss L. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Mrs. Worden 1.6, M.L. 1.0, Miss Porter 1.0, Miss Hayden 1.0, Granny White 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0, Collections—Miss F. B. Kintel 1.0.34, Miss Gilliat 1.74, Mrs. Bird 1.2.74, Mrs. Drake 8.14, Miss Chesley 7.3, Anon 6.0, Miss Lagsdind 4.2, Mrs. Crabb 2.4, Anon 1.04.

COLLECTED FOR BABES.—Miss M. Menzies 1.5.0, E. Pearson, Esq. 1.1.0, Boys and Girls of Hyndburn Park School per Mrs. J. Donaldson 1.0.0, Mrs. Clarke & Mrs. Ross 5.6, Anon 5.0, F. D. 5.0, Miss A. C. Nuthall 5.0, Miss Weir 3.0, Mrs. Zhuck 3.0, Anon 3.0, Mrs. LeBuck 3.0, Miss N. Lines 3.0, Mrs. Hulmes' Grandchildren 2.6, Miss Buchanan 2.0, Miss Satchfield 1.6, Miss Hailes 1.0, Miss Priest 1.0, Miss Balch 1.0.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Thompson, Miss E. Dizon, Miss M. Pechey, Miss Burgess, Mrs. Isherwood, The Honor. Morten Holiday Home, Mrs. A. M. Wren, Miss Florence Gamon, Dr. F. E. Smedley.