

THE VOTE  
May 7, 1915  
ONE PENNY

ESPECIALLY WOMEN. E. M. N. CLARK.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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## Florence Nightingale Commemoration Meeting, (Organised by the Women's Freedom League.)

ESSEX HALL, Essex Street, Strand, Near Temple Station Wednesday, May 12, 8 p m. The anniversary of the Birthday of Florence Nightingale.

Chairman—Miss Anna Munro. Speakers—Susan, Countess of M. Imesbury (Conservative & Unionist Women's Franchise Assn.), Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (Editor "British Journal of Nursing"), Mrs. Strickland (Free Church League for Woman Suffrage), Mrs. Marlon Holmes, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Miss Townsend (Women Teachers' Franchise Union), Miss Winifred Mayo (Actresses' Franchise League).

ADMISSION FREE. A few Reserved Seats 1/- COLLECTION. Tickets from W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

It is difficult to enter into the minds of officials who at a time like the present refuse permission for a public celebration of Florence Nightingale's birthday in the open space of Waterloo Place. The scanty "traffic"—which could easily for one afternoon be diverted to the Haymarket—is made the unworthy excuse; so the societies desiring to do honour to this great British soul must content themselves with an unostentatious laying of wreaths on her statue on Wednesday afternoon, May 12, and with a public meeting at the Essex Hall in the evening.

We know that our members and friends will be glad of this opportunity to pay tribute to Miss Nightingale's memory, and will come in force to make the meeting worthy of a noble woman whom all the world honours.

From the list of speakers given above they may be sure of an evening of exceptional interest.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE. Born, May 12th. 1820.

Few women have ever excited such devotion, admiration and love as Florence Nightingale. On Christmas night 1855 the British Ambassador at Constantinople held a reception. There was present a tall, elegant, beautifully dressed woman, the cynosure of all eyes, which were drawn after her as by a magnet, until it was suddenly realised that Miss Nightingale was present, having just recovered from a dangerous illness. The beautiful woman suffered an immediate eclipse; eyes, devotion, gratitude, admiration, everything was for Miss Nightingale. She has been one of earth's greatest and best ever since November 1854 when she arrived at Scutari. For women she has been a pioneer, greater than perhaps was known or admitted at the time.

She had a perfect genius for friendship. As she possessed one of the great intellects of the century and as like draws to like, she found more friends among men than among women in the earlier part of her life, perhaps all her life. Moreover, all her work, the reform of the War Office, rational living for the army, sanitary barracks, the army in India, and the sanitation of India, brought her into constant touch with men. The statue erected in her honour in Waterloo Place lies S.W. of the Crimean monument; in a line stands that of Sidney Herbert,

her great friend and close collaborator, whose death in 1861 was such a cruel blow that for months Miss Nightingale remained plunged in deep grief; all her hopes of reform seemed shattered. She lived to be 90, and proved to be the inspiration of many a reformer. Lord Napier, Governor of Madras, wrote her: "You shall have the little work that is left in me," and many another man could have subscribed a similar formula. How close and ennobling, alike to them and to her, was her friendship with the poet Clough, Sir J. McNeill, Dr. John Sutherland, one of the most eminent sanitarians of the day, with the Earl of Derby, Lord Ripon, Lord Lawrence and Dr. Jowett of Balliol.

Miss Nightingale was indeed what Longfellow represented her, the Lady of the Lamp, and the founder of modern scientific nursing. But she was infinitely more than that; she was one of the great sanitary reformers of the day, especially in all army matters, and a recognised authority and enthusiastic worker for India. She was in close and friendly communication with five Viceroys of India. Lord Dufferin said, after he had called at her house to settle the Indian sanitary programme during his Viceroyalty, that one of the few sweets of office had been her acquaintance and friendship.

Reformers gravitated to her, admitted her influence, and many worked under her inspiration. To Antis, she was, of course, a very bitter pill, and there were complaints that the War Office was under petticoat government.

I have said Miss Nightingale was a pioneer. We owe her gratitude and admiration for her great work in the Crimea. She saved thousands of lives by her high powers of organisation and unflinching determination to carry on the work of saving and healing despite all obstruction. She was an eminent statistician and declared that at Scutari 9,000 men were lying in the cemetery as a result of official incapacity. We women owe her gratitude for raising nursing to a dignified and honourable profession; all the money the nation subscribed for her, £47,000, was used to found and endow a training school for nurses.

Above all, we should be grateful to Florence Nightingale for her work for the army, the War Office and India. She was born, and all her youth was passed, during a period when women's work was very lightly esteemed. Women have, as a sex, never realised how little they owe the Reformation, and how Martin Luther's low opinion of women depressed them by the denial of all social activity. His was, and still remains, the Prussian view. The War Office owes very much to Miss Nightingale. Personally, I do not think that any of our great governing departments will be reformed until women enter them for spring-cleaning purposes. Florence Nightingale worked by influence; our influence must be a combined and co-operating one, the Vote. C. S. BREMNER.

#### A SMALL APPEAL.

Many thanks to all those kind friends who have already contributed towards the cost of the Florence Nightingale Commemoration. I still need about £10 to clear expenses, and shall be grateful for donations to that amount before May 12.

E. KNIGHT.

#### WOMEN AND MAGNA CARTA.

A notable anniversary is approaching; it will be seven hundred years in June since the passing of Magna Carta. It was the intention of the Women's Freedom League worthily to celebrate this anniversary, both at Runnymede and in London, but the war has intervened and festivities are impossible. We are specially glad, however, to call attention to Miss Helena Normanton's powerful and fascinating article in the May number of the *Englishwoman* under the title of "Magna Carta and Women," and to urge that everyone should both read it and keep it as a remarkably fine presentment of the conditions of life, and especially of women's interests, which compelled the reluctant Plantagenet to lay so well any truly the foundation of our liberties. Miss Normanton brings fact after fact to prove how women played their part in forming the public opinion which extorted Magna Carta from the tyrannous king; they suffered bitterly from his exactions and crushing taxations, and their wrongs, political, economic and personal, were pitiful, often hideous. Woman's status under the great Charter is clearly explained and Miss Normanton concludes by pointing out that now it is not the Sovereign but Parliament which is "for women an unchecked despot," and that the only way to end that despotism is for women to obtain the franchise, but the message of Magna Carta, she adds, is one "of mighty encouragement and perennial hope." We acclaim with pleasure the splendid service our distinguished member has rendered to women—and men—in writing so admirable an article on this important subject.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.  
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT

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

Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

#### Suffrage Club Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon, May 12, the speakers will be Mrs. Ackroyd, on "Russia and her People," and Miss Anna Munro; the chair being taken by Miss Underwood, at 3.30. The following week we shall have Mr. George Lansbury, Miss Anna Munro and Mrs. Tanner.

#### Florence Nightingale Meeting.

Readers are urged to come in good time to this meeting at Essex Hall next Wednesday evening. Admission is free, but reserved seat tickets can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office at 1s. each. Doors will be open at 7.30.

#### "Vote"-Sellers' Campaign.

Miss Alix. M. Clark has kindly promised to give us a few days in London, from May 13 to 17 inclusive, for a VOTE selling campaign. She will be grateful if volunteers for this work will send in their names to our Office, saying what time in the morning, afternoon or evening of any of these days they can come to help her. Miss Clark has pitches arranged, and we hope our readers will co-operate with her to make this campaign a great success. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

#### Women War Workers.

We desire to acknowledge the thanks tendered by the Secretary of State for War on a recent visit to an armaments factory to the "men and women" who are doing the work of the nation in the engineering shops. This is the first time the women workers have been alluded to in this connection; we may be forgiven for hoping that it has some association with the reminder sent to the War Office from this department, that without the steadfast uncompromising work of the women in the armaments factories, the men could not undertake either to make or "deliver the goods."

#### Women and Police Volunteers

The Women Police Volunteers were much in evidence at the exhibition of Women's Work at the Horticultural Hall on Monday last, when Her Majesty Queen Alexandra visited the stalls. The uniformed women are a marked feature of the exhibition, and their services were much in request on the occasion of the Royal visit.

One officer of the Women Police Volunteers is in constant attendance on the Duchess of Wellington's stall, where exquisite exhibits of immense value are displayed. The exhibition is open until Friday and is well worth a visit.

#### TOO GOOD TO MISS.

Miss Alix. M. Clark has begun again to make her famous Mayonnaise Sauce in aid of the Birthday Fund, and solicits orders until the end of July. Miss Clark will be glad to have weekly orders, which will be despatched promptly. All letters will receive immediate attention. Price 9d. per pot, post free 1s. Address:—11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, North Wales.

## MR. W. L. GEORGE ON "WOMEN AND THE ARTS."

A large audience again gathered at the Suffrage Club on April 30 to hear Mr. W. L. George speak on "Women and the Arts." Miss Anna Munro presided. Mr. George considered that in this ignoble, unlovely world the arts were of supreme importance. Schopenhauer declared that the three most important things in life are love, art and philosophy; love does not last all one's life, philosophy is not attained in youth, but art has its part throughout life—hence its importance. The art production of women, he said, has been very small. In the art of painting, Angelica Kaufmann, Vigée Le Brun, Rosa Bonheur, and Lady Butler have all done good class work, but none of it comes near the work of the geniuses among men. This is even more noticeable in the case of music. In literature women have done better, but there is not one who can be mentioned in the same breath as Shakespeare, Goethe, and Balzac. However, the younger women novelists are much more hopeful; there is far more equality between them and the younger men. Physical creation and artistic creation are to a certain extent the same thing. He believed that the artistic afflatus was an exterior thing, it came from outside and had something to do with the time in which the artist lived. Art is the result of an excess of vitality, and it is therefore generally considered that as women have so many drains upon their vitality there will never be any great women artists; but in disproof of this statement there is the fact that many men who have suffered great drafts upon their vitality have produced works of art. Mr. George believes that when women have more knowledge, a wider education, not merely book-learning but the knowledge which comes through going into the world and having intercourse with others, they will be able to produce work equal to that of men. When women have attained to this knowledge and have developed stronger, broader characters, their genius will light bonfires against which the genius of Sappho will burn as a mere rushlight.

At the close of the lecture an interesting discussion took place, in which some of Mr. George's points were strongly criticised, as also the dress of men as well as women.

#### OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Miss Margaret Douglas, speaking on "The Real Issue" at our weekly gathering at the Suffrage Club, said that the war was a conflict between two ideals. In Western Europe we had the old Latin and Roman ideal of freedom; we believed that the State existed for the benefit of the individual, that it protected the individual as the home protected the child, but it allowed the individual the freest liberty to expand on its lines. We had free speech, free thought and liberty to quarrel among ourselves. The ideal of Prussianism was that the individual was subservient to the State, the State was supreme and had the right to control the lives of its citizens. At school the children were taught how to play on the right lines; the school-master and parents chose what work children should be put to; when they were grown up they were registered and labelled at Labour Exchanges and at the Police Offices; if unemployed they were again registered, and if unemployed more than once or twice searching inquiries were made about them. Finally, a man was not allowed to starve, but was placed on forced labour. Under Prussianism the State organised its citizens for material success, but now its wonderful organisation was turned from industry to war; it set the whole of life at naught and made a farce of its many remarkable activities. We were now fighting against the worship of success and the perfection of organisation which did not ask to what end it was framed. We had made mistakes, had worshipped false gods, and had paid the penalty; but we were convinced that life was not only in material things, and we would rather die fighting than live under certain conditions.

Miss Boyle spoke briefly on "Impertinences," and urged all women to think well of themselves and to keep the Suffrage flag flying. An animated discussion followed

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chiefly on Miss Douglas' opinion that treaties were liable to become "scraps of paper" in time of crisis, human nature being what it is, and force was the final appeal.

Mrs. Despard, Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, Mrs. Meredith Macdonald, Miss Ballard Dawson, Mrs. Corner and Mrs. Tizard spoke, and Miss Anna Munro, who presided.

#### WOMEN ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The Women's Local Government Society has much pleasure in reporting that at the recent elections for Urban District Councils the following women were elected: Herne Bay, Miss E. Abraham (ratepayers' candidate); Haslemere, Miss Ursula Hutchinson (independent); Purley, Mrs. Arkwright (ratepayers' candidate), Mrs. Wallis (independent); Sidmouth, Miss Chilton (independent); Sutton, Miss Bell (independent) unopposed, Miss Hoole (independent), Miss Jennings (independent) unopposed.

At Sutton, Miss Hoole received 150 more votes than the sitting member, who had headed the poll for the last twenty years. The Women's Local Government Association at Sutton and at Haslemere supported the women candidates. At the present time there are nineteen women serving on Urban District Councils in England and Wales.

Several women were nominated and elected to Boards of Guardians, including two in the Abingdon Union, where previously there had been no woman member. Mrs. Melish Clark was returned to the Cambridge Board, and two women, who received the support of the local adult school, were elected at Pontefract. The number of Unions without women guardians is now 191.

At the elections for the newly created County Borough of Darlington on March 31, Miss Clara Lucas stood as a progressive candidate, and was elected by a majority of 45. Miss Lucas has been a co-opted member of the Education Committee and of the Insurance Committee since their formation.

**WANTED.**—The urgent and immediate need of the Political and Militant Department is a typewriter. If any member can give a machine in good working order she will be giving enormous assistance to the work of the League. The official character of much of the work of the Political and Militant Department renders a first class typewriter an absolute necessity.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD.,  
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

FRIDAY, May 7th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

### EDITORIAL.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

### ESPECIALLY WOMEN.

The police authorities of Schwerin have found occasion gravely to reprimand a portion of the civilian population who, on the arrival of prisoners of war, have manifested their sympathy by weeping, offering them presents and carrying their luggage. It is added that those who have so erred from the path laid down by the etiquette of war have been "especially women." As we all know, women ought to be ministering angels, but their ministrations must be reserved for those of their own household. In this country the opinion has often been expressed that women have quite enough to do at home, and that it is unfitting that they should devote themselves to work of a public or philanthropic character.

The use of the phrase "especially women" suggests the question as to whether women are more prone to sympathy with misfortune and, consequently, whether war, with all its horrors, is more repugnant to women than it is to men. It must be confessed that much of the talk of the non-belligerent male and the "picturesque" and "vivid" writing of the journalists, with their references to "hecatombs," "hacking through," "pig sticking," and "butcher's bills," do seem to lead to the inference that men are either hiding their feelings or that they are somewhat callous to the sufferings caused (to use their own expression) by the Great Game of War. From the early morning of the world, man has been the hunter and trapper, and his traditions take him back to the remote past in which he not only killed his enemy but also feasted on him. Mr. H. G. Wells, pacifist, and anatomist of the follies of mankind, sits down in his study to propound a theory of a World Congress which shall bring permanent peace to the nations of the earth. But he feels obliged to acknowledge that the Old Adam is not dead. "Immediately before I sat down to write," he says, "I was reading the morning's paper, and particularly of the fight between the *Sydney* and the *Emden* at Cocos Island. I confess to the utmost satisfaction in the account of the smashing blows delivered by the guns of the Australian. There is a sensation of greatness, a beautiful tremendousness, in many of the crude forms of war, they excite in one a kind of vigorous exaltation."

It is to be doubted whether such descriptions excite in women "a sense of exaltation." Rather are they inclined to wonder whether madness or stupidity is the ruling force in the modern world. It seems scarcely likely that many women respond to the imaginative appeals of war. It may be, as Olive Schreiner has said, that women know the

value of human flesh—"she knows its cost; he does not"—or it may be the traditions of her past, long ages of which have been spent in cherishing the lives around her (not only those of her husband and children, but also those of the sub-human race) have given her a sense of relative values differing from those of the more turbulent male. Her work has been to promote order from disorder in the House of Life, and war means to her the destruction of all she holds precious. What has it ever brought her but sorrow and suffering and the parting from those she loves? In the past, she accepted it as she accepted male domination, the pains of child-birth, disease and death. War, she was told, was "the Scourge of God," for, as it has been well said, the shoulders of Providence must needs be wide enough to bear the load of men's delinquencies. To tell her, as Ruskin told her, that, if she cared enough, she could make war to cease was but to mock her. How could she make her voice heard? Though still voteless, her position in relation to war is widely different from what it was when Ruskin wrote, for the Woman's Movement is now an international movement, and has given her a voice. With what surprise would he have heard that, in the midst of the greatest war of modern times, a congress of women of both the belligerent and neutral nations had met at The Hague to express their detestation of war and to demand that, in the future, international disputes should be referred to arbitration or conciliation. It may be that he knew his countrymen too well to have been surprised that nearly two hundred women from this country were not permitted to brave the terrors of the North Sea in order to attend the congress. They were told that they would do more harm than good—a warning which was rung in the ears of Mrs. Josephine Butler and indeed of all pioneers.

The congress undoubtedly represented a growing body of opinion in the various countries. We are conscious of an increasing crystallisation of the feeling against war. It is true that such opinions are often put forward tentatively and qualified by expressions relative to the unchangeableness of human nature though, upon consideration, it would appear that human nature must have changed considerably since the days of the Cave-Man, or even since the days of the Ancient Britons. In the minds of many, war is indissolubly connected with patriotism, and they fear to denounce war lest they should be considered unpatriotic. We have not all the courage of the working woman, who had probably never heard of Tolstoi, but who took up a definite position and stated forcibly: "Well, what I call it is this: I call it murder."

In addition to the war, there is now but one question of absorbing interest. It is the question of the methods to be adopted to prevent the nations from ever again strewing Europe with each other's corpses and watering the soil with the blood of its strongest and bravest. Are women going to concern themselves with this question, or will they be able to treat it with the same detachment with which they have treated purely political questions, such as Home Rule? Though we have held that the Suffrage Movement was an affirmative answer to the question of Cain, we have felt that our first duty lay in obtaining the tool of the vote, by which our work could be effective. But the war has, to some extent, forced us into citizenship, without having given us its symbol. At the present moment women are probably more on a political equality with men than they have been since the Reform Act of 1832, not because more has been given unto the women, but because from the men much which they had has been taken away. In these days of Martial Law, which has been described as No Law, the value of the man's vote is sinking to zero. This

is a necessary consequence of war. All economic and humanitarian reforms are at a standstill and, if the men cannot make themselves heard, is it likely the claims of women will be satisfied? The history of the nine months of the present war and of the special police regulations to which, under the Defence of the Realm Act, women have been subjected are a sufficient reply to this question.

Those who doubt that the interests of Peace are identical with those of women are recommended to read a pamphlet entitled "Militarism versus Feminism," which is likely to have a wide circulation. The indictment of militarism "that it always produces an andro-centric society" is well demonstrated, and the position of women in the Scandinavian countries, in the United States of America, and the countries which are organised for peace is compared with their position in Germany and Russia and the countries which are organised for war. The statement that "the position of women has risen or fallen as war has been in the ascendant" is one which will be fully borne out by an examination of the facts.

The war found the world unprepared—lacking the weapons for making war or for ensuring peace. Today, thinking men and women are saying "Never Again."

Those who, from the welter and desolation of the Great War, desire to create conditions which shall ensure a permanent peace, are calling to women to aid them in the task. At the risk of being considered ungracious, we might remind them that they have been some time in finding out the value of women in the sphere of politics. And we might ask them also how much courage and enthusiasm they devoted in urging the claims of women to that full participation in national life which would have so greatly augmented the value of their co-operation in the future.

Women have learnt the unity of the interests of women; they are learning the unity of the interests of the community of the nation. Perhaps they have still to learn the unity of the interests of the human family. And who can doubt those interests are bound up with the Peace of the World? It may be that it is "especially women" to whom the lot may fall of playing a leading part in the reconciliation of the nations.

If we needed the vote before the war, we need it immeasurably more to-day—so infinitely greater is the work which lies before both men and women in the future.

E. M. N. CLARK.

### BEHOLD THE MOTHER!

The book under my notice, which bears the significant title of "Ecce Mater" (The Southern Publishing Co., London, 3s. 6d.), has appeared at a peculiarly appropriate moment. The men of the greatest Empires in the world are engaged in a deadly struggle. We hear of their magnanimity, their sufferings, their fortitude. That is natural. It is the ordinary superficial view. **Man acts;** man rules; man fights. It is the mission of woman to stand aside from his actions, still more from his quarrels, setting herself only to bind up the wounds that he has inflicted, and to rear, as best she can, the children of those he kills. For, save as child-bearer, woman in the general scheme of things is of little account.

In this striking book we, of the Western world, are carried back to the Scriptures in which we have been educated—to "the Gospels, certainly the best read books in the world"—and shown at first hand how that Divine Man whom

\*Militarism versus Feminism. Geo. Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 40, Museum Street, W.C. Sixpence net.

Christendom professes to worship dealt with the relations between men and women.

We read so superficially that it may be a surprise to many who are well acquainted with the Gospels to know that, from first to last, both the action and the teaching of the Christ bare witness to the fundamental truth that man and woman in the true sense are equal, nay, that they are one. The author tells us that, in this regard, the Gospel has six salient features:—

(1) Not one word derogatory to the status or character of women falls from the mouth of Christ.

(2) He never praises the male in comparison with the female character.

(3) The spiritual world in which Jesus lived (see His parables) is a world of women as well as of men.

(4) When referring to human relationships He always includes women.

(5) In every spiritual activity, women, no less than men, are represented as acting.

(6) The Lord Jesus never rebukes woman.

Why, asks the author, is this attitude taken? It is due to the Christ's insight and knowledge. He, who knew, draws His hearers back to the primordial truths of organic life; shows that at the basis of all life lies the mother. The moment we move from simple multiplication by fission to real reproduction we come to the mother cell; and organic evolution is due to successive modifications of the maternal function.

In a succession of vivid pictures, these truths are insisted upon and amplified. "The Gospel idyll of woman," which puts before us the ever fascinating story of Mary the Virgin-Mother, when meeting her cousin Elizabeth, she poured out her Magnificat, that song of rapture and wonder that has come down to us through the ages; "Episodes of the Gospel," well known to all of us, but taking a new importance grouped together; "Women and Men whom Jesus sees," beginning with the women of Samaria and ending with Mary at the Cross—these with the Parable of the Passion form the first section of the book.

The second section has for its title the last words of the Dying Son of Man to His beloved disciple: "Behold thy mother." In the short space at my disposal it is impossible to do anything like justice to this remarkable contribution to the story of woman. It is a summing up of human blindness and perversity in the past and a prediction of that which is to be in the future. For the veil is being lifted. Many have seen that "along this line of human evolution"—the male developing at the expense of the female—"no further progress is now possible. It is a positive fact that mankind now awaits the releasing hand of the woman."

Many to-day, beholding with sad eyes the piteous downfall of the things on which they pride themselves—the break up of a civilisation—are faintly trusting, yet scarcely daring to trust, the larger hope. We recommend to them the study of this little book which a happy fortune has placed in our hands. It may help them to some of those higher, truer ideals of life, on which a new society may be built up.

C. DESPARD.

### MONTGOMERY BOROUGHES CAMPAIGN.

The campaign was a great success from the beginning to its recent ending. It is impossible to enumerate all the meetings held or convey an idea of the work accomplished by the united efforts of Miss Anna Munro, Miss Alix. M. Clark, and the magnificent band of members who always rally round. Over forty new members have been enrolled, and 300 copies of THE VOTE were sold during one week. The merchandise, especially the tea, continues to sell easily and readily; one member has given an order for 250 lbs. of tea. It is now proposed to extend the work further north in Wales, and so keep the Suffrage flag flying with vigour and enthusiasm.

THE MANY FRIENDS of our veteran member, Mrs. Tizard, will be interested to hear that her son is gazetted Lieut. in the 3rd Berkshire Regiment; they will wish him good success in the service of his country and a safe return.

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1914, £23,135 5s. 7d

Table with columns for Amount previously acknowledged, Special Emergency War Fund, and various names with amounts in £ s. d.

Table for Florence Nightingale Commemoration with names like J. Prelooker, Esq., Anonymous, Mrs. M. E. Thomas, Mrs. E. M. N. Clark and amounts.

Table listing various individuals and their contributions, including Mrs. M. Shuttleworth Boden, Miss M. Bisdee, Mrs. Snow, etc.

Table for Branches. Capitation Fees with entries for Gravesend and Reading.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

Brighton and Hove. The Secretary reports that during April the Branch had eighteen applications for work...

Nine Elms Restaurant. Mrs. Tippett gives grateful thanks for a big box of groceries from Mrs. Juson Kerr...

THOMPSONS The House of the greatest values. CHARMING & USEFUL HAT. Includes an illustration of a hat and descriptions of various types like 'SMART TAGEL SAILOR SHAPE HAT' and 'Ladies' fine Black Suede Gloves'.

from Miss Kearton; 2 lbs. of spice from Mrs. Delbanco; a sack of artichokes and flowers from Mrs. Harrison...

SPECIAL JAM FUND.—Mrs. Tippett is organising a special fund for making jam for use in the Restaurant and Guest House...

Nine Elms Guest House. The Finance Committee gratefully acknowledges the following donations:—Overseas Dominions £10; Miss Helen Young £2 2s...

INDIAN SUPPER AT "THE DESPARD ARMS."

On Saturday, May 8, friends are invited to join the supper party at the "Despard Arms" (50, Cumberland Market), cost 1s. at 7 p.m., when we shall wish Godspeed to our indefatigable helpers Miss Beatrice Kent and Miss Hulme...

Table listing names and amounts for the Indian Supper, including Mrs. H. Nelson Smith, Miss Constance Maud, Mrs. Nicolaidi, etc.

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

Friday, May 7.—MID-LONDON BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING, 1, Robert-st., 7 p.m. Saturday, May 8.—CROYDON, Whist Drive, 32a, The Arcade, 7 p.m. Sunday May 9.—CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Wednesday, May 12. Florence Nightingale Commemoration Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, 8 p.m. Speakers—Susan Countess of Malmesbury, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mrs. Steickland, Mrs. Marion Holmes, Miss Townsend, Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Miss Winifred Mayo. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Admission Free. Reserved Seats. 1s.

Sunday, May 16.—CLAPHAM COMMON, Open-air Meeting, 3.30. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Monday, May 17.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL, Special Meeting, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., 7 p.m. Refreshments 6.30.

Tuesday, May 18.—CLAPHAM BRANCH, Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Public Meeting, 8 p.m., at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane (by kind permission of Mrs. Corner). Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, on "Men and Manners." Admission free. Collection.

Wednesday, May 19.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Geo. Lansbury and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Friday, May 21.—CROYDON, Competition tea and sale of home-made cakes, etc., at 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., N.W., open every day, 4 to 10 p.m. Indian Supper, Saturday, May 8, 7 p.m. 1s. Friends invited.

NINE ELMS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-st., open every day at noon.

Friday, May 7.—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Beaumont-st., 8 p.m. Saturday, May 8.—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Islington-square, 3.30 p.m.

Monday, May 10.—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, 7.30, near "Meeropolis." MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Madame Malmberg, "Women in Finland." Tuesday, May 11.—SOUTHSEA, Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-st., 7.30 p.m. Discussion: "War Babies." Speaker: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, May 12.—BRIGHTON, Whist Drive, Lecture Hall, New-rd., 7.45 p.m. Tickets, 1s. each, from 8, North-st., Quadrant. MANCHESTER, Open-air Meeting, Florence Nightingale Commemoration, Piccadilly, 7 pm. Speaker: J. Heyes. 8 p.m., 79, Piccadilly. Speaker: Miss Andrews, on "Life of Florence Nightingale." LIVERPOOL, Women's Freedom League and United Suffragists, Florence Nightingale Commemoration Meeting, Pembroke Chapel, Pembroke-place, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Chair: Mr. H. J. Cousins.

Thursday, May 13.—BRIGHTON, Florence Nightingale Commemoration, Drawing-room Meeting, 5, Belvedere-terrace (by kind permission of Miss Bussé), 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Hare, on "The Life of Florence Nightingale." LIVERPOOL, Drawing-room Meeting (Mrs. Howroyd, 10, Parkfield-rd.), 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. READING, Meeting for members and friends, Council Room, Palmer Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, May 19.—HOVE, Drawing-room Meeting, 8, San Remo (by kind permission of Miss Hare). Speaker: Mrs. Despard, on "The Work of the National Aid Corps."

Thursday, May 6.—GLASGOW, Monthly Branch Meeting, 70, St. George's-rd., 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, May 6.—GLASGOW, Monthly Branch Meeting, 70, St. George's-rd., 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.

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WALES.

Friday, May 7.—CARDIFF, Branch meeting, Welsh Industries Hall, Queen-st., 8 p.m. Friday, May 14.—CARDIFF, Public Meeting, Welsh Industries Hall, Queen-st., 8 p.m. Speakers: Dr. G. B. Clark and Mrs. E. M. N. Clark (London). Chair: Miss Barrs.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday and Tuesday, May 10 and 11.—EAST LONDON FEDERATION JOINT EXHIBITION, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Women's Freedom League speakers: Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Anna Munro. 5 and 8.30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12.—BARRY, Women's Co-operative Guild. Speaker: Miss Barrs.

BRANCH NOTES.

Brighton and Hove. We are hoping to hold a drawing-room meeting on Thursday, May 13, in commemoration of Florence Nightingale's birthday (circumstances render it impossible to hold this on the 12th), when it is hoped Miss Hare will speak on the life of Florence Nightingale.

Cardiff. Will members make a special effort to be present at the Branch meeting on Friday, May 7, at the Welsh Industries, Queen-street, so that it may be as successful as the last? We hope to have the pleasure of a visit from Dr. G. B. and Mrs. Clark on May 14 and 15. So all members and friends please rally round the colours, and give our friends the best possible welcome which will be to make the meetings more successful than any yet held in Cardiff. Will any members able to give an hour to VOTE selling in the streets kindly communicate with Miss Barrs? One hundred copies of THE VOTE were sold last week in Cardiff, but more helpers are urgently needed.

Glasgow Suffrage Shop: 70, St George's Road.

On April 28 an open-air evening meeting was held at Peel-street, Patrick. A large crowd soon assembled and listened with great attention and sympathy to a splendid speech by Miss Eunice Murray. There was only one interrupter, and he was soon silenced by the rest of the crowd. Miss Murray also addressed an open-air meeting at St. Enoch-square on April 28. On the same evening the Glasgow Council met and decided to hold a large open-air meeting on May 12 in honour of Florence Nightingale. Mrs. Tanner (London) has been asked to speak at this meeting, and if she comes we hope she will stay for some time and take part in other meetings which will be arranged for her. Members are requested to offer their help.

Liverpool.

The "American Tea," arranged to raise funds for the proposed Suffrage Club, which we hope will shortly be opened in Liverpool, took place on April 17, in the Clarion Café. It the unavoidable absence of Dr. Alice Ker, Mrs. Evans presided over a very good attendance of members and friends. Mrs. John Edwards gave an excellent address on "Women and War." Pianoforte selections by Mrs. James Cousins, Bac. Mus., and a recitation by Miss Davey were very much appreciated; the successful competitions, arranged by Miss Trott, contributed much to the social-ability of the afternoon. Mrs. McNaull and Miss Appleton superintended the sale of refreshments, etc. THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature were sold. Three new members were enrolled. On April 27 Miss Ada Broughton was invited to address the Walton Branch of the Women's

Advertisement for 'The Vote.' Why we advertise in "The Vote." We know that every Reader of "The Vote" must find our Cleaning and Dyeing Service of valuable assistance, and we believe that as we help their paper they will see the justice of helping us. We do not pay the "Advertisement Manager's" bills out of charity, nor do we wish the readers to patronise us for mere sentiment. In each instance it is a case of "value received." Achille Serre Ltd. Hackney Wick, London. ("East 3710" 4 lines). Branches and Agencies everywhere.

# THE VOTE

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Co-operative Guild. On April 29 an "At Home" was held in the Admiral Hall, Admiral-street, to which the members of the Prince's Park Women's Co-operative Guild had been invited. There was a very good attendance, over which Miss Campbell, president of the Oakfield W.C.G., presided, and Miss Ada Broughton spoke upon "The Economic Position of Woman," as wife, mother and worker, and showed the vital necessity for raising her status by the possession of the parliamentary vote. Great interest was shown and an animated discussion followed. Two new members were enrolled and others are likely to join our League. THE VOTE was on sale. Miss Trott superintended the refreshments and sang, and Miss Taylor recited, giving great pleasure to all. Members are requested to ensure a large attendance at Mrs. Despard's forthcoming visit to Liverpool on May 12.

**Manchester.**

At a business meeting at the Office, 79, Piccadilly, on April 27, arrangements were made for next week's campaign. An open-air Florence Nightingale Commemoration Meeting will be held in Piccadilly on Wednesday, May 21, at 7 p.m., in which it is hoped that the Men's League and United Suffragists will co-operate. It will be followed at 8 p.m. by an indoor meeting at 79 Piccadilly at which Miss Andrews will give an address on Florence Nightingale's life. On April 29, by the kind permission of Mrs. Buckle, 47, Newland-st., Higher Crumpsall, an afternoon meeting was held at her house. Miss Broughton spoke on the aims and policy of the Women's Freedom League. It is hoped that a Branch will soon be formed in this district. In spite of torrential rain last Saturday, a successful open-

air meeting was held in Sidney-street. A large crowd gathered and listened most attentively to Miss Janet Hayes and Miss Broughton. THE VOTE sold well under the direction of Miss Baldwin and Miss S. Heyes.

**Middlesbrough.**

For two successive weeks our speakers have been unable to attend. On both occasions we have been indebted to Mr. Crow for filling in the breach—on the former for a very interesting discourse on Theosophy, which gave rise to many questions and an informal discussion, and last Monday night when Miss Cook was unable through illness to give her lecture of Rabindranath Tagore. Mr. Crow kept the audience entranced by his reading of "Chitra"—the most distinctive of the Eastern poet's plays from the woman's point of view, as, according to a leading reviewer, it is the finest literary contribution towards the enfranchisement of woman since Meredith's "Ballad of Fair Ladies in Revolt."

**Portsmouth and Gosport.**

The afternoon Whist Drive on April 28 was a great success, and our hearty thanks are due to Mrs. Davies for suggesting the idea and for selling so many tickets; to Mr. Davies for so ably acting as M.C., and to all the members who so generously gave the refreshments. We are now to work seriously for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund; will members make a special effort to attend the fortnightly work parties? The monthly Branch meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, at 7.30 p.m., at 17, Lombard-street. Mrs. Whetton will open a discussion on "The War Baby Problem." Friends are invited.

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**SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES'  
MEETINGS.**

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Mrs. Ackroyd, on "Russia and her People" and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Underwood.

**IMPORTANT.—WOMENS' EXHIBITION,** Caxton Hall, Westminster, May 10 to 12, 3 to 10 p.m. Special and unique interests. Excellent speakers, music, etc. Admission 1s.; after 6 p.m., 6d.

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