

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 346.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1914.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free)
14d.



A. PATRIOT

ENGLISH WIFE OF UNEMPLOYED GERMAN WAITER: "My husband is out of work; I and my children are starving. Give us help from the Relief Fund."

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Chairman of the Government Distress Committee): "Go away, my good woman. You are a German, and the Fund is not for foreigners."

GERMAN WIFE OF UNEMPLOYED ENGLISHMAN: "Gnädige Herr, wir frieren, wir verhungern, mein Mann ist arbeitslos, und ich kann gar kein wort Englisch."

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: "Madam, you are a British woman. Here is money from the Fund."

(Consequent upon recent police raids, hotels and restaurants are now discharging their German waiters, many of whom have married Englishwomen who are German subjects according to our anti-suffrage Nationalisation Law)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, Regent 5150
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

DIARY OF EVENTS

Friday, October 23: 8.30 p.m. Eustace Miles Restaurant.—Committee of U.S. "At Home" to members and friends. Tea and coffee. Short speeches by Mrs. Agnes Harben and Mr. W. L. George, the well-known novelist. Tickets of admission (price 6d.) for non-members, and invitation cards for members, to be obtained on application to Ticket Secretary, 3 Adam Street.

Wednesday, October 28: 7.30 p.m. Spinners' Hall, Bolton.—Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mr. H. D. Harben. Chair: Mrs. John Almond. Particulars and tickets from Mrs. Crompton, hon. sec. Bolton U.S., 68, Shildon Street, Bolton.

Thursday, November 5: 8 p.m. Large Portman Rooms, Baker Street.—Public Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Israel Zangwill, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver. Chair: Mrs. Frederick Whelen. The Hall will be specially arranged so that no seats will be far from the platform. Tickets, numbered and reserved, 2s. 6d. and 1s.; unreserved, 6d., from the Ticket Secretary, 3, Adam Street.

Friday, December 4: 3 to 10 p.m. Eustace Miles Restaurant.—Christmas Sale. Proceeds in aid of U.S. Women's Club in South London. Particulars from Miss Brewster, 3, Adam Street.

Every Tuesday Evening: 8.15 p.m.—Speakers' Class at U.S. Offices, 3, Adam Street. Admission free.

Outdoor

Thursday, October 22: 8.15 p.m.—Corner of Liverpool Street and Walworth Road.—Miss Kitty Ennis, Mr. A. Mackinlay.

Friday, October 23: 7.30 p.m.—Bolton, Town Hall Steps.—Dr. Helena Jones and others.

Monday, October 26: 8.15 p.m.—Walworth Road and Heygate Street.—Miss Neilans and others.

Tuesday, October 27: 8.15 p.m.—Corner of London Road and Garden Row, Walworth.—Miss Daisy Gibbs, Miss E. Hickey, Mr. P. C. Darby.

Thursday, October 29: 8.15 p.m.—Corner of Walworth Road and Liverpool Street. Mrs. C. Gregory and Mr. E. R. Ranson.

AT THE ESSEX HALL

The meeting at the Essex Hall last Friday made a serious and unanimous protest against the action of the Plymouth Watch Committee in recommending the re-enactment of the C.D. Acts, and called upon the Government to safeguard women against such legislative proposals by granting them the vote when Parliament meets in November. The hall was crowded, and admirable speeches were made by Mrs. Ben Webster, Mr. Laurence Housman, the Rev. J. M. Maillard, and Miss Kitty Ennis. Miss Evelyn Sharp was in the Chair, and made an appeal for funds for the U.S. Women's Club in South London, which resulted in a sum of £24 being raised for that purpose in money and promises. The total sum raised at the meeting amounted to £34 8s. 3d., details of which will be published next week.

THE U.S. AT HOME

London members and other readers are reminded that the U.S. Committee will be "At Home" in the Eustace Miles Restaurant to-day (Friday) at 8.30 p.m. Invitations can be obtained by members from the U.S. Ticket Secretary, and tickets of admission, price 6d.,

by non-members from the same address or at the door. Short speeches will be made by Mrs. Agnes Harben and Mr. W. L. George, and there will be plenty of opportunity, while refreshments are being served, of meeting the members of the Committee and one another, and talking over the work of the U.S. It is hoped that this second "At Home" will bring as many friends together as before.

COME TO THE PORTMAN ROOMS

Thursday, November 5

Members and readers who wish to secure good seats for the next public meeting of the U.S. in the Large Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., are advised to apply at once to the Ticket Secretary for tickets (for prices, see above). There will be a particularly good list of speakers—Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver, and Mrs. Israel Zangwill; and Mrs. Frederick Whelen will take the Chair. All are well-known as wise and witty exponents of different phases of that greater war that the United Suffragists, in common with all good suffragists all over the world, are engaged in waging; and those who look beyond the present terrible conflict to days of peace in the future would do well to come and hear how suffragists link up the present with the future, and so prove that the woman's movement is a vital part of the life of the nation.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB

The U.S. are only waiting for the right premises to be found to start their Women's Club in Southwark. Miss Lena Ashwell has kindly promised to lend a piano, and Mrs. Ben Webster, the Misses Walford, Mrs. Hutt, Miss Hickey, and others too numerous to mention have offered their services as helpers as soon as the club is started.

Wanted!

The following equipment is needed for the club: Chairs, tables, crockery for tea service, games (draughts, &c.), papers, magazines. Offers kindly to be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary at 3, Adam Street.

CHRISTMAS SALE

The funds raised at the Christmas Sale, which is to be held in the Eustace Miles Restaurant on December 4, from 3 till 10 p.m., will be devoted to the upkeep of the Women's Club in South London. All those of our readers who are anxious to help in the work of providing a recreation room for working women, where they can have a cheap substantial tea by a warm fire and read the papers, or hear all about the war and woman suffrage, will doubtless be glad to help US in making the Sale a success. All offers of help—in person, money or kind—should be made to Miss Brewster, at the U.S. offices.

Mrs. Harben has very kindly undertaken the farm produce stall, Mrs. Drinkwater the general stall, and Mrs. Hutt two bran tubs (3d. and 6d.

dips). Will others be good enough to undertake any of the following stalls—Sweets, books, garments, children's clothes, flowers, besides offering to send contributions to any of the stalls?

AMERSHAM BRANCH

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Drinkwater, Fieldtop, Amersham-on-the-Hill

This branch is offering garden plants, biennials or perennials, for sale, a list of which, with prices, will be supplied on application to Mrs. B. Francks, "Strode," Amersham.

Mrs. Webb, who has already done so much to secure working women members, invited the local members to tea at Chesham Bois last Wednesday, and a short address was given on "Women in War Time," followed by recitations and songs from Mrs. Barry and Miss Leighton.

Mrs. Frank Colenso has kindly consented that the Competition Tea and Sale of Gifts shall be held at Elangein, Amersham, in November.

INEXPENSIVE TAILOR-MADES



We have now in stock a very large variety of new Autumn Tailor Made, similar in character to the garment sketched. All these Suits are designed and made by our own tailors from high grade British Serges, and the cut, shape, and finish are invariably excellent.

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HALF PROFITS on the sales of the following lines will be divided between the above Funds:—

- Packet of Stationery for the Troops—12 sheets ruled paper with envelopes, 12 post cards, copying ink pencil and silk Union Jack badge, 6d. each, 5s. per doz.
- Patriotic Cabinet of Paper and Envelopes, tissue lined, all stamped with flags in correct colours, 1s. each, six for 5s.
- Patriotic Paddette with envelopes, tissue lined, stamped as above, 1s. each, six for 5s.
- The "Allies" Pad of ruled paper, with blotting, 6d. each, 5s. per doz.
- Six Exquisite Photos on plate stunk mounts of Kitchener, Roberts, French, Jellicoe, H.M.S. King George, H.M.S. Monarch, 1s. per packet, Six packets for 5s.
- Six Oilettes of Old Masters in artistic black and embossed gold mounts, size 8 x 6, with strut at back, glazed, 1s. 6d. each. The set of six for 7s. 6d.
- Assorted order for one of each line for 5s. carriage paid in U.K.

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

Parliament, which was to have re-assembled on October 27, has been further prorogued until November 11, when, according to the supplement issued to the *London Gazette*, it will meet "for the despatch of divers and important affairs." This should be something more than a formula at a moment when very grave matters are demanding the attention of the House of Commons, and we cannot help thinking that if the Government were responsible to the women as well as to the men of the country it would not be possible for them to postpone the new Session another fortnight.

"Divers and Important Affairs"

We say this advisedly, for most of the "divers and important affairs" we have in mind are those which affect women particularly. The scandal of the weekly payments to wives of soldiers reached its height last week with a circular from the War Office informing many of the wives that the compulsory allotment from the husband's pay had been stopped, but would be renewed if they could prove, by filling up an enclosed circular, that this addition to their separation allowance was essential to them. We deal with this matter in our leading article, and will only point out here that if the soldier's pay is insufficient for his own needs after the compulsory deduction has been made, it is the Government's duty to give him a living wage, instead of attempting to cheat his wife out of what was promised to her by Mr. Asquith in the House of Commons last month. The most devoted Anti-Suffragist can hardly believe that the muddle would not have been cleared up long ago if women had possessed their share of political power.

The Widow's Pension

Delay still characterises the Government's treatment of that important matter, pensions for soldiers' widows. If State pensions for widows were established in this country as they are in New Zealand and other States where women vote, no doubt the question of pensions for the widows of soldiers would not present such colossal difficulty as it apparently does to our War Office. But we think it is quite time, in view of the hundreds of widows now being created by this devastating war, that a scheme to afford them provision for life should be something more than still "under consideration." Mr. Tennant, Under Secretary of State for War, has, we see, informed Mr. MacCallum Scott, M.P., that the arrangements for separation allowances to the relatives of soldiers, other than wives and children, will shortly be made public. This will put an end, it is to be hoped, to the privations suffered until now by the mothers of unmarried men recalled to the Colours.

Unemployment and Relief

It is satisfactory to find that so much public opinion has been roused over the failure of the National Relief Fund Committees to deal at

all adequately with the distress caused by unemployment, especially among women. At a meeting of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, last week, it was stated that while unemployment among men remained about the same, distress among women was becoming "a serious problem"; and the Chairman, Mr. Brinsley Harper, remarked on "the paucity of ideas in dealing with the unemployed women." Even Mr. Herbert Samuel, to whose Anti-Suffrage mind a woman who cannot have a home unless she works to keep it going must be painful to contemplate, admits, in a statement issued by him from the Local Government Board, that "in the case of women the pressure of unemployment has undoubtedly been more serious." And the *Times* of last Tuesday has a leading article on the whole subject, concluding with the words:—

What is Being Done?

The Queen's Fund has been well supported, but its administration at present is more suggestive of experiments in education and social welfare than of the relief of urgent need, for which it was intended by Her Majesty.

With the exception of the new occupations for women started by the Women's Emergency Corps, and certain private Suffragist schemes like that described in this issue by Miss Winifred Holiday, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's relief works in the East End, very little that is really effective is being done to stem the tide of unemployment among women. The smallness of the sum subscribed to Queen Mary's Fund probably accounts for the limitations of the efforts of its Committee to deal with the problem, though subscriptions would doubtless flow in more rapidly if more confidence were felt in the administration. But of course the problem of women's unemployment is the problem of her whole position in the State. Raise that to its proper level and there will be less talk and more effective action in connection with her distressed condition at the present time.

The C. D. Acts

An admirable protest was made by the United Suffragists at the Essex Hall, last Friday evening, against the suggested re-enactment of the Contagious Diseases Acts at Plymouth; and Mrs. A. J. Webbe gives an exhaustive summary of all that is meant by the Acts in her article on "War and the Social Evil," which appears in this issue. Up to the time of going to press no answer had been received from Mr. Asquith in response to the request of the U.S. for an interview on this vital matter. In reply to a statement of the whole case in writing, submitted to him by the Women's Freedom League, the Prime Minister wrote as follows through his secretary:—

No local body has the power to take any action of the sort which you fear, without the authority of Parliament. This can only be obtained by passing a new statute reviving the policy of the Contagious Diseases Acts, and the Government have no intention of proposing this course to Parliament.

The Real Danger

In reply, the W.F.L. asked for a further assurance that

No local governing or military authorities shall be allowed to introduce any bye-laws or regulations, however temporary, which shall give arbitrary rights

To London Readers. UNITED SUFFRAGISTS "AT HOME."

— AT THE —
EUSTACE MILES RESTAURANT
(Chandos Street, Charing Cross, W.C.).
TO-DAY (FRIDAY), OCTOBER 23rd,
At 8.30 p.m.
Admission FREE to U.S. Members. Non-Members, 6d.
SPEECHES BY MRS. AGNES HARBEN AND MR. W. L. GEORGE.
CONVERSATION. TEA AND COFFEE.

to police or other bodies affecting the liberties of any section of women as apart from men, and that any attempt having the effect of a re-introduction of the spirit of the C.D. Acts shall be a matter for the prompt intervention of the Government.

This, of course, is the real danger that has to be guarded against. We are glad to hear, further, that the Northern Men's Federation has addressed a strong protest to the Plymouth Town Clerk.

Activities of the U.S.

This threatened attack upon the liberties of women makes it more essential than ever that the U.S. should keep the Suffrage Flag flying, and a friendly gathering of members and friends will meet to-night (Friday), at the Eustace Miles Restaurant to discuss the best way of doing this. Another opportunity of impressing upon the public, not only the connection between women and the present war, but also women's part in the "greater war" that knows no limitation of time or nationality, will be afforded by the next public meeting of the U.S. in the Portman Rooms on November 5. The speakers (see opposite page) are so good that, remembering the crowds turned away at former U.S. meetings, friends would be well advised to apply for reserved seats at once.

Our War News

An interim report of the Birmingham Housing Inquiry Committee states that in this city there are 43,366 "back-to-back" houses (the type which usually shows the highest rate of infant mortality) and 42,020 houses that have no water supply inside the dwelling. Side by side with this we may lay the report, just published, of the Manchester Medical Officer of Health for 1913, in which the rate of infant mortality, although slightly decreasing, is still stated to be 128.7 per 1,000 births. Here is a casualty list which, although attributable largely to preventable causes, such as bad housing, never ceases to occur whether we are at war or peace. Ours is the war that never ends.

Our Honorary Treasurer at the Front

As we go to press this week the valued Honorary Treasurer of the United Suffragists, Mr. H. J. Gillespie, is on the point of leaving for the front. It was no small sacrifice that he made when he gave up all the social reform work for which he cared so much, in order to rejoin his old regiment; and the thoughts and admiration, and good wishes, of all U.S. members and friends will go with him on the perilous journey he is about to make for his country's sake.

Items of Interest

The Hull Watch Committee has set an example to their reactionary colleagues at Plymouth by appointing four women-police to patrol the streets in the interests of girls associating with soldiers. The N.U.W.S.S. has also secured the sanction of the Home Office and Scotland Yard for a new scheme for appointing Women Patrols for the same purpose.

The Committee of the London Women's Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters have registered a protest against the employment of women on relief work at a rate of 10s. for a forty hours' week, this being 50 per cent. below Trade Union rate.

We understand that Miss Christabel Pankhurst is now in America.

The Woman's Theatre week (November 30—December 5) not only provides a delightful entertainment, but also employment for actors and actresses out of work through the war, and a chance to subscribers to make a little money for any relief fund they have at heart. Cheques for £1, which will entitle to a seat in every part of the house (or for larger sums should two seats together be desired), should be sent at once to Miss Inez Bensusan, A.F.L., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The bound volume of VOTES FOR WOMEN, 1913-14 (price 10s. 6d.), will be ready shortly. Those who wish to possess this valuable record of the suffrage movement should place their orders with the Publisher, 4-7, Red Lion Court, as soon as possible.

Subscriptions to the paper should be sent to The Publisher, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

The terms are, post free, 6s. 6d. annual subscription, 3s. 3d. for six months inside the United Kingdom, 8s. 8d. (2dols. 25cents) and 4s. 4d. (1dol. 15c nts) abroad, payable in advance.

The paper can be obtained from all newsagents and bookstalls. In New York, at Brentano's; Messrs. Thacker, Spink, and Co., Calcutta; and at Handel House, Ltd., Eloff Street, Johannesburg.

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A PUBLIC MEETING will be held by the **Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps** (organised by the Women's Freedom League), at the **PORTMAN ROOMS, BAKER STREET, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27th, at 8 p.m.**

Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Ethel Arnold, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Harvey. Chairman: Miss LIND-AP-HAGBEY. SONGS by the Rev. Dr. HOUSTON COLLISON.

Tickets—Reserved 2/6 and 1/-. Unreserved Free, which must be booked beforehand at the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W. FOR MEN AND WOMEN.
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KINGSGATE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHAMPTON ROW (Entrance Eagle Street), SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th, At 7 o'clock.

Rev. A. GRAHAM BARTON on **"CHRISTIAN WOMANHOOD"** Its Claims to National Recognition.
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VOTES FOR WOMEN

4-7, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET

Telegraphic Address:—Votfowom, Fleet, London. Telephone:—Holborn 5880 (2 lines).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1914.

ONLY A "SCRAP OF PAPER"

The Government are finding to their cost that in a country where the rights of women are persistently ignored it is impossible in a moment of national crisis to assume for purposes of convenience that women have rights. This is in effect the main cause of the scandalous muddle in which the Government have involved themselves in their attempt to set up a fair standard of weekly payments to the wives of soldiers. In time of peace they have been content to allow the English wife to get on as best she could without any recognition from the State that she was the partner and not the dependant of her husband, and that in performing the varied and arduous offices of wife, mother and housekeeper, she was earning at least half of the family income, and was therefore on an economic equality with him. This failure of the State to recognise the wife's true position did not materially affect the harmony of the home—we are dealing in this article mainly with the material side of the question—as long as the husband accepted the theory of co-partnership, as good husbands do, by allowing her to control with him the finance of the household. When, on the contrary, she had a bad husband who refused to maintain her, the only recognition of her grievance allowed her by the law was a permission to go into the workhouse, after which, not for her own protection, but for that of the ratepayers, an order of maintenance could be made against her husband which she might or might not be able to enforce. Thus, long before the war broke out (though only Suffragists exposed this) the financial system of the home was flagrantly unjust to the wife. The State did not worry about that, because the woman was the sufferer, and, having no vote or political status, she was a negligible factor in the situation.

But the war has changed all that. The war has called for a fighting force to be recruited from the ranks of the married as well as the unmarried; and enlistment of husbands naturally does not flourish when it means throwing up a good job, unless there is the assurance that wives and children are going to have enough to live upon in their absence. At first the Government, accustomed to their own anti-suffragist estimate of the wife's position, thought a meagre separation allowance from the War Office, supplemented by an allotment from the man's pay (compulsory if he was serving abroad, optional if he remained in this country, on the assumption that the law allows the wife to sue him for maintenance if he refuses to pay!), would be quite enough for her. But for the first time the Government had to reckon, not as in peace times with the bad husbands, but with good husbands, the men who are better than the law allows them to be, who look upon their wives as their equals and not their inferiors, and who therefore refuse to allow them to be fobbed off with a sum upon which they cannot subsist. And the good husbands are naturally in a majority among men who give up work and career and home life and happiness in order to risk their lives for their country.

The outcry that followed, coming as it did from the men themselves as well as from a

public enlightened by the suffrage movement of recent years, forced the hand of the Government, and Mr. Asquith made his announcement in the House of Commons on September 17 of a new and more satisfactory scale of payments to wives, which was to take effect on and after October 12. That day has come and gone, and what has happened? We cannot do better than quote the statement made in a letter to the Times on October 15—attacked but by no means disproved by subsequent correspondence in that paper—by Mrs. Richardson, honorary secretary of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association:—

In every corner of England the Premier's glowing promise has been broken, and wives already half-starved have been paid 9s. instead of 12s. 6d., and 11s. 6d. instead of 15s. . . . There is consternation and despair in thousands of homes to-day because the Prime Minister of England has not kept faith with the families of men who are fighting our battles.

On enquiry, the writer proceeds, she was told that "the War Office had no power to pay allotments in the way the Premier promised." Not for the first time in his career, then, the Prime Minister had made a promise to women that could not be carried out, and had torn up the "scrap of paper" on which he had made it.

From the subsequent confusion emerged the fact that the attempt of the War Office to make the men's allotment compulsory (Mr. Asquith having apparently relied upon this to bring up the scale of payments to his promised standard) had produced an outcry among some of the men; and a circular hastily issued to their wives, stating that the allotment would not be paid to them (it was, in fact, deducted forthwith) unless they filled up an enclosed form proving their inability to subsist without it, produced another outcry from them, reinforced by such of the men as had not objected to paying the allotment and knew nothing of the circular. A more recent announcement by the War Office, stating that the order making the allotment compulsory has not been withdrawn, but is temporarily suspended, is not calculated to restore peace in the home. A husband's allowance when "suspended" may not be quite dead by the time the order to pay it again takes effect, but it is pretty certain to have "gone before."

We are really almost sorry for Mr. Asquith. In his well-meant effort to reconcile the march of public opinion with the anti-suffrage standard of the State, for the maintenance of which standard he is principally responsible, he has succeeded in pleasing no one. He has landed the War Office in a glorious muddle. He has antagonised both the men who want to do the fair thing by their wives and the men who don't, and he has materialised the greatest of anti-suffrage bogeys by sowing dissension in the home. In saying this, we have no wish to be merely critical. We know that the task confronting the Government and the War Office is a colossal one. Our desire is not to add to that task, but to lighten it, and the proposal we have to make is a sound, constructive one.

There is one way in which Mr. Asquith can extricate himself from his present dilemma and free his hands for the other important work awaiting him. His avowed intention has been to do the fair thing both by soldiers and soldiers' wives. He has been foiled by the prevailing standard of the financial relations of men to their wives which is based on the inferior status of women in the community. Let him introduce and carry into law a simple measure to remove the political sex-disability now existing, and he will then start from a proper basis in attempting to adjust the financial relations of soldiers and their wives. He will also rally to his help a large army of capable women who now feel conscientiously unable, or at least bitterly reluctant, to give up even during the war their struggle for women's freedom. The question is—Will Mr. Asquith show himself a big enough statesman to do it?

WAR AND THE SOCIAL EVIL

By Mrs. A. J. Webbe

Owing to the war, many centres all over the country have large numbers of men massed together, thereby bringing into greater prominence and giving greater publicity than in ordinary times to the most difficult of all our social problems, the prostitution of women for men.

In one of our big towns in the South of England the Town Council had before them the following minute to discuss:—

That in the opinion of this Committee it is desirable that the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1866 to 1869 should be re-enacted.

What are these Acts which every civilised State is slowly but surely abolishing, as the power of the women's movement is being felt?

"At the Woman's Expense"

The Contagious Disease Act, or its equivalent State Regulation of Vice, is simply this: That a man is helped by the State to live an immoral life, with what he believes to be safety to himself against venereal disease, at the woman's expense. The prostitute (only where poor and friendless) is put on a police register, and from that day she is treated as belonging to a class apart.

The thing can be best expressed in the words of a French sister of mercy, who works in the St. Lazare Prison in Paris where these women are sent, as "La chaîné du Diable." When the woman is registered, the first and foremost condition is that once or twice a week she has to be medically examined (it is impossible here to enter into the horrors of this examination) to see if she is diseased or not. If free she has a card, which is a licence by the State to continue her trade; if diseased, she is sent to a hospital in Paris as to prison, and is a prisoner till cured. After perhaps weeks of enforced imprisonment she comes out, only probably to be re-infected the next day, as no provision whatever is made by the State to protect the woman from infection, the man who is diseased being allowed to spread infection at will.

Let no one compare this state of things with treatment of ordinary infectious diseases, as is often done, because there both sexes are subject to the same restrictions.

The Economic Injustice of Regulation

Economically it is unjust, as it "snaps the last weak thread that ties the women to decent occupation," and makes her from henceforth a social pariah of the lowest order. Rescue of these women and girls in countries where vice is not licensed is possible and hopeful; rescue in countries where State regulation exists is a hundred times more difficult, because, say what we will, the law to many must always be a teacher, and it is the law that sets before many the standard of right and wrong. Therefore, how is it possible with one voice to preach continence and at the same time to license vice? In Germany at one time slot machines were placed in barracks and on board ships, where for a small coin could be purchased protective remedies; and Germany was not the only country where soldiers were taught by those in authority that, though continence was wisest, if this was impossible remedies for safety could be bought!

Has any State the right to make indulgence easier, the saving of the women more difficult, especially when there is overwhelming evidence to show that the question of prostitution is for women largely an economic one?

Wherever regulation exists you have one-sided legislation such as the following:—If a woman prostitute is seen with a young man under eighteen she is punished by imprisonment, but in most of these countries the age of consent for girls is twelve or thirteen!

The Medical Futility of It

Innumerable are the opinions of experts on the uselessness of the Contagious Diseases Act as a preventive measure of venereal diseases. The last Medical Congress that was held in the summer of 1913 condemned it as useless, and the Local Government Board published a pamphlet in 1913 on Venereal Disease which every man and woman should read, giving shortly the reasons of the uselessness of regulation, the first and foremost being that the patient must come in the earliest stages of diseases to be cured, and that every facility must be given to make this possible. If any kind of penal treatment is in force it has been proved that no one will come to be treated till obliged, and that recourse is more often than not had to quack doctors.

Therefore, could anything be stronger against Regulation than the following:—

If early recourse by the venereal patient to skilled treatment could be made the rule instead of the exception, I do not hesitate to say that in view of the great discoveries and improved methods of the last few years

there is a prospect of stamping out venereal disease.

Such is the opinion of Dr. Johnson, the writer of the Local Government pamphlet.

Why Suffragists Oppose the C.D. Acts

Why, in fine, should women who stand for the woman's movement be against Regulation? Because more than perhaps anything else, State regulation of vice helps to keep alive the subjection of women; because it helps to keep alive an unequal moral standard, which more than anything else makes possible the White Slave Traffic; because it helps to keep alive the statement made over and over again by officials in countries where regulation is in vogue that the woman prostitute is always bad, though for man prostitution is a necessity; and, lastly, it helps to make possible statements such as were made at the Town Council mentioned before by one of the committee, who strongly urged the re-enactment of the Contagious Diseases Acts, adding that "the opposition came from women, women, women, who knew nothing of the world!"

And why is it imperative that every woman should know all that there is to be known in connection with these subjects? Simply because in the interest of our great humanity woman is going to see that her child shall have the right of being born into the world strong and healthy. Man has not seen to this, so now the motherhood of woman is coming to the rescue, and she will try to do her part in teaching man the beauty of responsibility in fatherhood such as up to the present has been unknown to him.

NEW BOOKS

CARAVANNING FOR A CAUSE*

Mrs. Chesser's cause is Health, not Suffrage; but there is fellowship in causes, and her account of a journey in a caravan through Kent on a health lecture tour will interest suffragists for that reason alone. But for other reasons, too; for, in spite of many books on caravanning which have appeared in recent years, we find this one particularly brightly written, and blessedly redeemed by humorous touches. On the whole, however, we agree with the fashionable friend who motored down to lunch from town, and after admiring everything ecstatically, said, on leaving: "Thanks so much, I have enjoyed myself—but I don't know how you stick it."

Without attempting to "stick it" themselves, all followers of a cause will appreciate the descriptions of lectures given on the village green, and will envy the lecturer for having only one instance of heckling to relate.

"What would you do for a hen with the hiccough?" said the would-be wit of the meeting. But I was able to score when I explained that first aid was unnecessary, as a hen hadn't a diaphragm to hiccough with.

And to the villager who objected, when castor oil was suggested as a remedy for her sick baby, that it was such an old-fashioned thing, the ready retort was forthcoming that "Babies are old-fashioned things, too!" "The House on Wheels" is eminently readable, besides containing much useful information for the would-be caravanner.

INDUSTRIAL MURDER†

Of all forms of industrial poison which con-
* "The House on Wheels." By Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, M.B. (London: Chapman and Hall. Price 2s. net.)
† "Parentage and Dangerous Employments—Lead-poisoning." By Frances Swiney. (The "Awakener" Offices, 69, Victori Street, S.W. Price 2d. post free.)

tribute to that terrible total of 200,000 deaths per year in this country from industrial causes, lead-poisoning is perhaps the most fatal and the most reprehensible. Women have, to a large extent, been protected against it by Home Office regulations; but regulations which drive out women from the labour market instead of making the labour market a fit place for them to work in, cannot be included under the heading of wise legislation. Besides, the terrible infant mortality resulting from plumbism is attributable to the father as well as to the mother; and men have not been "protected" out of this form of earning their living. So the thing goes on, for the movement to substitute leadless for lead glaze in pottery and earthenware is by no means universal, and never will be until women have a voice in the legislation and the power to insist that human life matters more than property. All these facts, and many more of great interest, are to be found in Mrs. Swiney's pamphlet, which is No. 6 of the series known as "Racial Poisons."

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists." By Robert Tressal. (London: Grant Richards. Price 6s.)
"The Encounter." By Anne Douglas Sedgwick. (London: Edward Arnold. Price 6s.)
"The Second Blooming." By W. L. George. (London: Fisher Unwin. Price 6s.)
"Women Writers' Suffrage League Calendar for 1915." Compiled from the writings of members of the W.W.S.L. by Mrs. Romanné James. (12, Henrietta Street, W.C. Price 1s.)
"The Fruit of the Tree." By Mrs. F. A. Steel. (London: Women's Printing Society. Price 4d.)
"Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the Women's Trade Union League." (London: 34, Mecklenburg Square, W.C.)

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING

A SUFFRAGIST WORKROOM How the New Constitutional Society is Helping (From Correspondent)

When the war cloud burst, our committee was on holiday, and only two or three of its members were by chance in town. These few at once set themselves to tackle their share of the new problems that faced the country, and the result is the N.C.S. workroom, now as full as the authorities will permit of women and girls thrown out of work by the war, busily carrying out orders and hoping for more.

The organisation of the work has certain characteristics of its own which readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN may be interested to hear about. First, however, let me remind them that workers are only taken through the Marlborough Street Labour Exchange, which investigates every case, and that the Society cannot accept any applications through private sources.

The System of Payment

The committee, after careful and anxious consideration of the difficult question of rates of payment, and a brief experimental period, have found that an elastic system is in the long run the simplest, as well as the fairest. The one rule underlying all others is that, within necessary limits, we make the pay and position of each worker previous to the war our first consideration in fixing what she is to receive. Anything like a 10s. flat rate, for instance, we felt to be unwelcome. Our hands vary from girls under sixteen, living at home and formerly receiving 5s. or 6s. a week, up to the skilled forewoman whose weekly salary had been 48s. Nearly or quite to double the wages of the former would obviously be as foolish as it would be cruel to reduce the pay of the latter to a little over a fifth.

Our plan, then, is as follows: For workers over sixteen the minimum is 10s., the maximum £1. Within these limits wages are left to the forewoman to arrange, in consultation with two of our members, according to the capabilities of and the amount of work accomplished by the workers. Girls under sixteen living at home, whose pay had been less than 10s., are given slightly less than their old wage, and it is explained to them that the difference is their contribution towards helping the N.C.S. to employ another worker. But wherever a girl has to pay for her own room, the wage is 10s. and more when possible. One girl, who had been out of work for weeks and was almost starved when we took her, had been having 12s. 6d. She was so weak with want that it did not seem likely that her work would be good, but both she and her work soon picked up, and we are now giving her 13s. 6d.

No Order Refused

Another exception to the 10s.-£1 limit is the forewoman, whose salary exceeds our maximum, and rightly so, since the success of the workroom is largely owing to her experienced management. No order is refused. Simple, sensible dresses and underclothing for women and children refugees, army shirts and shirts for the wounded, dainty gauzy blouses and trousseau underwear, baby clothes for rich and poor, complete costumes renovated, pretty lampshades, were laid before me with bewildering rapidity, but I managed to examine them sufficiently to satisfy myself as to the high standard of the work done. The forewoman finds many of the young workers extraordinarily ignorant, especially in cutting out, and lacking at first in adaptability; but not a single ill-cut or badly-made garment is passed. "Do it again," is the verdict on any bad piece of work, and the result is that the girls are being trained into being efficient workers, who will be able, when brighter times return, to command a better wage than they were receiving when the war began.

Not Eligible for the Queen's Fund

But because we do not see our way to limit our pay to 10s. we are not eligible for a grant from the Queen's Fund, and are therefore dependent in a special degree on public support to keep up the number employed. Indeed, we could considerably increase this number if that support is forthcoming, for we have the offer of more rooms.

Our room is big, bright, and airy, and holds forty-four girls, and we are now employing up to that limit. The number varies slightly as girls find permanent work (which they are given time to look for), but their places are rapidly filled. The sanitary inspectors very sensibly permits them to bring a sandwich lunch and eat it in the room, provided half an hour is allowed for it to air afterwards, and

during that half-hour a cup of tea at the neighbouring tea shop is usually indulged in, while the Society gives each worker a cup of tea and a biscuit later on. Work begins at 9 and is over at 6, with an hour for dinner.

The funds of the workroom are kept entirely separate from those of the Society, and intending donors are welcome at the room in Park Mansions Arcade, opposite Knightsbridge Tube Station, any day from 10 to 1 o'clock, and 2 to 5, when they can see for themselves the excellent work our girls are turning out.

Winifred Holiday.

WOMEN'S EMERGENCY CORPS

The resources of the Women's Emergency Corps seem to be limitless. They extend, at all events, between such widely opposite poles as linguists and knitters, for last week they were engaged, on the one hand, in providing the military superintendent at the London Hospital with French, Flemish, and Dutch interpreters to help in registering 300 wounded soldiers who had just arrived from Antwerp, and on the other, in executing an order from the Queen's Work for Women Fund for 300 mittens, scarves, and cholera belts.

After we go to press this week the Corps will hold a public free meeting at the Savoy Theatre (Thursday afternoon at 2.30), when an interesting account of recent events in Belgium, and of women's position in the war, will be given by Mr. T. M. Kettle, Professor of National Economics, better known to our readers possibly for his services to the suffrage cause when he was a Member of Parliament. Miss Lena Ashwell will take the chair.

SERVICE AND SUFFERING

At a meeting held by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in the Kingsway Hall, last Tuesday, the various activities undertaken by the Union since war broke out were described. Mrs. Fawcett, saying from the Chair, amid applause, that women's part in war to-day was "to serve as well as to suffer." Miss Sheepshanks spoke refreshingly as an internationalist rather than a member of any particular country in dealing with her work among Belgian refugees, and Mrs. Hills spoke on what the United Suffragists would call the "greater war" against infant mortality, showing the importance of saving at least as much life as is being destroyed by the war. Perhaps the best speech was that of Miss Maude Royden, in which she made the fine point that women as a class were against war because it meant to them the sacrifice of the lives of others, while men as a whole supported war because it meant the sacrifice of their own lives; and because war to men involved self-sacrifice it could not be easily stamped out.

THAT TEN SHILLING MAXIMUM Appeal to the Queen

An appeal has been addressed to the Queen, signed by several well-known suffragists, protesting against the low wage of 3d. an hour with a maximum of 10s. a week, which obtains in the workrooms established in connection with Queen Mary's Work for Women Fund, and asking for a minimum wage of 5d. an hour, with a maximum of £1 a week instead, and begging further that this rate shall be enforced for women in all future Government contracts.

Is 3d. An Hour Too Little?

A correspondent writes from Leamington to object to our complaint against the ten shillings per week maximum, saying that we do not sufficiently emphasise the shortness of the week. "Threepence an hour," she adds, "may not be an ample remuneration, but it will be a happy day for Great Britain when no woman within it works for less."

We had realised, before our correspondent pointed it out, that a wage of 3d. an hour, with a maximum of ten shillings a week, involved only a week of forty hours; but although we know some women are paid a shamefully sweated wage of less than that amount, it does not reconcile us to the example set in the Queen's workrooms of fixing a maximum of threepence. We think, knowing how readily a Royal example is followed, that it would have helped the woman's cause infinitely more to have established a wage at least no lower than that fixed by the Clothing Trade Board, which is 5d. an hour.

WEARING THE BADGE

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—Will you allow me to endorse your paper-seller's story re wearing a suffrage badge whether engaged in suffrage work or not? I am not engaged in suffrage work, but, being a suffragist, I try to help the cause wherever I can, and since wearing my badge I am conscious of having drawn attention to the cause on several occasions.

I belong to the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and on one occasion a priest called atten-

tion to my badge before other women and commended me for joining the league, saying the women had done some splendid work lately. On another occasion I met a nun in the street and she pointed to my badge. I said, "Do you approve?" She replied enthusiastically. "Certainly." I have also found suffrage neighbours in my own street through my badge, so that I believe in wearing the badge for propaganda purposes and keeping the flag flying.—Yours, &c., M. G.

SOUTH AFRICA—A CORRECTION

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—On opening the last issue (August 7) of VOTES to-day, delayed through irregularity of mails since commencement of war, I was surprised to read the following item: "The Transvaal Provincial Council carried a law to give women the right to sit on Municipal Councils in the Transvaal and the right to vote for School Boards. This purely local law has been voted by the Union Government." Will you allow me a little space in your valued paper to amend this paragraph? The Transvaal Provincial Council has not passed a law to allow women to vote at School Board elections, though a law has been carried giving women the right to sit on Municipal Councils, and this has not been voted by the Union Government, being ratified in May or early June. Great exception was taken to this Act (Municipal Ordinance Amendment Act, 1914), because it enables everyone who has resided in the Transvaal for three months to vote, be they aliens or criminals (the only exceptions are "lunatics"), and as a consequence, petitions were signed and sent to the Governor-General asking him to refuse assent to same. These petitions were against the three months' residential qualification, as inadequate in such a constantly changing cosmopolitan population, and not against the full extension of municipal rights to women. But assent was given to the Act, and the first elections under it take place the last week in October.

With best wishes for the continued success of VOTES under the new Editorship, yours, &c., CLAUDE B. GRIFFITHS, Member W.S.P.U., President Women's Emancipation League, Johannesburg, 6, The Oval, Johannesburg, September 4, 1914.



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COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES HEAVY SENTENCES

Indecent Assault on Little Girl

The *Avonker* (October 3, 1914) reports case of a man charged before the Arundel County Bench with indecently assaulting a girl aged eleven years eleven months. He pleaded guilty, was given a good character as a married man with five children by the police superintendent, and pleaded for leniency so that he could join Lord Kitchener's New Army. Sentence: Fined £2, or in default one month's imprisonment.

Brutal Assault on a Boy

The *Morning Advertiser* (October 12) reports case of a man charged at Stratford with maliciously wounding his son, aged fifteen, whom he had thrashed with a tarred rope on his bare flesh. The medical evidence proved four open wounds about twelve inches long, besides many other wounds and weals. The defence was that the boy had used bad language. Sentence: Two months' hard labour.

Stealing Electrical Plugs

Our own correspondent reports case of a man charged before the Recorder at the Central Criminal Court on October 13 with stealing from a barrow at St. Pancras Station a parcel containing a quantity of electrical plugs to the value of £2 18s. There were previous convictions for minor offences. Sentence: Twenty months' imprisonment.

Prison for the Illegal Parent

The law is not slow, however, to treat the married mother as legal parent of her children when a penalty is in question. In a case of child neglect at Merthyr (see *South Wales Echo*, October 9), where a father and son earned plenty of money which they spent in drink, four children were found dirty and ill-clad in sordid conditions. The evidence of the N.S.P.C.C. inspector and of a police-constable was somewhat conflicting, the former saying that both defendants drank, and the latter being of opinion that the woman did nothing but carry beer. She had been fined several times for not sending the children to school—we do not quite know why she, and not the legal parent, was fined—and was now again made the scapegoat, receiving a sentence of four months, while the man got off with a fine of £1 and costs. It is cases of flagrant injustice like this that make women realise how low is their status in the eye of the law. Child neglect is a serious offence; four months' imprisonment, compared with the long sentences commonly given for petty offences against property, is not too heavy a penalty for it. But why was not the man sentenced, too? If the law meant what it says, the woman who is not considered fit to be the legal parent should have been absolved of all responsibility in the matter and discharged.

COMING EVENTS

There is to be a sale of work, organised by the Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, at Alan's Rooms, 263, Oxford Street, W., to-day (Friday), October 23, from 2.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The proceeds will be for Welsh women and children who are suffering from the war. Tickets of admission, to be obtained from Mrs. Mansell-Moulin, 69, Wimpole Street, are 1s. from 2.30 to 6.30, including tea, and 3d. after 6.30, exclusive of refreshments.

The Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps and the Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at

the Portman Rooms on Tuesday, October 27, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Lady Aberconway, Miss Ethel Arnold, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Despard, and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Lind-af-Hageby. Reserved seats 2s. 6d. and 1s.; unreserved seats 6d.

The New Constitutional Society will hold a meeting at the N.C. Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, October 27, at 3 p.m. Miss Zoe Hawley will speak on the National Food Supply.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, October 28, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. J. Cameron Grant and Mrs. M. W. Nevinsin. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

Suffragists should be interested in a series of "Sermons for the Times" now being delivered on Sunday mornings in the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, by the Rev. John Hunter, D.D., at 11 o'clock. Dr. Hunter, formerly of King's Weigh House Church, London, and more recently of Trinity Church, Glasgow, is known for his firm championship of the women's cause, and will be remembered especially for his address called "A Holy War," published some little time ago. The first of his new series of sermons was preached last Sunday on "God in the Life of To-day." The subject of next Sunday's address will be "Seeing Things in the Right Light."

The date for the lantern lecture on "Belgium," to be given by the Very Rev. Prior McNabb, O.P., at the Kensington Town Hall, formerly stated as Monday, October 26, has now been changed to Tuesday, October 27.

The complete stocks held by the GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS CO., LTD., 112, Regent Street, London, W., afford a ready choice for the selection of ENGAGEMENT RINGS and other GEM JEWELLERY, WRIST WATCHES, GOLD and SILVER PLATE, CANTEENS of SPOONS, FORKS and CUTLERY in REGENT PLATE, DRESSING BAGS, SUIT CASES, &c., suitable for Presents for all occasions. Illustrated Catalogue post free on application.—ADVT.

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All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

HIGHER THOUGHT CENTRE, 40, Courtfield Gardens, S.W. 11.30. Mr. Henry Proctor, "Israel and Assyria"; 7. Dr. Riley, "True Happiness and How to Gain it."

S.T. MARY - AT - HILL - Church Army Church, Eastcheap. Sundays, 9 and 6, views, orchestra, band. Prebendary Carlile.

THE REV. JOHN HUNTER, D.D., will deliver a series of Sunday morning sermons in the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street, October 25, "Seeing things in the right light." Worship at 11 o'clock.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION. Sale of Work, Antiques, and Curios, Friday, October 23, 2.30 to 9.30, at Alan's Rooms, 263, Oxford Street. Proceeds for Welsh women and children suffering through the war. Mrs. D. A. Thomas will open the Sale. Speeches by Miss Abadam, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and others. Subject: "Women and War." Tickets, price 1s. (including tea) up to 6.30; 3d. after. May be obtained from Mrs. Mansell-Moulin, 69, Wimpole Street, W., or at the door. Please come.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL Society for Women's Suffrage. Meeting at 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday, October 27. "The National Food Supply," Miss Zoe Hawley.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds Public Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: October 28, Mr. J. Cameron Grant, "Women in the Inventors' World," and Mrs. M. W. Nevinson. The chair will be taken at 3.30 by Mrs. Huntsman. Admission free.

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