

## The War Paper for Women

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No 347.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1914.

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

## THE TWO WARS



**THE WOMAN** (reading the Prime Minister's message): "You want more of my sons to die for their country and for liberty? Free their sisters, by giving them the protection of the vote, and the country will be really worth dying for in the cause of liberty!"

(In a recruiting message to East Fife Liberals, Mr. Asquith said: "The issue of the war means everything to this country and to all nations who love liberty.")

# UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**Thursday, November 5: 8 p.m. Large Portman Rooms, Baker Street.**—Public Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Israel Zangwill, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Pamber 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 29: 8.15 p.m.**—Corner of Walworth Road and Heygate Street.—Mrs. C. Gregory, Miss A. Somers, and Mr. E. R. Ranson.

**Monday, November 2: 8.15 p.m.**—Corner of Heygate Street and Walworth Road.—Mrs. Walker and Mrs. C. Gregory.

**Tuesday, November 3: 8.15 p.m.**—Corner of London Road and Garden Row.—Mrs. Darby, Miss E. Hickey.

(The meeting on Thursday night now takes place at Heygate Street instead of Liverpool Street, as the latter corner is too dark.)

## OUR "AT HOME"

A large crowd of members and friends met in the Eustace Miles Restaurant, last Friday evening, at the "At Home," given by the Committee of the U.S. Excellent speeches were made by Mrs. Harben and Mr. W. L. George, both speaking for the first time on our platform. Many offers of help were received, both for the U.S. Women's Club to be opened shortly in Southwark, and also for the Christmas Sale in December. It was altogether a friendly, useful little gathering, and the Committee hope to give more At Homes of the kind during the winter.

## THE PORTMAN ROOMS MEETING

For list of speakers and prices of tickets at this important meeting on November 5 see above Diary of Events. All who read this are asked to make the meeting a success by applying at once to the offices at 3, Adam Street:—

(1) To the Ticket Secretary for tickets, which they can use themselves or pass on to their friends;

(2) To the Hon. Secretary for handbills to distribute, saying what day and hour could be given to this necessary work.

It is essential that the Portman Rooms meeting should be no less successful than previous ones held by the United Suffragists, especially at this juncture when they are working so hard to show the suffrage movement in its right relation to the European war.

## THE WOMEN'S CLUB

The U.S. Women's Club will provide a warm and pleasant place for women to read the papers in, see the war maps, play draughts and other games, and procure a substantial tea for a low price; and it will be opened as soon as sufficient furniture has been presented to make it habitable. The whole of a small house has been taken in Southwark, and a caretaker will live on the premises. Already we have received promises of a piano, a table, two or three chairs, and a certain amount of crockery and knives and forks. The following articles are urgently needed:—

Kettles, teapots, plates, dishes, jugs, knives and spoons, chairs, strong tables, curtains, tablecloths, also promises of food to be sent regularly every week. Mrs. P. C. Darby has promised for instance, to send some cakes every week. Meat patties, bread, butter, eggs, jam, meat

for sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and milk will be principally required.

### Important Notice.

As the club house is not yet occupied, it is most important that all offers should be made first in writing to the Hon. Secretary, United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.

## CHRISTMAS SALE

December 4

Miss Brewster, who is kindly acting as Honorary Christmas Sale Secretary, reports that offers are coming in well for both stalls and special help. The following stalls have now been kindly undertaken:—

Produce Stall: Mrs. Harben.

Toy Stall: Miss Postlethwaite.

Book Stall: Miss Craies.

General Stall: Mrs. Drinkwater.

Parcels Stall: Mrs. Davies and Miss Young.

Bran Tubs (6d. and 1d. dips): Mrs. Hutt.

The sweet stall still needs to be undertaken. As this is a very profitable one, Miss Brewster hopes that some one will soon come forward for this purpose.

Will everyone be kind enough to contemplate sending in articles for any of these stalls notify the intention beforehand by post, and as soon as possible?

We remind our readers that the proceeds of the sale are to be devoted to the Women's Club in Southwark.

### Co-operation of other Societies

The Women's Freedom League, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, will all be represented at the Sale by stalls of their own, the proceeds of which will be devoted to their own special funds.

### A Special Appeal

The Actresses' Franchise League are kindly organizing entertainments during the Sale, at which all the professional artistes will receive a fee. More of these can be engaged if more funds are forthcoming for the purpose. We appeal to our readers to remember the many services rendered to the cause by these most generous members of a generous profession, and now that the war has brought them within sight of destitution, to enable US to help a few of them in their hour of need by sending us special donations with which to pay their fees at the Christmas Sale. Two objects will in this way be assisted—the Women's Club and the artistes out of work through the war.

## "VOTES FOR WOMEN"

Interesting letters continue to reach us from readers all over the country, including one from Hertfordshire telling us how an amateur working party was brought to an end through the influence of the village nurse (a constant reader of our paper), and wage-earning women are now being employed by them to make shirts and socks for the soldiers.

A working man writes for a copy of the paper, "as I have some very hot opponents to contend with on the suffrage question."

A new member, sending in her membership card with a donation, mentions incidentally that she "subscribes regularly for twenty-six copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN." An example to be followed!

### It is Read in the A.B.'s Mess

Another member, sending a donation to the VOTES FOR WOMEN Fund, tells us that "after reading VOTES myself I send it on to my brother, who is an A.B. on active service. The paper is eagerly read by the men in his mess."

### Posters—A Special Request

A member who has for years paid for and supervised the display of a poster in a most

important position, writes that she is very reluctantly forced to give it up during the war, which has seriously affected her financial position. Will some one take it over until peace is assured? The cost is twenty-five shillings per annum.

## PAPER-SELLING.

Miss Elsie F. Boulting writes:—

Our readers will be happy to learn that our paper-sellers are keeping up their records in spite of the war, and various pitches require more helpers. The Oxford Street and Oxford Circus captains have secured recruits, but more are wanted all over London. Volunteers for this very useful part of our campaign should communicate with the Paper-selling Organiser at headquarters, or any of the pitch captains. On Wednesday in last week over thirty London paper-sellers met at tea in the U.S. offices and exchanged ideas with the editorial staff.

**Oxford Street.**—Mrs. Masters, 28, Oakington Road, Maida Vale, W.

**Oxford Circus.**—Mrs. Hutt, 12, Wharfedale Street, Redcliffe Square, S.W.

**Tottenham Court Road.**—Miss B. Putnam, 66, Walm Lane, Cricklewood, N.W.

**Kensington, High Street.**—Miss Morrison, 11, Addison Mansions, Blyth Road, Kensington, W.

**Charing Cross.**—Headquarters, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

**Wood Green.**—Miss E. Beazley, 14, Windsor Road, Palmers Green, N.

**Ealing Broadway.**—Miss V. Crocker, 28, Woodfield Avenue, Ealing, W.

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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

A forecast of the King's Speech, to be delivered at the opening of the new Session on November 11, has appeared in the daily papers; and we are told that it will be brief in character, and will refer, first to the war, and secondly to emergency and financial legislation which will occupy the attention of Parliament. Since women are thus presumably to be asked to contribute to the expenses of a war in which they had and have no voice, Suffragists are justified in expecting that the Government will choose this moment of universal peace at home to recognise their debt to women, and will include among the emergency Bills a non-controversial measure of Woman Suffrage.

### The Suffragist Amnesty

We are reminded of the cessation of militancy (which makes it particularly easy for the Government to do as we suggest) by the unconditional discharge at Taunton, last week, of Miss Gertrude Francis, a militant Suffragist, indicted for firing hay stacks last July and committed for trial at the Somerset Autumn Assize. The Attorney-General had issued a *nolle prosequi* in the case which was handed to the Judge after the Grand Jury had returned a true bill against her. All these legal forms had to be gone through, and numbers of militants are still uncertain whether they can be re-arrested or not, because the Home Secretary granted an amnesty, last August, that was not an amnesty, and said that he had "no power" to discharge prisoners that were not in prison. Of course, for all we know, militant "mice" may have been presenting themselves at Holloway Gaol, asking meekly to be discharged, ever since. But somehow, in the words of the Tommies in the trenches, we *don't* think.

### Suffragists and the C.D. Acts

The immediate peril of the C.D. Acts has been averted, thanks to the prompt action taken by those suffrage societies that have not abandoned the purpose for which they exist though a European war rages abroad and devastates the hearth at home. The Women's Freedom League, in answer to a letter quoted by us last week, have received another reply from Mr. Asquith's secretary, containing the assurance that none of the Acts which have been passed by Parliament for the duration of the war, "confer any powers which would have the effect of reviving the provisions of the Contagious Diseases Acts, either in letter or spirit." Remembering a certain broken pledge of Mr. Asquith's which he promised to keep "both in letter and spirit," Suffragists may be forgiven, perhaps, for not attaching undue importance to this assurance regarding the C.D. Acts. It is followed up, however, by an engagement to "cause enquiry to be made" into any action, that may be brought to his notice, that seems to confer such powers on the police or other authorities; and this seems to us at once a guarantee of good faith and a further incentive to Suffragists towards "eternal vigilance."

### The U.S. and Mr. Asquith

On reading the reply sent to the Women's Freedom League, the Committee of the United

Suffragists decided not to press further for an interview with Mr. Asquith in view of that reply and of the present national crisis. Mrs. Ayrton Gould, in a letter to the Prime Minister's secretary, pointed out on behalf of the Committee, that—

At the same time we should not be doing our duty to the members of our society, who are very deeply exercised over the whole matter, if we did not ask you to bring very earnestly to the Prime Minister's notice our fears lest, in spite of his assurance, special powers may be exercised by the police in those districts where semi-military law has been established, and our hope that he will, having regard to the political helplessness of women, exercise special vigilance with regard to those districts as long as the present conditions continue. Our readers may rest assured that this special vigilance will meanwhile be exercised by Suffragists universally.

### Widespread Protests

We have received numbers of letters congratulating us on our prompt and vigorous protest against the scandalous action of the Plymouth Watch Committee, among them letters from men and women who knew Josephine Butler or worked on her committees. The Irish Women's Franchise League and the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union have passed strong resolutions against the threatened re-enactment, and the majority of those who have written to the papers on the subject have been equally opposed to such legislative proposals. The *Irish Citizen*, as usual, puts the matter with blunt truth when it says:—

Fortunately for Feminism, all suffragists have not been swept aside to relief work exclusively during the war. Those who have kept their forces together, standing for suffrage in war as in peace, now see the wisdom of that policy fully justified. The enemies of suffrage never call a truce. While women are knitting socks and devoting themselves to relief works, the C.D. Acts may be upon them.

It is certainly true that the Anti-Suffragists have not lent a hand in averting this threatened outrage to all women. But where are the Antis of yesterday?

### War Casualties at Home

Suffragists, too, are responsible for the fight that is being put up to secure a decent wage for women in war time. The *Women's Dreadnought*, the organ of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, points out that in Stepney War Office contractors are paying only 2s. 9d. or 2s. 4d. for making a soldier's khaki coat, 3s. 3d. for an overcoat, and 10d. for a pair of trousers. The Board of Trade, as the outcome of a deputation from the Federation and subsequent correspondence, now practically declines to take any action to prevent the sweating of women employed on army contracts. What would be the answer of the Board of Trade, we wonder, to a Federation of women armed with votes? Or rather, we do not wonder.

### "Women and Children Last"

Under this significant title a strong leading article appears in the current issue of the *Nation* condemning the scandal of the weekly allowances due to soldiers' wives, and pensions due to their widows. It says, in reference to the whole business of the men's compulsory allotment, dealt with in our leading article last week:—

The entire transaction is one of the crudest pieces of unkindness that a public department could commit, and the explanation is so involved that the woman who can understand it ought to be made a First Class Clerk in the Treasury.

If there were a First Woman Clerk, not of the

## DON'T FORGET

The Meeting at

THE PORTMAN ROOMS,

On Thursday, November 5.

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW.

(For particulars see opposite page.)

Treasury, but of the War Office, we do not think the administration of State aid to the wives and widows of our brave men would need an explanation.

### The English Alien Enemy

Acute distress has been caused among English wives of German and Austrian residents in this country by the wholesale arrests made during the past week. The bitter injustice of the nationalisation law is doubly felt when war comes and classes British-born women as "enemies" because they have married foreigners. The Englishman, on the other hand, who marries a foreign wife suffers no such disability. A great deal of sympathy has been poured out in the Press on behalf of these unjustly treated wives, over 2,000 of whom have applied for help to two Societies in London alone; but only Suffragists recognise the insult to women contained in this failure to recognise their separate existence. And Suffragists are foremost in giving practical aid to these victims of our Anti-Suffrage State laws; for the International Women's Suffrage Alliance was the first to come forward for this purpose, and, under the name of the International Women's Relief Committee, is rendering valuable assistance to them.

### Person and Property

The high value placed upon property in this country as compared with that placed upon human life and person has never been more baldly illustrated than in two cases brought into the Courts last week in connection with the aliens in our midst. With regard to the one, an action for damage committed to the property of German residents in Deptford, the magistrate expressly stated that aliens had not lost their legal rights owing to the war. With regard to the other, the case of an Austrian woman at Willesden demanding a summons for assault against a neighbour, the magistrate is reported to have dismissed the summons on the ground that as an alien enemy she had lost her legal rights. So German property is protected because it is property, and German women are not to be protected because they are women!

### Women Doctors and the War

Dr. Florence Stoney gives an account on page 37 of this issue (to be concluded next week) of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's women's hospital for wounded soldiers recently in Antwerp. The *Globe* commented last Friday on the admirable work also done, and still being done, in Paris by the Women's Hospital Corps taken over there by Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson (a vice-president of the U.S.). The *Globe* remarks on the fact that many of this Corps are Suffragists, and adds:—

That the work is being carried out with such remarkable success is admirable testimony to their administrative abilities.

This is no news to us, of course, who know that it would be difficult to find a woman of "administrative ability," least of all a medical woman, who is not also a Suffragist!

### Items of Interest

We are glad to announce that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence has arrived safely in New York, where she will address a mass meeting in the Carnegie Hall to-day (Friday) on "War and Women."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking last week on the increase of intemperance owing to the war, brought his indictment equally against men and women, and pleaded with regard to the latter that it was natural they should go to the public-house for news and companionship. It is to meet this need among women that the U.S. Club for Women is being started in Southwark.

As we go to Press we hear that an Army order has at last been issued dealing with separation allowances for soldiers' relatives other than wives and children.

Mrs. Pankhurst addressed a crowded meeting at Bradford, last week, on "The German Peril"; and Miss Christabel Pankhurst made her first appearance in America at a public meeting in New York last Saturday, when she spoke to a large audience on the same subject.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in VOTES FOR WOMEN should be sent to The Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

The Editors cannot hold themselves in any way responsible for the return of unused manuscripts, though they will endeavour as far as possible to return them when requested if stamps for postage are enclosed. MSS. should, if possible, be type-written.

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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.

## UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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

**OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on equal terms with men.**

### Membership Card

The United Suffragists—

(1) Believe that men and women can usefully cooperate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.

(2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.

(3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability.

Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.

I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss) .....

Please write clearly.

Address .....

Fill in the above form and post it to Hon. Sec., United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, London, W.C.

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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 30, 1914.

## THE RIGHT TO SERVE

We tell ourselves daily, and in a sense truly, in conversation and in newspapers—particularly in newspapers—that under the pressure of a common danger and through the fire of a common enthusiasm the nation is welded into unity; that the interests of the community imply a community of interests. It is unfortunate for the nation that, despite all this, so many people should inappropriately cling to obsolete delimitations of function, insisting by their actions, if not by their words, that still, though the heavens fall, men are men and women are obstinately women.

There are ten thousand ways in which the faculties, the sympathy, and experience of women might be utilised for the common good to-day, over and above the ways in which they are being utilised. Where they are used, the nation profits; where they are rejected, the nation suffers. And wherever there is rejection, it is wholly and solely because an antique prejudice interferes. It is not because of any selfish or partisan claim on the part of the women themselves. They are not bargaining for their rights. They are not recording their wrongs. They are offering, not asking; or, if they ask at all, asking only to be allowed to help.

A few instances may stand as typical of many. Trams and buses are being taken off the streets in large numbers because there are not drivers for them: the conductors are consequently thrown out of work. Yet women who are competent to drive are not taken on to do so. The postal services are getting disarranged, and punctual delivery of letters is no longer attained or even promised. Now, however bitterly men persist in being men, however rigorously women cleave to their womanhood, there is no sexual disability to prevent the carrying of letters by women. Yet postwomen are not being employed to any extent worth speaking of (they have not, of course, been quite unknown in remote country districts for some time past).

Again, a correspondent to the *Manchester Guardian* has pointed out, that agricultural work in Yorkshire is being greatly impeded for lack of labour. When approached on the subject, the farmers at first declared—for fear, apparently, of having female labour thrust upon them—that there was no particular shortage. Yet, at a meeting of the Yorkshire Farmers' Union, it has been declared that 30,000 agricultural labourers have been called up for the war from East Yorkshire alone, and it has been suggested that their places should be taken by Belgian refugees. We should be the last to deprecate any scheme for

the alleviation of the unspeakable sufferings which are being endured by our Belgian friends (though it is perhaps worth while pointing out that by employing Belgians to do profit-producing work at the ordinary wage which would otherwise be paid to English workers, employers of labour are not conferring any favour or going any way towards discharging our debt to a martyred country: they are merely entering into a business relationship). But the odd part of the situation is that many of the most experienced Belgian agricultural workers are women. (To that, apparently, there is no objection. The writ of sex, we suppose, does not run across the water: in countries other than our own, men generously cease to be men and women, with exquisite tact, forbear to be women.) Nor is this all: the Yorkshire farmers have actually appealed to the Board of Education temporarily to lower the school leaving age to twelve.

At least, if English women are to be debarred from many of the useful pursuits here, those of them who have with admirable foresight and devotion trained themselves for precisely the present emergency, by qualifying as nurses, might be allowed to make use of their knowledge and experience abroad. There are still, apparently, trained nurses at home who cannot get their services accepted, while in France the inevitable ghastliness of war is increased beyond endurance through lack of precisely these same trained nurses. It is merely a matter of organisation. A small committee of women working with the War Office could arrange the whole thing in a few days. The French are, of course, doing all they can for their own wounded, but in a war of this unexampled suddenness and inconceivable magnitude it is not surprising that the supply of trained nurses on the spot should be inadequate.

It will be observed that in each of these cases it is the community as a whole which suffers. It suffers for want of trams and buses: it suffers from the delay of postal deliveries: it suffers from the fear of insufficiency of agricultural produce: it suffers from the suffering of the French wounded. In short, the women's present claim is the old one—the same as the claim to the vote. It is the claim to serve. If a man's desire to serve is thwarted by untoward circumstances, he is pitied. If a man cannot take arms because of ill-health, he is not told that a kind Providence is shielding him, is safeguarding him, is setting him on a pedestal. He is not congratulated on his immunity from the pains and dangers of campaigning: he is given credit for hating his immunity: he is commiserated.

Yet when women are excluded from serviceable activities which they passionately desire to undertake, it is customary to add insult to injury by assuring them that they are being shielded, safeguarded, held as "things enskied and sainted." Once and for all, that is no consolation. It is no compensation. It is no palliation. It is an aggravation of the wrong. People (whether men or women) do not want to be shielded. They do not want to be exempt from the common toils or the common obligations. They want to suffer and strive like their fellows. They want to give their utmost. They want to serve.

# THE HOSPITAL STOBART IN ANTWERP

By Florence A. Stoney, M.D., B.S.Lond.

I. Our hospital unit, under the auspices of the Women's Imperial Service League, was started and organised by Mrs. St. Clair Stobart. We were the 74th hospital extemporised in Antwerp under the Belgian Croix Rouge. Our special peculiarities were:—

(1) The staff consisted entirely of women (except the treasurer and a mechanic), and was self-contained.

(2) A full nursing staff of trained nurses.

(3) (If I may say so) an X ray equipment for the accurate localisation of bullets.

We had 6 doctors (later reduced to 4), 12 trained nurses, and 10 orderlies consisting of 2 trained cooks, 1 trained sanitary inspector, and others to do the household and ward work.

We went to Antwerp at the invitation of the Belgian Croix Rouge, and of Sir Cecil Hertzlet, the British Consul General. They received us most cordially, and gave us, as our hospital, a large wooden concert hall, standing in a public garden, on the Chaussée de Malines. The Croix Rouge had already begun converting it to our use. The lofty hall was divided by pillars into five aisles, and here we put up our 120 comfortable spring beds given us in England (later increased to 135), 4 rows of beds being put in the central aisle. These were covered with bright red and blue striped blankets, which, with the men's scarlet bedjackets, supplied by Miss MacNaughtan, the novelist, made the whole place look bright. The large French windows were kept open so that, unlike most other Antwerp hospitals, we had an abundance of fresh air. To one side were the kitchen and dining-room, underneath which were some small dismal cellars; on the other side was Mrs. Stobart's office, the dispensary with our store of drugs, and beyond that the Croix Rouge, knowing British proclivities, had fitted up a bathroom for the patients, with a large geyser, and had partitioned off an operating theatre and X-ray room.

### Cases and Efficiency

We arrived on September 20th, and on the 22nd the work began with an influx of 44 patients, mostly suffering from limb injuries, but some on stretchers; and after that the wounded came in night and day at all hours till we were quite full and overflowing on to straw mattresses placed on the orchestra, with many very serious cases among them. The Belgian military doctor came every few days and sent away all the lighter cases long before they were really well, to make room for fresh wounded from the trenches.

The hospital was inspected by many officials, both Belgian and English, besides the American Consul General of Belgium. The opinion of the latter, given after the evacuation, is interesting. He says: "One of the first buildings to be shelled was that run with such magnificent efficiency and success by the British women doctors."

Dr. Van Auben, the chief inspector of all military hospitals in Belgium, came often to see us; he was struck with how quietly and quickly each one of the whole staff attended to her special duties, without noise or confusion. He would not have said so if he had come when a large number of *blessties* were arriving; for then there was noise enough, till we got each one safely in bed and undressed, when they were so utterly exhausted they all, except those badly wounded, promptly went to sleep; but he usually came when we were all too busy to attend to him, so that it fell to Mrs. Stobart to

\* See *The Observer*, Oct. 11.

show the courtesies for the whole Corps. General Stainforth, the head military doctor, came every now and then and expressed himself as much satisfied.

We endeavoured to make the watchword of our Corps "Efficiency." The committee at home contributed much to this efficiency, keeping us supplied with the necessary money and stores. It was a strenuous time. When the water supply was cut off by the Germans, our sanitary inspector immediately organised water drill, to fetch water (such water!) from a neighbouring pump; she also kept all the lavatories in a marvellous state of healthiness—using disinfectants freely; and considering we had 130 patients and 30 on the staff, with a cut-off water supply, and not a single case of sore throat resulting, it says a good deal for Miss Dick!

### By Way of Prevention

The health of the Corps was also safeguarded by vaccination and anti-typhoid inoculation; a bottle of quinine stood handy for any-

one who suspected the possibility of a cold, hence colds were not epidemic; Miss Stanley contributed excellent cooking; all water and milk was boiled; and Dr. Watts, who is a trained gymnast, gave us morning drill and breathing exercises in the fresh morning sunshine, which made markedly for the health of the Corps.

This efficiency we tried to carry into our hospital work. We had the Red Cross rations like the other hospitals, yet the men said they were better fed with us. Was not this due to good cooking? In the theatre, the Croix Rouge had installed electric light, gas, hot and cold water, so that operations were carried on as conveniently as war circumstances permitted. In the X-ray department a commodious sink was placed, with electric light and fan: the room was light-tight, with walls and ceiling blackened. We owed a great deal to the efficiency with which the Belgian Croix Rouge fitted us up.

(To be concluded.)

## SERVICE

By G. Colmore

The platform was crowded. Wives, mothers, sisters had gathered there to say good-bye to the brothers, fathers, husbands who were off to the war. There was laughter—to keep back tears, and there were jokes, yes, and oaths—to cloak pain and disguise sentiment.

She stood close to the platform's edge, close to the train, a girl with a young drawn face, a wife of less than a year.

"You'll come back." Was it question or prophecy? But she repeated it: "You'll come back safe and sound"—repeated it again and again, for what can one say in these last moments?

"Sure. Sure I'll come back—to you and—"

"It'll be a boy, I'm sure it will," she said, "and take after you. It . . ."

He was kissing her good-bye now. "Good-bye, my girl, good-bye." And now he was in the train, waving; and his face—she could not see his face—there were so many faces, and her eyes were dim, though her lips smiled and smiled till the train, panting, puffing, gathering speed, had passed into the nothingness of distance.

He had not known that he could feel so fierce, so callous, so keen on killing. He had not known, when he had walked out in country lanes and sat in the first joy of marriage by his own fireside, that there were in himself and in the world emotions, scenes, deeds such as engulfed him now. It was a desperate struggle, death or conquest, and as it surged upon and around him, with its heroisms, its sublimities, its bloodthirstiness, its passions, the battle-fever laid hold upon him, and it was with an unthinking, instinctive energy that he fought and slew. In the intervals of respite, of rest that was not gripped by heavy irresistible sleep, or claimed by hunger or dominated by the scenes of horror, of pitifulness, of desolation around him, there came to him memories of the two rooms in Poplar that had formed his home, thoughts of the little life that was his and hers and was tending towards a separate existence, questionings as to what was going on in that far-off house that held her, as to how she was faring, how she looked. If—when he

was home again . . . In his thoughts it was almost always "when."

She had not dreamed that life could be quite so difficult. She knew poverty, had known it all her life, but not in its intensest form, not in the guise of destitution. His mother helped her, as far as a woman almost as poor as herself could help, and she did her best with odd jobs here and there to keep her life going, because of that other life that must be harboured, and because of the husband, swallowed up, hidden away in the thing called war, who would come back, most certainly would come back, when the war was over. She struggled on during those first weeks, before the money came that was due to her, struggled on in hunger, in privation, fighting patiently, as women fight, to make ready for the baby and the time when its father should come.

He was back at last, safe but not sound, for the wound was serious, and he was conveyed straight to hospital. He suffered, but not very much; the worst had been over there in France and the getting home; and the suffering seemed little when he thought of her coming. When would she come? She must know by now that he was there, safe, as she had prophesied, and soon to be sound. Each day, each hour, he wondered when the words would be said to him that would announce her coming.

"Someone to see you."

At last! Oh, the joy of it, that was almost pain!

"A—woman?" he stammered; but who would come but her?

The woman entered, and in her arms was a bundle, or something, some small living thing wrapped in a shawl, as he had hoped, expected, known that there would be; but a woman who walked slowly, whose form was bent; it was his mother who came to him.

Safe, and soon to be sound; but of what use, of what avail? There was the child, her child and his, but . . . He had fought and slain and suffered; he had served his country and come back. She too had fought, she too had served, bringing to the birth a new being for her country's service; but, weakened by the fight, called to tread the frontier of death, she had not come back.

For one shall be taken and the other left.

# MIDDLE-CLASS WOMEN AND THE WAR

It is slowly being borne in upon people's minds that women in the fighting line at home are enduring their full share of the sufferings of war. But it is not so generally conceded that the middle-class women, as well as those of the so-called working-class, have been very hardly hit by the war, and in many cases brought almost to the verge of destitution. Miss Winifred Mayo, the indomitable honorary secretary of the Actresses' Franchise League, gives some account on this page of the effect of the European crisis upon her profession, and the efforts that are being made by suffragists to stem the distress in that direction. Next week we hope to publish a few details of the kind of case that has come before the League, which may give our readers some idea of the way the stage has been injured by the outbreak of war.

### The Professional Women

Another class of educated women workers who have suffered badly are the members of the clerical profession. Lady Creve, writing to the *Times* on behalf of the Central Committee on Women's Employment, a body that has been much criticised for neglecting the claims of the professional woman, says that the unemployment of women clerks "is engaging the active attention of the committee, who have in hand a scheme designed to meet their needs as far as possible, for which a grant has been recommended by the Government Committee." This has happened none too soon, for, as another correspondent to the *Times* points out, "the need is growing very urgent," and the "small and struggling union of secretaries and typists" is "quite inadequate to their needs," though "testifying to the unselfish generosity so common among women workers."

### The Visiting Teacher

The same writer mentions also "the problem of the visiting teacher of special subjects in private families and schools," a class of woman without any organisation to fall back upon, though one of the first to be discharged as a "luxury" when war broke out and retrenchments had to be made. Other out-of-work middle-class women are manicurists, children's nurses, waitresses, highly qualified English governesses sent home from the Continent, book-keepers, dispensers, housekeepers. The most active organisation dealing with the unemployment among such women, and the first to take up their case, is the Women's Emergency Corps, among whose leaders are several prominent United Suffragists. We give below some account of the activities of the Corps.

### THE WAR AND THE THEATRE

#### What the A.F.L. is Doing to Stem Distress

(From a Correspondent)

In these unhappy days the minds of English people are naturally so much engrossed with the thoughts of war and the sufferings directly incident to it, that the troubles of whole classes of the community remain practically unnoticed.

Though so little attention is devoted to it, probably no interest has suffered more acutely from present circumstances than the theatre. Theatre-going is a luxury that must needs be dispensed with by many, an amusement that the heavy-hearted forego; productions are an all too risky investment for capitalists, so theatres are closed, touring companies recalled, and numbers of individuals whose livelihood depends on the prosperity of the theatre are now starving. In managerial circles it is something like high treason to admit bad times, and we have statements from high places to the effect that business is first-rate, that theatrical folk are thoroughly well provided for in any case, and the public is blinded to the fact that actors and actresses, scene painters and property men, limelight men and stage hands and their families are suffering the direst want.

### Helping Their Sisters

The Actresses' Franchise League turned their thoughts, on the outbreak of war, to their own people, and, with the "Era" War Distress Fund, are endeavouring to do something to mitigate the trouble.

It is, I think, not generally known that the difficulties of obtaining relief from the National Fund are almost insuperable in theatrical ranks. Of 300 cases I have met with, only two have obtained any grant from that quarter. The reasons for this are two in number (if we except the faulty amateur administration of the Funds). The first is that the war broke out at a time of year when theatrical enterprise is at its lowest ebb. The tours which should have started in August were abandoned, and theatres where rehearsals were just on the point of beginning for autumn productions have remained closed, therefore the stage hands, who were out of work—as they needs must be—in July, are not eligible for the Fund.

I have proved this in many instances. "Have you not applied for relief from the National Fund?" "Yes, but was told my husband was out of work before the war broke out, and that the Fund is only for those who lost work directly in consequence of the war."

### A Flaw in the Insurance Act

The second reason is caused by a flaw in the Insurance Act, by which theatrical workers, i.e., scene shifters, &c., are classed as pursuing a subsidiary employment, and therefore exempt from having their cards stamped. Out of 200 or so instances I have only found two whose employment in the theatre was not their primary employment. They have, therefore, no Insurance cards, or their cards are insufficiently stamped, which makes them ineligible for the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Actors and actresses who can obtain suitable recommendations may be helped by the Actors' Benevolent Fund, to which Sir Herbert Tree is contributing so largely from the proceeds of "Drake," but the poorer dependants of the theatre have no appeal but to the "Era" War Distress Fund, to which the proceeds of the "Woman's Theatre" will this year be devoted.

Winifred Mayo.

### TROOPS AND TROUPES

#### A Scheme to Help Both

An eminently practical scheme for dealing both with the distress in the acting profession and the present unsatisfactory condition of the camps, where thousands of young men are massed together with nothing to do after nightfall, has been presented to the Government by Miss Lena Ashwell. She points out that to employ volunteers, as has been suggested, in organising entertainments for the soldiers, is unfair to the troops if the volunteer is an amateur, and unfair to the volunteer if the volunteer is a professional artist. Miss Ashwell's idea is to organise fifty travelling companies, on the basis of there being about fifty places to visit where troops are quartered, each company to consist of about ten artists and to play three nights at each place, which would ensure a complete change of bill every three nights. Each company would cost in salaries about £40 10s. per week; another £10 would cover other expenses, excluding railway fares. Takings, at the rate of 500 soldiers a performance, with seats at 6d. and 2d., would come to about £50 per week.

### The A. F. L. at Work

Meanwhile the Actresses' Franchise League is actually organising entertainments of the kind for the troops, with the authorisation of the Army Council. Miss Inez Bensusan, who has conducted both the Woman's Theatre and the Play Department of the A.F.L. with such marked financial success, means to make the scheme self-supporting, the cast being paid moderate fees. These entertainments, as soon as arrangements are completed, will be given in all the camps throughout the country.

### THE WOMEN'S EMERGENCY CORPS

#### A Good Meeting

Another successful meeting was held by the Women's Emergency Corps on Thursday in last week at the Savoy Theatre.

The Chairman, Miss Lena Ashwell, briefly outlined the methods and aims of the Corps in order to enlighten those who even yet might be in ignorance

of the work that was being carried on. She also gave some interesting statistics with regard to the various departments of the organisation, which now has under its control two thousand voluntary workers. Speaking of the interpreting department, Miss Ashwell related an amusing story of an English Tommy, who, when asked which he would prefer to learn, French or German, replied, "French, miss, if you please, for we have better ways than talking—for the Germans!"

### Lest They Forget

Mr. T. M. Kettle, a keen supporter of Woman Suffrage and a special correspondent to the *Daily News*, thrilled his audience with "The Story of Belgium," opening his address with some striking remarks upon Woman Suffrage. He hoped that the opponents of Woman Suffrage, whom he described as the "Prussians of the sex problem," would notice and remember the burden which the women had borne during the war as well as the burden of peace.

### THE "THREE ARTS" FUND

The Three Arts Women's Employment Fund is co-operating with the Women's Emergency Corps in raising money for the purpose of providing maintenance and training for destitute members of the painting, musical, and dramatic professions. It is thought that if these could be engaged in some productive industry during the war, such as market gardening, food preservation, and so on, the country would benefit as well as the women whose special work, considered a luxury, is not in demand at the moment. Suffragists are behind this, as behind most of the practical schemes for helping women to-day; and among those responsible for the Three Arts Fund are Miss Lena Ashwell, Madame Clara Butt, and Sir Luke Fildes.

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## COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

### LIGHT SENTENCES

#### Manslaughter of a Mother

The *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* (October 13) reports case of a man charged before Sheriff-Substitute Orr at Edinburgh Sheriff Court with brutally assaulting his aged mother, kicking her and beating her with his fists so that she died. There were seven previous convictions and one for assaulting his mother.  
Sentence: *Two years' imprisonment.*

#### Attack on Wife and Baby

The *Morning Advertiser* (October 8) reports case of a ship's clerk charged at West Ham Police Court with assaulting his wife, punching her in the face and throwing her downstairs with the baby in her arms. It was stated that he had assaulted her on other occasions.  
Sentence: *One month's hard labour.*

#### Gross Cruelty to a Calf

The *Derbyshire Times* (October 17) reports case of a farmer charged at Wilksworth Police Court, before Messrs. G. H. Wheatcroft (Chairman), J. Bowmer, and Dr. Broster, with cruelty to a calf. The calf broke its shoulder last June, was turned out with the others, and a month later the bone came through the skin. The wound was not cleaned or dressed, and the animal was in great pain when seen by the police in September. When advised by his wife to put it out of its misery by killing it, he said he hadn't time to bother with it.  
Sentence: *Fined £2 and costs.*

The war is evidently not softening the hearts of our judges and magistrates towards the man who offends against property, even when semi-starvation is alleged in defence; nor, on the other hand, do these gentlemen appear to think it is their business to guard against "atrocities" being committed in other countries by dealing severely with atrocities committed over here. Our table of punishments brings this out very clearly this week. A mother is killed under exceptionally brutal circumstances, a wife and baby are thrown downstairs, a calf is subjected to sickening torture and ill-treatment—and the aggregate sentence imposed for these three serious offences against life and person amounts to two years, one month, and a paltry fine.

Compared with these are a petty charge after losing his post through the war (employers who economise in this way, please note!), a few small sums obtained by false pretences, and an alleged "attempt" at burglary. And the aggregate sentence for these three infinitely smaller crimes, committed, however, against property, amounts to six years' penal servitude and one year's hard labour, in addition to an old unfinished term of 17 months!

Could there be a greater proof of the savage standard preserved in this country with regard to person and property, or of the need for the woman's help in readjusting the proportion between the two?

### THE ALIEN ENEMY

#### A British Atrocity?

If a case reported both in the *Evening News* (October 10) and the *Willesden Chronicle* (October 16) is accurately given—which seems to us scarcely credible—a British magistrate has given considerable incitement, both to the Allies and to the enemy, to say nothing of hooligans in this

### HEAVY SENTENCES

#### A Petty Theft

The same paper of the same date reports case of a ticket-of-leave man charged before the Lord Justice General, in the Edinburgh High Court of Justiciary, with breaking into a house and stealing a bag and a measuring tape. The defence was that he had lost his situation through the war and was in a state of semi-starvation.  
Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude (in addition to 17 months' unexpired sentence).*

#### False Pretences

The *Times* (September 18) reports case of an agent charged at the Central Criminal Court before Judge Atherley Jones with obtaining three guineas by false pretences, impersonating a musician. It was stated that other sums had been paid him before.  
Sentence: *Twelve months' hard labour.*

#### Attempted Burglary

The *Morning Advertiser* (October 16) reports case of an engineer indicted before the Recorder at the Central Criminal Court for attempted burglary at a private residence in Brockley. He was found with two others "acting suspiciously," was seen to go to a basement window, and several keys were found in his pocket when arrested. He said he was on his way to his work.  
Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*

country, to commit atrocities on women. It is stated that when an Austrian woman applied at Willesden Police Court on October 10 for a summons for assault (the Willesden paper says "against a neighbour for insulting her"), the magistrate refused to grant it on the ground that he did not think an alien enemy had any legal rights in English courts now.

A very little reflection reveals the full enormity of this decision. Mr. J. J. Hanbury may have been legally right in his surmise—we confess we think it would have been better to make quite sure on so important a point before dismissing the case—but if his judgment was correct, what ground of complaint have we left against German soldiers who in all the heat and lust of war assault alien women and children? Compared with the Willesden judgment, they may be within their legal rights. Still more so would they be in Germany, where Englishwomen are now interned, if they chose to assault and insult these alien enemies of theirs—that is, unless German law is more humane and just than ours as interpreted in the Willesden case.

Another point arising out of this case is the more immediate danger in which the Austrian woman has been placed by the decision in question. Apparently she, or any other German or Austrian woman in our midst, is fair game for any man who chooses to assault or insult her. If this is the English law, it cuts the ground from beneath the feet of those who condemn atrocities in Belgium.

### The Same Old Situation

But is it? We seem to remember cases in the past week arising out of riots in Deptford, in which magistrates repudiated the view that alien enemies have no rights in our Courts when attacks upon their property are in question. So, after all, we merely come back to the old familiar situation that a woman may be assaulted or insulted with impunity, but property is to be held sacred!

## COMING EVENTS

The Rev. John Hunter, D.D., will deliver a series of Sunday morning sermons at the Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street. The sermon for November 1 will be "Our Invisible Allies and Helpers."

The Women's Freedom League holds public meetings at the Suffrage Club, York Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon at 3.30 p.m. The speakers for November 4 will be Mrs. Flora Annie Steel on "The Responsibilities of Women," and Mrs. Despard.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting at the Portman Rooms on Thursday, November 5, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver, and Mrs. Israel Zangwill. Chair: Mrs. Frederick Whelen.

### A SALE OF WORK RESULT

The Sale of Work organised by the Forward Cymric Suffrage Union for distressed Welsh women and children realised the sum of £53 10s., and Mrs. Mansell Moullin most warmly thanks all those who so kindly helped to make it such a success.

### AUTUMN AND WINTER FASHIONS

A charmingly illustrated catalogue of autumn and winter fashions has just been issued by Messrs. Goringe, of Buckingham Palace Road. Here only a few examples of an extensive stock are reproduced, but there are many attractive items to be selected. Among a vast number of pretty dresses is the neat little gown of tomato poplin, made with a long pleated tunic, and relieved with touches of black. All may be obtained at moderate prices.

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### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LEAGUE OF JUSTICE,** 22, South Molton Street, W. "At Home" speeches and tea, 3.30, Wednesday, Nov. 4. Suffragists and friends invited. Members please rally.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** holds Public Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers Nov. 4: Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, "The Responsibilities of Women," and Mrs. Despard. The Chair will be taken at 3.30. Admission free.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

**LADY** receives slight mental or delicate cases; beautifully situated quiet house; doctors' references; moderate terms.—"Malvern," Ringwood Avenue, Redhill, Surrey.

**SINGER SEWING MACHINE** for Hire, perfect condition, 2s. 6d. weekly; brought and fetched free in Kensington district.—Write Miss Feden, Halyon Club, Cork Street, W.

### BUSINESS, Etc.

**ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR,** soft and fleecy, yet guaranteed unshrinkable. A far greater choice of texture and sizes than in shops. Write for patterns direct to Dept. 31, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

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## PLEASE TO REMEMBER THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER

And buy your Tickets at once for our next

## PUBLIC MEETING in the PORTMAN ROOMS

(Baker Street, London, W.)

At 8 p.m.

Chair: Mrs. FREDERICK WHELEN

Speakers:

Mrs. ISRAEL ZANGWILL  
Mr. GEORGE LANSEBURY  
Mrs. E. CAVENDISH BENTINCK  
Mrs. PEMBER REEVES  
Mr. H. BAILLIE WEAVER

The Irish Citizen says: "Those who have kept their forces together, standing for Suffrage in War as in Peace, now see the wisdom of that policy fully justified. The enemies of Suffrage never call a truce. . . . While women are knitting socks the C.D. Acts may be upon them."

### SUPPORT THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS WHO HELPED TO AVERT THE PERIL OF THE C.D. ACTS

TICKETS: 2s. 6d. and 1s. (Numbered and Reserved); 6d. Unreserved. Apply Ticket Secretary, United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

**MODERN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,** Letchworth.—Principal, Miss Cartwright, M.A.; staff includes specialists and University graduates; pupils prepared for professional entrance examinations; bracing moorland air; home comforts.

**LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.** Boarding School for Girls on Progressive Thought lines.—Principal, Miss Richardson, B.A. The school stands in its own grounds, where tennis, hockey and cricket are played. Home care. Thorough tuition. Entire charge of children coming from abroad.

**MRS. MARY LAYTON, F.R.C.O.** (Hon. Organist to the W.S.P.U.). Voice Culture for Singers and Speakers. Private Lessons in Singing. Singing Classes and Ladies' Choir. Please note change of address to "The Chalet," 2, Fulham Park Road, S.W.

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**LADIES WANTED** to Train as children's nurses at Babies' Home, Belfast; fee, £15 for 6 months; good posts obtained after training.—Apply Matron.

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**A MODEL LAUNDRY.**—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt deliveries.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

**LADIES' and Children's Linen** carefully washed and daintily finished by Beaven's Laundry, 90, Lavender Road, Clapham Junction, S.W. A trial solicited. Personal management.

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