THE VOTE, Oct. 16, 1914. ONE PENNY

The Curse of Kaiserism.

ORGAN THE

VOL. X. No. 260.

[Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, OCT. 16, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

BRANCH NOTES.

Proposed Revival of the Contagious Diseases Act. The Women's Freedom League takes Immediate Action. Deputation to the Prime Minister.

The recommendation of the Plymouth Watch Committee to the Town Council that the Contagious Diseases Acts should be re-established in that town resulted in a large number of telegrams being despatched to the Town Council's meeting on Monday afternoon. Miss Hare, of Brighton, called the attention of the Council of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, sitting on Monday morning, to the incident, and roused several of the Suffrage and other reform societies in her neighbourhood to take immediate action.

The following telegrams were sent: -

"Women's Freedom League hears with amazement and indignation of suggestion of Plymouth Watch Committee to revive the Contagious Diseases Acts. Hopes that Commanding Officers will place all possible restraint on men rather than encourage this wholesale insult to womanhood of country."

"Women Suffrage National Aid Corps protests strongly against re-enactment of Contagious Diseases Acts, found by practical experience and consensus of medical opinion recently expressed at International Medical Congress to be useless and dangerous, and feels that local authorities should recommend Commanding Officers at this time of national crisis to retain their men under proper control at night."

On Tuesday morning, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Anna

Munro, and Miss Boyle repaired to No. 10, Downing Street, to ask for an interview with the Prime Minister. They were received by Mr. Bonham Carter, who promised to notify by telephone whether the Prime Minister would discuss the matter with them. Later in the day Headquarters was informed that owing to a prolonged meeting of the Cabinet no arrangement could be made for that day, and that Mr. Asquith, who had no information on the subject in question and had not heard of the action of the Watch Committee in Plymouth, desired that the whole matter should be laid before him in writing so that he could go into it thoroughly before seeing the deputation.

The National Executive Committee, at its recent entire, had resolved to approach the Prime meeting, had resolved to approach Minister on several other subjects, which are giving some concern at present. The chief points which will be discussed with him (at a later date) are:—

- (a) The altogether inadequate allowances to widows of soldiers and sailors, and to mothers dependent on sons killed on active
- (b) The painful and degrading condition of British women married to aliens.

Both these scandals call for prompt redress.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS (organised by the Women's Freedom League), is holding a Public Meeting at Portman Rooms, Baker Street (entrance in Dorset Street), on Tuesday, October 27. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard,
Miss Ethel Arnold, Miss Lind-af-Hageby and
Miss Nina Boyle. During the evening the
Rev. D. Houston Collisson, who so kindly assisted us at our International Suffrage Fair, and. more recently, spoke at one of our Wednesday afternoon meetings at Caxton Hall, will sing some his inimitable Irish songs. It will interest readers of THE VOTE to learn that Miss Ethel Arnold is a niece of Matthew Arnold, and a sister of Mrs. Humphry Ward, and that she is wellknown throughout America as a lecturer not only on literature but also on Woman Suffrage. Tickets for reserved seats can be obtained at the Women's Freedom League Office, at 2/6 and 1/-, and unreserved 6d. There will be some free seats, tickets for which can be had from 1, Robert Street. We rely on our readers to rally to our support on October 27, the object of the meeting being a special call to Suffragists to assist the work which is being undertaken by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings
At the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn
Street, Piccadilly. Next Wednesday the speakers
wil be Mrs. Tanner, who will deal with "Woman,
the Peacemaker," and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Miss Anna Munro at 3.30. The following Wednesday afternoon we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mr. J. Cameron Grant, who has chosen as the subject of his address "Women in the Inventors' World." Admission to these meetings is free and we shall take a collection in in the Inventors' World." aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

Members' Meeting
The next members' meeting will be held at the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, on Monday evening, November 9. Will members kindly reserve

Office Hours. During the winter months the W.F.L. Office will be open from 9.30 a.m. till 5 p.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. Monday evenings the front office will be kept open until 8 o'clock for the sale of our merchandise, THE VOTE and other literature.

THE CURSE OF KAISERISM.

[We are glad to give our readers the following summary of Mr. Laurence Housman's lecture at Mrs. Ronald McAllister's on October 7.].

At the outbreak of this War, remarked Mr. Housman, Suffragists were told that their propaganda must cease, but he asked if it was customary for people to drop their religion in War time or to desist from preaching the truth of a particular way to salvation because others differed from that doctrine. In the lecturer's view, Suffrage was the way of salvation, and he maintained that if the national mind of Germany had been open to the cause of Woman's Suffrage the curse of Kaiserism would have been impossible, because the Nation open to the justice of Woman Suffrage could not base its policy on the unjust doctrine that Might is Right.

is Right produced an aspect of strength, but was in reality a source of weakness. Germany had made herself a most powerful fighting machine, but in the mental and physical processes for the achievement of that end she had revolted human nature; and human nature was stronger than machinery. Aggressive War was based and waged on the theory that Might was Right. We wanted the prevention of War in the future by the exaltation of the doctrine that the strength of a State lies in its Mother Spirit, and that the most Mothering State is the strongest in ideal and fact. The Suffrage Movement meant a fuller recognition of motherhood. both in the State and in the Home,—an endeavour to make a fitter and stronger Nation through ways peace. The strength of civilisation was its heart: if it was heartless, civilisation became merely a horrible machine, and the State that committed itself to the doctrine that Might is Right would inevitably become heartless and would breed heartlessness; so when a State violated its treaties, and the rights of weaker Nations, it was only to be expected that its men would also violate women.

Germany's offer of protection to Belgium was very similar to the conditional protection offered by anti-Suffragists to women; her offer was based on the assumption that she was going to be successful in this War. Had Belgium accepted that offer she would have been judged at the end of the War unfit for independence, and would probably have become the province of another State. But when Belgians preferred to die in thousands rather than give up their independence, Germany regarded that assertion of Belgium's right to call her soul her own as an act of War; and held Belgium responsible for the consequences. That is precisely the "Sex War" attitude of the Anti-Suffragist over again.

There may have been some justification for Germany's surprise that England has not acquiesced in this Might is Right doctrine. We allowed a similar wrong to be done in Persia only the other day. Similarly, fifty years ago, we looked on and saw Denmark robbed, although we were committed by our statesmen to stand by Denmark against aggres-That War marked the rise of Prussianism. it made the Kiel Canal strategically possible, and so eventually doubled the striking power of the German Navy. That tolerance permitted the growth of the evil, and forced us to accept the burdens it entailed. Men had more mental tolerance than women had for that doctrine, for man was the fighting sex, and the defects of his qualities were reflected in the forms of his government and the shaping of his policy. To counteract these defects the counsels of women were needed in the State. How did the 'fighting sex' argument stand to-day in relation to our claim for Woman Suffrage and to the anti-Suffragists' boasted "protection women? Mr. Lloyd George had told us that for every man killed in the fighting line there had been three non-combatants killed in Belgium-and that included not men alone, but women and children. Men's protection of women in any country was thus proved to be conditional and problematic. It was often questionable enough in peace time; in war it absolutely broke down.

Mr. Housman strongly criticised the Government for its want of confidence in democracy in time of danger. Two years ago Mr. Asquith knew, as he has now stated, that Germany was preparing for aggressive war. With that knowledge he was content to let this country remain in a state of unpreparedness and the result was-Belgium! Mr. Housman did not think we were altogether guiltless in the destruction of that country, and he knew that many Belgians were very bitter against us for The inculcation in the mind of a nation that Might our inability to give them more adequate protection

in the stand which we required them to make in defence of that neutrality which we had guaranteed, and which we knew Germany was preparing to violate. Not long ago, when Suffragists com-plained that their letters had been opened by the Post Office Officials, Mr. McKenna declared in the House of Commons that no letters were ever so opened, yet now it was admitted that in hunting for German spies, letters had been opened regularly by officials for years. But they would not trust Democracy by telling it the significant truth.

At the conclusion of his lecture Mr. Housman pointed out how war affects and brutalises the minds those who are engaged in it. The very fact, therefore, that women were non-fighters was perhaps their special value to the State, and constituted one of the chief reasons for their counsels to have equal weight, not only before war, but afterward, when conditions of peace came to be made.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS

A general Council meeting of the W.S.N.A.C. was held on October 12. It was agreed to form a sub-committee to deal with the question of employment of Belgians in England and the necessity for giving training to the men refugees to enable them to defend their families in the event of invasion. A sub-committee on amusements will be formed and a deputation was sent to confer with Mrs. Juson Kerr, who has organized a social club in Hemmersmith, on the subject. A recommendation will be sent to the Government to urge that measures be taken to deal with the present increase of intemperance, and to pro-

smith, on the subject. A recommendation will be sent to the Government to urge that measures be taken to deal with the present increase of intemperance, and to provide some kind of social entertainments in the form of lectures or pictures for the people. A strong protest was sent to the Plymouth Watch Committee against the reenactment of the C.D. Acts, and a recommendation that the local authorities should advise commanding officers to keep their men under proper control at night.

The average attendance for the last month at the Workroom in Edgware Road, is about one hundred weekly; wages at the rate of £7 a week; the money earned by work £12 in four weeks; 40 complete suits of garments have been made, in addition to 60 for private orders; good orders are in hand, with the promise of more. Miss Maud has very kindly taken over the charge of the workroom with Mrs. Arthur, who is the honorary superintendent. The suits of clothes make admirable presents for the winter and orders will be very gladly received. The prices originally quoted for the garments were 6/8 for a set for a child of four, 7/8 for a child of seven, and 8/8 for a child of ten. It has been thought advisable to add to these clothes a little pinafore, which will increase the price by 8d., 10d. and 1/- per set. Paper patterns of complete suits of clothes are being sold in the three sizes at 1s. the set. When writing for these please mention the size required.

Mrs. Turner is opening a workroom in South Hackney

set. When writing for these please mention the size required.

Mrs. Turner is opening a workroom in South Hackney under the auspices of the W.S.N.A.C., and has received a grant of £25 for her scheme. A room has been obtained from the Eton Boys' Club, which will hold about one hundred workers. It is proposed to start with toy making in order to teach a trade to those who have none.

Mrs. Harvey is opening her house on October 20 for the reception of women and children turned out of the hospitals to make room for the wounded soldiers. The sum of £10 has been allocated to help Mrs. Harvey in this

£10 has been allocated to help Mrs. Harvey in this

Edinburgh's Workroom.

The success which has so far attended the Workroom Scheme of the Edinburgh Branch goes far to prove that those who follow the advice proferred in last week's Vote: "to cut the tape and get to the real work," may count on a large measure of public support. Contributors know exactly what is being done with their money; they can come and see for themselves; and while the help given is not of the nature of charity, since it is worked for, on the other hand there is no competition with legitimate is not of the nature of charity, since it is worked for, on the other hand there is no competition with legitimate trade, as none of the articles made are sold. They are given to the Red Cross Society or the Belgian Fund, or will be used, as suggested by Mrs. Despard, for the cloth-ing of poor children. These are three very important points, and their combination in our scheme renders it well worthy of the support it is receiving worthy of the support it is receiving.

It is Worth Your While to pay a visit to Messrs Cozens & Co., Edgware Road, near the Marble Arch, if you are needing any article of clothing, household linen or furnishing. "Satisfaction always," is the aim of the firm, and their pair of the statement of the st and their prices fit pockets not specially well lined with



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WHY IS MR. BODKIN EMPLOYED?

It is difficult to understand how any affair of importance can be trusted to the slack hands of the gentleman who most frequently acts as prosecuting counsel for the Crown. Mr. Bodkin has once more distinguished himself by his conduct of a case in which a young girl complained of indecent treatment; and the fashion in which her interests were watched by the legal representative paid from public funds, is made clear in the following statement supplied to us by Mrs. Edith Watson:

"Vote" readers will remember the case from the Clerkenwell Sessions I reported two weeks ago of John Hart, solicitor, who was found not guilty of an indecent assault on Annie Plunket in his office. The case was stopped by Mr. Wallace and amiably surrendered by Mr. Bodkin when a call-book was produced showing a large number of callers on the afternoon in question, and disproving the girl's statement that there was only one caller. Why Mr. Bodkin ever brought the case to trial, knowing there was this evidence, and instantly gave up the case at the judge's suggestion, puzzled me exceedingly. The sequel came at Thames Police Court on October 7, when John Hart was charged with committing perjury in connection with the call-book, which was found to be faked and have had pages torn from it. The trick would never have succeeded had not Mr. Bodkin showed the same carelessness as in the Wetherall case. It seems the prosecution accepted the call-book Bodkin showed the same carelessness as in the Wetherall case. It seems the prosecution accepted the call-book with its pages tied together, and never properly examined it, giving it to Hart's solicitor and partner every night after each hearing of the case. In one part of the book, of which the pages were numbered, two pages missing, so the prosecution appear not even to have untied the pages. The case was remanded for a week. Further accounts of the case will appear in the Vote.

We trust this is the last time that injured girls will be asked to put up with the abominable lack of justice which such sham protection as Mr. Bodkin's services entail in the courts of justice to which they are obliged to have recourse.

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY October, 16th, 1914. NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER. Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET. ADELPHI. W.C.

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

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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

When we hear of the piteous sufferings of women and children in France and Belgium our lot seems indeed a blessed one, and we can only trust that our silver streak of sea may still protect us against the fury of the enemy; but even these few weeks of warfare have taught us how hard and bitter is the lot of those who sit at home and wait in agony of anxiety and suspense to know the fate of bands and brothers and sons, and we wonder bitterly if the mothers of Europe had had any voice in the Councils of the Nations whether this hell, to which daily life is reduced, might not have been

At once, as usual, the burden seemed to fall on the women; already in the first week of August, almost before war was declared, before Relief Committees were organised or public funds collected, the wives of reservists were starving; so sudden and secret were the orders that some of the women did not even know where or why their husbands had gone, some did not even realize that they had married soldiers liable to be called out in time of war. Had it not been for the ever-present organisation of the poor law, there would have been many deaths in England, but fortunately there is a relieving officer everywhere, and everyone knows his address.

Things are going better now, but the long delays of the War Office and the inquisitorial methods of some of the committees have naturally caused much indignation amongst the women. Especially did they resent the researches into the date of the first child's birth. Whatever the date might be it really did not seem much to matter, the father (risking his life abroad) had accepted the responsibility, the law recognises this responsibility, and even the most virtuous of committees could scarcely propose that the child should be left to starve because it appeared before nine months had elapsed.

Most of us will be glad to hear that the funds of the National Relief are now available for the "unmarried wives" of soldiers and sailors where homes actually exist, and the Fund Committee request that "no insulting questions" be put to

the women. We recognise, of course, that in war, warfare is the first consideration, but we hear with great pity of wives "on the strength" turned out of barracks with hardly any notice and without any shelter. What can be more pitiful than the position of those most innocent of "alien enemies," British women married to Germans and Austrians? Most pitiful because, had we been governed by justice, the abominable and modern law by which a married woman takes on the nationality of her husband, would have been wiped off the Statute Book last summer. Outlaws and foreigners on their own soil, tethered down to a five-mile radius and compelled to report themselves to the police, torn between the undying love of home and country

and the more evanescent love of husband, shut off from work and relief funds because of their alien name, their men fighting for Germany or imprisoned in compounds, lonely and starving and desolate and despairing, the poor law with its special alien conditions, or the grave seems their only refuge.

To say, as many people do, quite cheerfully: "Serves them right for marrying foreigners," not quite fair. British men also have married foreigners, but for them there are no pains and penalties, their wives are British and all war funds are theirs for the asking, though no doubt in the days of treachery these women are a source of real danger to the country, for their scope of observa-tion is wide and varied, as more than one case has proved.

Women are faring badly in war-time, their liberties seem threatened with curtailment, and a correspondent in the "Times" gravely suggests that the public-houses should be closed to women during the war. Much as we hate intemperance, we hate tyranny even worse and belong ever to the disciples of that great Bishop, who preferred to see England free than sober. For once the "Times" seems on the side of the angels, and we read on the same page that "our apparently weak rule contains a virility greater than the German because rooted in liberty

The war has shoved us back in the scale of humanity; we are classed again in the Lutheran category as "women and wine," dangers against which our soldiers are warned, a combination which came as a blow in the face to every honest woman.

There seems every danger that the liberties for which Mrs. Josephine Butler and others fought so long will be lost to us; we read with disgust again in the "Times" on the question of camps:-

"On the negative side the temptations of drink women need to be removed or restrained with a firm and the mlitary authorities should be given the necessary power. They should have the same sort of power to deal with the diseased prostitutes who swarm about these camps as that entrusted to the authorities of our collegists. University 2013

The Plymouth Watch Committee also propose to revive the C.D. Acts, and the Women's Freedom League has taken immediate action by bringing the matter to the notice of the Prime Minister.

Amid all these perils, which threaten the liberties of women it is consoling to read of the conversion of Mr. Asquith and other tyrannous lords of the nobility to principles of democracy and representative government and "the best traditions of British liberty

We learn that they despise the want of "an ethical code" in Germany, and that Mr. Asquith himself believes "that the weak have rights, and that freedom for its own sake is as well worth fighting for as it ever was in the past." Mr. Asquith being a man of scrupulous honour, we rely upon these new theories of his being put into action when the time comes, otherwise there is danger of the term hypocrisy being applied to his orations.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

By the kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister a very delightful drawing-room meeting was held last Wedvery delightful drawing-room meeting was held last Wednesday afternoon at 1, Mount Street, Berkeley Square, the speakers being Mrs. Despard and Mr. Housman. Mrs. McAllister presided and Mrs. Despard gave an account of the work which was being done by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps in London, in Scotland, and in the Provinces, and of Mrs. Harvey's hospital for women at Bromley. A report of Mr. Housman's speech appears in another column.

LONDON MEMBERS' MEETING.—News from Middlesbrough LONDON MEMBERS' MEETING.—News from Middlesbrough, Glasgow, and Wales of the work members are doing in the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps gave special interest to the members' meeting at headquarters on October 12. The speakers were: Miss Anna Munro, who presided; Mrs. Schofield Coates, and Miss Eunice Murray. Mrs. Despard was able to be present, and her encouraging words were warmly welcomed.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN A BELEAGUERED CITY.

Many a time and oft, bound then for those happy holiday lands of Belgium and Switzerland, have we left Liverpool Street at 8.30 p.m. and wakened to find ourselves steaming up the Scheldt. But, in these evil days upon which we have fallen, there are things in the sea besides fish, and the G.E.R. boats to Antwerp have awaited their passengers discreetly at Tilbury. At 4.30 one afternoon, we telephone to ask the latest time we can come on board and are told we must leave Fenchurch Street at 6.38. We protest it is impossible, but we pack our bags and are there. At Tilbury, the passengers are brought before a solemn Court of Enquiry, which is held in the waiting-room. We are questioned as to our nationality and our passports are examined, for we are back again to the days of passports, which to this generation have been but a tradition. At length, having apparently satisfied our examiners that we are not German spies and, after having been counted like sheep, we are allowed on board.

At midnight, the Captain tries to slip down the river, but is stopped by a dark thing which, though it plays the part of a guardian angel, looks very unlike one. "You go away," it says. "You go away and lie low. The lights are all out and things like you cannot be about in the darkness." And the Destroyer leaves us and is off to warn other vessels, though it seems to have been unable to prevent a P. & O. boat going ashore on Princes Sands. It is doing a more gracious work than that usually assigned to it. It is, for the time, intent on saving and not on destroying life.

All next day, Father Neptune took care we should not worry ourselves over the secret things which British and Germans had been hiding in his depths. Our sympathies were transferred from the Belgians and expended on ourselves. Half-way across, another black angel loomed before us and, by the unangelic methods of megaphone and semaphore, signalled to us the course we should take to escape the British field of mines, which maybe it had helped to put down. Nearing Antwerp, in the afternoon, we saw a duel between a Taube and a Belgian aeroplane. Clouds of shrapnel were being sent at the Taube from the Belgian lines; like the rain from Heaven, it fell alike on the just and the unjust. It transpired afterwards that the Taube escaped au large, while the Belgian air-ship planed down to escape the shrapnel, which fell on a young girl of fourteen, who was selling newspapers in the streets of Antwerp. She was taken to the hospital and her case was said to be hopeless. There is so much which the newspapers have to tell us of events which do and do not happen that we are not likely to have daily bulletins as to her condition.

We are nearing the city. Smoke, rising at intervals over the plains, is said to indicate the smoking ruins of Malines and Tirlemont. Still nearer, a Belgian village is in flames. The Belgians have set fire to it because it was within the range of their own guns. The city has a dead air. Many shops are shut. A few families are seen coming in from the country, their worldly possessions tied up on the seat and handlebar of the bicycle of Pater. familias, while the mother and children trudge by his side. Five hundred refugees were to have started for this country on the following day, but these were kept outside the town.

The following morning, under the direction of a boy scout, we visit friendly Government officials. We find the city in a still greater state of depression than on the preceding evening. There is no doubt that the forts are falling. We have arrived doubt that the forts are falling. at un moment tragique. The Mayor has put out a proclamation abjuring the citizens to be calm, the necessary result of which is that there is a general fellow-travellers told us. "For three weeks, it has

feeling of agitation and anxiety which amounts to despair. They tell us that there is no hope. "Nous n'avons rien à espérer." "C'est fini.

We make the arrangements which we had been authorised to do and go to the boat which was to have started two days later. We ask the hour at which it will start and whether it will be desirable to be on board the night before. There is an air of mystery about the officers. "The arrangements are altered. The boat is leaving to-day." "But why?" we ask. "We cannot say, but those are our orders." It appears that the officers of both the G.E.R. boats in the harbour had been roused at 3 that morning and told to get up steam immediately and be ready to start with the British and French residents directly the order should be given. No Belgians were to be allowed to travel by these boats. Their own Government was to provide for their convoy if they wished to leave.

On the quay, we meet two Red Cross nurses. They tell us that all the British hospitals have been disbanded that morning. Their strong young arms had been carrying out the last of their patients. All who could be moved had been sent to the coast towns. They had come to fetch a box containing their mufti. We ask if they are to be our fellow-travellers. "Oh, no," they reply. "We are not going. We are just going to get into our ordinary clothes and stay on. There may be work for us It was impossible to see them without havlater.' ing the conviction that they were Suffragists.

We go back to the hotel and do our inextensive packing. "Not going so soon?" asks the elderly chambermaid. "Madame only came yesterday." We try to explain. "The Germans are not here?" she asks. "This terrible war!" We take the opportunity of getting in our one little bit of Suffrage propaganda. It is the way men manage the affairs of the world, so we tell her. We women hate war. We could live at peace, if only men would let us. "But, Madame," she urges, with a sense of fairness to her own men-kind, the workmen who wish for war. It is they who suffer. If it was only those who made the wars who fought in them, then we should have peace. what will happen to us?" She goes on to tell us of the legends which have reached her of the treatment of the refugees in England. The poor Belgians are si bien soignés en Angleterre, such clothes and all they want. They could be so happy were it not for the troubles of their poor country and the loss of their friends.

We have to tear ourselves away to catch the boat, which, after all, did not leave till day-break next day. The situation was said to have improved. Those who sit in the seat of the mighty had arrived. British Admirals and Staff Officers went by in the streets and the news went round that 2,500 British Tommies were not far off. "Eep, Eep, Ooray,' said the crowd, as the British armoured car went by. In the evening the thick-set, blue-clad soldiers went out singing to the trenches. They had begun to lose heart, and it was said they had not been heard to sing for a fortnight. But they were asking why the British had not come earlier. "Was it only France that England cared to save?" Were the Tommies too. late?

We go back to the boat in the darkness and out again in the morning light. This time four of the black angels watched round our ocean bed and, when we could look out of the port-hole, we could see them keeping us in the way we should go. For reasons, which no doubt they considered sufficient, they took us up until we were opposite Harwich. We could see the houses. We could have landed in an hour. Then they left us and the pilot came on board to take us into the Thames. Under the shadow of the land, we listened to the stories our

been Hell," so said an English woman. "We have never slept, except in our day clothes, ready to go away at any moment. We used to wake in the night by the shaking of the house." "I have left my husband there," said a Frenchwoman. "I wanted to stay with him, but they said I must go with my little girl. Soon she will have a little brother or sister. They would not let me stay. Oh, yes, I have good English friends. When our troubles began, they said I must come to them. You know them perhaps. Their name is Richardson, and they live at Pootnay. It is there that my baby will be born." "I kept an hotel," said an English woman. "It was not a grand place, but there is no hotel in Antwerp where you would be more comfortable. I have shut it up. A few weeks ago, it was worth £3,000. Now it is worth nothing. All I could bring was one box of house The nuns tell us of their work in the hos-

pitals, and how they sent the novices away for fear of the Germans, who "do not respect women." Surely, the tender which took us off the ship and landed us where the recruits were singing their farewell to Piccadilly, can seldom have borne a heavier cargo of human misery. Joy may come to the young in the morning, but the lives of many of the passengers will henceforth be as maimed and incomplete as those of the wounded soldiers, who are too hopelessly broken to return to the field of

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY: Mrs. Despard as Hostess.

as Hostess.

It was what Lewis Caroll would have called an "Unbirthday Party"; it was not Mrs. Despard's birthday, and a Birthday Party had taken place last July at Brackenhill, Bromley, through the kindness and hospitality of Mrs. Harvey. But it was a party to which Mrs. Despard invited members and friends to thank them for the way in which they had celebrated her birthday, and it was a huge success. The response was splendid; members turned up in force, accompanied by many friends, including men in khaki, who cheered the Woman Suffrage declarations and joined in chorus singing with the audience, under the irresistible leadership of Mr. Harrison Hill. Hearts were heavy, for news of the fall of Antwerp was the dominant topic of the world outside Portman Rooms last Saturday; but inside, though we did not forget the national crisis, to which touching allusion was made by the speakers, Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Mrs. Huntsman, heart-heaviness was successfully hidden and every one enjoyed the gaiety, enthusiasm, goodwill and humour of the evening. There was ample time for friendly intercourse; and the speeches were bright and hopeful. Mrs. Despard was received with great enthusiasm, as also her declaration that the League meant to keep the Suffrage flag flying, while helping in the national need by caring specially for the women and children. She suggested that copies of the Vorze, particularly the Holiday Number, should be included in parcels of newspapers sent to soldiers and sailors. Miss Boyle, in an amusing speech, spoke of the democratic spirit of the Women's Freedom League, and strongly urged the need for recruits in its ranks. "When once you come in you will not want to go out!" A good response was the result, as also to Mrs. Huntsman's appeal for definite promises of contributions to the funds. Miss Snow, ably accompanied by her brother, delighted the large audience with her violin solos; Miss Julie Huntsman's recitations were also much enjoyed, and Mr. Harrison Hill was quite irresistible in his humoro

BRANCH NOTES.

ome unavoidably held over.)

Members and friends met at Miss Hare's on October 6 to hear Miss Boyle describe the work at present going on in London. Special interest was aroused by the schemes for Co-operative Baking and the women received names for for Co-operative Baking and the women received names for the latter, and patrol work is being commenced this week. The Women's Freedom League has been instrumental in the sending of telegrams from six local Suffrage Societies and three lady doctors to the Plymouth Watch Com-mittee, protesting against their resolution in favour of the re-enactment of the C.D. Acts; various organisations are prepared to co-operate with us if further action is neces-

Clapham

Next Monday, at 7.30 p.m., there will be a meeting at 46, Lynette Avenue, Clapham Common (by kind permission of Mrs. Samuel). Miss Munro will speak, and Mrs. Samuel will preside. Members and friends living in South n are very cordially invited to be present.

As a depôt for collecting socks, etc., for the soldiers, comforts for Red Cross work, and clothes for the Belgians, comforts for Red Cross work, and clothes for the Belgians, our Suffrage Shop is proving also a most useful centre. Many contributions have been received from non-members as well as from members, and large bundles have been dispatched. Further, to help the Belgian Relief Fund, a great public meeting has been arranged for Thursday, October 22, when Mrs. Despard and Dr. Sarolea, Belgian Consul in Edinburgh, will speak, and Professor Lodge will take the chair. The United Free Church Assembly Hall, holding about 3,000 people, has been kindly granted free of charge by the managers. We must fill it! Tickets (3d., 6d., 1/- and 2/6, reserved), may be had from Miss Thomson, ticket secretary, or at the Shop. Mrs. Thomson and Miss Berta Ireland have already made a successful start at ticket-selling in Princes-street. Who will follow their example? Posters are to be had at the Shop. Glasgew.

In aid of the ordinary Branch funds two classes have been started:—An elecution class, conducted by Miss Bunten, on Wednesday evenings, and Miss Gentles will recommence her dancing class on Friday evenings. Members wishing to join should notify their intention at the Shop, where all particulars can be obtained, or come to the Shop on class

At our meeting on October 8 Miss Webb gave a most interesting nursing lecture. The members were very pleased, and we look forward eagerly to her second lecture on October 15. We are badly in want of more books and magazines, socks, boots, and garments of all sorts for both men and women. We hope to have Mrs. Despard with us on November 19, and trust all members will do their best

A PUBLIC MEETING

Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps

PORTMAN ROOMS, BAKER STREET, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers: Miss Ethel Arnold. Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Miss Nina Boyle.

Chairman: Mrs. DESPARD.

SONGS by the Rev. Dr. HOUSTON COLLISSON.

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.

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37. ALDWYCH, W.C.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS. Thursday, October 15.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Eggett. Friday, October 16.—Thornton Heath Clock Tower, 7.30. Mrs.



saturday, October 17.—Palmers
REEN, THE TRIANGLE, 3.30. Miss GREEN, DARE TO BE FREE.

CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Miss Anna Munro and Mrs.

Samuel. Monday, October 19.—Kensington (corner Lancasterroad and Portobello-road), 8 p.m. Clapham (46, Lynnette-avenue). Public meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Samuel), 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro. Chair, Mrs. Samuel.

Chair, Mrs. Samuel.

Tuesday, October 20.—Bromley (Kitsilano, King's-avenue). Public Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Hope), 3.30 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Stamford Hill (corner Amhurst Park), 8 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans and Miss Eggett.

Wednesday, October 21.—Public meeting at The Sufrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, 3.30. Speakers, Mrs. Tanner ("Woman, the Peacemaker") and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair, Miss Anna Munro.

maker'') and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair, Miss Anna Munro. Streatham Common, 3.30 p.m.

Friday, October 23.—Croydon W.F.L. Office (32a, The Arcade, High-street). Public meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro. Thornton Heath Clock Tower, 7.30. Miss Anna Munro.

Sunday, October 25.—Regent's Park, noon. Brockwell Park, 11.30. Clapham Common, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

Boyle.

Monday, October 26.—Clapham (1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road), 7.30. Working party.

Tuesday, October 27.—Portman Rooms, Baker-street.
Joint meeting of Women's Freedom League and Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, 8 p.m. Speakers, Mrs.
Despard, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Miss Boyle, Miss Ethel Arnold, and others. Songs by the Rev. Dr. Houston Collisson. Admission free; reserved seats 2/6 and 1/-; unreserved 6d.

Wednasday. October 28. Public meeting at Suffaces.

reserved 6d.

Wednesday, October 28.—Public meeting at Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly), 3.30 p.m. Speakers, Mr. J. Cameron Grant ("Women in the Inventor's World"), and others.

Friday, October 30.—Discussion Meeting at Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly), 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Marion Cunningham. Subject, "Flashes from the French Frontier." Chair, Mrs. Tippett.

PROVINCES.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, October 15.—Sale, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 3 p.m. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray. Liverpool, Chapman's Restaurant, Eberle-street. Public meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray. Chair, Mrs. Brassington.

Friday, October 16.—Anfield, 7.30. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray. Manchester, New Thought School (19, Brazenose-street), 5 p.m. Speaker, Miss C. Andrews, "New Thought and the Woman's Movement."

Saturday, October 17.—Manchester, 79, Piccadilly, 11 a.m. Meeting of District Secretaries.

Monday, October 19.—Middlesbergh, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. "At Home." Speaker, Mrs. Schofield Coates. Chair, Miss W. M. Jones. Songs by Miss Edith Calvert and Miss Ruth Dawson. Mandoline solos, Miss James. Brighton.—W.S.N.A.C Drawing Room Meeting at 5, Belvedere Terrace. Hostess, Miss Bussé. Speakers: Miss Hare and Dr. Edmonds. Tea at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20.—Hove, S, San Remo. Sewing meeting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27, Prepapageness.

Tuesday, October 20.—Hove, 8, San Tremomeeting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27.—Peterborough. St. Paul's Church Hall, New England, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna

Thursday, October 29.—Grantham. Co-operative Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro. Chair, Rev. W. J.

Friday, October 30.—Nottingham. Calvert's Café, 6.30

p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, October 22.—Edinburgh, U.F. Assembly Hall Mound. Public meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard and Dr. Sarolea (Belgian Consul). Chair, Professor Lodge. Tickets, 3d., 6d., 1/-, and 2/6 (reserved).

Friday, October 23.—Dunfermline. Public Meeting, Masonic Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, October 24. —Bacup. Workers' Educational Association, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Andrews.

Tuesday, October 27.—New North Road Wesleyan Church (North London), 7.30. Mrs. Mustard, "Woman and War." Chair, Miss W. Cohen.

War-time Economics.

It is essential that everyone should study economy just now—but, economy does not necessarily mean hardship. Economy does not mean semi-starvation or total neglect of appearances. It means doing without things which are of appearances. It means doing without things which are not really necessary and obtaining the best effect at a minimum expenditure. For instance, the advisability of purchasing new clothes at a time when money is tight may justly be doubted—but there can surely be no doubt that a fresh and smart appearance is as desirable in War-time as in any other time. And this can be effected quite easily and quite inexpensively. Gentlemen's Suits, Ladies' Dresses and Blouses, and such Household Furnishings as Curtains, Carpets, Rugs and Table Covers, can be made to look practically new when scientifically cleaned in the "Achille Serre Way." A handsome Booklet giving prices and descriptions of this service and the address of Branches which will collect and deliver orders free of charge will be sent to anyone writing to Achille Serre Limited, Hackney Wick, London.

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ONE PENNYJ

CWEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A Lantern Lecture on "BELGIUM," will be given by THE VERY REV. PRIOR McNABB, O.P., In Kensington Town Hall, on Monday, Oct. 26, at 8 p.m.

CHAIR ... MRS. WALTER ROCH.

A COLLECTION will be taken in aid of the "Queen's Work for Women Fund." Tickets 26, 11-, & 6d. May be obtained from the Secretary, 55, Berners Street, Oxford Ttreet, W.

Help from Australia!

THE PROPRIETOR OF "VUNDI,"
the Celebrated Australian Remedy for Rheumatism, Lumbago, Gout, Sciatica and all Uric Acid Troubles, is handing all profits from its sale of the above to the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps during the war.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold Public Meetings at The Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers October 21st, Mrs. Tanner, "Woman, the Peacemaker," and Miss Boyle. The Chair will be taken at 3.30 by Miss Anna Munro. Admission Free.

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION.—SALE OF WORK, Antiques and China, Friday, October 23rd, 2.30 to 9.30, at Alan's Rooms, 263, Oxford Street, W. Entire 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 and others, on "Woman and War." Tickets, price One Shilling (including Tea), up to 6.30; Threepence after; may be obtained from Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 69, Wimpole Street, W., or at the door.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James', S.W.—On Tuesday, October 20th, Miss Frances Dickeson will speak on the Reorganisation of Domestic Work. Chair, Miss Grace Neal. 3 p.m.

SCHOOL OF GARDENING.—Exceptional opportunity to see the laying out and planting of "Rose Garden," Herbaceous borders, and fruit trees, and to learn practical gardening and bee-keeping, combined with sound theory. Students prepared for R.H.S. Examination. Special care given to delicate students.—For particulars apply to the Principal, Miss Whyte, The Roundwood, Ipswich.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

W OMEN'S INVENTIONS.—How to patent an invention and sell it.—Mr. Hughes, 140, Wool Exchange, London.

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