

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

Vol. III.—No. 28

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1916

Price One Penny

UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

Mrs. Boyce has been doing splendid work in the West of Scotland in connection with our campaign for Adult Suffrage. During the past week successful dinner-hour meetings have been held at Springburn, Anniesland, and Bridgeton; while ordinary propaganda meetings have been held at Lango, Dumbarton, Parkhead, Bridgeton, St. Rollox, and Townhead. A number of work-gate meetings have been arranged for next week at Singers', Guildhall, Partick, and other places with a view to booming the big demonstration in the City Hall, Glasgow, on October 12th. All who are in favour of democratic politics are urged to attend the demonstration, and thereby help on the campaign for Adult Suffrage in and around Glasgow. Mrs. Boyce has made many converts for Adult Suffrage during her stay in Glasgow, and her meetings have invariably been large and favourable.

THE PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE CONFERENCE.

It is altogether definitely announced that the conference on Electoral Reform is to be a Parliamentary one, consisting of members of both Houses, and that the Speaker is to preside over it, the Government will not be represented amongst the members of the conference, but will place at the disposal of the conference all possible information and staff help. It is said that representation is to be given to every political party and every school of thought on electoral reform. The conference will probably be larger than the Select Committee of 157 members suggested by the Government in July. The points on which the conference is to be asked to report, according to *The Times*, are as follows:—

1. Simplification of our registration machinery.
2. Changes in the franchise.
3. Redistribution of seats on an equitable and automatic basis.
4. Amendment of the Ballot Act to meet the grievance of the "absent voter."

The Times adds:

"The ideal aimed at is an agreed settlement on these questions, which have been the battleflood and shuttlecock of parties for generations. Voting in the trenches, votes for unfranchised soldiers and sailors, votes for women, a shorter qualification for the franchise, "one man, one vote," and "one vote, one value"—all such questions will be reviewed by the conference. The Ministerial view is that the Cabinet would accept an agreed settlement from the conference and present it to Parliament in a Bill."

Those who desire to secure the enfranchisement of every man and woman over 21 years must be more than ever active and vigilant.

The Euston Theatre demonstration must be made a triumphant success, further meetings must be held, and resolutions must pour in to the Speaker, the Prime Minister, Mr. Walter Long, the political party leaders, and the members of the conference.

SUFFRAGE MEETING IN SHEFFIELD.

The Sheffield W.S.F. held a most successful meeting in the Temperance Hall on Sunday, October 1st. Mrs. Barton took the chair, and the speakers were Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Stephen. We expect great things of the Sheffield Branch!

At the Votes for Men on Service meeting, at Queen's Hall on Sunday last, Mr. Leo Maxse remarked: "It is said that if they enfranchise the fighting men they must enfranchise the munition women. As a life-long opponent of women's suffrage, I would far sooner see the women voting than the fighting men disfranchised." This from an anti-Suffragist sounds hopeful.

Mrs. Pankhurst said: "Mr. Asquith used the men to dish the women," and now he was "trying to use the women to dish the men." If this is so, it is the business of the Suffragists to see to it that he does not succeed!

Miss Jeannette Rankin, of Missouri, U.S.A., has been nominated for Congress in the Montana Republican Primaries.

"The present moment is enormously important, and a "limited measure of Women's Suffrage" is not the thing; the unique moment when all trivialities should be swept away and a larger, grander movement substituted has arrived and should be seized—but, oh! the detail! the strength, time, clear sight needed!

"It would indeed be peculiarly unjust if women were excluded by Government action from profitable employment as a result of political pressure brought to bear upon Ministers by men who have votes against women who have none."—Mr. Harold Cox, in the "Sunday Times."

Is Mr. Cox prepared to advocate Votes for Women?

BRITISH SUFFRAGETTE BECOMES A VOTER IN CANADA.

The following letter from Miss Isabel Seymour, who is well known to British Suffragettes, will interest our readers:—

The Okangan Gate Ranch,
Enderby, British Columbia.
September 15th.

Dear Editor,—Yesterday I became a voter. It seems incredible, and I wondered if you would like a few words to put in that really splendid paper of yours about it.

As this question was as much outside party politics here as in England, the Government decided to have a Referendum on "Woman's Suffrage and Prohibition"—the first Referendum ever held here. This decision came as a surprise to the women, who since the war had dropped all suffrage work, and they were quite unorganised. There has been but little time to carry propaganda out, and therefore this vote has come as the result of the genuine conviction on men's part that we have earned our vote. I may say that the work the women have done in England since the war had a great effect on the result here. Personally I have been speaking on the platforms of both candidates in our constituency, and they were only too pleased to have me. There has been no opposition at all, and I never met any man who was going to vote against the suffrage. We have had encouragement and help all the time.

The laws in British Columbia affecting women are disgraceful, and we have our work cut out in the future; also the women are very ignorant of politics, but in its way this is good, they are a clean sheet, and I am anxious to do all I can to keep them out of party politics.

I never thought to get a vote here; when we came it was so far away and no one cared. How is the W.S.F.? If I ever come back to England I shall come and work for you, but now I feel as if my work were starting out here.—Yours, etc., ISABEL SEYMOUR.



HERBERT COLE—1916

"Auntie" Suffrage viewing the portrait of her "Bitter Half"

(The American Women have found that the Anti-Suffrage Movement is allied with the Liquor Traffic.)

"I think all claims would be included in Adult Suffrage for all men and women over 21, and the old vexed cry of 'Votes for Women might then be dropped, with all that it conveys to the man in the street who, alas, has retained, probably, only the unpleasant flavour of unhappy days. All would be forgotten that is best to forget, and we should not then be clamouring for something denied to us as a sex—but become merged into the great human whole from which we should never have been separated. . . . 'Leave all things alone till after the War' is, I think, extremely bad advice. The sun shines, the rain comes, people die and are born just the same, war or not—it is really of very little consequence to the earth as a whole, and nothing should be put off that we can possibly do now for welfare and progress."—Mary Crosland Taylor.

ADULT SUFFRAGE JOINT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Fred Bramley, 58 Theobalds Road, W.C.; Hon. Treasurer: Dr. A. Salter, J.P., 5 Storks Road, Bermondsey, S.E.; Hon. Secretary: E. Sylvia Pankhurst, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

GREY DEMONSTRATION

For VOTES for ALL MEN and ALL WOMEN at Euston Theatre, Euston Road, Sunday, October 8th, at 6 p.m. (It will be moonlight.) Admission free.

Speakers—Mrs. Barton, Fred Bramley, Robert Williams, W. Carter, Harry Dubery, E. C. Fairchild, Sylvia Pankhurst.

Let all the people be voters at the next General Election whenever it comes! No Registration Bill, but a Franchise Bill to give Votes to All!

WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION (GLASGOW BRANCH)

A DEMONSTRATION

will be held in the CITY HALL, Candleriggs, Glasgow on Thursday, 12th Oct., at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7-15) SPEAKERS— [Admission 3d.

Miss E. SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. JOHN SCURR, Mrs. EMMA BOYCE, W.S.F., LONDON Mrs. HELEN CRAWFURD, GLASGOW Councillor P. J. DOLLAN, GLASGOW, and others Tickets on sale at Reformers' Bookstall, 126 Bothwell Street; or from members.

COME! DEMAND THE VOTE FOR ALL TICKETS on Sale at Reformers' Bookstall 126 Bothwell Street at Metropole on SUNDAY, (Casey's Meeting) and from Members

Intellectually women are meeting every test of business, art and science, and to-day are as much a part of the defence of the nation and of its power for good and progress as they are a part of the security of every home.—Senator O'Gorman, of New York.

The result of the referendum on the question of votes for women in British Columbia shows a majority of 8,500 men over 21 in favour of woman suffrage. Soldiers and British Columbians abroad have not yet registered their votes, but it is expected that the result of their vote will also be favourable.

OLD SLAVE WOMAN VOTES.

"How the world moves on! Mrs. Harriett King, a Chicago negress, who served as a slave in the Carolinas and was freed after the civil war, accompanied her granddaughter to the polls at Chicago recently and registered. She will vote in the coming Presidential Election. Mrs. King was not shy about telling her age. She explained that her master told her that she was born in 1803. She came to Chicago from the south two years ago."—From the *Toronto Weekly Sun*.

GLASGOW MAGISTRATES AND VOTES.

A number of Glasgow magistrates have written urging the Government to give votes to women. They add: "We submit with all respect that Governments have not, so far, shown a sufficient understanding of the tragic problems underlying the women's demand for direct representation in Parliament. And unless the principle of equality of voting rights for women is established on the Statute before the next general election, so that women may help in the reconstruction of conditions, we shall hold the Government responsible for the sustained misery in the homes of working women in our great industrial centres, a misery which magistrates, by virtue of their office, are in a position to appreciate and understand."

(Signed) Hamilton Brown, magistrate; John Cowan Drummond, magistrate; Henry Macnaughton, magistrate; Thos. H. Hutchison, magistrate; William Nicol, magistrate; Wm. Davidson, magistrate; John Muir, magistrate; Jas. Stewart, magistrate; E. Rosslyn Mitchell, magistrate; David Mason, police judge; R. Mitchell, magistrate; Jas. Barrie, J.P., police magistrate; Wm. Maclure, magistrate; J. D. Morton, magistrate; Thos. J. Irwin, magistrate; James Stewart, magistrate.

"DREADNOUGHT" WEEK

"DREADNOUGHT" week, in aid of the funds of the paper, begins to-day and ends October 16th. A Social and Dance is being arranged by Miss O'Brien and other friends to take place at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Saturday, October 14th, at 7 p.m. Tickets, 3d. Refreshments at popular prices. There will be a moon that night, so friends need not fear the Zepps!

Others have promised to collect in the charming box which has been designed by Mr. Herbert Cole. Those who do not get a box with this week's paper should apply to us for it. The most original feature of the week will be the barrel organ campaign, organised by Miss Lynch. What are you going to do to help? If you have no other plan, perhaps you would volunteer to sell some "DREADNOUGHTS."

The biggest blot on our record since the War began was that directly the great guns began to boom on the other side of the Channel the men and women in this country were shouting for children of 11 years of age to be taken out of school and sent to work. By that one stroke we had slipped back educationally 50 years, for those children would never go back to school, and their one opportunity had left them. The sons and daughters of the working classes were not getting a fair chance in the international battle of life. The people had left the education question in the hands of bishops, politicians, Cabinets, and colonies of people who did not send their children to the schools to which the artisan classes sent theirs.—Sir James Yoxal, a teacher's M.P., at Whitfield's Tabernacle.

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST. Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation. 400 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.

Telephone EAST 1787. Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

OUR ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Per inch ... 2 s. 6 d. Per half-column ... 1 s. 6 d.

Per column ... 3 s. 0 d. Per line ... 1 s. 0 d.

Miscellaneous advertisements id. a word, minimum 1s. for twelve words.

5 per cent. reduction on a series of ten or more insertions: 25 per cent. reduction to working class organisations.

AGENTS: INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Oxford, W.C. ST. PETER'S HOUSE, Salisbury Square, CITY & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C. Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C. MABLETOWN, 51 Old Bailey, E.C. A. MITCHELL, Tottenham Row, South Square, E.C. A. & E. HARVEY, 5 South Square, SIMPKIN, RAMLINGTON, MARSHALL & KENT, Paternoster Row, E.C. A. RAGGETT, Clerk Street, St. Paul's, E. JOHN HAYWARD, Moschater's, THE WHOLESALE SUFFRAGE, 10 Cannon Street, Bolton; REFORMERS' BOOK STALL and HERALD LEAGUE, Glasgow.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS & Messrs. WILKING and Co. Newsagents, and elsewhere.

All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

Vol. III. No. 28 Sat., October 7th, 1916

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

WHO PAYS?

It is a grey cold day in a "Northern Midland" manufacturing town. The ugly buildings are heavily smoke-begrimed. The brief, twice-posted munition holiday is being held, but there is no sign of holiday glamour. The people are hurrying to one of the poorest and most dismal districts to see the houses wrecked by the Zeppelins. The trams going in other directions pass by almost empty, whilst the people are scrambling with each other to find places on those going the Zeppelin way. At the terminus where sightseers dismount to view the ruins crowds who have seen all that there is to see are waiting to return. Streams of people pass from one scene of damage to another, up and down the steep streets of poor houses, by the blank factory walls and over the cheerless pieces of rubbish-strewn waste ground. In long blocks of houses hardly a piece of glass remains unbroken. Many doors have disappeared, the apertures being merely protected by a few bits of wood roughly nailed across. There are gaping holes in many roofs. In some places walls and roofs have collapsed, and here and there nothing is left of the houses but a heap of bricks.

In a little street, where fourteen people are said to have lost their lives, most of the houses on one side have fallen, and the shattered bricks have covered with bright red dust the smoke-blackened building opposite, making it look in patches as though it were quite new. Soldiers with fixed bayonets guard the more conspicuous ruins and prevent all but inhabitants passing the heavy wooden barriers placed across some of the streets.

An all-pervading gloom surrounds the people, and for the most part they are silent, but as they stand by the barriers gazing upon the ruins, here and there one more talkative than the rest tells awful and strange stories of children bereft of their parents, wives seeing their husbands killed, people who still live after horrible mutilations, and men and women who have found themselves in cellars without knowing how they came there and having no remembrance of leaving their beds. Poor, sad-eyed, over-burdened women look forlornly out from near-by doorways, their spirit crushed by this sordid slum world and stunted anew by the fear of its tumbling about their ears.

Only the dirty-faced ragged little children retain their full activity. Sharp and precocious, they rush excitedly about amongst the sightseers, bobbing under barriers and pushing through doorways that have been boarded up. They have no awe of the unaccustomed soldiers, carrying those gruesome naked knives.

Half a dozen soldiers come marching up to the barrier, and hastening to overtake them runs a troop of boys, aged from six to nine years, with a little short-haired girl at their head. The youngsters are shouldering long pieces of wood roughly hacked out to look like guns, with smaller pointed pieces nailed on to represent bayonets. As the soldiers pass through the narrow space at the end of the barrier the shouting children push through with them.

The soldiers turn, stand at attention, ground arms, and perform their various ridiculous machine-like motions. They are mimicked by a tiny waggish girl. Not more than eight years old, she radiates imperturbable impudence and shows off all the mannerisms of a music-hall comedian. She is wearing a short frock and a dirty white pinafore, her stockings stuffed with rag to make her calves look big and tied under her bare knees. She has no long stake for a gun like the other children, but a brick which she balances against her shoulder. She marches with exaggerated movements, bending her knees as though she were horribly bandy, cries "rr-right-rr-rr," and, turning, swings out her leg, even more grotesquely than do the soldiers, and brings her heels together with a bang. She pretends that the edge of the brick has cut her face, and rubs it, with absurd grimaces. She marches and turns again. For a moment the brick has become her baby, to be caught up in her pinafore and petted. It is once more a gun. She drops it, as she pretends, on her toe, making very much fuss. She shoots with her brick, then makes to throw with it, as though it were a bomb, but lets it fall behind her.

The soldiers are highly displeased with this exhibition, and one of them, a mere lad, rushes forward with flaming face and angrily kicks the brick away, hustling the tormenting child past the barrier. She and the otherurchins dash with shrieks of laughter down the street. Their elders are silent. The military do not seem popular in the district, and women complain, with what reason we do not know, that when the Zeppelins came to British airmen were drunk.

By the railway is a large munition factory, and, looking down as we cross the bridge, we can see great shells with pointed noses stacked up beside the line. Perhaps the Zeppelin raiders were in search of this factory, but they passed further on, and on one side of the railway they dropped their bombs upon a chapel and on the other upon a slum. The bomb that crashed its way through the chapel walls has revealed the text:—

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another."

The centre of the slum street is piled high with the wreckage of the houses, and the half-demolished sections left standing show the gimcrack character of these wretched hovels. We see amid the heaps of bricks the remnants of the poor bits of furniture they contained. A woman, gazing across the barrier in hopeless sorrow, tells us that she has known for years all the people who have been killed here, and points out to us a pale, distraught looking man who is being led past the barrier by his friends, telling us that whilst he was saving his three little children his wife was killed. Someone reminds her that all over Europe poor people are under the same fear and sorrow; that the German working classes are suffering with the rest. Very feelingly she assents, and with a kindling of the eyes, as though some inner chord of sympathy had been touched.

On the window-sills of the neighbouring houses are artificial wreaths collected for the funerals of the victims by the neighbours' children, and cardboard lids in which further pennies are being collected to buy clothes and furniture for those whose possessions have been destroyed, and for the maintenance of the children whose parents have been killed. The children tell us that the homeless people are at present housed in wooden huts.

A JINGO WAR LORD.

When the flaming Zeppelin fell to earth in sight of East London last Sunday the people loudly cheered, but in the buzzing undertone of conversation the women in the streets were saying:—

"Poor things! It's a pity for them; they have to come or they'd be shot."

The pity felt by masses of humble people for those in every race who are suffering in the War seems to have no place in the hearts of the men in high places who direct the slaughter. Mr. Lloyd George, if the American United Press representative has not belied him, has declared, in callous sporting terms and with a "half-smile on his face," his own and the Government's intention to prolong the War indefinitely. The mental attitude which his words to the American Pressman reveal, is simply that of the primitive savage, who desires to overcome and to dominate his opponent and to have that barbarous and impossible thing—revenge. His talk of the British Empire "investing thousands of its best lives to purchase future immunity for civilisation," and "the cruelty that would be involved in stopping this War while there remains the possibility of civilisation being again menaced from the same quarter," cannot blind, for an instant, those who remember that in 1912 this same Lloyd George threatened that the British Government would break the peace of Europe if France and Germany should compose their Moroccan quarrel or enter into any agreements without consulting the British Government!

With brutal coolness Lloyd George referred to

the "carnage and suffering that is to come," and to the "inhumanity and pitilessness of the fighting" which he insists shall continue. He has no compunction for the sufferings to be endured by the soldiers and peoples of the enemy nations; nor has he, it seems, a shred of pity for the soldiers of the Allies. He said of his visit to the battlefields of France:

"I stood as it were at the door of hell and saw myriads marching into the furnace. I saw some coming out of it scorched and mutilated."

What shall we say of one who sends others into hell, refusing to use his power to quench its fires? The hell into which he saw goodly and well-beloved men go marching, is a hell which Lloyd George and a few other powerful men have made. He was a member of the Government that helped to form the grasping policy of exploitation and conquest which, directed against the Moors, the Persians, the Egyptians, and other defenceless peoples, has caused the great Powers to quarrel over the spoil and, in order to protect the interests of their capitalists, to force the peoples of Europe to kill each other. With a smile on his face, he declared the plunging of human beings into hell must still go on indefinitely. He said:

"There is neither clock nor calendar in the British Army. Time is the least vital factor. Only the result counts. It took twenty years to defeat Napoleon. . . . It will not take twenty years to win this war, but whatever time is required it will be done. . . . There is no disposition on our side to fix the hour of ultimate victory after the first success. We have no delusion that the War is nearing an end."

Mothers of sons who were but children at school when War broke out, are you prepared to wait to see those little ones killed as conscripts, before this War comes to an end?

Dismissing the pacifists of all nations as pro-Germans, Mr. Lloyd George untruthfully declares that they had "watched the early rounds of the unequal contest dry-eyed," and had begun to ask for peace when the Allies showed signs of winning. Through the American Pressman, he rudely gave the neutral world to understand that

"Any step at this time by the United States, the Vatican, or any other neutral in the direction of peace would be construed by England as a pro-German move."

How long will the people of this country allow unprincipled fire-eaters to speak and act for them and to continue forcing their children to destruction? STARVATION TO CONTINUE.

A girl who was the main support of her widowed mother and younger brothers and sisters was going home from work in the bus when, just as she stood up to get out, she found that her week's wages had disappeared. "Oh, my mother's money!" she said, and there she was, where she lay down and died without speaking another word. The doctor certified that her death was due to shock.

The story shows how terribly hard the struggle to make ends meet is weighing upon the minds of poor people and how urgent is the need for prices to be brought down.

After months of delay the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into this matter has issued a report, and unfortunately its recommendations are so vague and hesitating that they are likely to have little or no practical result. The Committee contained not a single individual who in his or her own person is experiencing the sharp economic pressure which is driving masses of poor people to despair. Regard for naval and military demands appears to have overshadowed in the minds of its members the necessities of the people, and fear of adverse criticism by "experts" in political economy and finance has undoubtedly caused them to shrink from making any proposals which might seem to be unprecedented and even from stating in definite and precise terms what their recommendations are. Briefly, their suggestions are as follows:—

The building of mercantile shipping to be accelerated, as far "as is compatible with naval needs."

No demand is made for the nationalisation of shipping nor for the lowering of freight charges, which are so appallingly high.

To prevent congestion of docks, etc., "measures" unspecified to be taken to provide sufficient men. Restriction of import of less necessary commodities to be extended. No animal in calf, lamb, or pig to be slaughtered on pain of fine or imprisonment with forfeiture of carcass.

Nothing is said of making it illegal for farmers to slaughter milking cows, as they have threatened to do, if milk prices are restricted.

Large-scale direct purchase of meat by Government to be extended. "In disposing of meat which is purchased for civil population, the Government should impose such conditions, not only on wholesale merchantmen, but also on retailers, as would tend to secure sale of such meat to the ultimate consumer at reasonable prices."

How absurdly vague! Why should the restriction merely "tend to secure" instead of definitely establishing that Government meat shall not be sold at an unreasonably high price? Surely the recommendation should either be that the Government should fix maximum wholesale and retail prices, or that it should sell the meat direct to the consumer!

"The Government should expedite the establishment of refrigerating stations."

Does that mean that it should establish its own refrigerating stations?

(Continued on page 562, col. 1.)

IN THE LABOUR MARKET

THE DANGERS OF T.N.T.

One of our correspondents, accompanied by two friends, recently visited a Yorkshire munition factory and asked for employment. They were offered work in T.N.T. and told that 30s. was the starting wage and that after three weeks they would be put on piecework, when they would be able to earn from £2 upwards.

They were taken through the factory in order that they might see what the work was like. The strong-smelling T.N.T. fumes made them feel sick. Huge quantities of the explosive were drying in sheds. One of the visitors passed her hand through it, and almost immediately a deep yellow stain spread over the skin which had come in contact with the T.N.T. She was told that it is necessary to wear rubber gloves when handling T.N.T., because of the stains it leaves on hands and clothes.

The women workers all wore khaki dresses, mob caps, respirators, rubber gloves, and high-legged boots. Their faces were coated with a mixture of flour and starch to protect them from T.N.T. dust. In spite of the rubber gloves and caps, their hands and hair were the colour of old gold. The respirators were most necessary, for though our correspondent only spent about three minutes in the room where the T.N.T. is prepared, she felt exceedingly faint. The visitors asked the women to tell them about their working conditions, but they whispered that they dared not. A woman whom they met outside, however, told them that a woman who had been working in T.N.T. had given birth to a child which was yellow in colour. She added that after a month or two at this bed clothes rotted under them.

Our correspondent asked the manager if he did not think that this was dangerous work for women, he replied that it was not "so arduous," and that all the women were "ippy."

A swift answer came to our correspondent a few days later, when the whole was blown up and 39 people killed. The lives of the workers are sacrificed to the ends of militarism.

T.N.T. AGAIN

September 4th an inquest was held in Yorkshire on the body of a young woman who had died in the Infirmary from jaundice as the result of inhaling tri-nitro-toluene while following her employment as a munition worker. The infirmary doctor stated that the girl was admitted to the institution on August 5th, suffering from general jaundice and deep jaundice, which had arisen from her work. The mother of the deceased said her daughter was a married woman, and until going to work at the munition factory about nine or ten weeks ago she had enjoyed excellent health. The medical officer at the factory said the girl was employed in the high explosive department, and her work consisted of wheeling the shells from the machine, repairing and trolleying. The woman complained of not feeling well towards the end of July. He persuaded her to go into the Infirmary. It was very difficult to pick out persons who were especially susceptible to the disease.—A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

A British Association report states that, according to the census of 1911 the proportion of men to women employed on the Clyde was 42.2 to 1, and that of the 5,000 women employed more than 2,000 were engaged in sewing machine manufacture. A return taken from 36 Clyde factories now shows that the proportion of men to women employed is 4.5 to 1, a tremendous drop. Seventeen of these 36 factories are engaged in making shells. In June last 18,000 women were employed in the metal trades, including shipbuilding, and the number has greatly increased.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Dr. Marion Phillips, in the Daily News, points out that the Board of Trade has power to exclude or include, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, trades in which a substantial part of the employees are doing war work, and that so far the Board has taken the latter course. She adds that the advantages of being included under the Act are "rather mixed."

"Take, for instance, the difficulty of qualifying for the full benefit, which is only 7s. a week. A woman must have paid it for twenty-six weeks. We hope that the war may end before that time has elapsed. If so, thousands of women will have paid in for many weeks without ever having the chance of qualifying, as they are only too

likely to find their particular class of employment during the war ending with the coming of peace. This is especially hard upon the workers under 18 years of age, who have to pay the full contribution of 2d. a week, can get at the most only 3s. 6d. a week benefit, and will cease upon peace to be in an insured trade. Where an establishment is not partly upon munition work, and the employees change about from one class of work to the other, they come in and out of insurance all the while. These workers will find it very difficult to qualify for benefit. It is true that it is possible by agreement between the working people and the employer to arrange for them to be insured all the time, but it is not likely that this provision will be largely taken advantage of."

8s. A WEEK FOR CARDIFF MUNITION WORKERS.

The Western Mail reports that at the Cardiff Munitions Tribunal recently three women were charged with bad time keeping. Their defence was that they were ill at the time, and one of them produced a medical certificate to that effect. The court dismissed the charges with a caution because these were the first women tried and because their plea of illness was accepted. It transpired that the women were paid 8s. a week and worked 8 hours a day. One of these women was married. Such sweated workers cannot remain in good health.

At a munitions tribunal in the County Buildings, Glasgow, on September 28th, a woman munitioner succeeded in getting damages from her employers for their action in dismissing her and thus throwing her out of work. The reason for her dismissal was that she was an agitator.

VICKERS' HOSTELS

The Times states that Messrs Vickers, Ltd. are providing hostels for their munition workers at which the women are paid 14s. for single women, £1 10s. for married couples, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. for children, according to age.

These figures are most interesting. One begins by wondering why a woman costs 18s. 6d. and a woman only 14s. Does the woman eat less, or get less, or is it because her wages do not allow of her paying more? With the assistance of the Ministry of Munitions, Messrs. Vickers have had public buildings and schools placed at their disposal, and buying as they do in large quantities they ought to be able to cater very much more advantageously than private persons. It is therefore interesting to note that Messrs. Vickers charge 4s. 6d. and 5s. a week for a child, and 14s. for a woman, and that Vickers charge £1 10s. for a man and wife, and that a disabled soldier and his wife must live on 25s. A special hostel for educated women has been erected, where the charge is 18s. a week; of course, the educated women are not supposed to be obliged to live on their earnings. There are some women in munition factories who earn less than 14s. a week. Who will board and lodge them?

CLYDE WOMEN WORKERS

A British Association report states that, according to the census of 1911 the proportion of men to women employed on the Clyde was 42.2 to 1, and that of the 5,000 women employed more than 2,000 were engaged in sewing machine manufacture. A return taken from 36 Clyde factories now shows that the proportion of men to women employed is 4.5 to 1, a tremendous drop. Seventeen of these 36 factories are engaged in making shells. In June last 18,000 women were employed in the metal trades, including shipbuilding, and the number has greatly increased.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. Dr. Marion Phillips, in the Daily News, points out that the Board of Trade has power to exclude or include, under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, trades in which a substantial part of the employees are doing war work, and that so far the Board has taken the latter course. She adds that the advantages of being included under the Act are "rather mixed."

"Take, for instance, the difficulty of qualifying for the full benefit, which is only 7s. a week. A woman must have paid it for twenty-six weeks. We hope that the war may end before that time has elapsed. If so, thousands of women will have paid in for many weeks without ever having the chance of qualifying, as they are only too

THE TRAIL OF THE WAR

A CRY FROM THE INTERNMENT CAMPS.

The unhappy plight of British civilians interned in Germany is well known. It is said that insanity and nervous diseases are common amongst them and that they suffer much more from military prisoners because of their anxiety in regard to their families and business affairs.

The civilian prisoners interned in this country suffer the same anxieties. We recently published statements by the men interned in Alexandra Palace and Knockaloe camps, and there now reaches us the following desperate appeal to Mr. Asquith from Knockaloe. The sender in a covering letter to us says that he fears "the most serious consequences" should the appeal be disregarded as the men say: "We would rather be shot than suffer the agonies of another winter of internment." It is said that many men have gone mad and that some have committed suicide.

Knockaloe, September 13th, 1916. To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, 10 Downing Street, London.

Sir,—The time has come for us to speak plainly and tell you without fear or favour what we have to say on behalf of 23,000 prisoners of war, honest men—to use your own definition—interned here for no offence whatsoever, but merely because of the War.

Appeal after appeal, petition after petition, protest after protest, both verbal and in writing, addressed through the American Embassy, have been left unanswered, no excuse has been offered, and no reparation for the wrong done has been made. Your Government started this internment business. . . . You have created untold misery for thousands and thousands of families, ruined many of us financially as well as bodily, intellectually and morally. And for what? Simply because we happened to be in your power and belong to a nation you chose to go to war with. Many of us, married to English born wives, with English homes and children, once peaceful, law-abiding citizens. . . . The

camp is crowded with such men, men who went through awful Olympia ordeals, suffered the horrible terrors of the prison-ships and the savage brutality of Stratford, men forcibly taken from neutral steamers, torn away from business, home and children, be it in the tropics or the colonies. All are collected here in Condemner! Two years and more, taken out of our life, which can never be compensated for.

Now what useful purpose is served by our internment? What object is attained? Where is the use of all this expense? Where do the principles of liberty and freedom come in, of which you claim to have the monopoly? You allow your newspapers day by day to hound down unfortunates, to publish despicable, callous, deliberate lies and incite senseless hatred to such an extent that even English-born wives and children are in fear of their lives? "Pampering the Huns"—forsooth—that is what we read into the bargain! All we ask for is our right: let us free to go . . . to our own countries or any neutral country; you should have done so in the first instance by every divine and human law. 40,000 men (in the whole of Greater Britain) are on your conscience, yours is the responsibility for all the misery caused to our unhappy wives, children and relations, for all their sufferings and heart burning. Ponder and act, and for once act at once!

We have the honour to be, sir, Your obedient servants, Signed by the Head-captains. . . . A.

The desperation which this letter plainly shows is felt by British prisoners also. . . . A Minister. Surely the time has come to insist that our rebuffered civilians should be sent to the c

likely to find their particular class of employment during the war ending with the coming of peace. This is especially hard upon the workers under 18 years of age, who have to pay the full contribution of 2d. a week, can get at the most only 3s. 6d. a week benefit, and will cease upon peace to be in an insured trade. Where an establishment is not partly upon munition work, and the employees change about from one class of work to the other, they come in and out of insurance all the while. These workers will find it very difficult to qualify for benefit. It is true that it is possible by agreement between the working people and the employer to arrange for them to be insured all the time, but it is not likely that this provision will be largely taken advantage of."

NOTTINGHAM'S EFFORT TO ORGANISE WOMEN.

In Nottingham several trade unions have decided not to admit to membership the women who are doing the work previously done by their men members. The Trades Council has endeavoured to circumvent this difficulty by arranging the women in the following six groups: (1) Engineering trades; (2) Textile trades; (3) Distributive trades; (4) Printing trades; (5) Vehicular trades; (6) Miscellaneous.

In cases such as the skilled engineering societies, which have decided not to admit women, the women will be admitted to the General Labourers' Union. Joint influence will be brought to bear upon the women to enter the unions, and the societies are arranging to work harmoniously together. Agreements will define the extent of each union's activities and will arrange for mutual action in case of any industrial trouble. Women who are now members of a union will not be required to transfer to or join another union.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

A dispute affecting 2,000 workers is taking place at the flour mills of Liverpool, Birkenhead, Seacombe, Ellesmere Port, and Wrexham, because the employers have refused to recognise a trade union and to grant increases in wages of 15 per cent. and 5 per cent. extra for night work. There are also grievances in regard to hours. The employers refused to arbitrate, whereupon the workers gave notice that they would only work according to the following plan:—

DAY. At 8 to 8.30 a.m. all employees to go to breakfast. At 12 to 12.30 noon all female employees to go to dinner. At 12 to 1 p.m. all male employees to go to dinner. At 5 to 5.30 p.m. all female employees to go to tea.

NIGHT. At 8 to 8.30 p.m. all male employees to go to their first meal. At 12 to 12.30 midnight all females to go to their meals. At 12 to 1 a.m. all males to go to their second meal. No employee to "spell" another employee off for meals. No overtime to be worked by any employee.

This is in line with the modern tendency for the workers to demand control of the conditions of their employment and workshop management.

The Co-operative Society strikers at Plymouth have agreed to a suggestion by the Board of Trade that the dispute be settled by negotiations with the Transport Workers' Federation and the A.U.C.E. The society's decision is not yet known.

William Bamford, cotton waste dealer, of Mile Street, Manchester, who employs about 50 women, was fined £50 the other day because the machinery in his factory was unclean and threw off quantities of dust and the room was not properly ventilated.

If the factory where you work has similar defects write to the factory inspector and to us.

It is said that the Government is about to insist that shops shall be shut earlier in order to reduce the consumption of coal and light. This will be a good thing for the shop assistants, but care must be taken that wages are not reduced.

BARRACK LIFE.

"Then there is something I wanted to say about the Army; and you can use it, if you think it worth while, as the expression of a very deep conviction of mine. . . . I don't think it has been emphasised very much in connection with our propaganda; perhaps, indeed, it hardly comes within the scope of the Fellowship. I have realised it unawares, but for the last few days and nights here more than ever."

"I mean the horror to which not only the conscript, but the soldier, and, above all, the young soldier of whatever category, is condemned by a few weeks even of Army life. I know that it is probably better in martial regiments than in this; but, nevertheless, the number of men whom in England alone this War has turned into foul-mouthed, drink-sodden, sex-soaked animals must, I should think, run into seven figures. What this means for the future, not only of England, but of the world, no one dare contemplate. But, my God, when I think we are fighting to preserve our culture and to protect Western civilisation, and then to spend half an hour in a hut here one evening—well, I laugh. I feel as if I want to pour out an endless torrent of scathing denunciations, not of the men, poor devils—they deserve our pity, Heaven knows, not our blame—but of the system that makes them what they are becoming. And it is only by the merest accident that I am not like them. . . . And the intelligent men, the religious men, the honest, sober, and God-fearing men of our country are driving men into the Army! That is more to me now than all the other arguments for our opposition to War and the organisation of men for War."

Tell them that this is the thing we have to fight. You can imagine well enough. The weak-kneed youth—and they are nearly all weak-kneed—comes down to a camp. Within three weeks he is within the grip of the canteen-soaker, the gambler, or something of the sort. One of you thousand may leave this behind when he leaves the Army. The rest never do. But they found generation after generation and become the fathers of the next generation. That is what matters. I almost want to say: 'I would be glad that all the English children were impaled on German bayonets, to save the race from what is coming.' Would that be better than this?"

ALAN MACDONALD.

WHO PAYS? (continued from page 560)

"All those who are not engaged in severe manual labour are urged to abstain from meat once a week."

This appears to be suggested as a purely voluntary measure. In Russia, by the way, four meatless days each week are prescribed by a new law, the infringement of which may be punished by a fine of from £5 to £30 and imprisonment up to three months for a first offence, and for succeeding offences up to eighteen months.

MILK.

In regard to milk, it is suggested:

(1) That it be "considered" whether milk from Ireland could be put on sale under Government control at cheap cross-counter rates in poor districts.

(2) An inquiry should be made as to the possibility of bringing dried milk to the towns in large quantities.

(3) "In view of the admitted scarcity of milkers, attempts should be made through the County War Committees and such organisations to induce women to become dairy workers, and to persuade farmers to employ them."

New South Wales has started State farms for the employment of women (and men who are available), and for the development of a pure milk supply, which is so necessary and so almost non-existent here. But too bold an example for this hesitating Committee to follow! Yet even the Russian Government has started four cattle-breeding stations and seventeen refrigerator-abattoirs, as we learn from *The Times* supplement.

Wholesale dealers shall furnish the Board of Trade or Agriculture with their present and past milk contract prices and the names and address of the farmers from whom they buy.

It is not stated whether either of these Boards is to take action if contract prices are too high!

MUNICIPAL SHOPS.

"Where there is reason to believe that any group of retailers are using the present abnormal situation in order to obtain excessive profits, municipal shops may be opened on a business footing for the sale of milk, meat, bacon, and other necessary food-stuffs."

This is the Committee's most revolutionary proposal, and we welcome it, but it is altogether too permissive and conditional to meet the need.

The people may be starving, and yet it may be impossible to prove to the satisfaction of those who have the power to act that retailers are making excessive profits. Indeed, it is generally admitted that it is not, as a rule, the retailer who is making large profits. On the contrary, many a small retailer is in danger of being crushed out of pocket. One of them tells us that in the case of tins of soup, tins of polish, and so on, sold to the consumer at a penny, the dozen price to the shopkeeper has been raised from 8d. to 10d. Boxes of matches which used to be sold retail at a penny per dozen, and for which the shopkeeper paid 9d. per gross, making a profit of 3d., are now charged three boxes for 2d. to the consumer and 6s. 6d. a gross to the shopkeeper, allowing a profit of 13d. in the shilling. The same East London shopkeeper was recently offered eggs at 26s. per 100—i.e., more than 3d. each. Knowing that her customers could not pay such a price, she refused to buy them, but accepted eggs at 23s. a 100 which were not warranted and therefore not exchangeable if bad. She found that her customers would not pay more than 24d. each for the eggs, though she had paid 24d. A large proportion of the eggs were bad, and her customers came back clamouring for them to be exchanged.

No power is suggested by which the municipalities may secure that commodities shall be supplied to them at reasonable prices by the wholesaler.

MORE CHARITY.

The committee further recommends the establishment of municipal maternity and infant clinics and day nurseries, and the provision of free milk and dinners to nursing and expectant mothers, and milk to children under five years at the cost of the Board of Education and Local Government Board through voluntary or municipal clinics and day nurseries.

The Workers' Suffrage Federation has pioneered the view that the work of maternity and infant clinics cannot be properly done where poverty prevents the carrying out of the doctor's instructions as to feeding, and that it is an absurdity to ply with medical advice and drugs mothers and children who are suffering from lack of food. We are emphatically of opinion that where want exists it must be relieved, and by the speediest means, and that the nation should accept responsibility for the cost. Moreover, voluntary agencies like the W.S.F. should greatly need further support.

But we shrink with extreme dismay from the prospect of seeing larger and larger numbers of women and children forced to the necessity of imploring doles of milk and food, simply because real wages are being continually reduced by the unchecked mounting of food prices. We would point out, moreover, that to feed only the nursing and expectant mother and the child under five leaves other sections of the populace unprotected.

Humorous, if it were not tragic, would be the Committee's recommendation that:

"If in any direction the announced policy of the Government to establish fair and adequate wages for women workers in controlled establishments has not yet been completely carried out, it should be enforced there with the least possible delay."

Does the Committee know that Lloyd George's Order fixes wages for women and girl munition workers, ranging from 24d. and 34d., to 4d. and 44d. an hour, with a halfpenny an hour extra for dangerous work?

THE COMMITTEE'S FAILURE.

Emphatically it seems to us that the Food Committee has failed. It has refused to fix maximum prices or profits. It has refused to recommend Government control of the food supply. It has failed even to give precise and business-like details of the tinkering measures it has agreed upon.

When the limitation of food prices is asked for, it is frequently objected, that if there is a genuine scarcity of food, consumption must be limited, if not by raising prices, then in some other way. Limitation by raising prices, of course, means that the poor are obliged, either wholly or partially, to starve. The *Manchester Guardian* and others object to proposals for fixed rations on the ground that the plan has not worked well in Germany. The objection to the German system appears to be that there are not enough depots at which tickets may be exchanged, and that the ticket system is applied to commodities, such as milk and bread, which ought to be delivered from house to house. But even the municipal shops recommended by the Committee would probably be crowded like the German depots. Whether it be arranged on the fixed ration system or not, it would certainly be best to distribute milk, bread, and probably meat from house to house. Should any scarcity of labour present itself, the special constables might well be pressed into the service.

The Minority Report recommends that, where possible, the Government should become the sole purchaser of meat and bacon, and should "insist on the public getting the full benefit of advantageous buying"; also that public control should be exercised over home supplies of milk, bacon, meat, and other foodstuffs, and reasonable prices fixed. Here, again, we regret that a detailed scheme has not been presented.

In Russia "firm" maximum prices have been fixed for many commodities; but *The Times*'s Petrograd correspondent naively states that, in regard to grain, at any rate, "these prices could not create any difficulties . . . because 'firm' prices were established very late."

This same thing will probably happen here. When the prices have risen so high that purchasers are unobtainable, the profiteers will graciously allow it to be decided that prices may not be further raised.

Meanwhile, because of the groundless fears of the many and the pride and greed of the few, the War goes on.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WAR FINANCE AND THE WORKER.

Mr. Frederick Temple's pamphlet "War Finance and the Worker" is like the famous curate's egg—good in parts. He talks sound sense when he explains how the great banks having failed to stand the strain of the country's credit at the outbreak of the war, compelled the Chancellor of the Exchequer to put the nation's credit behind them, and how they took care to profit by the deal. He shows up clearly that when the banks subscribe to war loans they secure for their shareholders interest on money which they do not have to provide and which only exists in books; and he says quite truly that in this transaction the taxpayer is paying the banks for doing what the State could quite easily have done for itself without cost.

Mr. Temple is on more disputable ground when he gets to his favourite theme of a people's bank. He apparently thinks that if the working class were to put all their money into one bank and that bank were to hoard gold it could by that means break the capitalist system. I do not think so. I think, in the first place, he is never likely to persuade large working class organisations to hoard their money in a bank which by its very nature could pay no interest. In the second place, even were he to succeed the capitalists would simply import gold from abroad. The only limit to this would be the hoarding of the whole gold supply of the world in the people's bank, and even if this inconceivable limit were reached the capitalists would either procure legislation rendering such action illegal or would invent a new method of currency which would serve to express their actual control of all the existing forms of capital wealth.

F. W. PETHICK LAWRENCE. Published by the Commonwealth Press, 118 Cannon Street, E.C. Price One Penny.

With a deal with our Advertisers, and mention the "ught."

Six Babies Who Thrived

A STORY of infant-care is here published, without comment, in the hope that everyone who is interested in the great work of conservation of child life, and who sees this article, will read it. The story is told in the Doctor's own words. Professional etiquette precludes the publication of his name.

"A scientifically standardised food for babies and young children has long been sought for, and at my request Glaxo Company supplied me with Glaxo, a food having a composition, when prepared for use, practically identical with that of human milk.

"I have given it an excellent trial in the children's ward of this institution during the past summer, at a time when milk of proper quality was difficult to obtain.

"Six babies suffering from malnutrition and wasting were selected for treatment; all were thin and miserable examples of children unable to digest the ordinary milk and other children's foods in vogue in the neighbourhood. They have, without exception, thrived extremely well, and have been sent out to their parents strong and healthy. The case of R—B—, aged six months, may be quoted as a good example of the manner in which they all progressed.

"On admission, on June 15th, 1907, she weighed 9 lbs. 4 ozs., and was obviously rapidly wasting from an inability to assimilate the nourishment supplied.

"The following table of recorded increases in weight needs no descriptive explanation:—

Table with 4 columns: Date, Weight (lb. oz.), Date, Weight (lb. oz.). Rows show dates from June 15th to Oct. 2nd and corresponding weights.

"On September 18th she was vaccinated 0.025, during the following week succeeding seven days, however, she lost 14ozs., and then was discharged home, a model of all that a baby should be.

"The food is easily prepared, children take to it with evident pleasure. The Ward Sister, who has strong based upon repeated disappointment, patent and proprietary foods, acknowledge the success of 'Glaxo.'"

(Signed) M. D. Lot D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law, Medical Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, 115 Great Portland Street, London, W.1. Proprietor of Glaxo and Joseph Newman & Co., Ltd., London, E.C.4. 140106

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WAR FINANCE AND THE WORKER, BY FREDERICK TEMPLE.

(Author of "Interest, Gold, and Banking.") London: The Commonwealth Press, 118 Cannon Street, E.C. Glasgow: The Reformers' Bookstall, Ltd., 126 Bothwell Street. Huddersfield: The WORKER Press, 47 Market Street.

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HARDIE AND BURNS, A Garland of Honour: by P. J. Dollan

The movement which forgets its dead is a movement doomed to failure! While no movement can progress without the aid of the living, yet doubly blessed is that movement which is not only borne along on the shoulders of the living, but is also influenced by the gracious memories and spirit of the dead. In our youthful Socialist movement we have a treasury near our hearts where we keep warm the memories of our glorious dead—the dead who have died for Socialism; who have died in the service of the people. Many of our dead were famous; many unknown to fame; but all were bound together in a common service: the uplift and freeing of humanity. And so, when last week-end Scotland remembered Keir Hardie, the numerous and great meetings held in his honour, she also thought of those other brave men and women who walked in the same thorny path as his and pursued the same noble ideal.

Well may Scotland remember her dead, for it is their deeds that have made her famous where Liberty and Freedom are cherished. All the ages the sturdy sons and daughters of old have made sacrifice before the altar of Liberty, and so have made an inheritance for us, and so have made a heritage for us. Her famous sons none fought more strenuously for Liberty than James Keir Hardie, whose name the historians of the future will link along with Wallace, Burns, and the other great Scots, as a Co-operative Internationalism and a free Nationalism. Keir Hardie, like Burns, was a fervent Internationalist before he was an ardent Scot. It was his love for his fellow-men that taught him to love other nations and

aid their cause. Hardie strove for a free India because, with his clear vision, he saw that a shackled India meant a shackled Scotland. None knew better than he that freedom for each nation was the key to the co-operation of all the nations. Free nations do not consort with slave nations any more than free men chum with slaves.

Scotland, indeed, is proud of Keir Hardie, for in him she sees the political embodiment of the poetry which Robert Burns taught her children. The poet learned the Scots the songs of freedom, and Hardie taught them the laws of freedom. The one was the poet of Democracy; the other the statesman of Democracy. Scotland has thus enriched the world by giving to Humanity a poet and a statesman; two great nationalists whose nationalism is the seed of Internationalism. Therefore, when Scotland decided to lay a garland of honour on Keir Hardie's memory it was appropriate that the garland should be carried to Ayr—a town immortal because of its association with Robert Burns. It was many years after his death before the name of Robert Burns was given national reverence; and it will be many years before Keir Hardie becomes a national hero. But just as the spirit of Burns triumphed over calumny and reaction, so also will the spirit of Hardie triumph over the powers of evil and ensure for his own his honoured place in the national remembrance.

The spirit of Hardie is already "marching on"; there are to-day more pursuing his ideal than there were when he died a year ago in a Glasgow nursing home. Thousands of people paid homage to his memory in Scotland last week-end who had never seen or heard him in the flesh. From all quarters of Scotland pilgrims flocked to

Ayr to do honour to his memory: on Sunday thousands of workers crowded meeting places in the towns and villages so that they might refresh their weary souls in the abundance of his spirit. And for all of them there was something gained in communion with our dead friend. No person who attended a Keir Hardie memorial meeting went away without feeling better for having stood within the shade of the refreshing personality of the great Democrat. And thus it was that Scotland, in honouring Hardie, gained anew that strength which will enable her people to shatter the hideous temple of the war lords.

Keir Hardie is dead, but his influence lives. The madness of the war shortened his life, but the influence of that life will end the War. There are now many Internationalists in Scotland where there was only one in September, 1915, and their number is enlarging as the influence of Hardie breaks down prejudice and illuminates the places that have been darkened by war. Slowly, but surely, the influence of Hardie travels over the land, awakening the people from their stupor, calling them to action, bidding them be free, urging them to destroy war, palaces, and the power of their tenants, teaching them to conquer poverty, to drive away ignorance and intemperance, to love wisdom, to appreciate humility and simplicity, and to be gentle with children and those who are sick. The influence of Hardie is the influence of Socialism; the influence of Truth, and that influence no force in this world can crush. And so it is that Scotland, by remembering Keir Hardie, and under the guidance of his influence, is nearing Peace.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

THE BISHOP'S LACK OF COURAGE

The Bishop of London has displayed neither faith nor courage in withdrawing his offer to invite women to address women and girls in the churches during the National Mission. Happily, women are not dependent upon the Bishop to prevent them a hearing, either from women and girls, or men. Many excellent halls are available in every district, and as Christ was not slow to discover, the popular ear can be most surely reached in the open highways and by-ways. Whilst the clergy are speaking to empty churches others address multitudes in the streets.

To those women who desired to take part in the Mission organised by the Bishop, we say: Organise your own mission, and if the power of the spirit is in you it will bear fruit.

THE MISSING LINK (?)

The Times is still agitating for another link to be added to the chain of bondage which it has forged. Now it lays down the program for the coming Parliamentary session: more men must be forthcoming for the Army, and Ireland is the coveted prey; conscription must be extended to that country, or "the gradual disappearance of Ireland as a fighting unit in the Empire" is foreshadowed. Those who know Ireland and Irish aspirations could not wish for any better solution than the fulfilment of this threat, for is it not the long-promised Home Rule a means to that end!

An argument put forward in favour of including Ireland among the conscript nations is the fact that the Irish regiments at the front are doing good work; but *The Times* complains that there has been "total failure" at home to support them. Yes, there has, indeed, been "total failure," but not on the part of the Irish; the British Government has "failed." Martial law is now enforced in Ireland by means of a garrison of 40,000 men, an army, probably, as large, or larger, than could be procured by the extension of the Conscription Act to Ireland.

What is wanted is the removal of oppression from that unfortunate country, not further oppression. To-day is said to be the day of small nations: let the British Government show its belief in this at home!

M. O'C. ARMY RATIONS FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES. A Canadian soldier's wife, who wrote to the *Daily Chronicle* complaining of high food prices in Folkestone, and showing by comparison with prices quoted by the *Chronicle* that they were much higher than London prices, tells us that her letter created a furore in Folkestone and was quoted at a meeting of the Town Council. She says: "Meanwhile the prices are still high; for example, sugar 64d. a pound, and French beans 4d. per pound. Room rents are unreasonably high, even when based on the law of supply and demand, for the house rents are lower here than they are in London, and yet the usual price is 10s. for one furnished room, with the crudest conveniences for washing and cooking, whilst a bath means another turn of the hand screw."

"The Canadian soldiers' wives had a respite for a few weeks, when the men were allowed to draw their rations and have them cooked at home, which, with their 5d. per day messing allowance, made a great difference, especially if a woman had a kiddie to feed. But that has

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

been stopped, and when people get real angry they talk about a South Coast tradesmen's association.

How the wives of the soldiers in the British Army can live on their separation allowances, no Canadian woman can understand! Why can't they be allowed to purchase food from the Army Service Corps, or better still, put them on Army rations, just like the wife of the old regular used to be?

Dear Editor,—Could you send me any bills at any time to give out? My husband being a conscript has been away three months and it is a very hard struggle to get along with the paltry 21s. I am not strong enough to go out to work or I should be at every meeting there is. Even one penny tram fare has got to be looked at now. Just you fancy 6s. rent, 2s. duty, coal 2s. 1. My husband was one of the best and able to do anything. In fact my home is full of things he has made. If the food goes up any more it looks like having to go into one room. I must tell you that had I been stronger my husband would have gone to prison and I should have worked for myself and little girl.

I hear the railway men have got what they wanted. I wish the soldiers' wives would wake up.

MARY ELLIS. "I have a son soldiering at the front," said a woman who was summoned by her landlord to the West London Court, "and my husband is a soldier at York. I have had no money from the Army for three weeks." The landlord was granted a possession order, and the woman left complaining: "Landlords won't let me have a place because I have too many children."

Join the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

OLD AGE PENSIONERS STILL WAITING. The Old Age Pensioners are still waiting for the promised increase of 2s. 6d. a week!

W. R. Littlejohns, a Crimean veteran, drowned himself in the Thames on his way to the workhouse the other day. He could not live at war prices on the old-age pension of 5s. a week. He had lived with a niece, but she had lost four sons in the present war and could no longer afford to keep him.

A number of well-known men and women have petitioned Mr. Asquith to grant absolute exemption to conscientious objectors who refuse alternative service. We wish them all success.

DESIRE FOR PEACE GROWING. A conscientious objector in — Barracks informs us that the guard, two N.C.O.'s and six privates have signed the peace petition. The sergeant has taken two petition forms.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS. The desire for peace is growing in the French Socialist Party, and in a recent division, in which the expediency of peace negotiations was the issue, only one-third of the Socialist Deputies voted with the Government. The parliamentary party has appointed a committee to draw up a declaration on peace conditions.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS. At a German Socialist Party Conference, Haase and Kautsky urged a peace by negotiation. Kautsky said that Britain and the British working-class would at once agree to negotiate if the German Government would declare that it did not want annexations, that it would restore Belgium and Serbia, recognise international arbitration, and make terms with Britain in regard to armament.

Is the British Government prepared to accept peace on these terms? It is rumoured that Britain has pledged herself to fight until Russia has obtained possession of Constantinople. Also that the German Foreign Minister has made many overtures for peace, and has been rebuffed by the British Government.

The Bishop of London says that the artificial prevention of child-bearing is a disgrace to the city. It is a disgrace to the city that masses of the children who are born die from overcrowding and underfeeding.

WHAT NEXT!

The *London Gazette* announces the following defence of the Realm regulation:—

"Where there appears to be reason to apprehend that the assembly of any persons for the purpose of holding any meeting will give rise to grave disorder, and will thereby cause undue demands to be made on the police or military forces, steps may be taken by the proper authorities to disperse the meeting or procession or prevent its being held."

If any irresponsible or hired rowdies, like those employed by the anti-German League, announce that they intend to create disorder at a meeting, it appears from this regulation that the meeting may be stopped. This constitutes a serious attack upon free speech. If Suffragists or pacifists should take to interrupting the meetings of Cabinet Ministers would the meetings of Ministers be prevented?

NOTES FROM THE MIDLANDS.

By Omnifrage. Chesterfield has introduced women labour into its gasworks. I regard the step as a mixed blessing. Seven women are already employed, four of these on heavy barrow work. The Gasworkers' Union has raised no objection. Naturally, with the male labour market at a premium, the women's wages of £1 a week and war bonus might well go begging so far as the men are concerned. Only deserving cases and widows, we are told, will be employed. That, again, does not inspire me with admiration. Altruism on the part of a trading concern is a very doubtful quality.

Alderman Grundy, first Labour Mayor of Rotherham, last week received another of his worthy ambitions. This able man has for years been working to establish a municipal maternity and child welfare centre. Last week saw the centre opened. Too long has it been in coming to this busy town in the heart of the black area of South Yorkshire. The Rotherham Centre aims to provide infant consultations, house visiting and systematic instruction. Also, it sets out to show the way to domestic economy. Increased economy would seem impossible to the all too numerous poor of Rotherham and district in these days of War prices and profits!

The National Mission of Repentance and Hope is doing what the saner and more enlightened among Midlanders expected it would do—precious little. So long as one little child goes barefooted while the Church continues to build stained glass windows, so long must discriminating men and women pay little heed to the vapourings of professional religion purveyors.

Midlanders are a pretty level-headed lot. They judge the Church as they judge the individual—by acts. And they know the Church has not justified itself. It has had great opportunities that are born of a closed profession, and in the words of a prominent Yorkshireman, it has built itself into a colossal monument of ineptitude. "The Mission is already dead in the Midlands," said a prominent journalist to me a few days ago. I believe he spoke no more than the truth.

U.S. AT HOMES.

The United Suffragists invite you to a series of five "At Homes" at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday evenings, at 8 p.m., beginning October 12th. Among the speakers are Miss Muriel Matters, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Anna Martin, Mr. George Lansbury, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss H. C. Newcomb, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Mrs. Despard, and Mr. H. W. Nevinson.

THE WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee 1d.
Minimum Subscription... .. 1d. a month

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6th.
Charlton Street, Euston, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Highbury Corner, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Mr. Mackinlay.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th.
Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Miss Price.
Outside Jones Brothers, Holloway, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8th.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Conference.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Miss Rickards, Miss Somers.
Euston Theatre, 6 p.m., Adult Suffrage Demonstration.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9th.
Lesbia Road, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
"Peacock," 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Philpot Street, 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th.
Pigott Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
Bow Women's Hall, 8-10 p.m., Reading Room.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Mr. Mackinlay.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8.30 p.m., Lecture.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th.
124 Barking Road, 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Mrs. Parsons.
Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Shlette.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th.
"Whitehouse," 6 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 7.45 p.m., Lecture.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th.
Morpeth Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Grundy Street, 3 p.m., Miss Price.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15th.
Hyde Park, 4 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Price.
Poplar Women's Hall, 7 p.m., Public Meeting.
Hampstead, 6 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Mackinlay.

W.S.F. BRANCHES.

Bow, 400 Old Ford Road. Secretary, Miss Price.—Our open-air meetings continue successfully. On Sunday, September 17th, a party of members visited Golders Green Garden City and spent a most enjoyable day. In the afternoon a big protest meeting was held in Victoria Park against the action of the L.C.C. in stopping the sale of literature and collections in parks. On September 24th, Mrs. H. Campbell and Mr. Laurence Housman were the speakers at our Sunday evening meeting. The audience was most appreciative. We are holding a most interesting series of lectures on Friday evenings. On Club evenings, Mondays at 7 o'clock, members are asked to help by making articles for our sale of work at Caxton Hall, on December 7th, 8th and 9th. Our men members can help by providing materials, toys and balls of wool, crochet cotton and dress materials and by sending in hand made articles in wood or leather work. All members are asked to endeavour to attend the Adult Suffrage Demonstration, at Euston Theatre, on Sunday, October 8th, at 6 p.m.

DREADNOUGHT sales week ending September 30th, 9 15, Miss Harriet, 240; Mrs. Holloway, 228; Miss O'Brien, 204; Miss Smyth, 59; Mrs. Greer, 36; Mrs. Crabb, 30; Mrs. Farrall, 12; General sales, 100. Bromley sales, 89.

POPULAR, 20 Railway Street.—During the month most interesting meetings and lectures have been held, including Mrs. Lambert's report of conditions under which women munition workers labour, and Mr. E. J. Smith's address on "Should the War End Now?" This was very well attended, and the Misses Rickards sang. Good work in collecting and canvassing has been done by Mrs. Shlette and the Misses Lagging and Watts.

Miss Price, our Bow Secretary, took the chair at a meeting under the auspices of the Council for Civil Liberties at Ealing Common on Sunday, September 24th. She spoke for half an hour without interruption. Mrs. Ward, who followed, also spoke undisturbed for a quarter of an hour, when she was interrupted by two men and a Frenchwoman. Miss Price then asked for questions, and, in spite of some hostility from about five individuals in an orderly and sympathetic crowd of 200, the meeting proceeded. The Frenchwoman then complained to a policeman, who came forward and took the names and addresses of the speakers and a leaflet entitled "Are we fighting for Liberty?" copies of which Mrs. Ward had with her, and asked Miss Price to close the meeting, as it was "likely to lead to a breach of the peace." Miss Price immediately complied. On Tuesday Miss Price was informed by a policeman, who called at her home, that a "process" was being brought against her at Ealing.

BIJOU THEATRE.

At the Bijou Theatre, on Sunday, September 24th, Miss Clara Reed, director of the "Poetic Players," gave a dramatic recital of Stephen Phillips' "Herod." Miss Reed's admirable rendering of this masterpiece was a source of great pleasure to those present. The W.S.F. is very greatly indebted to her.

FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

Veneral Clinics were established in New South Wales by the present Chief Secretary (Mr. Black) in January, 1915, at the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. The attendance during the first twelve months numbered 49,007, of whom 22,579 were men and only 7,428 were women. Amongst the women there were waitresses, factory employees, and others. Many were quite young girls, and there were also young children. It is said that not many professional prostitutes attend.

Mr. Black was at first a believer in the State regulation of vice, but he now believes that all compulsory measures tend to defeat their own ends. He proposes to open two additional veneral clinics in Sydney and eight in country towns. He wishes to detain soldiers and sailors until they have a clean bill of health.

WANTED.—A TRAVELLER for South Wales toy trade.—Apply, A., 400 Old Ford Road, E.

WANTED.—An EXPERIENCED CUTTER and FOREWOMAN.—Apply, H., 400 Old Ford Road, E.

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought" shortly ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, E.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A series of educative lectures on Economics, Trade Unionism, History of Socialism, National Guilds, &c., has been organised by Mrs. Herbergova to take place at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., on Friday evenings at 7.45. The lectures are:—

Oct. 6th. Mrs. Peter Thompson, "The Weakness of Ignorance; Moral Education."
" 13th. Mr. E. C. Fairchild, "How to Secure a Permanent Peace."
" 20th. Mr. Walton Newbold, "The Conquest of Economic Power."
" 27th. Miss Mabel Lawrence, "The History of British Socialism."
Nov. 3rd. Mr. J. Fineberg (B.S.P.), "Theory of Karl Marx."
" 10th. Mrs. Lafitte-Cyon, "French Revolution."
" 17th. Mrs. Lafitte-Cyon, "French Revolution."
" 24th. Miss Mabel Lawrence, "International Socialism."
Dec. 1st. Mr. G. D. H. Cole, "Trade Unions. Next Step, National Guilds."
" 15th. Professor Masaryk, "Tolstoy's Philosophy of Religion."

An adjourned conference on "Industrial Problems after the War" will be held to-day October 7th, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Mr. John Scurr has kindly arranged to give a course of lectures entitled, "The Growth of the English People," on Wednesday evenings, at 8.30 prompt, in the Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, Poplar, E. The subjects are:—
" 11th. "The Break up of Feudalism."
" 18th. "The Reformation."
" 25th. "The Spacious Days of Elizabeth."
Nov. 1st. "The Building of the Constitution."
" 8th. "The Beginning of Empire."
" 15th. "The Industrial Revolution."
" 22nd. "The Triumph of the Middle Class."
" 29th. "The Uplift of Labour."

We hope that members and friends will make a point of attending. Admission free.

Every Thursday in October and November at Homes will be held at Chandos Hall (21a Maiden Lane), 3.30 p.m., Mr. Arthur Field, "Woman in Turkey, Past and Present"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier. Oct. 19th, at 3.30, Mrs. Bessie Ward, "Beware Industrial Conscience"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook." Chair, Mrs. Drake.

Monday, October 16th, 8 p.m., General Meeting of London section of W.S.F. at Bow Women's Hall.

Public Meeting, October 26th, 7 p.m., at the Public Baths Concert Hall, Barking. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Drake, and others will speak on Human Suffrage and Problems after the War. Admission free.

CAXTON HALL EXHIBITION

The Exhibition to be held in the Caxton Hall on December 7th, 8th, and 9th, from 3 to 10 daily will include:—Sweated Industries Section, arranged by Mrs. Drake; Food Prices Exhibit, arranged by Miss E. Dyce Sharp; Mothercraft Exhibit; Doloroso Demonstration; lecture will be given by Miss Storr, M.A., Lecturer at the Goldsmith's College; Montessori Demonstration and Lecture by Miss Muriel Matters, who has studied with Dr. Maria Montessori in Spain. A fine concert is being kindly arranged by Mrs. Herbergova, and a pageant by Dr. Harry Stütze. The Exhibition will be opened on the first day by Mr. Israel Zangwill, on the second day by Mr. Hogge, M.P., who has worked so hard to secure adequate pensions and allowances for the soldiers and sailors and their wives and relatives, and on the third day by Miss Emily Hobhouse, whose international work and sympathies are well known, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky in the chair. Other speakers will include Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, M.P., Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. George Lansbury, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

The East London Co-operative Toy Factory will sell its charming toys, and there will be garment, sweet, flower, farm produce, and literature stalls.

Another feature will be a Photographic Exhibition, entrance fee for exhibits 2s. 6d. A well-known photographer will act as judge and award prizes. The services of a good photographer for the exhibition are needed.

Friends are asked to help in stocking these stalls and in making the Exhibition known. Communications should be addressed to the Exhibition Secretary, Miss Sonia Rodker, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CO-OPERATIVE TOY FACTORY.

For the women and girl workers in the East London Toy Factory, who make most charming toys, we want to start a modelling class on Saturday afternoons or one evening in the week in order that they may develop their sense of form. Who will pay for the teacher?

RESPECTABLE WOMAN is offered room rent free in return for cleaning.—Apply, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

"The Birthrate,"

Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birthrate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d 9d. per. dozen.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Miss Fryer, £1 1s.; Mrs. Hecht, £1; Miss Sarah Birch, £1; The Misses Gliksten (monthly), £1; Miss E. Lowy, 10s. Anon., 4s.; Miss Evelyn Barkham, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Ewins, 2s.; Mrs. Schurr, 1s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Osborn Street, 4s.; Miss Mackay, 3s. 2d.; Chrisp Street, 2s. 3d.; Poplar Women's Hall, Wednesday evening, 1s. 2d.; Bow Women's Hall, 1s. 2d. DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Mrs. Sanger (monthly £1), £1; Miss Miriam Gliksten, £2; Mrs. Gibson, £1; Portsmouth Branch, 5s.; Mrs. Richardson, 2s. 6d.; Harold Sandon, Esq., 1s. 6d.; Thomas Orr, 1s.; Miss S. W. Newson (monthly), 1s.; Mrs. Hebergova, 1s.; Mrs. Gilbert, 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mr. & Mrs. Sadd Brown (£3 monthly), £6; Miss Yeoman (10s. weekly), £5 10s.; Harold Bailey, Esq., £5; Miss Ruth Turner, £1 3s. 6d.; Miss E. W. Willan, £1 1s.; Miss Fryer, £1 1s.; Miss Dangerfield, £1; Mrs. E. Butcher (6s. monthly), 13s.; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; Alfred Clarke, Esq. (quarterly), 10s.; Henry J. Allen Esq., 10s.; Anon., 7s. 6d.; Mrs. Bull, 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; Rathmell Wilson, Esq., 5s.; Miss E. Fallon, 5s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; Miss M. Carson, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Stiebel (1s. weekly), 2s.; Anon., 1s. COLLECTIONS: Mothers at Bromley Clinic, 6s. 3d.; Miss Mackay, 15s. 7d.; Employees Messrs. R. Ltd., per Mrs. Young, 15s. 6d.; Misses K. Lagging, E. Bertram (Green's Yard), 8s. 6d.; Miss E. Lagging, D. Morley (Cubitt Town), 8s. 3d.; Mrs. Crabb, 6s. 10d.; Miss E. Lowy, 5s.; Miss Ada E. Farmer, 3s. 8d.; Al Parkes, 4d.

EXHIBITION FUND.—Sir John Bethell, £2 2s.; Harben, £1; Mrs. F. E. Rowe, £1; Miss A. Buchan, 10s.

CLOTHES, &c.—Anon., Mrs. Hindin, Anon., Mrs. son, Miss Buchan.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

FACTORY CUTTINGS.—Miss Farmer.

TOYS.—Margaret Clay (3 years).

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

THE MOTHERS' CLUB.

438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.
Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.
Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

124 BARKING ROAD, CANNING TOWN.
Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctor and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres. Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary. Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

NATURE STUDY FOR THE CHILDREN

During the summer months friends kindly sent us flowers to be used for nature study in the L.C.C. schools in this district, the supply of specimens being stopped as a war economy. The gifts which we gladly transmitted to the schools were welcomed alike by teachers and children. Until the holidays the number of flower parcels sent to us grew steadily, but since then there has been a certain falling off. We think that this is due to the fact that the season for garden flowers suitable for cutting has somewhat passed. But we would remind friends that wild flowers, fruits, and branches, a twig of oak with its leaves and acorns, mosses, stones, or sea-shells are all good to draw, and are even more wonderfully full of interest to city children than the cut garden flowers that can be bought on the stalls. We hope that country people, both children and grown-ups, will respond to our appeal to collect nature specimens for the East London boys and girls. Where possible, parcels should be sent regularly on the same day at the beginning of each week.

OUR DENTAL CLINIC.

We are glad to be able to announce that the W.S.F. will open a dental clinic on Friday, Nov. 17th. Dr. Alice Johnson has very kindly given us the anesthetic apparatus, but we must buy a dental chair and provide the dentist's fees. We ask our friends to subscribe as generously as possible to the dental clinic, which is much needed. A very large proportion of the mothers attending our clinics have their health seriously impaired and are constantly in pain for lack of dental care. These symptoms, of course, re-act upon their children.

Printed by the Blackfriars Press Ltd., 74 Swinton St., London, W.C. and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, at their Office, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E. Printed by T.U. labour in all departments (48 hour week), on Trade Union Made Paper.