

THE VOTE,
Oct. 8th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

HANDS OFF THE CHILDREN!--C. Despard.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 8, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Women Again.

Although Parliament is not very active at this particular moment, there are not lacking public statements by public men which show us plainly how far divorced is the point of view of the politicians from fact and fairness when touching on any question of women. Lord Derby, speaking at Bury, has renewed the attack on women, this time from a different quarter. Women could help the nation, it appears, in a way they did not realise. It was women who held men back from volunteering. And as if this were not sufficient insult to the millions of patriotic women whose lives have become one long shudder, his lordship is reported to have reminded us that the fighting men had gone to defend their (the women's) honour and their lives. If they did not come back, the women would have the comfort—the comfort, ye Gods!—of knowing that the lives had been laid down for the women's honour.

Lord Derby has strange notions, both of what will comfort women and of what is patriotic. We should imagine that the very slightest reflection would have shown him that if men were in very truth called on to die for their women, it would be an aggravation, not an alleviation, of the misery. But it is surely a travesty of fact to pretend that Britain declared war on August 4, 1914, to protect the honour of her women! Such an interpretation of our national policy would not be accepted even in the most ultra-refined, over-cultured seminary for young ladies. We can hardly believe that it impressed Bury. It is our opinion that nations fight for national honour or national advantage; for those higher concerns that are dear to men and women alike and for which the safety of both must be imperilled if necessary; or, alternatively, some viler motive of gain or grab; but no great war has ever been fought for the safety, honour, or welfare of women, let Lord Derby or any other noble lord say what he will. We challenge him

to give us any such record, just as we challenge him, and Mr. J. H. Thomas also, to find at any of their packed and cheering meetings, 20 men—aye, or 10—who could honestly aver that they were prevented from joining the colours by their women. Of all the dastardly attacks and affronts to which women have been subject since the war began, this is the one we will resent most indignantly; it is a marvel that men too do not resent and challenge it, seeing to what a position of cowardice and feebleness it consigns them.

Who are Citizens?

In view of the heavy burden of taxation which the Budget lays on the helpless shoulders of women who must help pay for the destruction which they regard with such despair, it is interesting to note Lord Milner's exposition of National Training and National Service. The League of which he is chairman believes that the defence of the country should rest as "an equal obligation on all its citizens;" but when he and his League work this happy and ingenious phrase into a place of action, "all its citizens" turns out only to mean "able-bodied males of military age." Women—the majority of the population—do not come into this "equal obligation" at all; neither do unfit males; neither do elderly ones. One wonders, for instance, where the "equal obligation" or "equal sacrifice" would touch Lord Milner himself! Without expressing any opinion on the controversial topic of compulsion, one can deprecate the slack use of language which creates so much ambiguity and which betrays that habitual dishonesty of phrase and meaning which has brought politicians and politics into such disrepute.

A New Departure.

The evening papers have been congratulating the Trocadero on its spirited "innovation" in having political speakers to address its clients

during the lunch hour. It is opined that when feeding, gentlemen will feel genially and warmly disposed and will give a kindly hearing to those who would instruct them in the affairs of the community. The "innovation," we should like to point out, lies solely in the expression of this view! The Trocadero has not had a new idea; it has simply cribbed one from the suffragettes. We

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429
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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

National Union of Women Workers.

Mrs. Tanner, immediately on her return from a very successful Suffrage Campaign in Scotland, represented the Women's Freedom League at the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers held in London this week. Early in the proceedings she supported the resolution in favour of women police, and urged equal pay for equal time, as well as piece, work for women workers. For our next issue she will write her impressions of the Conference.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday, October 13, we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Nevinson, the title of whose address will be "My Experiences as a Mass-esse amongst the Wounded." Miss Eunice Murray will also speak, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30 p.m. We hope to see a really good attendance on this occasion. The following week the principal speaker will be our old friend, Mr. J. Cameron Grant, and on October 27 we shall welcome another good friend, Mr Laurence Housman.

Reception to Conference Delegates.

A reception will be held at the "Despard Arms," 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's, Tottenham Court-road), on Sunday afternoon, October 17, from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m., to the delegates at our Conference, and to members and friends of the Women's Freedom League. This new public house is a special activity of our North London Branches, and will, no doubt, be of interest to our visitors. It is hoped that our London members will be present in good numbers to give a cordial welcome to the representatives of distant Branches. There will also be on the same day a meeting in Hyde Park at noon.

Miss Clara Reed's Lecture-Recital.

Readers are reminded that they can now purchase from this Office tickets for Miss Reed's lecture-recital of Stephen Phillip's "Herod," to take place at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on Sunday afternoon, November 14. The prices are 2s. (numbered and reserved), and 1s. (unnumbered but reserved). The programme will include special music, and tea can be obtained on the premises after the performance.

Green, White and Gold Fair.

This Fair will be held at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27. Other Suffrage Societies are joining with us, and among the special attractions will be a women's orchestra in the big hall, stalls for comforts for sufferers in the war which can be purchased and sent afterwards by the Women's Freedom League to wounded soldiers

remember still the ponderous reproofs against intruding political matter on persons who had assembled for purposes of feeding, not debating; we remember the "genial" behaviour of the feeders; and we note the subtle difference in the press descriptions and epithets of things done by or for women and things done by or for men. We shall not forget!

and sailors, to nurses in Serbia, to Belgian and Polish refugees, etc. Gifts for these and other stalls will now be welcomed at this Office, and scattered members are specially reminded that they can help very materially by sending us saleable articles. At this Fair there will be attractive side-shows, including musical and dramatic entertainment, dancing and displays of Ju-Jitsu.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN AS HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

The Women's Local Government Society calls attention to the fact that legislation last year greatly widened the field of selection of men and women for service on Town and County Councils, by admitting non-electors with a "residential qualification" of twelve months' residence within the electoral area. This long desired reform (familiar in relation to other local government bodies) renders available the services of married women and other women living at home with relations, as they are available for the administration of the Poor Law. It will be a great advantage to the nation to secure the co-operation on every Public Health Authority of women of judgment and experience. Health Authorities have now been empowered to establish Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres; the supervision of women is imperative for such work. Men have often urged the peculiar appropriateness of co-optation as a method for placing on public bodies the most wisely selected women. The opportunity now offers, as there will be no Town Council and Municipal Borough elections this year; casual vacancies will be filled as provided by the Elections and National Registration Acts. Members of Councils alone can nominate and elect, but the representatives of a ward in which a vacancy occurs are accessible, also their fellow Councillors. They may be glad to have suggested to them the nomination of suitable women whose election would reflect credit on the Council and be of practical value to the nation.

IN MEMORY OF KEIR HARDIE.

A Woman Suffrage and Labour Demonstration in memory of Keir Hardie, will take place at Canning Town Public Hall, Barking Road, on Sunday, October 17, at 7 p.m. Speakers: Councillor Jack Jones, Alderman Mansfield, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. Frank Smith and others. Suffragists will welcome this opportunity to pay reverence to the memory of their champion.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION.

Miss Dorothy Evans, of Shrewsbury, writes to the Editor as follows:—

"On Tuesday last at Hitchin two Suffragettes—Miss Aicken and Miss E. Aicken—of Letchworth, were summoned for having refused to fill in their National Register forms. They persisted in their refusal on the grounds that women, unrepresented in the Government of this country, should not be compelled to register as subjects, nor be pressed into special legislation necessitated by war, which they utterly condemn. The Misses Aicken were sentenced to pay a fine of 50s., which they refused to do. The alternative was a sentence of one month's imprisonment (illegal under the National Register Act, and were given a week to reconsider. No comments are really needed on such a situation. It is, however, amusing to note that during the prosecution of a man at Chester and a woman at Stratford-on-Avon it was stated by the prosecution in each case that only two people in the whole country had refused to comply with the Register regulations. They have since proceeded against several others, thus giving the lie to their previous statements. How many others may there not have been? The cases chosen for prosecution have been mostly women. "The honour of being included in the National Register," over which some women rejoiced, has proved to be chiefly the honour of being coerced under man-made law—an honour, which few governments have failed to put upon women."

Our National Service Organisation.

IN GREAT THINGS, UNITY.

When Chaucer described his "Clerk of Oxenford" he summed up in a few telling lines the evil effects of a poorly paid sedentary occupation upon the physical health and upon the mental outlook of the individual. We all, I am sure, immensely admire the "Clerk of Oxenford," yet the gentle depression of his outlook upon life as revealed in the tale of the "patient Griselda" and in his obvious admiration for the spiritless submission of the heroine, jars on our twentieth century nerves. He could never have formed such an ideal, if he had taken sufficient exercise or been adequately nourished, and would have been a happier and more useful member of society if he had occasionally cantered on his horse, "as lean as any rake." For as our prosaic poet Green wisely says of the fashionable complaint of the eighteenth century—the spleen—"fing but a stone, the giant dies."

What of the girl clerks of to-day, who are coming forward in their thousands to take up the work of the men who are at the Front? It behoves them as the potential mothers of the race to secure healthy conditions for themselves. Many of those male clerks who have gone to France and Flanders know what real health is for the first time, now that they are well fed, warmly clothed and taking severe physical exercise. If women are to be spared the degeneracy of physique and the dreary hopelessness resulting from ill paid sedentary occupations, they must unite and insist upon reasonable hours of work and upon adequate salaries. "Union is strength" we all of us wrote in our copy books in the mid Victorian era, and the maxim has been dinned into the ears of this generation at almost every meeting. Yet woman's education has tended in the past to make her look upon every other member of her sex as her rival competitor in the marriage market. That curious attitude of mind, sedulously cultivated in the last century, forged the chains of slavery which kept women disunited and enabled unscrupulous employers to sweat them without mercy. Mistrust and suspicion of their own sex prevented women from forming trades unions, and the men rigorously excluded all of the opposite sex from their organisations. Those dark days are now happily past, and the saner education of girls during the last decades, together with the enormous increase in the number of women among professional and artisan workers has led to an upgrowth of a feeling of fellowship which makes mutual reliance possible. Comrades in work, comrades in sports, this century has brought to them a common goal towards which to strive, the complete liberation of their sex. The fact that women can now stand shoulder to shoulder and fight a good fight for any great cause is largely due to the organisation, the teaching and the inspiration of the great Suffrage Societies. We welcome the practical advice which the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries (12, Buckingham-street, Strand) gives to its members instead of a high sounding motto: "Don't grumble at bad conditions and do nothing, but join our association."

Girls, taking up an experienced man's work for which he had been trained, must realise that an untrained and inexperienced clerk cannot possibly be of equal value, even though her intellectual capacity be greater. It is related of Joseph Addison that, though he was the greatest genius of the English Augustan age, he made mistakes in routine office work which provoked smiles from his most illiterate subordinates; nor is this to be wondered at, for there are some kinds of work, and often of the very simplest, that can only be mastered by experience.

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to see new openings for women in the world of workers, it is cheering to find that so many are gaining such high certificates as motor drivers, and if the Home Secretary would allow it there is no reason why they should not drive the taxi cabs. Sir John Simon is afraid that the public would not trust them, but he might give them and the public a chance. The fact that girls are taking up wireless telegraphy with success was brought to our notice in Australia, where two of our own pupils became expert at the work. Only one woman is employed at a Marconi station in the British Isles, and she is on Rathlin Island, off the coast of Donegal. Women are claiming their part, too, in the dominion of the air. Flying women have offered their services to the army in France, and in Russia they have been employed in reconnoitering; one who was wounded when flying over the Austrian lines, has been decorated by the Czar. We have our women aeronauts, too. Was not Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, who long ago gained an air pilot's certificate, and has an aeroplane factory, the teacher of that valiant boy, her son, who nearly lost his life in a great air raid last winter? The conquest of the air is so pre-eminently the triumph of the century—which has witnessed the awakening of woman—that we may hope that she will succeed in converting what has proved a singularly malignant destructive force into one that will be used for the benefit of humanity.

MARGARET HODGE.

"Union is Strength." This is proved daily by the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation. Members are placed, employers suited, and many grateful letters find their way into our letter-box. Inquiries should be addressed to the Correspondence Secretary, Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

(Answers to Correspondents on page 780.)

THE VOTE.

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HANDS OFF THE CHILDREN!

On every side Thrift is being preached; and that, no doubt, is salutary. If we emerge from the present distress a people of fewer wants and simpler mode of living, it will be well, not for ourselves only, but for those who will come after us. But even in this direction, certain dangers threaten us. They are the more subtle because the attack comes from the side on which our Governments have always been weak.

We know the country has to pay for the war. That the expense is gigantic, that it will increase in magnitude, that the difficulty in dealing with it will become greater as the months, full filled with slaughter and destruction of national resources, go by, no one can possibly doubt. Money must be found. But how? In two ways. By tapping new sources of supply and by reducing expenditure. We desire to deal with the latter method, because it is there, we believe, that serious, perhaps so far as this generation is concerned, irreparable mistakes may be made.

As we look back upon our economic history, and as we consider the country's present position, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion, that, had past Governments been really thrifty, had they made wise use of our vast national resources in land, in produce, above all in human life and labour, we would have been a stronger, richer and more united nation to-day. To take an illustration from comparatively recent times. When the curse of unemployment was rife and men and women were crying out for such modicum of work and pay as might enable them to live and rear their families, wise statesmen, taxing as they are now taxing the incomes of the rich, would have set on foot works of afforestation, of reclamation or foreshores and redemption of uncultivated lands. Had this been done, a rich return of revenue would be coming in now and a much more stalwart race would be in training. But when measures of the kind were proposed, they were always too expensive.

We hope this mistake will be redressed in the future. We hope when our young and middle-aged men come back from the war, strong, many of them after their life of exposure and adventure, the country will be able to make wise use of their labour and energy. That will be economy of the right sort.

In the meantime—and this is specially urgent now—extreme care should be taken, when certain economies are enforced, that they shall be true and not false. The distinction between the two modes

is, that while the one—the false economy—may effect a little present saving, it will be at the expense of a future loss, the other—the true economy—will be one whose effect for use and service will be permanent.

In luxury, in strong drink, in extravagant demands for imported goods, in large pensions and salaries, let there be such an abatement as may be felt. The nation will not suffer: humanity will gain. But when retrenchments are proposed and carried through, that might tend, in any sense to endanger the health of our children or to cripple such educational advantages as they now possess, it is the duty of every patriotic woman to raise her voice in protest.

Sir James Yoxall rings the note of warning. In a letter to the *Manchester Guardian* he calls attention to the fact that although through Government business connected with the war, some of our cities are more thriving than usual, measures of economy are being adopted by local education authorities. When he says that much money has been spent on parasitic purposes of a red-tape nature not really helpful to the schools and that economy in this respect is wise, we are fully in accord with him.

"But they ought not to fail in keeping unimpaired a proper provision of schools."

"When it comes to economising in depriving children of books, stationery and other tools of the kind, in refusing them admission under certain ages, and drafting them out into the world under the already premature ages, it is false economy both now and for the future."

This is a dangerous attitude for the authorities to assume and we hope the Central Board of Education will at once and peremptorily let them know that such foolish and false economy cannot be tolerated.

During the war, we have had our eyes opened to the appalling fact that apart from the terrible loss of infant life yearly in these islands, an enormous number of children grow up so defective in body and mind that they are unfit for national service. We shall not remedy this by a cheese-having policy in our schools, or by putting off to a more convenient season, measures, such as the Pure Milk Bill, which is indefinitely held up on account of the expense and difficulty of administering it.

Certainly now, when so many of our best and strongest men are being swept away, it should be the special care of persons in authority not to stint in anything whereby mothers can be helped in their great task, and boys and girls may be prepared for valiant citizenship.

Let us not forget that, however the war may turn or whatever its duration may be, peace is bound to come and it depends greatly upon us, our wisdom and foresight, the training we give our children, the opportunities for health and expansion we open out to the girls who will be the mothers and the boys who will be the fathers of the coming generation, whether the world of the future is to be a war-world, drowning its civilization in blood and tears, or a peace-world, beautiful and harmonious, conquering for humanity's use the stubborn forces of nature.

There are those who tell us that woman has no part in war, save as she may heal its wounded and ameliorate the sorrows that it brings in its train. That she must do; but it must not be her chief work. She must show steadfastly and against all temptation to glorify what is wrong and hurtful, her stern disapproval of war as war; she must maintain her conviction that war is not only a mistake but a crime. With this it must be her constant effort to go forward with the task of build-

ing up a generation wise and strong enough to be able to settle international differences without the arbitration of the sword.

That such a generation will not arrive by the road of a false economy in the education of children, in provision for the mothers of children, in protection of the nation's food from money-grabbers, who, if they could, would turn the children themselves into filthy lucre, we are firmly persuaded. Therefore we say to the financiers, "Pinch where you can. Take toll from those who can afford to give it. A little temporary stinting will do them no harm. But in heaven's name, Keep your hands off the children!"

C. DESPARD.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Women's Freedom League will hold its 10th Annual Conference at St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, London, on Saturday, October 16. It is hoped that every member will make a special effort to be present, as the Conference is the Annual Parliament of our League, at which the policy for the coming year is decided upon, and the officials and Executive Committee elected to carry it out. The Women's Freedom League stands now, as it stood more than eleven years ago, primarily to gain the parliamentary franchise for women on equal terms with men, and for self-government in its own organisation. It has never hesitated to put Woman Suffrage before all other questions and interests. When war was declared in August, 1914, the elected Committee met immediately to consider the situation, and sent out the following resolution to our Branch Secretaries and to the Press:—

"The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League re-affirms the urgency of keeping the Suffrage flag flying, and, especially now, making the country understand the supreme necessity of women having a voice in the counsels of the nation; and, in view of the earnest desire prevalent in the ranks of suffragists to render service to their country at this critical time, the Women's Freedom League is organising a Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, whose chief object will be to render help to the women and children of the nation."

Our Branches loyally supported the Committee in carrying out this resolution. Members were kept together, Branch meetings were regularly held, open-air and hall meetings arranged to press forward the need for Woman Suffrage and to bring to public notice injustices to women and inequalities in the treatment of men and women by the authorities. The Women's Freedom League, both from Headquarters and in its Branches, has also done magnificent work by means of its workrooms for unemployed women, its cheap restaurants, its practical help for Belgian refugees, and by supplying great numbers of necessitous children with suitable and adequate clothing.

In order that the public and the Press should realise that the object for which our League was founded had not been lost sight of, the Executive Committee of the League in February last passed the following resolution, and urged its Branches to get it inserted in their local Press:—

"The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, feeling that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the Women's Movement and of the country to keep the question of Woman Suffrage before the Government and the country at the present time, calls upon all members to lose no opportunity of putting forward the suffrage point of view, and of refuting the suggestion that at the present time suffrage propaganda should be kept in the background. To desert the Cause

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because the situation has become peculiarly difficult is betrayal of the basest description."

In normal times the League holds its annual Conference in March, but this year, because of the war, the Committee, with the consent of its Branches, decided to postpone it; the date now chosen, October, 16, coincides with the Conference to be held at Berthoud by Swiss suffragists, who had also postponed their annual Conference. On the 16th inst. we shall have in London delegates from our Branches throughout England, Scotland and Wales; instructed by their Branches, they will speak and vote on resolutions and amendments to resolutions framed by Branches on the work and future policy of the Women's Freedom League. From these resolutions and amendments it would appear that the Branches are more determined than ever to work for Woman Suffrage now, not only in spite of the war, but because of it, the view taken being that in times like the present women are more than ever in need of the parliamentary vote to safeguard their interests. Whatever policy the League pursues during the coming year will be decided upon by the delegates attending the Conference on October 16, and in framing that policy the humblest Branch member in our smallest Branch will have a part. The Women's Freedom League has never handed over the task of initiating a policy to "leaders"; the League through its Branches—which are the League—has always framed and made itself responsible for its own policy, and at its annual Conferences has elected a President, an Honorary Treasurer and a National Executive Committee to carry out that policy. For nine successive

years the League has shown its confidence in Mrs. Despard by electing her as its President, and this year, the tenth year of its life, no other name than Mrs. Despard's has been sent in by the Branches for the presidency of the Women's Freedom League.

Members of all Branches have the right to attend, but only delegates may speak and vote. We hope to see a large gathering as the Conference affords a welcome opportunity for London members to meet those who are working for the Cause in other parts of the country.

The Sunday afternoon reception, which this year will take place at the "Despard Arms," 123, Hampstead-road, N.W., and which delegates and members are invited to attend, brings everyone together for social intercourse after the strenuous business of the Conference.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

TWO WOMEN WRITERS OF ITALY.

It is a noteworthy fact that at the present time, among Italian poets and novelists, two women occupy prominent places. The most original note among minor poets of recent years was struck by a woman, Ada Negri; whilst among novelists of either sex Grazia Deledda stands in the first rank.

Ada Negri created a sensation in the Nineties when her first small volumes of verse appeared (*Fatalità, Tempeste*). They were poems voicing the socialist spirit, breathing passionate revolt against injustice and sympathy with the poor and oppressed. They came from the heart of one who was poor and hard worked herself. Ada Negri was a quiet young teacher in an elementary school; her mother was a factory "hand" in the small town of Lodi, not far from Milan. Here the poetess had grown up with very little education. She had read very few books, had never seen a large city, a theatre, or the sea, but she eagerly read newspapers and especially articles on literary subjects. She dreamed of one day seeing the great Eleonora Duse act. In her poor lodgings near the school the young girl wrote her poems, as she says, "in darkness, but in my heart a fierce longing for the sun." Since her marriage Ada Negri (now Garlanda) lives in Milan, and takes a keen interest in the Women's Social and Political Movement.

Grazia Deledda's work is widely known (several of her books are translated into English as well as into French). The scene of her novels is usually laid in Sardinia, her native island, which she describes as one who loves it. This island is as yet not overrun by tourists, is less known than Sicily (so well depicted by Verga), and still retains many primitive types and characteristics. Her stories usually describe the fortunes of some family for quite a long period. *Edera* ("Ivy") and *Canne al Vento* ("Reeds in the Wind") portray families of the old landowners, poor and proud, clinging to their ancient houses and lands, but becoming more and more impoverished year by year. For poverty lies over the beautiful island like a blight, as it does over Sicily; everything is spoilt by the want of money. The glowing sky and the beautiful arid landscape are the setting for much misery. But Grazia Deledda, although she describes realistically, is free from the pessimism of a former generation, and her books have in them a note of hope and idealism which is in touch with the Italy of to-day. Her style is simple and unaffected, and she weaves a wealth of material into her stories so naturally that one absorbs the conditions, type, atmosphere of Sardinia almost insensibly. Although barely forty, Grazia Deledda (now Signora Modasani) has written a long list of novels. One of her latest, "Colombi e Sparvieri" ("Doves and Falcons") is, we believe, already translated into English.

MARY HARGRAVE.

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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

"Not Making a Mess of it."

Miss Cicely Hamilton, writing from France to the *Daily Chronicle*, observes: "One would have thought, before August, 1914, that it was impossible for the average French peasant woman to work harder than she did in times of peace; but when the call came and her men answered it, the French peasant woman accomplished the seemingly impossible, and the harvest that has now been gathered in is largely a woman's harvest. The education, like the agriculture of the country—the education of the boys as well as of the girls—is now largely in the Frenchwoman's hands. And, by all accounts, she is not making a mess of it."

In India.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, poet and writer, speaking at a meeting of the Women's Branch of the War and Relief Fund, at the Town Hall, Bombay, said that the womanhood of India had risen to the occasion and that the practical issue of the great struggle would be the unification of the womanhood of the world. Lord Willingdon, Governor of Bombay, who presided at the meeting, said that "women had shown a spirit of co-operation unexampled in the history of India—Europeans, Hindus, Moslems and Parsis combining in a great Imperial endeavour and showing a magnificent organisation, enthusiastic zeal, and a business capacity which is a lesson to us all." The war is breaking down the orthodox view, tenaciously held, that women should live entirely for their husbands, their children and their homes.

Gas Meter Inspectors.

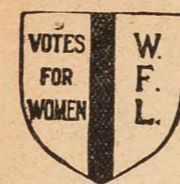
Women are being employed to inspect gas meters.

Road Menders in Germany.

Women are taking the places of men as road-menders in Berlin.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS : W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, October 8.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.
Sunday, October 10.—BROCKWELL PARK, 3.30. Speaker: Miss Eggett.
Monday, October 11.—CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m. HACKNEY, Branch Meeting, 23, Terrace-road, S. Hackney, 6 p.m. Instructions to Conference delegates. HAMPSTEAD, Branch Meeting, Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead Road, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, October 13.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-st., Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell st.), 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded"; Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Thursday, October 14.—MID-LONDON BRANCH, Meeting. Business: Instructions to Conference Delegate. 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 17.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park, 12 noon. Reception to Conference Delegates at The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead Road, N.W., 3.30-5.30 p.m. Tea. Short speeches.

Monday, October 18.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 17, The Crescent, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m. Report of Conference.

Wednesday, October 20.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. J. Cameron Grant and Miss Nina Boyle.

Wednesday, October 27.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, "What Price Salvation Now?" and others.

Friday, October 29.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 14. Lecture-Recital by Miss Clara Reed, "Herod" (Stephen Phillips), at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford Strand, W.C., 3.30. Music, Refreshments. Admission by Ticket, 2/-. Numbered and Reserved; 1/- Reserved, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th. Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, 3.30-10 p.m.

"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d. each), and recreation. Week days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, October 12.—SOUTHSEA, Branch Members' Meeting, at 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, October 9.—EDINBURGH, "At Home," Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 to 5 p.m. Speech by Mrs. Despard, 3.30 p.m. Tea, 4.15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13.—EDINBURGH, Business Meeting, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Instructions to delegate.

WALES.

Wednesday, October 27.—CARDIFF, Whist Drive and Oddfellows' Hall, Charles-street, 7.30 prompt. Tickets 2s. each, from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, November 2.—BLACKFRIARS MISSION AND STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner, on "Woman the Peacemaker," 8 p.m.

Monday, November 8.—NATIONAL BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, St. George's Hall, Wimbledon. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Woman's Duty during the War," 8 p.m.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

Will all members please do their utmost to make the forthcoming whist drive and dance a complete success? All profits are to go towards the Cardiff Branch Fund. Arrangements will be discussed at the next Branch meeting, but will all those who cannot be present give what they can towards the prizes? A prize fund will be started as it proved so successful in our last drive. We need 30s. for this fund; and will all members please sell what tickets they can? They are to be obtained from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road, 2s. each.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

Will members and friends please note that we hope to hold our next Jumble Sale during the third week of this month? All parcels should be sent to the Secretary at 9, Morland-avenue. Will members offer to provide refreshments—tea and cakes—for a Wednesday evening social for soldiers' and sailors' wives?

Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

The Branch at its first meeting for the winter session considered the Conference Agenda, and appointed Miss Nannie McLaren, Treasurer of the Workroom Fund, delegate to the Conference. It was decided to re-open the Suffrage Shop at once as a depot for the collection and dispatch of clothing for Belgian refugees and comforts for the troops, but the question of re-opening the workroom was deferred in the meantime. Regular weekly meetings will be held, and we are looking forward especially to Mrs. Despard's visit on Saturday, 9th inst. On Thursday we had the pleasure of a visit from Mrs. Tanner, who addressed an open-air meeting at Hope-st. Mrs. Tanner's description of the war conditions that make the vote a necessity to women more than ever before was listened to with great attention, and there was scarcely a dissentient voice. With very great regret the Branch has heard that Miss Jack finds it necessary to give up her work as Secretary for the next six months. Her absence will be a loss, not only to the Branch, but to the League as a whole, and we heartily wish her the speedy recovery of health that will enable her to resume her office. Meanwhile, only by "keeping the flag flying" can we thank her for her work in the past strenuous years.

Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A Branch meeting was held on September 27, with Mrs. Schofield Coates in the chair. Arrangements were made for the public meeting, at which Mrs. Despard has promised to speak. Reports were given by Mrs. Rees and Miss Goddard relating to the financial condition of the shop; after an exciting election by ballot, Miss Winifred M. Jones was appointed delegate to the annual Conference. It was also decided to lend the W.F.L. room for a children's performance in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund, to be held early in October.

Paisley.

We held an excellent open-air meeting on September 22, at which Miss Whitten presided, and Mrs. Tanner addressed a very interested crowd; THE VOTE was sold. At a Branch meeting at the Central Halls on October 1, Mrs. Tanner spoke on the necessity for continuing suffrage propaganda during the war; Mrs. Bell presided. On Oct. 2 Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., addressed a very enthusiastic crowd in Abbey Close; she appealed to the men, not only to be in favour of votes for women, but to help women to win the vote. A collection was taken for the Serbian War Fund; THE VOTE sold well, also Miss Normanton's "Magna Carta" pamphlet.

MRS. TANNER'S SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN.

The campaign arranged by the Glasgow Branch for Mrs. Tanner was most successful. During the fortnight she was in Glasgow Mrs. Tanner addressed thirteen meetings, mostly open-air. The following districts of Glasgow were visited:—Partick, Bridgeton, Pollok-st. S.S., Queen's Park and Langside. Mrs. Tanner also addressed meetings at Edinburgh, Paisley, Kirkintilloch and Rothesay. The audiences were invariably attentive and sympathetic, although we were occasionally reproached with continuing our suffrage work at this time. Mrs. Tanner, however, was always able to convince the majority of the wisdom of this course. The meeting at Rothesay on the Glasgow autumn holiday was particularly successful. A large holiday crowd gave the suffragists an enthusiastic welcome and responded generously to our appeal for a collection. Other specially good meetings were those at Partick and Bridgeton. On two occasions we had the welcome help of Miss Shennan.

BROCKWELL PARK.

Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker in Brockwell Park last Sunday afternoon, when a large and attentive audience listened with evident sympathy to her address on the Government, the war, and Votes for Women. A collection was taken, and THE VOTE sold well. Miss Murray's vigorous sallies were much appreciated, and the audience gave her a cordial invitation to "Come again!"

FRIDAY,
OCT. 8,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

The "Despard Arms" is "going strong." As soon as the doors were open to the public it was evident that, as many observed: "This is just what is wanted!" The sixpenny dinners are keenly appreciated for their value and good cooking. Men and women are finding out that there is no sex distinction at the "Despard Arms." Soldiers, sailors, men and women in business, old age pensioners, special constables, and nurses are among those who have come once—and keep on coming. Teas in the afternoon, and hot suppers in the evening (from 6d.) are becoming popular. The club room presents a gay scene each evening; the boys of the "Despard Uniteds" Football Club appreciate its warmth, its piano and opportunities for games. It is open to all—men and women—who are glad of a cosy corner during these dark evenings.

The club room is available for meetings morning and afternoon, at a moderate cost, on application to the hon. secretary. Plans are in hand to make the "Despard Arms" an attractive resort on Sundays.

Gifts of furniture for the bed rooms, cosy chairs for the rest room, cupboards, couches, carpets, linoleum, cooking utensils, including scales, colanders, double saucepans, coffee urn, etc., will be most welcome.

Our grateful thanks are given to the following friends who have contributed to the £5 loan fund (free of interest for twelve months) or sent donations.

LOAN FUND.—Mr. Delbanco, Miss Mannerling, Miss Rosanna Powell, Miss J. Barrow, Dr. Knight, the Misses Hayward, Mr. Soane (£4 loan, £1 donation), Miss Smith, Mrs. Bushell. **DONATIONS.**—Mrs. Herbert Cohen, £2; Mr. Nixon, £1; Mrs. Riddle, £1; Mr. Marshall Roberts, £1;

Miss Karpeles, 10s., Also for gifts from Mrs. B. Smith and Mrs. Craig (carpets), Mrs. Dunn (couch), Mr. Smith (oranges), Mr. Marshall Roberts (counter) and to Mr. Wm. Doughty (decorator) and Mr. Eric Rivers Smith (electrician) for the special consideration they have given to us in carrying out most satisfactorily the work they undertook; and to the Gas, Light and Coal Company for their courtesy.

Special thanks have also been expressed by Mrs. Despard on behalf of all who are interested in the work, to the landlady, whose welcome sympathy and consideration have enabled us to remove to commodious premises.

OUR NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION. ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VERA.—Yes; the L.C.C. have started classes for the training of women for ammunition work. The fee is 2s. 6d. for six weeks.

CHAUFFEUSE. It is advisable to get some experience of driving in London traffic. Owners of expensive cars will not trust them to inexperienced drivers, although certificated.

JOURNALIST.—Not being a shorthand typist you will not get the pay for ordinary clerical work that you have received for journalistic work.

HOPEFUL.—I should not advise you to take a post as portress in a small hotel if you are not strong. This is not an ornamental post, but requires strength, as coals and luggage have to be carried.

KEA.—Clear, regular, clerk like handwriting is required.

DEVON.—Twelve hours day work one week and twelve hours night work the next, including Sundays.

WAR TIME INTERSESSION SERVICES.

The next service, arranged by the Church League for Woman Suffrage, will take place on Saturday, October 9, at 3 p.m., at Southwark Cathedral. The services will be held monthly at St. Martin's in the Fields, and are open to all; the following dates and preachers have been arranged:—Nov. 6, the Bishop of London; Dec. 18, Canon Scott Holland; Jan. 8, the Bishop of Lichfield; Feb. 5, the Bishop of Willesden.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Entrance in Little Russell-st. (Near Holborn, British Museum and Tottenham Court-rd. Tube stations) every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Oct. 13: Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded," and Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

TEA.—Special value, 1s. 11d. per lb. Strongly recommended; highly appreciated.—To be obtained from **THE VOTE Office,** 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.

Miscellaneous Advertisement Charges

FIFTEEN WORDS 1s.; every additional 7 words or part of 7 words 6d. **FOUR** consecutive insertions for the price of **THREE.**—Address, The ADVT. MANAGER, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn. Latest time for receiving copy, Monday morning each week.

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