

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIV. No. 340.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1916.

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.

Rebellion.

What effect the Dublin "rising" will have on the Ulster movement or on Home Rule it is impossible to say at the moment; but we should not be surprised if Mr. Asquith's Government found Monday's happenings to be more disconcerting than all the other powers arrayed against him. For so long a time Mr. Asquith has allowed arming and drilling and organising for revolt, on the part of one side or another, to be carried on in Ireland without interference that the present rebels may very well have felt that no very serious results need be feared if they followed the fashion—and yielded to the temptation to carry it a little farther. The policy of the United Kingdom has been shaped for some years past by a handful of Parliamentary representatives who had made law-breaking a science, and to whom Mr. Asquith owed his majority; the Coalition Cabinet was enriched with the presence of the gentleman who announced his intention to defy the King's writ on any point that gave power to the older rebels; what wonder that the third section tried their luck! There may be a "place in the sun" even for them. Their papers and propagandist methods, their advocates and organisers, have enjoyed immunity for so long, while Clyde workers and "squires' daughters" on this side of the water have suffered rigorous repression, that they might well dwell in a fool's paradise of security.

Results.

To Sir Edward Carson's arming and drilling and to Mr. Asquith's Wait and See, as well as to the idiotic and grotesque attempt to seize Dublin, the soldiers, police, and volunteers who have met their death owe their fate. We wonder what

measure of compensation will be allotted to their wives and families, the surviving victims of this crass muddle? That the circumstances entitle them to provision far in excess of the ordinary pension is incontestable, for the rising should never have occurred, and would never have done so had ordinary sense been used in dealing with the very incautious and defiant movement that has been going on in the open for months. And it is a timely moment for pointing out that the militant men of Ulster and the section of the Unionist party that upheld them; the Nationalist party, that owes so much to illicit violence; and Mr. Asquith's Cabinet, so tender to them both, are united in denouncing women, who resorted to law-breaking in desperation at continued injustice and betrayal, as "a disgrace to their sex."

Australian Women's Message to Mr. Hughes.

The following cable was sent to Mr. Hughes:—

To Australian Prime Minister,
Savoy, London,

*As Australian Women's representative
we urge you support Universal Woman's
Suffrage publicly.*

ELLIE LE SOUEF,

Sec., Women's Service Guild, West Australia.

We wonder what Australian women will say when they hear that Mr. Hughes has twice refused to receive a joint deputation representing various woman suffrage societies of this country!

We are glad to note that the Anzac nurses were accorded an enthusiastic welcome on reaching Westminster Abbey for the impressive Memorial Service on April 25.

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, April 28th, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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KEEPING SECRETS.

It is with intense amusement that one reads the elaborate precautions devised to prevent members of Parliament giving away the secrets which the House of Commons revelled in at its reassembly this week. We have been accustomed from time immemorial to the jibe that women cannot keep secrets, but we have our revenge now. The House of Commons, in days gone by, kept its secrets as part of its privilege; but this part of its privilege would appear in these days to have depreciated considerably in value. Instead of the appeal to the King, of which a chatty journalist discourses in the Press, to discourage the leakage of House of Commons debates through the Peers to his own august ears, we have the King issuing orders to his faithful Commons not to repeat their discussions to their own peers. The situation is full of piquancy; and one is reminded of the futile efforts of Bismarck to prevent Count Bunsen knowing and telling Great Britain what transpired at the most secret of all the Prussian secret councils.

We are informed that the decision to hold a secret session of Parliament is a concession to Labour; and in the absence of any definite knowledge one can only say, What a very extraordinary demand for Labour to make! But in the state of bemused and bewildered ignorance to which the public has been reduced in the matter of its own most urgent affairs and most imperious needs, it is, of course, impossible to say what induced Labour to demand or the Government to concede the secret session that appears to be hailed as the panacea for a crisis.

The crisis itself, which has led to the secret session, is still obscure. The ripples from the pebble flung into the Cabinet pond—by Mr. Lloyd George, or by Lord Northcliffe, or by General Robertson, whichever of them it was—never reached the shore of public opinion. So the public that pays the salaries and foots the bills does not know why there was a crisis, what the crisis was about, or how a secret session can allay it. A great deal of mysterious nonsense has appeared in the daily Press, around one or other aspect of the Cabinet wrangle; but this stuff is all more or less inspired by the exigencies of party politics, and is therefore as misleading as it is mischievous.

It is to be noted that every fresh alarm, every fresh imbroglio, is solved (or rather, we should say, suppressed) by secret measures. For all the praise of democracy, no one really cares to trust the democrats or their cherished institutions. The persistency with which the rulers and representa-

tives of the male people put their trust in secrecy is almost pathetic. The censorship, the suppression of trials, of meetings, of papers, and now of Parliamentary reports, testify not only to the desire for secrecy, but to the utter mistrust of the gentlemen concerned of each other's discretion or of that of their supporters. And yet things leak out, and scandals are burst on us, and crises arise. It all reminds us very much of the traditional ostrich.

We desire to place on record, once more, uncompromisingly, our conviction that, if these suppressions be necessary, they should be borne uncomplainingly. More, every loyal citizen should lend his or her aid in every possible way to see that the safeguards devised be upheld and respected. It is the doubt—one might almost say the knowledge—that there are better safeguards than cutting off facilities for information from the public, that makes thoughtful people discontented. It is a matter that gives rise to grave reflection, that every defence from aggression abroad should be a fresh assault on the position at home; and that every successive revelation of incapacity or miscalculation should result in a narrowing of the channels of information for the people who have to pay for those miscalculations. Had we supreme confidence in the men in command, or in the members of the House of Commons, things would be different.

The people who now demand the nation's blind trust and confidence are the same men who have talked ignorant nonsense on nearly every conceivable topic for years past; and who have allowed our sociological conditions to become so tangled that the reformer hardly knows where to begin. They are the people who in this crisis begin their economies with the education of children, refuse to move in the matter of pure food and drink, and think that £100,000 devoted to the pressing needs of mothers and infants is almost an extravagance. They are the people who have strangled civilian effort with red-tape, and who have neglected a thousand sources of national energy and fruitfulness during the past two years. They are the people who have neglected agriculture until reduced to the importation of Danish alien labour; who have declared themselves powerless to ensure the right administration of their own Act at the hands of the Tribunals they themselves empowered; who have allowed thousands of physically unfit men to be retained in the Army, drawing pay and being withdrawn from useful civilian work; who have juggled with pensions and allowances until no one knows what pensions and allowances are. They are the people who have so fouled their reputation with pledge-making and pledge-breaking that a pledge from any of them has to be made the subject of a newspaper campaign before it has any importance. They are the people who are supported by, and are mainly responsible for the shameless party Press and the shameless party intrigues which divide the country with scandalous and sordid feuds. If, in its passion for secrecy, the House of Commons would forbid the publication and the discussion of the personal grievances and ambitions of politicians and the dissection of the motives for springing crises on the nation at dangerous times, it would be more possible to give that blind trust and confidence which is demanded of us now.

What concerns us, as suffragists, in all this involved intrigue, is that we are helpless in the hands of people who, as we have learnt by bitter experience, are not trustworthy. If we did not feel able to trust them with the control of our affairs in peace-time, it is doubly hard to trust their honesty or their ability, now that infinitely greater and graver issues are at stake. And while taking our share of the emergency and the peril, the sorrow and

the expenditure, the anxiety and distrust, and while doing our part of the manifold new duties, and bearing the manifold new burdens laid on us, it is a deeper, sorer grievance than ever before that our sex is voteless, and that not one woman is directly represented or has any control over the men who have met in secret session. For us, debarred from all control, and robbed even of the privilege of consenting to the abrogation of private and public rights, the situation is bitter indeed. And from our pockets comes much of the money which helps to keep and strengthen this arrogant domination.

C. NINA BOYLE.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE WAR.

Language Teaching.

In the middle of the nineteenth century England was the first manufacturing nation in Europe. Before 1914 she had lost this position. In many of her old markets Germany had supplanted her, and she was tending to become more and more a mere buyer of German goods for export. Hence unemployment. Hence also the lamentable fact that at the outbreak of the war we found ourselves dependent on our enemy for certain "key" industries.

The changes had been brought about by *German education and German organisation.*

First, by universal, compulsory, long-continued education. The Germans had an educational system which we by no means desire to copy in its aims or objects, but which we must admit to be thorough, efficient, and methodically pursued. To increase technical and commercial skill neither money nor effort was spared. Experiment and research were liberally endowed. The child (more particularly the boy) with brains was encouraged and rewarded, and certain of being well "placed."

Second, the commerce of the country was regarded as a national affair, therefore was organised and directed by the Government especially with a view to capturing foreign markets. To this end much was done which we should consider of doubtful morality; but morality, as we now know, is never allowed to stand in the way of German projects or designs.

Young men were subsidised by scholarships and grants to take situations abroad—in England, the States, Russia—or wherever it was desired to open up fresh centres of trade. Even the nationality laws were altered to permit of their becoming naturalised citizens of other States without losing their German nationality. Being partly maintained from home they could afford to take small salaries, and therefore had no difficulty in finding situations in commercial houses. Well educated, obliging, and trained to hard work, they "got on." Patterns of manufactured goods, methods of production, price lists, lists of customers, speedily found their way into Germany, where they were turned to account. Our manufacturers, to their surprise, found their customers giving orders to the pushful newcomers, who could produce the goods a little cheaper, or a little more attractive, or a little better packed. German Consuls aided the enterprises by carefully collected information respecting the markets which existed abroad. They also assisted in the production and circulation of price lists in the native language, with prices in the native currency.

While this was going on, what was England doing? Quarrelling over "religious teaching" so-called, which had little to do with teaching and less with religion, but was merely a struggle for clerical as against popular control of the schools: wasting her children

on half-time labour in factories; squandering the results of the few years of early education by a lack of any system of continuation schools, or opportunities for higher education; poring over dead languages to the exclusion of the living. England, educationally speaking, was the land of wasted opportunities. We have human material of the best. Our children are as intelligent and teachable as those of any country on earth. Not their courage alone, but their adaptability, their ingenuity, their inventiveness, their reliability are being proved on every battlefield and in every munition factory today. Yet much skill and more intelligence have been lost for lack of means to develop, lack of after-school opportunities of continued education, lack of continuation schools and scholarships to higher educational centres.

We need, then, a more intelligent adaptation of school methods to the national requirements. Particularly is this the case in connection with

LANGUAGE TEACHING.

The traditions of the Victorian Age, when young ladies learnt a little French as an "accomplishment," and some of them "went so far as to have forgotten a little German," when boys in "grammar" schools laboriously acquired enough Latin to adorn their speeches in later life with a Latin tag (pronounced as no Roman ever uttered it), and the more advanced "did" Greek as a kind of penance, these traditions still hang about our language work. How many children leaving school could carry on a conversation or write a letter in any language but their own? The readjustment of international relations caused by the war has painfully awakened us to our insular ignorance of the language of our neighbours and made it imperative that we should prepare for the intimate intercourse between ourselves and France and Belgium, which we hope will continue with mutual benefit hereafter. Also, if we are, as our Allies wish, to take the place of the Germans in Italy, in Russia (in the Near East, in the States of South America as well), a



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knowledge of Italian, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, and other languages should be available for the children who are to embark on a commercial career. The place of the German clerk who could correspond in half a dozen languages must be filled by our own boys and girls. Where are the educational facilities for these?

Apart altogether from its commercial and political aspects, the learning of languages is essential for the better understanding of our Continental neighbours. We are, as a race, mentally poorer for being shut out from the clear thought and lucid expression characteristic of French literature, from the deep humanity of the great Russian writers—yes, and also from the contribution to thought and research of the earlier German writers.

To be effective this reformed attitude towards language teaching must be based on the only sound foundation—a knowledge of child psychology. One salient fact of this science is that aptitudes vary, not only in different children, but at different ages. A child's mind differs from that of an adult in that its faculties are not only undeveloped, but that they develop at different periods, not equally altogether. For example, it is useless to talk to a baby about rules of language. Yet there comes a time to every child, whose faculty has not been stunted by misuse or atrophied by neglect, when it is curious about words, the use of words, the relations among words. In the same way, though usually later, numbers exercise a fascination over many minds, and mathematics have their educational opportunity. The time of easiest acquirement for language is in the early years—from five to seven, and onwards. At this age a child can learn two or three languages as easily as one, and it is agreed that they should be learnt, as the child learns its own, by imitation, by continued speech, by reading and writing it continually. The system should be: early beginnings, continual practice as part of the school curriculum, facilities for extended and continued study for those with especial capacity.

Teachers must be trained, and must have opportunities of studying abroad. Some interchange of teachers might be effected.

IT MEANS MORE MONEY.

What could not be done for our children if the cost of *one week of War* could be devoted yearly to education!

THE TIME FOR PREPARATION IS NOW!

The children now in our schools will have to bear the burdens imposed by the War. Upon them the future of England depends. To fit them for the tremendous task should be our united aim. Let the women of this country set their faces steadily against any cutting down or shortening of the child's educational opportunities, but press rather for an enlargement and extension of all possible avenues to knowledge, especially in this vital matter of language teaching.

ANNIE S. BYETT.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

"The Urgent Need for Remedial Reform of the Lunacy Laws and for Remedial Treatment."

No one could have heard Mr. H. N. Flewker's address at our last "Wednesday" before Easter on "The Need for the Reform of the Lunacy Laws" without recognising the importance of the facts he brought forward, and we welcome the formation of the Lunacy Reform Association, of which he is the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Flewker stated that before the war not less than 238 members of Parliament were in favour of remedial reform, but he feared that the Act would not be altered for some time to come. The record given by Mr. Flewker of sane persons wrongfully placed in asylums "gave furiously to

think," and he pointed out that the existing laws give the medical profession far too much power. "Why should an alleged lunatic be treated with less consideration than an alleged murderer?" asked Mr. Flewker, and he quoted the opinion of the late Recorder of Liverpool, who declared that only on the verdict of a jury should a person be certified insane. Soon after the passing of the Act of 1890 Mr. G. W. E. Russell, then Under-Secretary of State for India, presided at a protest meeting at the National Liberal Club, but the law still remains giving the medical profession autocratic power and depriving the supposed insane person of the right of appeal. Tragic, if amusing, were the extracts given by Mr. Flewker from an address of a Professor of Mental Diseases, delivered before the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. Dealing with "Borderland" cases, the Professor included:—

"Faddists and cranks of all kinds, anarchists, revolutionaries, Christian scientists, vegetarians, anti-vaccinationists, anti-all-sorts-of-other-things, and, in general, people who get a distorted view of life through attaching undue importance to minor details."

These people, said the Professor, always felt aggrieved when placed under care!

Mr. Flewker insisted that prevention was better than cure. He understood that Germany had a neuropathic establishment in connection with hospitals in every town of over 40,000 inhabitants, where all possible means were taken to effect cures without certification. The United States, he considered, were "streets ahead of us." Our asylums were usually understaffed. Women, with the exception of the matron, were usually only seen as visitors. He urged that there should be a staff of women in every asylum—remedial treatment being emphatically women's work—also women doctors, women Commissioners in Lunacy in equal numbers with men, also on the Board of Control, and equally well paid.

An interesting discussion followed Mr. Flewker's lecture, and several cases of injustice were mentioned, including that of an old lady who was taken to an asylum because she insisted on taking part in a suffrage procession! Mrs. Despard presided, and spoke strongly in sympathy with Mr. Flewker's plea for the urgent need of reform and better remedial treatment.

The Emily Davison Pilgrimage.

The annual Pilgrimage to the grave at Morpeth of Emily Davison, who died on June 8, 1913, will take place on the anniversary of her funeral. As the date falls this year on Whitsun Saturday, June 10, it is hoped that many suffragists will be able to make arrangements to leave London for the week-end. (Return fare 28s. 3d.) A large number have announced their intention of going, and all those desirous of joining in the Pilgrimage and wishing for further information should communicate with Miss Sarah Bennett, "Norton," The Village, Finchley, N.W.

THE APRIL NUMBER of *The Athenaeum* devotes considerable space to reviewing some recent publications dealing with women in industry, and makes the practical suggestion that motor-cars, not to be used for pleasure, might well be employed in taking women munition workers in comfort to and from the factories. An important article on "American Women in Industry" is devoted entirely to a consideration of Miss Alice Henry's excellent work, "The Trade Union Woman" (Appleton, 6s. net). The editor will send copies of the articles, also of "Paying for the War," for the cost of postage to those interested. *The Athenaeum* is now issued monthly at the cost of 1s.

THE FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE announces two prayer-meetings and tea-table conferences at the office, 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery-lane, E.C.: Wednesday, May 3, "Should Women Sit on War Tribunals?" opened by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A.; Wednesday, June 7, "Should Woman's Market Value be Less than Man's?" opened by Miss Esther Roper, B.A. Prayer-meetings 4.45 p.m.; tea and discussion 5.15 p.m. Invitations on application to the Secretary.

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Being extracts from some of our Leading Journals six months after the conclusion of the War.

"The Anti-Suffrage Review."

... not forgetting that the quality of women able and ready to assist our beloved country in the now happily terminated struggle was practically negligible. How many women volunteered for the posts of admiral or field-marshal? How many did we find in the ranks of the higher Civil Service? How many on the Bench or at the Bar? Some of our finest departmental administrators are even now lamenting that they were ruthlessly cut off from the stern joy of battle by the timidity of responsibility so prevalent among women during the war. To the lower grades of work, we admit, women flocked with their ill-gotten gains as munition workers—ill-gotten because no woman should ever leave the home on any pretext, and doubly ill-gotten in that the manufacture of weapons of war is a degradation of the sacredness of the female sex (especially as remuneration was disgracefully high); with these abominable earnings, we repeat, the women munition workers turned the Trade Balance against their country by their lavish purchases of furs, diamonds, and motor-cars. If this insane measure now before Parliament should reach even its second reading we trust it will be so amended that the truly feminine woman whose sole task was to guard the sacredness of the hearth for which our heroes bled shall be the only woman to come within its provisions.

"The New Age."

Giving, as we did, the only intellectual guidance worthy of any attention during the War, we pointed out repeatedly the danger to Labour caused by the indiscriminate employment of women to replace men. Leaving aside the fact that we discerned in our very cradle that the most advanced political thought would postulate a background of home-keeping feminine women, an alternate diversion and housekeeper to the intellectual warrior, there is the more immediate problem of decisively adjusting the labour market so that the women at present misplaced in it are relegated to some other sphere. Some trifling arguments they adduce: the high cost of living; the necessity of maintaining disabled soldier-relatives whose pensions are still delayed; some even allege that they prefer their new work to the old. As to the high cost of living, a year ago we proved irrefutably that the return of so many workers would be followed by a glut of goods causing prices to fall. The fact that food is still dear is due to the insidious machination of the capitalist, to whom the displaced woman (if still aggrieved) should take her complaint. The unpensioned soldiers will be all the sooner attended to if they throng to the workhouses and insist upon reading to Master and Matron any of our literary or dramatic articles. A sensational wave of violence amongst so placidly contented a class as Poor Law officials would form a fitting prelude to the formation of a National Guild of Disabled Soldiers and Sailors. Ah, there we have it! A National Guild of Women! What kind of workers are they to be? Oh women—just women. If they ask why washing-up dishes is worth nothing an hour and washing a motor-car gets eightpence an hour, they must read some more of our back numbers till they get dazed. Anyhow, it's *their* funeral, and organised Labour... Enfranchisement, of course, valueless as it is, is supremely out of the question.

"The Times."

It is by a peculiarly unhappy coincidence that the bestowal of a dukedom upon Lord Northcliffe,

whom the late War proved to be our only real statesman, is announced upon the same day that a Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women is again introduced in Parliament. We thought the supporters of this political will o' the wisp had been taught in our late high and noble emprise that the day of woman was over. A proposal which unites against it the most distinguished of our public men, and is viewed with grave misgiving by even the sorry remnant of the Labour Party, should be allowed to sink into decent oblivion. The decline in the birthrate is a more truly imperial problem for our women to consider than their representation in Parliament. We suggest that if the ill-advised sponsors of this equally ill-advised measure would modify their demand so that only mothers of not less than fourteen children be enfranchised, there would be less risk of unwarranted and unwanted female intrusion into politics, even should the enfranchisement of women become the law of the land.

"The Spectator."

The Editor regrets that the correspondence on the subject of the Enfranchisement of Women must now cease.

Sir,—The authorship of the Letters of Junius is still a debatable question, but the dimensions of the giant gooseberry produced in our (Rector) garden this summer are worthy of enshrinement in your pages as a matter of certainty. Its greatest length...

"Punch"

Mr. Punch's suggested motto for the Suffragists: *Punch*.

Stop Press (Any paper six weeks later.)

The Representation of the People (Women) Bill passed third reading by a majority of 76, figures being: Ayes, 288; Noes, 212.

HELENA NORMANTON.

WHY IRISH WOMEN NEED THE VOTE.

VI.—The Vital Need.

When suffragists raise the question of housing reform the reply is often made, "That ought to be dealt with by the municipal voter." Now housing, at least in Ireland, cannot be a matter of municipal action only. It is true the Dublin Corporation has powers which, if enforced, would render Lane and similar abominations impossible. But would the destruction of Lane solve the whole problem?

The legal standard of overcrowding is anything more than two persons in one room; in Finsbury there are 35.2, in Dublin 40.6 cases in which this limit is exceeded. The average number of occupants per room in Dublin is 3.31; this is the highest in the United Kingdom, Glasgow coming second with 3.18, and Belfast third with 2.23. The average wage of the tenants in these overcrowded areas is under 20s. a week, and half the number earn under 15s. If these areas were cleared and model dwellings built, the rent could not be less than 4s. 6d. to 5s. per family, as the Corporation has to pay 5 per cent. interest on loans, and judging from

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1020.

FRIDAY,
APRIL 28,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

the example of Liverpool the cost of acquiring sites, clearing, and building, averages £56 per head of the population benefited. How are the people in Lane, whose earnings range from Lizzie's 5s. a week to Mr. —'s 18s. a week, with four children, to pay these rents?

The Housing Acts have no provision for supplying the deficiencies caused by clearances, the cost of rebuilding throws an impossibly heavy burden on the rates. In one Dublin case the mere cost of acquiring a slum site was £36,000, these sites being valued as if in the most prosperous part of the city. The Housing Act of 1909, with its compulsory powers of acquiring derelict sites, should be extended to Ireland; a Bill for this purpose was introduced, but defeated. Further, the powers of local authorities for compelling owners of insanitary dwellings to repair or rebuild should be compulsory, not permissive, as is now the case. Irish municipalities, it must be noted, borrow on less favourable terms than those in England. Here the Treasury advances one-half the cost of improvements only, and the loan must be repaid within forty years; in England two-thirds of the cost can be advanced, and the repayment can be extended over eighty years.

Also, to quote the Report of the Dublin Housing Commission, "the number of tenants in the second and third class tenement houses must include some of the work-shy and loafing class, who should more properly be dealt with under a reformed Poor Law system. It would seem to us, if large housing responsibilities are to be undertaken by the State or municipality, such changes should concurrently be made in the Poor Law as would admit of this undesirable class being specially dealt with."

Reform of the Poor Law, of housing, of education, and a reorganisation of technical instruction, giving real help to struggling industries, instead of doles to "luxury" trades, that can never attain to economic independence, these are the urgent needs of Ireland. They have been pressed on the

politicians times without number, with no result. There is only hope. The Irish question must be dealt with some time before the final settlement of the European crisis. If this settlement of the Irish question includes enfranchisement of Irishwomen, we may see a real attempt to deal with these matters. They must be dealt with if Ireland is to be a country in which men and women and little children can live well and happily, and not merely a tilting ground for the politicians.

DORA MELLONE.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

Will members please note that the office will reopen on Monday, May 1, a few days later than was previously announced? The socials for the soldiers' and sailors' wives recommenced on April 26. Our next afternoon meeting will be on Friday May 26. Next committee meeting Monday, May 1, at 4 p.m.

Middlesbrough. The Suffrage Centre, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A business meeting was held on April 10, when we had the pleasure of welcoming our president after her illness. Plans for public meetings to be held after Easter were discussed, and reports of the month's work given. Mrs. Wilson presided. Our recital on April 13 was very successful. "Casey" so charmed his audience that he was pressed to give another recital on May 1. Apart from his splendid playing, he is a most instructive and humorous lecturer: his rendering of Gounod's "Ave Maria," Hoffmann's "Barcarolle," "Dreaming" by Schumann, and airs from Verdi's "Il Trovatore," etc., was beyond praise. His hearers were much amused by the witty anecdotes with which his lecture was interspersed. All members should reserve the evening of May 1 and bring their friends.

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