

THE VOTE
May 21, 1915.
ONE PENNY

OUR PRICELESS POSSESSION.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 291.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 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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"ONE OF THE GREAT IMMORTALS."

Impressive and Far Reaching Commemoration of FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, May 12, 1915.

The commemoration of Florence Nightingale, organised by the Women's Freedom League, began with placing wreaths round her statue in Waterloo Place. True, there was no procession; the authorities refused permission for any "demonstration," but the wreaths began to arrive as early as 5 a.m., and by the time the great stream of wayfarers on foot, or in vehicles of every description, set citywards or westwards, the flowers and the brightness, and the women police, added a new interest to Waterloo Place. Everyone had missed the solemn unveiling of the statue by two workmen in the dim dawn of a winter's day to the accompaniment of a biting wind and driving sleet; the ceremony of the May morning with its sunshine and flowers and devoted admirers of a great Englishwoman—a world-wide benefactress—was a striking contrast. True, the wide open space in front of the sacred precincts of the Athenæum Club continued all day quiet and practically deserted, when, but for the decree of the powers that be, it might have resounded to tributes of praise to the splendid service of Florence Nightingale to her own and other nations and to the enthusiasm of recruits eager to join a "Florence Nightingale Battalion" and fight for their country under the banner of the soldier's friend. Another failure of masculine imagination and the loss of a great opportunity.

In the centre of the bank of wreaths was that of the Women's Freedom League in the League's colours, admirably carried out by Messrs. Alexander. Others were sent by the United Suffragists, the Actresses' Franchise League, the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Women Writers' Suffrage League, the Women Teachers' Franchise Union, the Women's Social and Political Union, the Suffrage Club, the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union, the Women's Emergency Corps, the past and present nurses of the Nightingale Training School, St. Thomas's Hospital, the sisters, staff

nurses and pupil probationers of a London Hospital, the International Council of Nurses, the National Union of Trained Nurses, the Society of Women Journalists, the *Nursing Mirror*, and some personal friends. All day there were worshippers at the shrine—men as well as women; other curious ones in whom wonder was aroused, and still others who were at a loss to understand what "the fuss was about," but who, by diligent search, at last discovered the words "Florence Nightingale" at the back of the statue!

An open-air demonstration being forbidden, the Women's Freedom League arranged an indoor gathering at the Essex Hall in the evening, and had the active co-operation of the following friends as speakers:—Susan, Countess of Malmesbury, representing the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; Miss Nina Boyle, representing the Women's Freedom League; Mrs. Strickland, representing the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage; Miss Townsend, representing the Women Teachers' Franchise Union; Miss Winifred Mayo, representing the Actresses' Franchise League; Mrs. Fenwick Miller, and Surgeon-General Evatt, C.B.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, editor of the *British Journal of Nursing*, was unfortunately unable to be present, also Mrs. Marion Holmes, our veteran member and the author of "Florence Nightingale, a Cameo Sketch." Miss Anna Munro was an able and sympathetic chairman.

"One of the Great Immortals." This was Mrs. Strickland's description of Florence Nightingale, and after laying stress on her splendid tenacity in making for her goal she read some extracts from her "Confession of Faith," including these words: "I believe in the Father Almighty's love and friendship; in the service of man being the service of God, and the growing into a likeness with Him by love." Miss Townsend told how her father owed his life to the service of Florence Nightingale,

and that one of her treasured possessions is the prayer placed over the wounded soldier's bed by the Lady of the Lamp. Miss Boyle gave similar experience, and also told how the steps taken by the League to hold a demonstration near the statue were met with antagonism by the authorities. Florence Nightingale, she said, represents the soul of the reformer and has lighted a lamp which shall shine down the ages; but she knew what it was to be reviled, ridiculed and misrepresented. Miss Boyle referred to the courtesy with which women are received and heard at the War Office when they have any special business or grievance to bring to the knowledge of the authorities, and ascribed it to the good seed sown by Florence Nightingale in her administrative reforms. Miss Winifred Mayo's speech was charming in its artistic feeling; she described Florence Nightingale from the aspect of the artist, the martyr, and the knight errant who always tackled big things without fear. The Countess of Malmesbury spoke of her selfless devotion, caring nothing for the danger to her health entailed by her strenuous work in the Crimea.

Vigorous and telling were the speeches of Surgeon-General Evatt and Mrs. Fenwick Miller, giving the determined and dauntless aspects of Florence Nightingale's character which contrast strongly with the gentle Lady of the Lamp. Indeed Mrs. Miller said that—all unwillingly—Longfellow had done an injustice in thus describing Miss Nightingale. "Never mind about what I have done," exclaimed Surgeon-General Evatt, "remember me as one who was honoured with the friendship of Florence Nightingale, as one who, after marches up and down the Khyber Pass and campaigning in many countries, found delight, on reaching home, in visiting Miss Nightingale and talking with her about soldiers and their needs, about sanitation in India and a hundred other subjects." She was not the first of trained nurses; she spent some time in the great nursing school on the Rhine, but she was the champion and high priestess of health. She broke down the class barrier: she saw the awful conditions with regard to disease, and, great organiser as she was, set to work to combat them. She forced even the War Office to send men, already physicians and surgeons, to college again to study the laws of health. "Do not remember her as one who successfully nursed typhoid patients," urged the Surgeon-General, "remember her as one who strove for the highest ideal: 'No typhoid!'"

"Not only the re-organiser of nursing but one of the greatest statesmen of history." This was Mrs. Fenwick Miller's declaration, as she told how one after another four Governors-General of India went to consult Florence Nightingale before they undertook their responsible duties. She was a leader, a woman of strong will, not fearing to defy authority when necessary, a woman of determination, a woman with a temper! Mrs. Miller pointed out how much Florence Nightingale owed to the fact that she was the daughter of a wealthy, broad-minded man, who gave her a remarkable education for a girl, and her circumstances brought her into touch with people in power. It was her successful organising of a home for invalid gentlewomen in Harley-street, which led Sir Sidney Herbert to ask her to go to the Crimea. By her commanding ability she brought some order out of the existing chaos at Scutari, and after six months' work had reduced the mortality through disease to less than that of the Guards in barracks at home.

What Miss Nightingale thought of men and matters comes out more clearly by her letters in "The Life of Lord Stalbridge" than in Sir E. T. Crook's "Life of Florence Nightingale." Other

women may have great capacity for service, but are unknown because they have not had their chances and favourable circumstances.

In addition to all her splendid work, Florence Nightingale was a Suffragist; she gave the force of her tremendous influence and her name to the Woman's Movement in its early days. "If we were to stand aside now and stop the agitation for Woman Suffrage," said Mrs. Fenwick Miller, "we should be false to the great women who have rendered such fine service to the Cause. It is work for the whole world; the vote is an emblem, the tool for use in clearing away the obstacles that are hindering the service to humanity which women can render throughout life."

In many places meetings, organised by the Women's Freedom League with the co-operation of other societies, were held. The following reports have been received:—

Liverpool.

The commemoration in Liverpool began by a procession—not forbidden by the authorities—of women to her statue in Prince's-road, there to deposit a crown of laurels. The procession was headed by Miss Broughton, of the Women's Freedom League, and Miss Burton, of the United Suffragists, bearing a Florence Nightingale banner inscribed with the words "Honour to whom honour is due." Before the crown was placed in position by Miss Harriet Johnson, of the British Women's Temperance Association, there were speeches by Mr. W. H. Bernard, of the Church League for Woman Suffrage, Mrs. Ellis, of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies, and Miss Broughton. Mrs. Cousins represented the Theosophical Society and Mrs. Style the Church of Humanity and the Peace Society. In the evening a meeting, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League and the United Suffragists, was held at Pembroke Chapel. Mr. J. H. Cousins presided over a very good attendance. Mrs. Despard gave a moving and enlightening address on Florence Nightingale and her work. Comparatively few women had received honour and recognition for the self-sacrificing service. It was because Florence Nightingale came forward at a time when her qualities of initiative and organisation were needed by men that she was honoured. Her life was an inspiration not only to women but also to men.

Glasgow.

An open-air meeting in honour of Florence Nightingale was held at Langside; Miss McLelland presided. Miss Helena Normanton told the story of Miss Nightingale's life and of her work in the Crimea. Miss Eunice Murray gave Miss Nightingale's declaration that woman's sphere is "to bring the best she has, whatever it is, to the work of God's world." Believing this to be true makes the Suffragist determined to bring her best into the world to-day. Florence Nightingale lived to see much of her work succeed and we who follow in her footsteps are confident of success. A good collection was taken in aid of the Women's Freedom League and the Glasgow Branch of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps is endowing in Serbia. THE VOTE and other literature sold well, and throughout the audience was most sympathetic.

Middlesbrough.

The commemoration meeting was held at the Women's Freedom League Rooms and Miss Mawson gave an interesting address on the life and work of Florence Nightingale. The musical programme was contributed by Miss Nelson and Mrs. Walker.

WOMEN ON PENSION COMMITTEES.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the executive committee of the Women's Local Government Society on May 12, 1915:—"That the executive committee of the Women's Local Government Society express their appreciation of the recommendation of the select committee on naval and military services (pensions and grants); that at least four women shall be appointed as members of the statutory committee of the Royal Patriotic Corporation for the administration of pensions and grants to the dependents of soldiers and sailors, and that not less than two women shall be appointed on all local committees."

The committee, however, venture to suggest to the Government that this representation of women on both the statutory committee and the local committee is inadequate, and they urge the need for increasing the compulsory number of women members. The committee further strongly urge that women as well as men shall be appointed as paid officers.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT

Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Our "Wednesdays" at the Suffrage Club.

There will be no meeting at the Club on May 26, but on Wednesday afternoon, June 2, we shall have the great pleasure of listening to our old friend, Mrs. Fenwick Miller. We hope that our members will rally in good force to welcome Mrs. Miller again on our platform. The chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m.

Women's Freedom League Flower Day.

Will readers who have gardens, or whose friends have gardens, kindly remember that we shall be very grateful for flowers to sell in the streets of London on Saturday, June 19, the proceeds of which are to go towards our President's Birthday Fund? We also want volunteers to sell these flowers, and shall be pleased to have their names at 1, Robert-street, at an early date.

Our President's Birthday Party.

The National Executive Committee is giving a party at Caxton Hall on Thursday evening, July 8, in honour of Mrs. Despard. Further particulars will be given later in THE VOTE; in the meantime we hope that our members and friends will keep July 8 free to attend this party.

The Women's Freedom League Fancy Fair.

Will readers kindly give heed to this preliminary notice of the fancy fair which we have arranged to take place at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27? We want beautiful and useful articles for sale, and we appeal to our friends to help us in every way possible to make this fancy fair a success. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHAT THE VOTE CAN DO.

A Message of Comradeship from New Zealand.
With pleasure we publish the following letter from a woman voter in New Zealand and welcome her message of goodwill and the interesting information she sends as to the power of the vote in women's hands:—

As a member of the Canterbury Woman's Institute, New Zealand, an organisation that has been in existence for twenty-two years, working for social reform on progressive lines, I have been asked to write to your paper and give an account of some of our efforts in this far off land. We recognise that by coming into closer touch with each other we may receive mutual benefit by exchange of thought and ideas on various subjects.

The following are some of the subjects that receive our earnest attention:—

Last year the Institute communicated with the inspector of shops and factories and requested him to visit the different establishments in our city; we insisted upon them having heaters and warming appliances throughout; the results in most cases have been satisfactory. We have strongly urged the need for better ventilation, etc., in our public schools, knowing that if we are to have a healthy and strong community we must begin with the children, and ensure that they are well fed, clothed and taught in pleasant surroundings. One of our members teaches and trains children in an understanding of the value of universal peace. We are trying to get the age of consent raised; in urging the visiting and inspection of prisons, asylums and reformatories, etc., we realise that reform, not punishment alone, is the right aim in dealing with the unfortunates. We do our best by discussion and initiation of practical steps to bring about better conditions for the benefit of the human family.

During last year several British Suffragists visited us,

PETTICOATS



Owing to the remarkable change of fashion that has recently taken place, Underskirts have again become an absolute necessity. We have now in stock a very large variety of dainty and inexpensive Petticoats all cut in the new full shape

New Round Petticoat, as sketch. Cut quite full, in semi-fitting yoke, in good quality Chiffon Taffeta Silk. In black, white, navy, and colours. Length 35 and 37ins.

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and gave lectures on the struggles of your women to gain their freedom. We extend to you our warm sympathies and encouragement in your efforts, for we who are enfranchised know the power of the vote in the hands of women on behalf of their own sex and of children. We think that if the women of the principal nations now at war had possessed equal power and opportunities with men this terrible conflict would not have taken place. Man certainly has done good work in the world, but he is naturally a selfish creature, and does not readily share his power; but by education and agitation women must win equal opportunities to work with men for the good of the country.

Our Institute will be very pleased to hear from you concerning your work, and we hope with enthusiasm and conviction that satisfactory results will be gained through your earnest efforts.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am, with kindly greetings,
C. M. MOODY.

REAL WAR WORK.

The man now makes shells; the woman is a 'bus conductor—in his place.

Congratulations to Miss Lowe, our well-known and capable Chester member, who is doing this real war service. This is how it came about. When the Government at long last recognised the value of women's work and appealed to them to register, Miss Lowe, who in the ordinary way "keeps shop" every morning at the Women's Freedom League Suffrage Shop, St. Werburgh-st., Chester, filled up the official form. A fortnight ago the Labour Exchange sent for her to see a local motor 'bus company. She saw and they saw with the result that she is now conductor on the Chester-New Ferry motor 'bus, and is one of the first two women in Chester to give her service to the country's need in this way and release a man for shell making.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

A council meeting was held at 1, Robert-street, last Monday evening to consider ways and means of strengthening the work of the Women's Freedom League in London. Miss White was in the chair, and representatives from Clapham, Croydon, East London, Hackney, Hampstead, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Harrow, Herne Hill, Hornsey, Kensington, Mid-London, and Regent's Park Branches were present. They decided to run and to be entirely responsible for regular Sunday morning meetings during the summer months in Hyde Park, and to use every effort to extend and strengthen their local Branch work.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

FRIDAY, May 21st, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

OUR PRICELESS POSSESSION.

The difference between being a woman and being a voter can never have been brought home more clearly to Suffragists, who still keep a watchful eye on the revolutions of the political wheel, than at the present time. Contrast the ease with which Mr. McKenna restricted the sale of drink to women—by "agreement of the House," as he kindly explained to a deputation of ladies—and the perspiring struggles in which Mr. George is writhing in his attempts to limit the sale of—not drink, but bad drink, to men; and it will be seen at once what power is wielded by the other, the hard-drinking, sex. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, lacking the courage which he so much admires in others, has shed all his drink limitation proposals save the prohibition of the sale of immature whisky; and tearfully describes this small instalment as "salvage from the wreck." His passionate appeal to the memory of the late Hugh Price Hughes shows the measure of his disappointment, and the measure, also, of the support obtained from his colleagues. The Prime Minister has not even pretended to be in sympathy. It is apparently to these increasingly evident rifts within the Cabinet lute that one must attribute what Sir R. Cooper described as the "sloppy methods" of the Government. Indeed, little as one is disposed to appreciate of this particular combination, one cannot but admire the grit with which they pursue their present colossal task, without even the comfort and sustenance of trust in each other.

What Mr. Asquith's mind or motives really may be, in this definite discouragement of his colleague's attack on the drink stronghold, one would not venture to say. There is, however, one point which might be urged, but which has not so far been mentioned, by the opponents of the drastic legislation which many think would be desirable. *It has not been asked for, or desired by the nation.* The strangely unrepresentative representatives of the people have not dealt with this question in the House of Commons on very lofty grounds. There has been the usual flow of "patriotism" of the type which believes in nothing but coercion, and would have us go through life to the tramp of the German goose-step set to the tune of "The British Grenadiers"; there has been the usual intemperate "temperance" which gives grave offence, not only to moderate drinkers but even to some non-drinkers; and there have been profiteering arguments, and appeals to prejudice, and to the party spirit that is supposed to be dead but is kept so carefully alive by the party Press; and much else that is silly and detrimental besides much that is fine and brave. But of one thing there is no trace that the Govern-

ment and the House knows that they exist to express the will of the people. Members of Parliament represent interests; the Government believes itself to have the right to do what it thinks the people need, not what the people want. Both are wrong.

Legislation in support of definite interests is always dangerous work, and is apt to whittle away national rights. Legislation that is not wanted by the people and not liked is more dangerous still, although it may become necessary. The country for which it is necessary is in a bad way, for the fresh evils of evasion which crop up create fresh problems at every turn. One has only to remember the results of the premature drink legislation in the United States, carried under the influence of emotion, but not desired or endorsed by the conscience of the people. It is to this legislation that many social reform authorities trace the enormous growth of the traffic in women, which took the traffic in drink underground, as it were, and ran its profits up to 250 per cent. There are definite evils in connection with compulsory patriotism; anybody can see them or think of them. More subtle, and more disastrous are the losses.

To lose the right of initiative, the right of choice between good and evil, is to lose a nation's soul. No material advantage to be gained during an emergency, no increase in prosperity or well-being, can compensate the race for the loss of the right to exercise its conscience. All the good and the glory of self-government depend on this, the right of choice. From the moment that a nation, said to be free and supposed to be self-governing, hands over its conscience and its initiative to its rulers, it will find itself, even if it may possibly be more well behaved, steadily deteriorating in moral and spiritual calibre. By abandoning the right of choice, the perception of what is right is blunted. The foes whom the Allies are fighting to-day have given us ample proof of that.

If Britain would but cling passionately to her voluntary system as her priceless possession, and in so clinging try to realise what it is and what it implies, and how great a trust it places in every individual citizen, it would not fail to be a sure guide to her progress. It should be ours in this time of darkness and doubt to trim the lamp so that it may shine more surely, and so that the people themselves may know, and the children may be reared to understand and to bless the great power for good it must be if rightly used. No compulsory good conduct can be half so fine as the discipline and control of one's own will by one's own decision. We, of the Freedom League, whose watchword is "liberty," would do well to keep ever before our eyes, and before the eyes of our fellow countrymen and women, the real meaning of the voluntary system, which is, in effect, self-government. When a cry goes up from the people to have the sale of drink restricted or abolished, or when proposals such as Mr. George's meet with the strong approval and support of those concerned, which just at present appears to be so sadly lacking, that legislation will not be compulsion, but the expression of the people's will, approved, endorsed and desired. The best work we can do now, the best education we can help to spread, is not to clamour for restrictions but to make the nation want what is good and clean.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS

Mrs. Tippett gives grateful thanks to the following kind friends for their welcome help:—Mrs. Carey, vegetable cutter; Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Mackenzie and Mrs. Sharman, rhubarb; Mrs. Kearton, three tables and a tea set; Mrs. Presbury and Mrs. Tritton, contributions to the half-crown fund for preserving sugar; Miss Bruneau, clothes; Miss Taylor Brown, Dr. Carr, and A. E. Hyde Harrison, Esq., donations of £1 each; 10s. for Nine Elms Boy Scouts from Miss Riggall, D. Delbanco, Esq., and Mrs. Isabel Tippett.

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to
December, 1914, £23,135 5s. 7d.

Amount previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.
Special Emergency War Fund.—	521	14	8
"A Friend"	1	5	0
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss A. B. Spencer	10	0	0
Miss M. Fox	8	6	0
Miss E. Gore Browne	5	0	0
Mrs. Sholl	2	6	0
Mrs. Mallalue	2	0	0
R. B. Goddard, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss Hurry	1	0	0
Clapham Branch	19	0	0
East London Branch	1	11	6
Hackney Branch	12	0	0
Herne Hill Branch	3	0	0
Highbury Branch	14	0	0
Hornsey Branch	9	0	0
Kensington Branch	6	0	0
Mid-London Branch	1	0	0
Tufnell Park Branch	6	0	0
	8	18	6

Florence Nightingale Commemoration.—

Mrs. Sargent Florence	5	0	0
Miss J. Reckitt	1	1	0
Anonymous	1	0	0
Reginald Pott, Esq.	10	6	0
Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne	10	0	0
Mrs. C. Bryant	5	0	0
Miss Rosanna Powell	3	6	0
Miss K. O'Halloran	2	6	0
Mrs. Tite	2	6	0

Mrs. Baillie Weaver	1	1	0
Mrs. S. Bancroft Clark	1	0	0
Miss E. Phipps	1	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0	0
A. E. Brown, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss C. Neal	5	0	0
Miss Claudia M. Mackenzie	2	6	0
Miss M. H. Saunders	2	6	0
Mrs. J. H. Blair	1	0	0
Miss D. Gregory	1	0	0
Mrs. Hannant	1	0	0
Miss Twoart	1	0	0
Tickets	2	9	0
Collections	6	16	11
Office Sales	2	9	0
Branches. Capitation Fees.—			
Portsmouth and Gosport	18	6	0
	£554	5	4

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Ackroyd, speaking on "Russia and its People" at the Suffrage Club on May 12, said that the great characteristic of the Russians was their intense individuality. Peter the Great, contemporary of our Queen Anne, was a forceful factor in Russian history. At the beginning of his reign there was no outlet for Russia except the White Sea. Peter said he must make a window into Europe so that Russia should not be entirely Asiatic. He came to London to learn ship-building, and worked at Deptford as a navy. He made the Russian Navy, re-organised the Army, tried to start education in the country, and did much to emancipate women; but he allowed Prussian influence to become very powerful. Only one Tsar since Peter the Great has married anyone but a German. After a great war there has always been a period of awakening in Russia; the Napoleonic wars were followed by a great renaissance in literature; after the Crimean war there was a remarkable political revival, but Alexander II., who freed the serfs and was trying to organise constitutional government, was assassinated. This led to a long period of re-action and repression but Mrs. Ackroyd maintained that Nihilism to-day was as dead in Russia as Fenianism in Ireland. The Japanese war had one good effect. It compelled Russia to cultivate Western methods. To them the present war was a holy war. Drink, one of the great evils of Russia, had been done away by a stroke of the pen; another—corrupt officials—was being dealt with. Germany was afraid of Russia and was trying to cripple her. In Russia there were huge contrasts, great poverty and misery on one hand and extravagant luxury on the other; the deepest gloom and the most irresponsible merriness. But the great characteristic of the Russians was their innate goodness of heart and their sense of pity.

Miss Munro spoke on the hopefulness of the spirit of resolution which was not satisfied with things as they are. Miss Underwood presided.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

On May 14 a public meeting was held at the Welsh Industries Hall, when we had the pleasure of hearing Dr. and Mrs. Clark, who are on a week's visit to Cardiff. Mrs. James Robinson was an ideal chairman, and Mrs. Keating Hill, in an admirable speech, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers. On Wednesday Miss Barrs addressed the Barry Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild on the position of women in the labour market; an interesting discussion followed, and some W.F.L. literature was sold.

Clapham

An excellent meeting was held on Clapham Common last Sunday afternoon; for over two hours Miss Eunice Murray kept a large audience keenly interested in the question of Woman Suffrage. A good collection was taken and all our literature and copies of THE VOTE sold out. The Branch warmly thanks Mrs. Schofield Coates, Miss Alix. M. Clark and Miss Meredith for their kind assistance at this meeting. Whit-Sunday there will be no W.F.L. meeting on the Common, but the following Sunday, May 30, we shall hold one at 3.15 p.m. On Friday, June 11, at 8 p.m., we are having a Conversazione at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, by the kind permission of Mrs. Corner. The entire proceeds are to go towards the Branch's contribution to our President's Birthday Fund. Mrs. Despard has very kindly promised to attend, and there will be music, cards and refreshments. Tickets, which can be obtained from Mrs. Corner, any other Branch officials, at the Common meetings, or at the W.F.L. Office, are 1s. each.

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

A very successful whist drive was held on May 8. Mrs. Loveday will be very glad to hear from members who will assist her in selling THE VOTE in High-street on Saturday mornings, or any other time.

Tested Cookery Recipes.—We are extending the time for receiving recipes until the end of June, as we find that the meetings of the different Branches vary considerably. Will Branch secretaries please note?

Our fortnightly open-air meetings will begin on the first Thursday in June. The office will be closed from Friday, May 21, to Wednesday, May 26.

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42, 44, 46, and 50, MARBLE ARCH, W.

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Glasgow.

Our open-air meetings have been most successful during the Spring; Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker at those recently held at Dumbarton and Clyde Bank. The Jumble Sale arranged by the Dennistown district realised more than £14. A Cake and Candy Sale will be held at the Suffrage Shop on May 29.

It is with great regret that we learn of the death of Mrs. Love, one of the most faithful members of the Branch. Mrs. Love was a member of the Glasgow Council for the last two years, and her willing help will be greatly missed.

Hackney.

We were pleased to welcome Miss Munro and Miss Clark on May 14, and wish that more members had heard Miss Munro's interesting address. The next meeting will be on Friday, June 11. Will all members and friends please keep this date open, so that we may have the hall full?

Liverpool.

On May 11 Miss Broughton was invited to address the members of the Kensington Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guilds. A most successful drawing-room meeting, at which Mrs. Despard was the speaker, was held at the house of one of our members, Mrs. Howroyd, 10, Parkfield-road, Sefton Park, on May 12, despite the heavy rain. Mrs. Howroyd presided, and Mrs. Despard gave a stirring address on "Women in War Time." A good collection was taken; THE VOTE and Suffrage literature was sold. Three new members were enrolled.

Manchester.

On May 4 a house meeting was held at 49, Russell-road, Blackley, by kind permission of Mrs. Baxter. Miss Broughton, who was the speaker, explained the aims and policy of the League. An interesting discussion followed, and THE VOTE sold well. On Wednesday, May 5, Miss Broughton gave an interesting address on "Women and War" at the Weaste Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild. The president, Mrs. Alker, was in the chair, and Miss Kipps kindly superintended the sale of THE VOTE. The following afternoon a reception was given to the Blackley Women's Co-operative Guild; Mrs. Buckle presided and great interest was shown in Miss Broughton's address on the need for Woman's Enfranchisement. Seven new members were enrolled, others gave their names as sympathisers. It was decided to form a Branch in the district as soon as twelve members are obtained. In the meantime Mrs. Scholes kindly consented to act as hon. secretary. During the afternoon tea was provided. Miss Graham looked after THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature, which sold well. In the evening Miss Broughton gave a useful and practical address on "Woman Labour and Wages" to the Cheetham Hill Women's Co-operative Guild. A good discussion followed. Miss Janet Heyes superintended the sale of THE VOTE.

Mid-London.

At the annual meeting of the Branch on May 7 the following officers were elected:—President, Miss Cecily Hamilton; hon. secretary, Mrs. Tritton; assistant secretary and treasurer, Miss Hunt; committee: Miss E. Coleman, Mrs. Crawford, Miss A. E. Jacob, and Miss Killingworth. It was decided that the committee should meet monthly, on the first Thursday each month, and that a members' meeting should be held quarterly.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

The monthly members' meeting on May 11 was well attended. After the business a discussion was held on the "War Baby Problem." Miss Hattrill has kindly promised to read a paper at our next Branch meeting in June. A picnic has been arranged for Wednesday, May 26, on Portsdown Hill. Meet at the Light Railway, Cosham, at 3 p.m. Tea only will be provided at 3d. each. Proceeds to go to the Birthday Fund.

Reading.

On May 15 members had the great pleasure of hearing Miss F. A. Underwood, who gave a stimulating, practical address on "Women's Place in National Life," which was listened to with much interest, and many questions were asked. Mrs. Tregay was an excellent chairman. Warmest thanks were given to Miss Underwood, and hope expressed that she would soon come again.

Tufnell Park and Hornsey.

The Branches will hold a Social on Saturday, June 5, at 8 p.m., at Spencer Hall, 19, Dartmouth Park Hill, opposite Tufnell Park Tube Station, and five minutes' walk from Junction-road Station on the Midland Railway. Mrs. Despard has promised to give an address, and there will be a good programme. Tickets, 6d. each, from Miss J. Barrow, 202, Brecknock-road, N., and Miss Masterman, 40, Beatrice-road, Stroud Green, N.

MINERVA PUBLISHING COMPANY.—The shareholders' meeting was held at 2, Robert-street, London, on May 19. A report will appear in next week's VOTE.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS : W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Friday, May 21.—CROYDON, Competition tea and sale of home-made cakes, etc., at 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Sunday, May 30.—BROCKWELL PARK, Open-air Meeting, 11.30 a.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, Open-air Meeting, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson.

Monday, May 31.—EAST LONDON, Members' Meeting, 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow, 6 p.m.

DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, June 2.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Mrs. Mustard.

Thursday, June 3.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-st., near Town Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Friday, June 4.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL, Whist Drive, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 5.—TUFNELL PARK AND HORNSEY BRANCHES, Social, Spencer Hall, 19, Dartmouth Park Hill, 8 p.m. Address by Mrs. Despard. Music. Tickets 6d.

Sunday, June 6.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m.

Monday, June 7.—LONDON BRANCHES, Council Meeting, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 9, Titchfield-terrace, North Gate, Regent's Park, 8 p.m. (by kind permission of Mrs. Carey). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

Wednesday, June 9.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, on "Arms and the Woman," and others.

Friday, June 11.—CLAPHAM BRANCH, Conversation, in aid of Birthday Fund, 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 8 p.m. Short address by Mrs. Despard. Music; Cards; Refreshments. Tickets, 1s. each. HACKNEY, Public Meeting.

Sunday, June 13.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30 p.m.

Thursday, June 17.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-st., 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 19.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Flower Day

Thursday, July 8.—MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, Caxton Hall.

"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., N.W., open every day, 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 29.—INTERNATIONAL DANCES, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 6d. and 3d.

NINE ELMS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-st., open every day at noon.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, May 26.—PORTSMOUTH, Picnic. Meet at Light Railway, Cosham, 3 p.m. SAIGHTON (Chester), Public Meeting in Schoolroom, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. Bac. Chair: Miss Trotter.

Thursday, May 27.—HOVE, Public Meeting, Town Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro, on "Women's Sphere in War Time," and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Miss Hare.

CHESTER, Public Meeting, Holborn Restaurant, Foregate-st. Speaker: Mrs. Cousins (of Liverpool).

Monday, May 31.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Branch Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Goddard.

Monday, June 7.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. J. H. Smith, on "Peace and War."

Sunday, June 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Mr. Crow, on "Involvement and Evolution." 6.45 p.m.

Thursday, June 17.—READING, Members' Meeting Committee-room, Palmer's Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mdlle. Elise de Kestre, on "Belgian Democracy." Chair: Mrs. H. Sacret.

Wednesday, July 7.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Surprise Party in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, May 29.—GLASGOW, Cake and Candy Sale, Suffrage Centre, 70, St. George's-rd.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 7.—THE UXBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Meeting at Brookfield House, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

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A WORD TO THE WISE.

One form of economy—and a very practical one, too—which is being practised by many women this year, is greater consideration of the cleaners' and dyers' aid. Most VOTE readers are familiar with the efficient service offered by Messrs. Achille Serre, Limited, of Hackney Wick, London. This firm holds a high reputation for thoroughness and quickness, while their prices are very reasonable. They only charge 4s. 9d. for cleaning, pressing and "refinishing" a plain woollen costume, including the removal of all spots and stains. If you write for their illustrated price list—a very useful little book to have at hand—please let them know that you are a reader of THE VOTE. It helps.

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THE "DESPARD ARMS."

"The Despard Arms" was the scene of a cosmopolitan gathering last week when a Russian friend of Miss Ballam's brought nine compatriots to "the Suffragists' Public House," including a friend who had most kindly put our piano in order for us. Russian, Italian and English songs were given and enjoyed. A sequel will be an evening of Russian, Italian and English dances at "The Despard Arms" on Saturday, May 29, at 7.30 p.m. All friends are invited. They will be able to get refreshments. Tickets for the dances, 6d. and 3d.

NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The Federation has re-commenced its open-air meetings in Edinburgh. At the first, recently held in the East Meadows, Mr. J. Wilson McLaren presided over a large audience, and read the following message from Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, the founder of the Federation:—"Scotland has taken first honours against the enemy in Flanders; it is up to Scotland to take first honours against the enemy to women's freedom at home. It was once said I had set the heather on fire, let the warmth of your love for the Cause keep the fire burning." Warm tribute was paid to the splendid war service of women and parish councillor Millar added that their work in the national crisis had abundantly proved their right to a voice in the affairs of the State.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly. Wednesday afternoon, June 2, speakers: Mrs. Fenwick Miller, Mrs. Mustard.

SERVICE OF INTERCESSION (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), Saturday, May 22, 3 p.m., in St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside. Preacher: The Rev. Canon Masterman (rector).

MISCELLANEOUS.

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MISS JANE ADDAMS AND INTERNATIONALISM.

Miss Jane Addams had an enthusiastic welcome at Kingsway Hall on May 13. Speaking of The Hague Congress of Women, she said that it proved the reality of international ties even in the midst of the overwhelming strain of war. The awakening of national consciousness was worth much; in time the national and patriotic feeling would merge into the larger sphere of international co-operation.

HATS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

The wise will lose no time in visiting the millinery department at Messrs. Thompsons', Tottenham Court-road (close to Maple's), where an important sale of hats affords an exceptional opportunity for securing smart headgear for Whitsuntide at remarkably moderate prices. What can be better than a broad brimmed sailor hat in white piqué, trimmed effectively with a black and white striped fabric, for 4s. 11d., or a small sailor at the same price in several colours, with a band and bow of satin ribbon round the crown, and a satin ruching to border the narrow brim? For smart occasions a chic hat for 6s. 11d. in white fancy straw, with a soft crown of navy blue or black silk, and trimmed with clusters of mixed flowers will be a great favourite, also a larger shape at 8s. 11d. in soft black straw with a drapery of ribbon caught on either side with clusters of pink roses and forget-me-nots.

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