

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

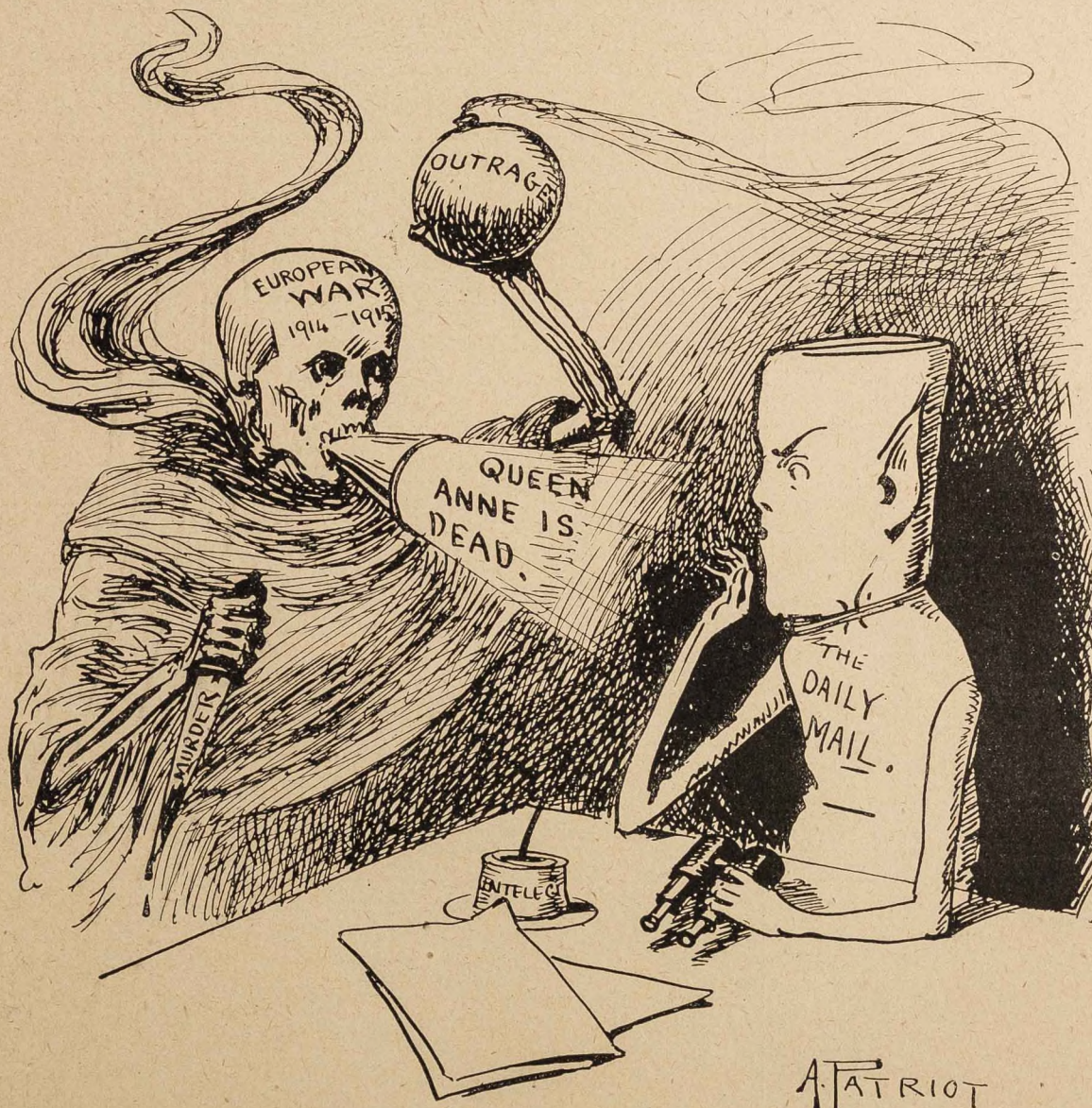
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 378.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free 1d.)

NEWS FROM THE FRONT



EUROPEAN WAR: "Queen Anne's dead!!!"

DAILY MAIL: "You don't say so? I must really make a note of that for our forthcoming 'Carmelite History of Epoch-Making Discoveries.'"

(The "Daily Mail" said in its leading article on May 29: "One of the things this struggle will teach us is that the range of woman's industrial capabilities is far wider than the world had realised.")

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THE CAMPAIGN

Indoor Meetings

Friday, June 4; 3.30 p.m.—Lecture I. on "The Theory and Practice of Politics in England To-Day," by Mr. John Scurr.—The Suffrage Club, York Street, St. James's, S.W. Chair: Miss Evelyn Sharp. (Mr. Gerald Gould will take the chair at the second of these lectures on Friday, June 11.)
Friday, June 4; 7.30 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate, Manchester.
Friday, June 4; 3 p.m.—Working Party.—"Ardstic," Chorley Wood. Hostess: Mrs. Shiell.
Friday, June 4; 8 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—111, Queen's Road, Liverpool.
TUESDAY, JUNE 8; 8 p.m.—PUBLIC MEETING.—KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C. SPEAKERS: MRS. FETHICK LAWRENCE, REV. F. LEWIS DONALDSON AND MISS EVELYN SHARP. CHAIR: MR. GEORGE LANSBURY. (Particulars on page 295.)
Tuesday, June 8; 8 p.m.—Open Night.—U.S. Women's Club. (No Meeting.)
Friday, June 11; 7.30 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate, Manchester.
Wednesday, June 16; 3 p.m.—Drawing-room Meeting.—Aldridge. Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson. Chair: Miss M. Haly.
Wednesday, June 16; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Queen's College (small hall). Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson on "Suffrage Standards."
Friday, June 18; 7.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Manchester. Speaker:

Miss Mary Richardson. Chair: Mrs. Forrester. Admission Free. Tickets 1s. and 6d.

Friday, June 18; 4 p.m.—Drawing-room Meeting.—53, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, N.W.

Outdoor Meetings

Friday, June 4; 8 p.m.—Corner of Skipton Street London Road. Speaker: Miss Fraser Smith.

Sunday, June 6; 12 noon.—The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath. Speaker: Mrs. Bouvier.

Sunday, June 6; 3.30 p.m.—Streatham Common. Speaker: Mrs. M. E. Davies.

Tuesday, June 8; 3.30 p.m.—Corner of Webber Street, New Cut.

Wednesday, June 9, 7.30 p.m.—Corner of Sydney Street, Manchester.

Thursday, June 10; 8 p.m.—Corner of Avondale Square, Old Kent Road.

SOUTH LONDON

Organiser, Miss M. Phillips, 92, Borough Road, S.E.

Miss Evelyn Sharp most kindly took Mrs. Whelen's place as speaker at the Women's Club last Tuesday, at very short notice.

The New Cut meeting on Whit Tuesday was enthusiastic. It was not lack of interest but after-holiday scarcity of cash that accounted for the small sale of VOTES. One man "stood" papers to two eager but penniless would-be buyers, and they went away happy, envied by their less fortunate sisters.

At Skipton Street a soldier from the audience carried the platform home, producing a profound impression on the neighbourhood.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.

Hon. Sec. Miss M. Haly, 103, Bunbury Road, Northfield

Will all members spare as much time as possible for giving out bills for Miss Richardson's meeting? They should start doing this about Friday, 11th inst. Please let the secretary know, and she will forward the bills where required. June and July promise to be a busy time for paper-sellers, as there are so many meetings arranged in Birmingham, where the papers ought to sell well. Volunteers are much wanted for this work, and the secretary will be glad to hear from any of the members who are willing to give an hour or so to help the regular sellers to increase the sale of the paper.

HAMPSTEAD U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Hicks, 33, Downside Crescent

The monthly reunion of the Hampstead Branch was held at 33, Downside Crescent, on Friday afternoon, May 28. Mr. Frederick Whelen gave a most interesting talk on "Women and the Theatre," and to many who heard him it was a revelation to learn what important work women had initiated and carried through in connection with the stage. With regard to the crisis arising out of the war Mr. Whelen gave many instances of the practical organizing ability of women in providing (through the Actresses' Franchise League and other Societies) recreation for the troops and, at the same time, work for members of the profession. A collection was taken and copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN sold. The next meeting was fixed for Friday, June 18.

KENSINGTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Mary Richardson, 47a, Earl's Court Road, W.

About sixty members and friends attended the Shop Opening on May 27. Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck kindly gave the opening address, and emphasized the point we all felt to be our reason for gathering and starting a new Kensington Suffrage centre, viz., that Woman Suffrage was a dual thing—of politics and something deeper, and it was just this "something deeper" that compelled us to continue our suffrage work, even in a time of war and horror and confusion. Miss Sharp and Miss Richardson also spoke, and after tea Miss Postlethwaite and Miss Ward gave demonstrations of their hand-press, to the interest of everyone. It is the hope of the Secretary that such gatherings may be frequent. Donations for the new shop were received as follows: Miss J. Hinton, £1; Dr. Flora Murray, 10s.; Dr.

Garret Anderson, 10s.; H. Fry, Esq., 10s.; Miss Hickey, £1; Mrs. Hutt, £1; Mrs. Hartley Withers, 10s.; Laurence Housman, Esq., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Maitland, 5s.; Collection, 3s. 6d.; total, £5 11s. Mrs. Ward kindly gave the furniture to the new shop, and also the cakes for our At Home opening.

LIVERPOOL U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Isabel Buxton, 111, Queen's Road

Reception to Miss Mary Richardson, Saturday afternoon, June 19. Open-air work is being started now. A very successful meeting was held on May 27 opposite Hippodrome, when Miss Broughton spoke. Next members' meetings, June 4 and 11.

MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Hope Hampson, "Trevena," Bowden

The open-air meeting of the Branch on Wednesday evening at Sydney Street, Manchester, drew a large crowd of people. The speakers were Mrs. Forrester and Mr. Frank Merrick. At the meeting on Friday details for the public meeting on June 18 were arranged. The meeting was not very largely attended, many members being away for the Whit-week holiday.

NORTH-WEST LONDON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Penn Gaskell, 310, High Road, Kilburn

We have the greatest pleasure in welcoming the formation of a new branch of the United Suffragists in North-West London, under the able leadership of Mrs. Penn Gaskell, who is already well-known to Suffragists for her splendid services to the Cause. The Suffrage shop at 310, High Road, Kilburn, N.W., will be the headquarters of the new branch, and all Suffragists, men and women, in that district of London are asked to communicate with Mrs. Penn Gaskell at once.



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DAINTY SUMMER FROCK (as sketch), in French Cotton Voile, gathered at waist, with full skirt, vest and cuffs of plain white 29/6

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Our Cartoon	289
United Suffragists	290
The Outlook	291
Suffragists and Patriots Too!	292
The Kingsway Hall Meeting	293
Are Women Out of Work? By F. W.	294
Correspondence	295
Comparison of Punishments	295

DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it; to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper

THE OUTLOOK

On Thursday, after we go to press, Parliament reassembles, and the Coalition Cabinet enters formally upon its new career. In common with all who love our country we hope it may steer the ship of State safely through the many shoals that now surround and threaten it. In addition, as we said on the first announcement of drastic changes in the Government, we look to the new Cabinet to profit by the mistakes of its predecessor and, by a wise consideration of the claims of women, to take a statesmanlike step towards uniting the country and nationalising its resources.

Another Liberty Going!

The forecasts of the Government business said to be awaiting the reassembling of Parliament have dealt mainly, however, with two matters—the vital question of the Benches to be occupied by the new Ministry in the House of Commons (over which we will not waste our time!), and the really serious and dangerous proposal to destroy yet another feature of our constitutional liberty by relieving Ministers, during the war, from seeking re-election on their appointment to new offices. This may be defensible as an emergency war measure—though we are heartily tired of the war being made an excuse for robbing us of our liberties, never a reason for extending these—but the *Manchester Guardian* predicts that "The thing once done is not likely to be undone," and if this prophecy is fulfilled it will be found after the war that the people have been robbed of a very potent means of expressing their refusal to be governed by a man whose political career has thoroughly disgusted them. For instance, if such a Bill had been in existence before, Mr. Masterman would not have been rejected as a candidate by three or more constituencies, and his anti-Suffrage record would have passed as being endorsed instead of condemned by the electorate.

Women and National Service

As we go to press there are many rumours in the newspapers about possible Government schemes for mobilising (as at least one Bishop has expressed it) "every man, woman, and child" in the service of the country. As regards the compulsory mobilisation of women and children for this or any other purpose, we prefer to reserve our opinion until some such scheme is actually under consideration by the Government. Judging by the small use that has been made of the voluntary war register of women, which (although responded to far less readily than it would have been had its announcement been accompanied by a pledge to enfranchise the women whose services were solicited) resulted in the registration of some 70,000 women, as yet almost unused, we feel it would be premature to discuss a compulsory scheme that may never be even formulated. It is difficult to believe, indeed, that any body of statesmen, such as those who compose the new Cabinet, can contemplate calling upon women to submit to compulsion of any kind before granting them their

political safeguard, the vote; or, at the very least, giving a pledge to enfranchise them at the earliest possible opportunity.

Exploitation of Women

How much that safeguard is needed by women in the Labour market is proved again and again as more occupations are thrown open to women in the present crisis. The manager of a West End shop told a Pressman the other day that the liftwoman, compared with the liftman, is a great improvement; she is easier to manage and is also cheaper. *Where we have been in the habit of paying a man 22s. a week we pay the liftwoman 15s., and provide her with her uniform, which costs £2 2s.*

The italics are ours. The same ingenuous acceptance of injustice to women was shown at the annual conference of the National Association of Grocers' Assistants, when, according to the *Daily Chronicle*, a resolution was passed protesting against certain firms employing women assistants at wages which did not cover the cost of the lowest standard of living, and urging employers to distribute among the male staff the difference in wages paid to the female assistants. This is one way of breaking down the prejudice of men to the employment of women, but it is not the way that would be chosen if women enjoyed an equal status with men in the country!

Breaking Down Barriers

We have permitted ourselves a friendly gibe at our contemporary the *Daily Mail* in our cartoon this week, but we congratulate that paper on printing an article on "Women in our New World," by Twells Brex, in which he says:—

At the end of the war all those thousands of women who have awakened to their usefulness, their intelligence, and their directing powers will insist on the enfranchisement of those powers; they will insist on a partnership with us men in the shaping of the new and better world we must mould out of this awful crucible. Meanwhile, fresh barriers are being broken down day by day. We have butcher girls for butcher boys, call girls for call boys, newsgirls for newsboys, vanwomen for vanmen, women tramguards, women waiters in men's clubs, and at least one woman minister whose husband is a chaplain at the Front. If we could feel assured that all these women were coming into the labour market on an equal footing with men, we should indeed be facing the dawn of a new world.

Atrocities in our Midst

Our "Comparison of Punishments" column (see page 295) has informed our readers for a long period of time of the terrible increase of sexual crimes against children and very young

TO THE FRIENDLY STRANGER

A Question and Answer

THE QUESTION

Numbers of United Suffragists have responded splendidly to our appeal for funds to enable us to carry on our work of keeping the Suffrage Flag flying at this difficult time. But we want more response still.

We make a special appeal this time, not only to those members of the U.S. who have not yet made up their minds what they mean to give, but to those outside the U.S., those members of the general public who read our paper, approve our aims, and yet do nothing practical to help us to go on publishing it.

You, who have just bought the paper in the street;

You, who have picked it up in the railway carriage;

You, who are reading it over someone else's shoulder;

You who save a penny by borrowing your sister's copy;

You, who don't read the paper, but pretend that you do;

You, who praise us for going on with the fight, but remain an irresponsible and friendly outsider all the time;

What will YOU say in the future when someone asks you, "What did YOU do to help the

girls, which is the deepest disgrace of our civilisation to-day. And Miss Damer Dawson, giving an account of the work of women police in England (now numbering some 150), said at a meeting of the New Constitutional Society in London last Tuesday, that there was no place more dangerous for the British child than the public park, and it was not safe to allow a small girl to stray more than a few yards alone, for these places were haunted by men with criminal tendencies. Waste places and ruined buildings with cellars should equally be watched, she said, by women police. All honour to those who have taken this good work in hand and broken down public prejudice against the institution of women police. But the only permanent safeguard against the growth of this atrocious piece of Prussianism in our midst is, of course, the equalising of the moral standard for men and women, the first step to which is the equalising of their political status.

Items of Interest

Out of a gift of money presented to her by the wives of Freemasons, the Queen has given £50 to the Educated Women's War Emergency Fund, to be used towards training some of the many teachers, journalists, and others for whom there are no openings in their own professions owing to the war.

It is a triumph for the woman's movement that St. George's Hospital, a former "Anti" stronghold, has, according to an announcement in the Press, admitted a number of women as medical students.

The age of consent has been raised from 16 to 18 in Arizona since women won the vote there. It has now been raised to 18 in every suffrage State, except one, of the American Union. Compare this with the fate of the Bishop of London's Bill in this country, just a year ago!

The war continues to take its toll of women and children, hitherto supposed to be in a privileged position as non-combatants. The only victims of the Southend Zeppelin raid were two women and a child; and among those killed by the explosion on the Princess Irene (though not actually on board the ship) was a little girl aged nine, and as we go to press we learn that out of the four victims of the Zeppelin raid on London, last Monday, three were a woman, a boy and an infant.

On Saturday in this week (June 5) it is expected that the Danish Royal Assent will be given to the Government Reform Bill whereby women are fully enfranchised.

women to get the Vote, to revive Hope when Hope seemed dead, to save Ideas when Materialism seemed supreme?"

THE ANSWER

Here is something you can do. You can scrape together every sovereign, every shilling, every penny you can spare, and you can bring or send it to the Kingsway Hall, next Tuesday, June 8, at 8 p.m. In this way you can do your bit to back up the United Suffragists, who, in face of fearful odds, are struggling to keep a faith untarnished that shall perhaps save the world when wars and rumours of wars have died away.

United Suffragists at the Front

Many of the United Suffragists, as soldiers, nurses, or doctors, are at the Front. The Hon. Treasurer of the U.S., Captain H. J. Gillespie, is out there, fighting for our country, day after day. We want to be able to tell him that a big sum was raised at the Kingsway Hall meeting to enable the U.S. to carry on the fight here at home. That is what he would like to hear, for it would tell him that we are trying to make his sacrifice worth while by safeguarding freedom and all the things that matter in the country we all love, the country for which he and so many others are fighting.

The Editors cannot hold themselves in any way responsible for the return of unused manuscripts, though they will endeavour as far as possible to return them when requested if stamps for postage are enclosed. MSS. should, if possible, be typewritten.

Subscriptions to the paper should be sent to The Publisher, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

"WOMEN AND CHURCH COUNCILS."

MEETING
CHURCH HOUSE (Great Hall),
Great Smith Street, Westminster,
THURSDAY, JUNE 10th, 8.15 p.m.

CHAIR:
The Right Rev. the **LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN.**

SPEAKERS:
The Rev. T. A. LACEY, Mrs. KNIGHT BRUCE,
Mrs. HENDERSON.

Tickets (Reserved and Numbered), 1s., can be obtained from the C.L.W.S. Offices, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.
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CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.
A LANTERN LECTURE ON "ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA," will be given by the

Rev. T. J. WALSH, in the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL,
HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON,
On **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9th, 1915, at 8 p.m.**
Miss ABADAM in the Chair.

Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., may be obtained from the Secretary, 55, Berners Street, W.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN

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FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915.

SUFFRAGISTS AND PATRIOTS TOO!

Against those suffragists who are not turned aside by the fact of war from their devotion to the ideal of suffrage a curious charge is sometimes levelled—that they cling to trifles in the day of great things; that they fail to realise the radical alterations which war has made in the whole business of life; that they are blind to the imminent danger of a desolate world and a fallen civilisation. Those who bring such a charge must be people who have never understood what suffrage means. To accuse, we will not say suffragists, but anyone at all, in these days, of being blind or indifferent to the war is to bring a futile and grotesque accusation. It is possible to ignore the Angel of Death when the noise of his wings comes faintly from distant places, but not when his shadow is over every familiar corner and every quiet home. It is possible to take suffering lightly when the wounds and diseases of peace are discreetly curtailed away from the general gaze, but not when war has flooded the land with hospitals and crowded the hospitals with incredible suffering. Doubtless the weakness of the flesh is inclined at times to cry out for a respite from realisation; it gets no respite. Doubtless there are many who would be ignorant and indifferent and careless if they could; no one can be ignorant or indifferent or careless. To accuse anyone of being so is, we repeat, futile and grotesque; but what shall we say when the accusation is brought against suffragists, who, by the very fact of the understanding which first made them desire suffrage, were awake to the pain of the world while others slept?—who were out in the forefront of the struggle for the saving and hallowing and beautifying of life while the smug and the complacent and the self-satisfied stood aloof? It is precisely because we do realise the horrors of the present and the dangers of the future that we dare not cease clamouring for justice. We are told, and we can see for ourselves, that the vast range and peculiar miseries of the present war threaten civilisation as it has not been threatened for fifteen hundred years. What then? Because the world we know may come tumbling about our ears, are we to forego the claim of women, who must suffer equally with men in such a cataclysm, to the weapon with which they may build a new world from the wreckage? Because reason has not sufficed to settle the disputes of man-made States, are we to betray reason when its need of women, and when women's need of it, is greatest? Because we love our country, and our country is in danger, are we to forget the faith we have held so long—that to do justice is the greatest

strength, and that by doing justice our Government could help our country best?

It is true, it is obvious, that if women's demand for a vote were a selfish or personal demand, it ought at a time of national danger to be dropped. But then it ought never to have been taken up. For all times are times of national danger; not the fact varies, but only the degree. Enemies from without, however strong and unscrupulous, are not the greatest danger, either to States or to individuals, because they cannot harm the spirit. The greatest danger is from within, and may be most virulent in an era of the placidest prosperity. It is the danger of doing wrong, of lowering national ideals, of denying justice. All of us, militarists or pacifists, agree in condemning that tyrannical spirit which breaks solemn pledges, which does violence to the weak, which exalts Might in the place of Right—that spirit which we call Prussianism. We in England profess a fear of being Prussianised; but we sometimes forget that it is beyond the power of Prussia, were it ten thousand times as powerful as it is, to Prussianise us against our will. Even were Germany to beat us in the field (which God forbid!), it could not force us to break solemn pledges, to do violence to the weak, to exalt Might in the place of Right—so long as we were true to ourselves. Only England can abase or exalt the spirit of England. For us to be defeated in war by a Power of lower ideals than our own would indeed be an unthinkable calamity to ourselves and to humanity. Only one calamity could be greater, and that would be the lowering of our own ideals. The men who are dying at the front are giving their lives for liberty and justice; it is the worst of insults to their memory to deny liberty and justice at home; it is the best of tributes to their memory to demand of the British Government that it should, by extending liberty and justice, be worthy of their sacrifices.

Whether, then, one considers votes for women worth pressing for in time of war depends upon one's view of the vote. If it is something the possession of which by women would not hearten and stimulate the whole community, safeguard the lives of the children growing up to make the Britain of the future, diminish those evils of "sweating" and prostitution which go far to corrupt the very life-blood of the society which our soldiers are fighting to preserve; if, above all, it is not the symbol of freedom and citizenship—then it should not be demanded now, or ever. But if it is what the men who have fought and died through the centuries to win it have believed it to be, then it ought to be demanded now, and always, till the demand is met. This war, we are told, is being waged on behalf of the self-government of small nations. What weapon of self-government have Belgian men save the vote? What could self-government mean apart from the vote? What is the vote but the symbol of self-government? And how, if it is right to purchase that with infinite blood and tears for Belgian men, can it be wrong to demand it for English women? There is indeed one simple test that can be proposed: If freedom is only a name and justice a laughing-stock, if civilisation is bankrupt and democracy fraudulent, if every one of our own people who has shed his blood in this war for liberty and equality has died in vain, if the sacrifice is a mockery and the suffering an evil and insensate folly—in that case, and in that case only, it is wrong to keep the flag of liberty and equality flying here, by pressing for the enfranchisement of women.

United Suffragists' GREAT SUFFRAGE RALLY

at the

KINGSWAY HALL

Kingsway, W.C., on

TUESDAY, JUNE 8th, at 8 p.m.

(Doors open 7.15).

Come and help to keep the Suffrage Flag Flying

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE VOTE

Many suffragists are working for it whole-heartedly, and with as much concentration as ever—for *never* was it more needed than NOW. The conscience of each one of us is the best guide for our individual conduct; but there is *One Thing* we can all do, and that is **ATTEND THE MEETING** and support those who are devoting themselves to keeping the Suffrage Flag flying in this time of National Crisis.

COME AND HEAR

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE

Speak on

"THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS AND THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE"

Other Speakers:

THE REV. F. LEWIS DONALDSON,
MISS EVELYN SHARP,

and

CHAIR: **MR. GEORGE LANSBURY.**

Show the New Government how vital the movement is and the popularity they could gain by applying their War Principles to their Peace Problems and giving to English women that freedom at home for which so many English men are fighting and dying abroad

NOW IS THE TIME to Rally to the Flag,

for you owe it to those brave Suffragists who have sacrificed so much to make the country worth dying for; you owe it to our brave soldiers who are now dying for that country, and you

Owe it to the CAUSE.

WHAT CAN EACH ONE OF US DO TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING?

Some of us can work; some of us, even in these pressing times, can subscribe; but

We Can ALL come to the

KINGSWAY HALL next Tuesday.

GET YOUR TICKETS AT ONCE.

Reserved Seats 2/6 and 1/-; Unreserved 6d., from the Ticket Secretary, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

ARE WOMEN OUT OF WORK?

The Effect of the War upon the Industrial Employment of Women

It is safe to say that not one in a million anticipated last August that after nine months of a European war there would be a severe shortage of labour, and that far from there being any widespread unemployment or distress, manufacturers would be unable to cope with the orders they had in hand. And yet such is the case. At the present moment manufacturers in all parts of the country are complaining that they are unable to obtain either male or female labour, and that even urgent Government orders are delayed on this account. It has taken some little time to arrive at this state of affairs, and it will be interesting to trace the course of industrial employment, especially in the case of women, since the outbreak of the war.

A Period of Panic

The immediate effect of the outbreak of war on the industry of this country was very disastrous. A period of panic reigned, and employers dismissed their workpeople right and left. In a number of cases, however, employers refused to do this, in the interests of their workers, and when trade recovered and labour became scarce, these manufacturers reaped considerable benefit from their public-spirited action. The employers who took this course were the exception, and a sufficient number of workers lost their employment for August to be a month of acute distress. No figures are available which show the actual extent of the consequent unemployment, but we do know that in London, for example, the number of the children on the school-feeding registers went up by leaps and bounds, and that many families only kept body and soul together by pawning their belongings and using up their small savings. Since that time, however, the situation has progressively improved. We are not at the moment concerned with the effect of the war on male employment, and it will suffice to say that, as far as men are concerned, by the middle of October the amount of unemployment had fallen to the normal pre-war level, and that since that time the demand for male labour has been more and more insistent; in fact, during the past winter the amount of unemployment has been less than during any winter hitherto recorded, and, with few exceptions, all the industries of this country have suffered from a shortage of male labour.

Worse for Women than Men

Turning our attention to the question of female employment, we find, especially during the earlier months of the war, a very different state of affairs from that already described for men. During the whole of the autumn and winter there was a considerable amount of unemployment among women—for two very good reasons. First, and most important, there is no question of enlistment for women, and in their case, therefore, the labour market was not thinned by a large number joining the colours. Secondly, women are much more generally engaged in the subsidiary and "luxury" trades, such as dressmaking (which have been heavily hit by the war), than in the metal trades, which have benefited so much from the presence of enormous Government orders. Thus, out of every 1,000 women who were actually in employment in July, only 916 were still in employment during September, 938 during October, 968 during December; while by February the number had risen to 984. The April figures are not yet available, but, judging

by the difficulty which is experienced on all hands in obtaining female labour, especially in industrial districts, it is more than probable that by now the employment of women has reached and passed the normal pre-war level. The magnitude of the problem is probably more easily appreciated if we follow the course of the actual numbers of women who have thus been displaced from industry. During September—for the whole of the United Kingdom—this number amounted to 200,000, during October to about 149,000, during December to about 77,000; and while by February the number had fallen to 36,000.

What is "Unemployment"?

The term "women displaced from industry" has purposely been used instead of "women unemployed," because, during the last two or three months especially, the two terms are not synonymous. For example, a very considerable number of the 36,000 women employed in July, but not employed in February, were not unemployed in the ordinary sense of the word, but had left their industrial work of their own free will. Of these women a large number were engaged in their own homes looking after troops who were billeted upon them, and so were unable and unwilling to go out to work. At Luton, to take only one of many examples, the straw hat manufacturers were unable to obtain anything like their normal supply of female labour from this cause. There has been, and still is, another and more important reason why married women, at any rate, are at present unwilling to work in factories, especially where the wages are poor and the conditions bad. Many married women who in peace time pass a life of incessant toil in order to support, or partially support, their families, are now in receipt of separation allowances, in some cases larger than the ordinary total earnings of themselves and their husbands. The opportunity has at last arisen for these women to do what they have been told to do so often—they are now staying at home and minding the baby—with the result that certain industries are suffering considerably from the lack of their labour. Dundee is a town with a very unenviable reputation. It is noted for the low wages paid to all workers, and for the large percentage of married women working away from their homes. Recruiting in Dundee has been very active, and now hundreds of women, who usually work to support their homes, are in receipt of separation allowances, and are refusing to work any longer in the Dundee jute and linen factories. These two industries have been for the last three months seriously handicapped by the consequent shortage of labour, and are now learning to their cost that only stern necessity forced the women of Dundee in past years to work for the low wages formerly paid. The case of the jute and linen industries of Dundee has been quoted as an example of what is now happening all over the country to industries where wages are low, and which depend for their labour on married women.

Woman's Opportunity Now

We see then that at present, owing to the shortage of male labour, the demand for women's labour is exceptionally good, and that at the same time a number of women, normally engaged in industry, are unwilling to continue with their work unless conditions are made more attractive. Now is the opportunity for women to insist upon a living wage. Instead of the usual surplus, the demand for women's labour is very much in excess of the supply, and this state of affairs is likely to continue, at any rate for the next few months.

It is essential that women should realise that their labour is now in great demand, and that there is not a surplus upon which employers can draw in order to replace any who demand decent conditions. If only they will be firm and work together, they can now negotiate successfully for adequate wages.

F. W.



To Strengthen Your Nerves!

Anxiety, chronic overwork, shocks, and worries of one kind and another, tend to undermine the strongest of us. Hall's Wine will swiftly soothe the sorely tried Nerves, banish Neuralgia, Sleeplessness, Depression, and restore strength and fitness.

Hall's Wine builds up every nerve and cell and fibre in the system; improves the appetite, the digestion, and the physical and mental powers beyond all reckoning—and does it to the last.

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MAXIMUM COMFORT AT MINIMUM COST.

In all sizes and half-sizes in two fittings, with narrow, medium, and hygienic-shaped toes.

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P.R. AND DANISH SUFFRAGE

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—On June 5, 1915, it is expected that the Royal Assent will be given to the new Danish Constitution, under which universal suffrage is established for both Houses of Parliament. It may be interesting to many of your readers to know that women will first exercise their Parliamentary vote in Denmark under a "proportional" system of election. Proportional representation has been used in the election of the Upper House since 1855. In 1909 the principle was adopted in municipal elections (in which adult suffrage for men and women already prevails), and it now receives the final and most important extension to the Lower House.—Yours, &c.,

ALFRED J. GRAY.

Secretary The Proportional Representation Society, 179, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W., May 29, 1915.

WAR BABIES

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—I have not read "Thinker's" letter, but I would remind your correspondent, Charlotte E. Ireland, that Free Love and Prostitution are two different things. I hold no brief for the former, but there are many serious and well-read people who do, and we cannot brush their opinions aside simply because they do not coincide with our own. When we speak of a low standard of morality we should distinguish between a woman who sells herself for money, which is lust, and a woman who does not believe in the marriage ceremony. The woman who sells herself for money in marriage is creating just as low a standard as the girl who presents the State with a love baby, born out of marriage. Suffragists should beware of too much spiritualism. I have heard lectures on spiritual marriages which I consider little less than a plea for a sexless race, which would be short-lived.—Yours, &c.,

STUDENT.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Dear Editors,—Though only an insignificant unit in the great army of women Suffragists, I cannot refrain from expressing my entire agreement with the letter in your current issue (in answer to "A Thinker" last week), signed Charlotte E. Ireland. It is so convincingly to the point and so re-

strained, though so uncompromising, that I hope many will endorse it. Enclose my card.—Yours, &c., A LIFE-LONG SUFFRAGIST.

FROM CANADA

A member of the U.S. sends us the following extract from a Canadian correspondent's letter:—"Do you think that one outcome of the war will be the granting of votes to women in England? It should be, when one considers what magnificent sons they have given to England, and how necessary it is that they should have a say in matters that affect the Empire. The women of this city [Winnipeg] are striving hard to obtain the vote for the women of Manitoba. There are very many gross injustices against the farm women that will never be remedied until the city woman with her superior intellect and capabilities is given the power to fight for her Far West sisters."



(With acknowledgments to the "New York World.") This is not a bargain sale as might be popularly supposed, but merely the Chicago women voters hastening to be first at the polls.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"

Mr. Sam Brooks (Manchester) writes:—"I am glad that you have not been persuaded to strike, or lower, the flag of woman's freedom (and incidentally of man's), even during the war. To-day, when physical forces loom so tremendously upon the horizon and in the arena, it is all the more necessary that we who still retain our faith in the supremacy of spiritual forces should not lower our flag before this clash of contending (masculine) powers operating on the lower brutal plane."

From Other Readers

A reader who has been hit so badly by the war that she cannot send us any money at present, writes to say that she will become a regular subscriber to VOTES FOR WOMEN instead. This is a very good way of discharging one's Suffrage liabilities at a difficult financial moment like the present.

"Many of us cannot do much in the way of contributions, but if your less well-to-do readers sent 5s. from time to time as they could afford it, it would all help. I will do so, for one."—(Miss Winifred Holiday, enclosing 5s.)

"VOTES FOR WOMEN" FUND

Donations Received up to May 29

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged	1,060 18 6	Miss A. MacPherson	0 2 0
Mrs. M. E. Anderson	1 0 0	Miss M. Oldrini	0 13 0
Mrs. H. Armes	0 2 0	Miss D. Pethick	5 0 0
Miss E. A. Carter	3 0 0	Miss S. Thompson	0 2 6
Mrs. B. Everett	0 10 0	Mrs. J. S. Wilson	0 10 0
Miss W. Holiday	0 5 0		
Mrs. Ibbotson			
Hutt	0 10 0		
			£1,072 13 0

WOMEN'S CLUB FUND

Donations Received up to May 28

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged	252 15 6		
Per Miss Cochrane (Club Receipts)	8 7 2		
Essex Hall Collection	3 2 11		
			£264 5 7

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Offences Against Girls.
The Derbyshire Times (May 22) reports case of a man in the employment of a firm of builders, who was charged at the Chesterfield County Police Court with indecent conduct towards two little girls in two separate cases.
Sentence: For the first charge, fine of 40s. and costs; for the second, one month's imprisonment.

Wounding a Wife

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph (April 10) reports case of a labourer charged before the Recorder at Sheffield Quarter Sessions with wounding his wife on the ear and over her eye with a razor, and said she would comfortably swing for her." The Recorder took into consideration that he had been in custody since February 22.
Sentence: One day's imprisonment.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Loitering

The Morning Advertiser (May 22) reports case of a motor driver charged at the Lewes Assizes before Mr. Justice Horridge with obtaining money and food by false pretences. He represented himself as a Sergeant-Major at Worthing, saying he had come to fortify the sea front. There were also other charges of fraud.
Sentence: Twenty-one months' hard labour.

False Pretences

The Sussex Express (March 5) reports case of a motor driver charged at the Lewes Assizes before Mr. Justice Horridge with obtaining money and food by false pretences. He represented himself as a Sergeant-Major at Worthing, saying he had come to fortify the sea front. There were also other charges of fraud.
Sentence: Twenty-one months' hard labour.

Every humane person will see in the first comparison in the table of punishments above a more glaring instance even than usual of that savage inequality of sentences which is being continually shown in our Courts, and which is based upon the view that property is of far greater value than the human person. For twenty pieces of silver a man may apparently do his best to corrupt the morals of a little girl; he only gets one month's imprisonment for doing the same to two more little girls. In four weeks he will once more be free to commit offences.

MR. JOHN SCURR

Will give LECTURE I. on

"THEORY & PRACTICE OF POLITICS TO-DAY."

At the SUFFRAGE CLUB (8, York St., St. James's, S.W.).

TO-DAY (FRIDAY), JUNE 4, At 3.30 p.m.

Chair: Miss EVELYN SHARP.

Admission Free.

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MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Dental Surgeon

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Gas Administered daily, at 11 and 3, by a Qualified Medical Man. FEE 7s. 6d.

A record of 30,000 successful cases. Nurse in attendance. Mechanical work in all its branches.

The Best Artificial Teeth from 5s.

Send Postcard for Pamphlet.

Telephone: North 3795.

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Help from Italy.

Now, if ever, economy has been forced upon the housewife. Supplies are uncertain of many articles of food which have become necessities. The housewife, therefore, is compelled to look around for substitutes. To assist our many customers to overcome these present difficulties our Provision Sections have made ample preparation in the form of large stocks of nutritious foods. Important among these is an exclusive stock of Italian Macaroni fresh from the country of our new Ally. A more strengthening and sustaining food would be difficult to find, and the many meals with which it can be served make it a commodity of every-day advantage.

ITALIAN MACARONI

Either Pipe Macaroni or Spaghetti. Original 112lb. case ... 43 6

7lb. parcel ... 2 10

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For use with or without heating (whichever kind is preferred).
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Style An ideal summer corset in white Batiste, lightly boned, low bust. Fitted free of 5/11 charge.

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Single insertion, 24 words or less, 1s. 6d., 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

ST. MARY - AT - HILL. — Church Army Church, Eastcheap. Sundays, 9 and 6, views, orchestra, band. Prebendary Carlile.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUCKLEY.—May 14, at 9, Heathcote Street, W.C., to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald R. Buckley, a daughter (Diana).

IN DEFENCE OF OUR LIBERTIES.—THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE announces a Meeting at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., on Friday, June 18, at 7.45 p.m. Speakers: Monsieur Emile Vandervelde and Miss Helen Normanton, B.A. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Tickets from the W.F.L. Offices: 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. Reserved and numbered, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; Unreserved, 1s. Doors open 7.5 p.m.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30. Speakers: June 9: Mrs. Zangwill. Subject: "Arms and the Woman." Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Clarke. Admission free.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy, Quietude, and Refinement, no extras. At the Grand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters; sumptuous bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted; breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d.; en pension 9s.; special terms for long stay; finest English provisions.—Manageress, 4788 Gerrard.

BOARD-RESIDENCE, superior, at The Beacon, 26, Kensington Gardens Square, Hyde Park, close Queen's Road Tube; ideal position, facing Gardens; most comfortable, quiet; excellent cooking; select and reliable; from 25s. full, 21s. partial.

COMFORTABLE APARTMENTS for lady; owner's house, nice garden; bath, h. and c.; good cooking; terms moderate; 5 minutes' station, 20 minutes' King's Cross.—H. D., 39, Westbury Road, Bowes Park, N.

HASTINGS.—Nicely situated on hills and country, not more than 1 mile sea and town; sunny sitting-room and bedroom, suitable for 1 or 2 persons; 21s. weekly, with full board.—Miss Hurst, 10, Clive Avenue, Mount Road.

TO BE LET OR SOLD.

A NICE little Bed-sitting Room to Let, furnished, 7s. 6d. per week; suitable for business man or woman.—Mrs. Winter, 32, Doughty Street, Mecklenburg Square, W.C.

FOR DISPOSAL.—Well-established, first-class vegetarian Guest House, in popular seaside resort; winter and summer season; good connection.—"Votes for Women," 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street.

FURNISHED HOUSE to Let; 2 sitting-rooms, 4 bedrooms, bath (h and c.); electric light; small Lincolnshire town; cheap living; rent 17s. 6d. weekly.—Apply Cross, Newlithes, Horsforth, Yorkshire.

MISS STALEY, C.L.W.S. and U.S., recommends highly small Unfurnished Flat; modern.—Address, Mrs. M., 12, Acris Street, Wandsworth, nr. Clapham Junction.

UNFURNISHED ROOMS to Let; 2 front rooms on 2nd and 3rd floor, together or separately; use of bathroom, hot water; gas; 10s. and 9s.—Apply Madame Emile, on premises, 12, London Street, Paddington.

WELL FURNISHED Upper Part to Let in lady's private house; no attendance; 6 rooms, can be arranged as desired; convenient position, near Swiss Cottage.—Mrs. Wilson, 116, Fellows Road, N.W.

WORTHING.—Small furnished House to Let for the summer, 2 guineas per week.—For particulars apply Miss Oliver, 1, Southcourt Road.

PROFESSIONAL.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Miss Griff, Consulting Engineer, 48, Dover Street, from 52, Bond Street; advanced courses motor mechanism; expert advice; electrical and mechanical engineering.

TO GIRLS seeking a useful and attractive calling. Anstey College for Physical Training and Hygiene, Erdington, Warwickshire, offers a full teachers' training in physical culture, including Swedish educational and medical gymnastics, dancing in all its branches, indoor and outdoor games, swimming, hygiene, anatomy, physiology, &c. Good posts obtained after training.

ELECTROLYSIS, Etc.

ANTISEPTIC ELECTROLYSIS scientifically and effectually performed. It is the only permanent cure for Superfluous Hair. Highest medical references. Special terms to those engaged in teaching, clerical work, &c. Consultation free.—Miss Marion Lindsay, 35, Cambridge Place, Norfolk Square, W. Telephone: 3307 Paddington.

ELECTROLYSIS, Face Massage, and Electrical Hair Treatment. Special terms to trained Nurses. Skilful instruction given and certificates granted. Highly recommended by the Medical Profession.—Address Miss Theakston, 54, Devonshire Street, W.

LAUNDRY.

A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt deliveries.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

NO CONTRACTS TAKEN, but family work only, by a high-class, personally-managed laundry.—Beaven's Laundry (proprietor C. Beaven), 90, Lavender Road, Clapham Junction. Price list on application.

JEWELLERY.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY? The large London market enables Robinson Brothers, of 5, Hampstead Road, London, W., and 127, Fenchurch Street, E.C., to give the best prices for Gold, Silver, Platinum, Diamonds, Pearls, Emeralds, Silver Plate, Antiques, Old Teeth, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone 2036 North. All parcels, offer or cash by return of post.

BUSINESS, Etc.

ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is made from best materials, guaranteed unshrinkable, and gives lasting wear. Write for patterns, and buy direct at first cost.—Dept. 31, Atheenics Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

DRINK DELICIOUS SALUTARIS GINGER ALE. Absolutely safe; made from distilled water. Ask your grocer, or write Salutaris Company, 236, Fulham Road, London, S.W. (mentioning this advertisement).

HUCKABACK TOWELLING of Genuine Irish Linen, in bundles of Remnants, sufficient to make six full-size Bedroom Towels, price 4s. 6d.; postage 6d. extra. Catalogue free. Write now!—HUTTON'S, 167, Larne, Ireland.

WARDROBES.—Good prices given for ladies', gentlemen's, and children's clothing; P.O. by return for parcels; banker's reference.—London Dress Agency, 27, Green Road, Southsea.

COMING EVENTS

Under the auspices of the United Suffragists Mr. John Scurr will deliver a series of lectures on "The Theory and Practice of Politics in England To-day," at the Suffrage Club, beginning on Friday, June 4, at 3.30 p.m. Admission free. (See page 290.)

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting at the Kingsway Hall on Tuesday, June 8, at 8 p.m. (See other parts of paper.)

Under the auspices of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society the Rev. T. J. Walsh will lecture on "St. Catherine of Siena" at the Kensington Town Hall on Wednesday, June 9, at 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Abadam. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage will hold a public meeting at Church House (Great Hall), Great Smith Street, Westminster, on Thursday, June 10, at 8.15 p.m. Speakers: The Rev. J. A. Lacey, Mrs. Knight Bruce, and Mrs. Henderson. Admission free. Tickets (unreserved), 1s.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 9, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Clark.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Caxton Hall on Friday, June 18, at 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Monsieur Emile Vandervelde and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Chair: Mrs. Despard.

WHO ARE THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS?

They are a body of men and women who are working to get the Parliamentary Vote for women, AND DO NOT MEAN TO LEAVE OFF UNTIL IT IS WON. Any man or woman who wants to help in this job can join the U.S. (Write to Hon. Sec., United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.)

The United Suffragists have formed branches in different parts of the country. They have also founded a WOMEN'S CLUB at 92, Borough Road, Southwark, S.E., where women of all kinds can meet and help one another through the present difficult time.

Their organ, "VOTES FOR WOMEN," gives news of Women's activities in war time and never loses sight of the GREATER WAR against evil, in which ALL SUFFRAGISTS HAVE ENLISTED AS SOLDIERS. It fights all along the line for Women, and protects their interests when the Government and other employers try to exploit them and to attack their liberties.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY THE U.S. DO SUFFRAGE WORK DURING A EUROPEAN WAR, READ THE LEADING ARTICLE ON PAGE 292 OF THIS PAPER and come to the

KINGSWAY HALL

ON

JUNE 8, at 8 p.m.

(For particulars see page 293.)

JOIN THE U.S! READ "VOTES FOR WOMEN!"
1d. Weekly.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

LADY in Country Cottage seeks another to help her in all the work; must be good reader, and musical.—Address Page, Brooklands, Fordcombe, near Tunbridge Wells.

RELIABLE Working Housekeeper required, end of June; two in family; must understand vegetarian cooking.—Apply, with full particulars, Mrs. Rose, The Chestnuts, Grosvenor Road, St. Albans.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

COUNTRY.—Lady recommends General Servant (25) with boy (2); good cook; knowledge of poultry. Would take entire charge.—Edith, 101, Beaufort Mansions, S.W.

BOOKS

64-PAGE BOOK about HERBS and HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—Trimmell, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

EDUCATIONAL

ADA MOORE.—Lessons in Singing, Voice Production, Diction. West Brighton, Winchester weekly; West End Studio.—153, Elm Park Mansions, Park Walk, London, S.W.

MODERN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, Letchworth.—Principal, Miss Cartwright, M.A.; staff includes specialists and University graduates; pupils prepared for professional entrance examinations; bracing moorland air; home comforts.

LINDUM-HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA. Boarding School for Girls on Progressive Thought lines. Principal, Miss Richardson, B.A. The school stands in its own grounds, where tennis, hockey, and cricket are played. Home care. Thorough tuition. Entire charge of children coming from abroad.

MRS. MARY LAYTON, F.R.C.O. (Hon. Organist to the W.S.P.U.). Voice Culture for Singers and Speakers. Private Lessons in Singing. Singing Classes and Ladies' Choir. Please note change of address to "The Chalet," 2, Fulham Park Road, S.W.