

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 314.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 29, 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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TO THE HONOUR OF NURSE EDITH CAVELL.

The pathetic story of Edith Cavell's last hours upon earth, the glorious record, testified to by her enemies, of her heroism even to the end is now before us; and I feel that we of the Women's Freedom League, while offering our tribute of gratitude and admiration to our gallant sister's memory, will desire also to express our sorrow that a life so noble should have been cut off, and our indignation against those who, lest their prey should escape them, hurried her relentlessly to her death. I have been asked to call upon women to avenge her. That I cannot do. Those who have done and decreed that foul deed will suffer for it. The country they profess to serve is suffering already in the ardent enthusiasm of our fellow countrymen's service which the story has evoked, and in the reprobation of the whole civilised world.

With us remains, as a legacy, our countrywoman's noble and generous words spoken when she knew death was imminent. I pray that this message from the grave may never be forgotten.

Fighting for righteousness with all the force at our command, may we eliminate from our souls that spirit of hatred which feeds the flame of war. So may we hope for a conclusive Peace, and so may we honour those who, by the fiery road of martyrdom, have offered themselves for their country and their race.

It is proposed, we hear, to erect a monument to the memory of Edith Cavell. That is well; but, to my mind, her memory lives and will ever live in the hearts of our people, with these thrilling words:

"Patriotism is not enough.

I should have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

These are, indeed, her finest monument!

C. DESPARD.

"Heedless of the world's verdict, we must travel the hard road of duty," says Herr Zimmermann, German Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. We should be untrue to ourselves if we did not shoot this woman, and we must, by frightfulness, prevent women from following her example is the burden of his apologia. The official story of what occurred was forwarded to London by the American Legation in Brussels, and issued by the Foreign Office. Miss Cavell was arrested on Aug. 5, brought to trial on October 7 and condemned to death on October 11. She confessed to having harboured British and French soldiers in her house as well as Belgians of military age, all of them anxious to join the Allied armies; and she admitted that she had facilitated the escape of some of them from Belgium. Under the German Military Code the extreme penalty for these offences is death. Great efforts were made by the American Minister at Brussels and the Spanish Minister to save Miss Cavell's life, but their eloquent appeals and the dictates of humanity made not the slightest impression on Baron Von Bissing, the military Governor-General of Belgium, and Miss Cavell was executed at two o'clock on the morning of October 12.

The English chaplain who visited her shortly before her execution, said she wished all her friends to know that she willingly gave her life for her country, and her last words to him were:—

"I have no fear nor shrinking; I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me. I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end. Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty. The time of rest has been a great mercy. They have all been very kind to me here. But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

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The German Emperor has since pardoned two French ladies condemned to death on the same charge.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has thanked the American and Spanish Ministers for their efforts on behalf of Nurse Cavell. Their Majesties the King and Queen have sent a message of deep sympathy to Mrs. Cavell, the eighty-year old mother of the nurse. H.M. Queen Alexandra desires that the new Nurses' Home now being built at the London Hospital to which she had given her name, shall be called the "Edith Cavell Home."

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

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HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

We make an urgent appeal to our readers to come next Wednesday afternoon to St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, Bloomsbury (entrance in Little Russell-street), to hear Mrs. Montefiore speak on "Women and the Food Supply." The subject is of special interest to women, and Mrs. Montefiore is an expert in this and kindred matters. Our other speaker will be Miss Nina Boyle, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. E. M. N. Clark at 3.30. The following Wednesday afternoon we shall have the pleasure of hearing Miss Margaret Douglas, who, having just returned from the country of our nearest Ally, has kindly promised to speak on "A Recent Visit to France."

Dramatic Lecture Recital.

We beg for the support of our members and friends at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on Sunday afternoon, November 14, when Miss Clara Reed will give a special lecture-recital of Stephen Phillips' "Herod." The chair will be taken at 3.30, and we can promise that those who come will have a thoroughly pleasant and enjoyable afternoon. Tickets, which should be procured beforehand, are on sale at this Office at 2s. (numbered and reserved), and 1s. (reserved but unnumbered). The proceeds are to go to the Women's Freedom League.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair.

We hope in the next issue to be able to announce the names of the openers of the Fair. Within a few days Branch secretaries will receive tickets on sale or return, and they are urged to do their utmost to sell these before the day. London members who are not attached to a Branch are asked to procure their from Mrs. Fisher or Miss A. Mitchell, hon. secretaries of the Social Committee. The Fair will be open each day from 2.30 to 9 p.m.; admission, before 5 p.m., 1s.; and after 5 p.m., 6d.

A Safe Voyage and a Happy Return!

All at headquarters were very glad last Tuesday to catch a brief glimpse of Miss A. B. Jack, who during her long hon. secretaryship of the Edinburgh branch of the Women's Freedom League, has rendered such fine service to the cause of woman suffrage. We welcomed the chance of speeding her on her way to India and trust that at the end of her six months' holiday she will be as a giant refreshed, ready to take her place again

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral to-day (Friday) at noon. His Majesty the King is to be represented; the Prime Minister and Lord Crewe will attend, also the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. Six hundred seats will be reserved for nurses, but no tickets will be required by the public. The doors will be open at 10 a.m.

Schemes for a memorial are under consideration. Sir George Frampton has offered a statue and Mr. Henry Holiday—well-known to suffragists—a stained glass window.

in the suffrage ranks and the reconstructive work of the future. We trust suffragists in India will come into touch with her and catch something of her enthusiasm. While in London, Miss Jack found time to visit the Despard Arms and was greatly impressed with its achievements and possibilities.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

In the brief account of the arrest and detention of Miss Boyle in last week's issue, an error was perpetrated which Miss Boyle wishes to correct. One sentence, read: "It turns on the right of hotel and boarding-house keepers to keep a register of Aliens under the Aliens' Restriction Act." This should have been: "It turns on the right of hotel and boarding-house keepers to keep a register of British subjects (not Aliens) under the Aliens' Restriction Act."

A SET BACK IN THE U.S.A.

According to cabled news, the State of New Jersey rejected by a majority of from 50,000—60,000 the constitutional amendment enfranchising women. We sympathise with our fellow-suffragists, but know that the result will be further efforts to win the victory.

President Wilson: Champion of Votes for Women.

When history comes to be written it will probably place on record the judgment that the finest diplomatist during the period of the World War was President Wilson, of the United States of America. He, at least up to the present time, has during many anxious months saved his country from the horrors of war, and has maintained peace with honour, while irresponsible warmongers raged and urged that America must drop the pen of diplomacy and take up the sword of battle. *Only those who realise the price that Europe is paying in blood and agony know what a real victory President Wilson and those who are backing him have won for the millions of men and women who claim the United States as their home.*

We women acclaim him as a preserver of life—the life which it is our function to give and to nurture. And we learn with real joy that this man of peaceful ideals, of wise diplomatic restraint, has now publicly declared his allegiance to the Cause of Woman Suffrage—that Cause which, when won all over the world, will, we trust, place the work of construction above that of destruction, and will, as Professor Masaryk said recently in his lecture at the London University on "The Problem of Small Nations in the European Crisis," mean the orderly development of the science of life, "not as a mere abstraction, but with method and exact thought about everything within the range of human life." We women suffragists of Great Britain congratulate the women of America on their President!
D.B.M.



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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

The Usual Thing.

We have been surfeited with panegyrics of the Frenchwoman, her behaviour in the crisis, her work for the nation, and the avidity with which her grateful Government has utilised her services. Now comes her reward. The grateful Government has emulated Mr. McKenna, but has gone a step further. A decree has been published prohibiting "women and children" from being served with alcoholic drinks in any place of public entertainment in France. This kind of insult, with which we are so familiar here, is the natural outcome of that "gratitude" which some optimists believe will result in Votes for Women after the war without further difficulty.

And Yet Again

No sooner is it announced that Sir Edward Henry, Chief Commissioner of Police, with a view to facilitating recruiting, had sanctioned the employment of women as conductors on trams and omnibuses—a decision reached after "conference with the principal interests concerned"—than the men employes indulge in the usual threats of refusing to work with women. Truly the lot of the patriotic woman is hard. We have no doubt, however, that women will win through and that the new move will be as great a success in the London streets as it has been on the London railways.

The London County Council propose to employ women experimentally on about 120 trailer and single deck cars.

Messrs. Thomas Tilling and Co. are now dealing with scores of applications from women for posts

as conductors on their 'bus services. It is understood that the same rate of wages will be paid and the terms of the women's service will be for the period of the war only.

A Smart Woman Tram Conductor

According to the "Petit Journal," which relates incidents of His Majesty's visit to France, it was a woman tram conductor who first recognised His Majesty in the main square of a certain town. She promptly called out "Vive le Roi," whereupon a crowd quickly gathered around the Royal motor-car, with loud cries of "Vive le Roi," "Vive l'Angleterre," and many enthusiastic hurrahs.

Employment of Women.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to consider the conditions of clerical and commercial employment with a view to advising what steps should be taken by the employment of women or otherwise, to replace men withdrawn for service in the military forces. The following are the members of the Committee—

Cecil Harmsworth, M.P. (chairman), M. Delevingne, C.B., of the Home Office, Sir Lionel Fletcher, of the White Star Line, F. W. Goldstone, M.P., Sir Alexander Henderson, M.P., chairman, Great Central Railway Company, Miss Violet Markham, Miss Mary Paterson (one of the National Health Insurance Commissioners for Scotland), Sir William Plender, M. R. Pryor, of the Sun Fire Office, Captain J. C. Tremayne, of the Recruiting Department of the War Office, and R. W. Walley, of Parr's Bank.

Communications on the subject of the inquiry should be addressed to the secretary, Mr. M. H. Whitelegge, Home Office.

The Home Secretary has "saved his face" by the inclusion of two women on the committee; it is the minimum, not the maximum, of justice to women, ready to shoulder national responsibilities.

Women and the Vote: An Object Lesson.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, presiding at the meeting of the United Suffragists last Sunday, at which Mr. H. W. Nevinson gave a graphic and moving description of the hardships and the heroism of the Dardanelles campaign, urged the necessity for the enfranchisement of women before the work of reconstruction after the war was taken in hand so that they could take their share in it. She pointed to the case of working men who were not enfranchised until fifty years after the Napoleonic wars; during the interval a social system was set up, which ignored so important a part of the community as the working men, and was consequently full of injustices, the undoing of which needed years of untiring work.

A Move in the Right Direction.

Commenting on the recommendations of the Munitions Labour Supply Committee, relating to the employment and remuneration of women, Miss Mary MacArthur points out that the £1 minimum is not for every woman—yet. She writes in the "Daily News":—

The recommendations are an attempt to apply in practice the theory of equal wage for equal work, and though, in my opinion, the attempt falls short in several vital respects, it is at least a sincere and honest effort to deal with the problem. Where they are adopted, the recommendations will guarantee a time wage of £1 for a normal working week to all women of 18 who are learning to do any part of a job previously done by men, or employed on piecework or premium bonus system in cases where their earnings fail to reach the standard amount. The recommendations will also ensure for night or Sunday work a time rate of 25s., 30s., or even £2.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, October 29th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vorn
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Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

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

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and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

WOMEN & THE POLICE FORCES.

In the early part of August, 1914, the Women's Freedom League inaugurated the very popular institution of Women Police Volunteers. The idea seized hold of the public mind and the sight of the first woman in "police" uniform seized hold of the public fancy. The press was also pleased, and published photos and notices of the new movement. The great majority of those who approved hardly troubled to think out why they approved; but audiences listened to the real reasons with interest; and the movement has come to stay. Of hostility or opposition there has been none at all.

Certain societies have for a long time been advocating this reform; but it is doubtful whether all their propagandist efforts equalled in effect and success the publication of the first photograph of the woman police volunteer, Mrs. Elith Watson, in attendance at the Old Bailey. "A penn'orth of fact is worth a pound of theory," says the old saw; and this concrete fact, the woman in uniform, self-reliant, self-possessed, helpful, respected and respectful, carried the day. Women police are now an acknowledged portion of the national work.

The movement was coincident with that for women patrols. Both forms of work have been amply justified; but both are incomplete from the national point of view. The one is a volunteer movement, the other semi-official; neither have the final stamp of definite authority. The nation is composed of men and women, and there is no sex in vice, crime or folly. Women form a proportion—although a small proportion—of the sum total of offenders. It is therefore imperative that a national police-force should be composed of men and women both; and in the interests alike of women, men, and civilisation, there should be women to take charge of and deal with the women who break the law and pay its penalties.

The man who is arrested and searched, or kept in detention or under observation, is handled or accompanied by a trained, drilled, uniformed person whose appearance and manner command a certain respect, and whose clothes and general appearance are cleanly and dignified. The woman prisoner, under the same circumstance, is dealt with by a humble and often terrorised person, with neither training, uniform nor authority. In the dirty working clothes in which she does the char-woman's duties for the police-station, she searches the woman prisoner, or spends the night with her. There is nothing about this poor soul to inspire

confidence or respect; and she cannot even secure privacy, under any circumstances, by night or day, for those in her charge. It will be remembered that when the five Freedom Leaguers who gave the name of Smith were in custody at Marlborough Street police-station, and were settling down for the night on the scanty accommodation which the Government provides, there was a sudden and unannounced incursion of five male officers, who took the "matron's" keys and dispensed with her presence. To reach the cell in which the five prisoners were located, these men passed along the passage on which all the women's cells looked. All these cells, each fitted with an open lavatory, have a shutter which is kept open from outside for observation purposes. The aperture thus made commands a view of the entire cell. Comment is needless.

On the occasion referred to in the Political and Militant article of last week's issue, male officers came into the women's detention room, without knocking, four times during the night and early morning. On another occasion, in a provincial town, when a young woman was going through the preliminary examination on a grave charge, she was kept four days and five nights in the police-station cells. She was forcibly fed every day, and was in a semi-conscious condition at times. During that period she only saw the so-called "matron" twice; she was tended by men all the time.

These arrangements reveal so much that is uncivilised, and lead to so much that is undesirable and obscene, that we make no apology for alluding to them. They are apt to escape the public mind. But at a time when brutal treatment of women is engrossing public attention, we may well ask the public to stop and consider what kind of conditions it inflicts on women in our own midst—women entirely helpless and unprotected; women often too sensitive even to talk of these indecencies after they have been undergone. We want these indecencies to cease; and it is because we have that desire that we founded our Corps of Women Police Volunteers. It is a seed planted from which shall spring a tree whose shade shall give comfort and satisfaction to the whole community. For the community cannot sanction and permit gross abuses of decency and all that we hold to be civilised and humane, without the *morale* of the whole being in danger of deterioration.

We want women police, women gaolers, women inspectors, and women in more and more departments of police life. But we shall not be satisfied until we not only have women engaged on the same terms as men in the lower ranks; we shall demand women assistant-commissioners as well, so that the interests and the point of view of the women in the force may meet with consideration and courtesy; and that these may not be suppressed and brow-beaten, as were the women police who agitated for reforms in Germany.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Nine Elms.

Very urgently needed for the Restaurant and Guest House:—Plain deal kitchen table, coal scuttle, toys for children, tin kettle, large baking tins, chest of drawers, fender, wicker or deck chairs (most acceptable). Mrs. Tippet's most grateful thanks to Mrs. Clark for scrubbing brush and yard broom, tea, and a cake; Miss Burgis, dumb-bells for children; Miss Riggall, flowers and 1s.; Miss Kear-ton, butter and cheese; Mrs. Stowe, 1s.; Mrs. Presbury, 1s.; Mrs. Giles, 3s. 6d.; P. H. Miller, Esq., a sack of apples.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of "THE VOTE,"

Madam,

Your issue of October 15 contains a lengthy article attacking the International Alliance, and in particular its organ, "Jus Suffragii." I hope you will therefore allow me some space in which to answer some of the criticisms there made. I am not entitled to speak for the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, but as Editor of "Jus Suffragii," I wish to explain the position of the paper.

First of all, allow me to correct several mis-statements made in your article. You say that the Board of Control of the Alliance at the outbreak of the war found itself in England. This is incorrect. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance Board of Officers met in London at the beginning of July, 1914, to make arrangements for the Berlin Congress of 1915. Its members had left and returned to their homes before the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia. It was therefore not possible for the Board to give any instructions as to the line to be taken in regard to the present position. The members of the Board belonging to various belligerent countries as well as neutral have had no opportunity of meeting since that time. You say further that "The organ of the Alliance, 'Jus Suffragii,' has become the mouth-piece of the promoters of The Hague Congress, at which British women were not present, and in which an immense programme (in which women's suffrage figured very slightly) was discussed." This is an entire misrepresentation of the attitude of "Jus Suffragii." The President of the Alliance instructed me, as editor of the paper, to attend the Congress, and give a full report of the proceedings in the paper. I was unable to be present and no one sent a special report for our paper, but I inserted impartially articles both for and against the Conference from a number of writers of various nations. Articles against the Congress were inserted from France, Germany, Great Britain and Austria. Reports from persons present at the Congress were also inserted. It is in no sense true to say that "Jus Suffragii" is the mouthpiece of the promoters of the Conference. The Conference publishes its own papers, but it was important that suffragists in all countries should be informed of an important international meeting of suffragists, at which women's suffrage in relation to war was one of the chief subjects discussed. It is incorrect to say that British women were not present at that Congress. The British Committee was represented by three delegates, and women's suffrage figured, not as you say very slightly, but in such a prominent position, that it was complained by many journalists that the whole thing was a suffrage conference pure and simple. I am not concerned, however, with defending The Hague Conference, but merely with correcting misstatements of fact as to the connection of "Jus Suffragii" with the Conference.

You say that "Jus Suffragii" now, instead of maintaining the unity of the Cause for which it exists, has specialised in the introduction of contentious opinions, and in pacifist propaganda.



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PETER ROBINSON'S

OXFORD STREET.



Now the position is this. "Jus Suffragii," as the organ of the I.W.S.A., exists for the dissemination of suffrage news from various societies of countries affiliated to the Alliance. No funds are provided to pay for articles, and the paper depends on the reports sent by the affiliated societies or other correspondents. Since the outbreak of the war, the societies of belligerent countries have devoted themselves to war service in their respective countries. In Germany, the suffragists devoted the funds collected for the Berlin Congress to the purpose of providing comforts for the soldiers and devoted their organisation to war work. The President of the German affiliated society in describing women's war work said it was not the time for women to press their claims. The leaders of the Bavarian and Württemberg societies have thrown themselves into peace work, and have contributed news of it. In France, the suffragists, both as a society and in union with other bodies, have devoted their service to relief work of various kinds. The French Suffrage Society at the outbreak of war circularised its members urging them

What are YOU doing for the Green, White and Gold Fair ?

to devote themselves to Red Cross and other relief. The same is true of Italy and of Great Britain. The Austrian Society has sent only two communications since war broke out; the suffragists there have devoted themselves to the urgent needs of the people. The President wrote "direct propaganda for suffrage must give way to social and charitable activities." In Hungary, the suffragists have devoted themselves (1) to finding employment for women, (2) to direct peace propaganda. The Dutch affiliated suffrage society wrote in August, 1914: "We have stopped our suffrage work, there is so much more important work for us now to do. Our suffragists are now all engaged in charity work; for 'Jus Suffragii' I cannot send a report because there is no suffrage work done." (And this is repeated by one country after another.) The British Dominion Women Suffrage Union ceased suffrage work and devoted itself to relief. The only contribution from the Balkans has been the appeal for peace from a Bulgarian woman in April. Belgium's one contribution since war broke out has been an account of women's relief work.

These societies, therefore, since the outbreak of the war, have furnished no suffrage news to the paper. From Russia no news has come through at all, owing to the censorship, and the only news available for "Jus Suffragii" is that translated from the Russian feminist paper, "The Women's Messenger," which deals with war service in Russia. The suffrage society there, like those of other belligerent countries, has devoted itself to relief work. From Switzerland, the only reports that have come through have dealt with the work for the relief of the wounded of the various nations and other relief work, with the exception of the report contained in the October number which deals with the pacifist movement in Switzerland. Turning to Scandinavia, Norway is already in possession of the vote, and furnishes therefore no suffrage news, but it has sent news of the peace movement undertaken by its National Council of Women. From Sweden the reports and articles that have come through have dealt mainly with the Swedish women's efforts for peace. The Swedish society wrote in September, 1914, that work for Woman's Suffrage must be put aside in favour of other work of urgent national importance, and that suffragists were joining other women in relief work. From Denmark alone of all European countries has news come of suffrage work, and that has been fully reported and enlarged upon in "Jus Suffragii," the main part of the July number being devoted to news of the Danish success.

With regard to the articles reprobated by you, they have been the spontaneous contributions of suffragists in different countries who have felt that the most important international work for women at the present time was to maintain the international link by preparing for international reconstruction after the war. If the paper had been—as advocated by you and by the French society—confined to suffrage news, it would have had only the American States to furnish material. The suffrage news from Europe could usually be contained on a post-card. As far as European suffrage activities are concerned, the paper might as well cease publication.

The numerous letters that have been received since the outbreak of the war from women in all countries of the world, expressing their appreciation of the neutral attitude taken by the paper and of the importance and interest of the subjects discussed, have been ample testimony that the paper has played a part in keeping the international link unbroken, which has been very greatly appreciated. In any case, it is impossible to make bricks without straw. The paper depends on the

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contributions of the various suffrage societies of the world, and if the activities which they wish to chronicle have been not suffrage activities, but war work, relief work, and work for international reconstruction, the paper naturally takes its tone from the reports supplied.

It is evident from this analysis of the policy adopted by the suffragists in all European countries that the strictures on "Jus Suffragii" by "The Vote" should be directed to the affiliated societies whose doings and interests are chronicled in the I.W.S.A. organ.

As to general attitude of the officers of the I.W.S.A., I am not authorised to speak for them. They will possibly answer your criticisms for themselves in time. At present, they are unable to meet.

Yours faithfully, MARY SHEEPHANKS.

(We reserve our comment till next week.)

WOMEN'S WORK AND WAGES.

[We are glad to publish the following letter and welcome the evidence that the suggestion made at our Annual Conference with regard to women's work and wages has borne fruit so quickly. We trust that our members in all parts of the country will follow the excellent example set by Mrs. Oliver, of Croydon. Such cases as she reports add to the accumulation of evidence to prove how greatly women need the protection of the vote.—Ed.]

DEAR MADAM—At the Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, members were urged to take every opportunity for bringing to light incidents connected with women and their work which need redressing. I should like, therefore, to call your attention to the following:—At a meeting I recently attended of the I.L.P., the principal speaker—a Labour M.P.—stated that at a large factory in the London area, twice during air-raids, or the fear of air-raids, the girls at work in this factory had been made to stand for three hours, in total darkness, by the side of their machines, and that on each occasion the money value of these hours had been deducted from their wages. Surely, if women possessed the same powers of voting, and the same means of organisation, that men do, such a thing would not be possible.—I am, madam, yours very faithfully,
MARIAN OLIVER.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS : W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 29.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Madame Anna Carola. CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Madame Anna Carola, Mrs. Corner, and Miss Read.

Wednesday, November 3.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Montefiore, "Women and the Food Supply," and Miss Boyle. Chairman: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Thursday, November 4.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 6.30. Delegates Report of Conference.

Wednesday, November 10.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Margaret Douglas, "A Recent Visit to France," and Miss Boyle.

Sunday, Nov. 14. Lecture-Recital by Miss Clara Reed, "Herod" (Stephen Phillips), at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford St., Strand, W.C., 8.30. Music Refreshments. Admission by Ticket, 2/-. Numbered and Reserved; 1/- Reserved, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, November 15.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, November 19.—CROYDON, Public Meeting, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th. Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, 2.30-9 p.m.

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PROVINCES.

Monday, November 1.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30. Speaker: The Rev. J. H. Smith.

Wednesday, November 3.—PORTSMOUTH, Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday, November 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Business Meeting, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, November 15.—LIVERPOOL, Public Meeting, Hardman Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Our Bounden Duty." MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Purvis.

Monday, November 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

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SCOTLAND

Wednesday, November 3.—EDINBURGH, "At Home," Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Chalmers Watson, M.D., on "Feeding and Values of Food."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

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

Sunday, November 14.—LIVERPOOL, Church of the New Ideal. Speaker: Miss Boyle on "Our Priceless Possession."

Wednesday, November 17.—LIVERPOOL, Women's Social Guild, 7.45 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "What is Reform?"

Sunday, November 28.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION & STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, "Women's Work in War Time." SOUTH LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, S.E., 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Men and Manners."

THE FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE, feeling that women who are suffering so keenly in this war should have a voice in the future peace settlements, are organising a meeting with discussion, at Central Hall, Westminster, Friday, November 12, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Eva Gore-Booth will be the speakers.

At a public meeting on Thursday November 4, at 8 p.m., organized by the Paddington and North Kensington branch, at Westbourne Park Chapel, Dr. Henrietta Thomas, an American lady who has lately returned from Germany, will speak on "German Peace Workers in War Time," and the Rev. S. W. Hughes, successor to Dr. Clifford, will speak. Admission free.

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on one side of a sheet of paper leaving a margin on the left, and address to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Tuesday mornings.

Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

On October 20 a full meeting of the Branch and friends listened to an interesting address by the Rev. Raymond Holt, M.A. on "The War—and After." Mr. Holt, while congratulating the Women's Freedom League on having kept the Suffrage flag flying, regretted that it had not attempted to rouse the women of all nations to demand the stoppage of this war. He suggested that women should demand a week's truce, that each belligerent nation should be asked to state exactly what it was fighting for, and its terms of peace. An animated discussion followed. Mr. Holt was thanked for his outspoken address.

Glasgow. Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's Road.

A Jumble Sale in aid of the funds of the Branch will be held on November 20. Goods will be called for on the day before the sale on receipt of a postcard addressed to Mrs. Scrimgeour, or the Secretary, 70, St. George's-road. Miss Gentles has begun her dancing class once more, and Miss Bunten's elocution class starts on Wednesday, November 3, at 7.30 p.m., in the Suffrage Shop.

Ipswich

We have started our winter meetings, and are working hard for the Green, Gold, and White Fair. A short reading and discussion on some point of interest is given during the working parties. Last week the hon. secretary gave an account of the Conference. A Jumble Sale is to be held in a week or so, and contributions will be most gratefully received.

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Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A very successful whist drive was held at the Unitarian Schoolroom on October 23. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Prior for the hire of the room and the prizes; and to all the members who helped with the refreshments. Propaganda combined with pleasure will be our next effort, as we intend shortly to arrange a social evening, with a concert and suffrage speech. Particulars will be given later. The next work party will be on Wednesday, November 3, at 3 p.m., at 17, Lombard-street.

Richmond and District.

The meeting on October 21, held by kind permission of Mrs. O'Flaherty at her house, 47, Morley-road East Twickenham, was addressed by Miss Jacob, who spoke of the great need for financial help for the Women's Freedom League in order to keep the suffrage flag flying during the strain and stress of the war. She also emphasised the urgent necessity for every member to take *THE VOTE* regularly each week to meet the cost of production and to maintain the paper, which is vital for the work of the League. The chair was taken by Miss Richardson, who asked members to do all they possibly could for the League, and said she joined the League because it had bravely continued to work for Woman Suffrage when other societies had allowed that work to lapse owing to the war. Members promised gifts for the Green, White, and Gold Fair.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

"Things Fit and Unfit" was the subject of Mr. Cameron Grant's address at St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, on October 20. Mr. Grant claimed that women had every right to undertake any work they choose, that they should have freedom to enter all professions, and that they should have full political power, but he submitted that heavy navy work, heavy carrier driving, and long monotonous hours were detrimental to the health of women, and the nation would be ill-advised which encouraged such work for women. For the sake of women generally, and of the enormous numbers of women now in industry the speaker urged that *now* was the accepted time to obtain the vote, for it was only through political power that women could get protection in the labour market. Everything else compared with the parliamentary vote was a blunt weapon with which to fight for the betterment of conditions in industry. Mr. Cameron Grant paid a high tribute to the women recently taken on by the railway companies, by munitions manufacturers, and to women now employed in special clerical work.

Mrs. Sproson followed with an address on "Women and Labour." She maintained that women were now establishing precedents which would last long. It had been the

custom for women to do the dirtiest and hardest work in the country. They were brickmakers, they worked at the pithead, and at chainmaking. She was therefore not astonished to find that Lord Lansdowne had recently advocated the usefulness of getting English women to follow the plough. In Mrs. Sproson's view, this was not fit work for women while there were so many able men in shops and offices.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

Our grateful thanks are given Mr. H. Nelson Smith for his most generous and valuable gift of five new beds and bedding and a promise of further exceedingly useful help. We are greatly encouraged by this splendid gift, and hope very soon to have our bedrooms ready for use. Mrs. Gugenheim has also very kindly given us a bedstead and mattress, and the Misses Howard a bedstead, mattress and bolster on loan. We need chests of drawers, cupboards (with locks), looking glasses, carpets (square or strips), a set of small scales, cakes, fruit, etc., and shall welcome any help friends can give. An urgent need is personal service in the restaurant given regularly at fixed times, especially in the afternoons and evenings; also in the Club Room from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Will musical friends give us one night a week, and others who can recite, lecture, and amuse? They will find an appreciative audience, and will be doing good national service. Soldiers come in for meals, and are glad to stay several hours while waiting for trains. Some men of the South African contingent were told by the police last Sunday: "The Despard Arms is the best place you can go to!" They came for tea, stayed the evening, had supper, and left for Scotland by a late train. Our best thanks for the following donations:—Mrs. H. Nelson Smith, 10s.; Mr. Edwin Rainbow, of Coventry, 10s.; and Mr. Nuttley, 5s.

The Despard United Football Club played its first match on October 23, and won a victory over a team hitherto unbeaten. The event was celebrated by a tea at the Despard Arms.

OUR MEMBERS' WORK.

The war is setting many women to work on new lines; our members, Miss Winifred St. Clair and Miss Briscoe, have entered into the business of toy-making, and will welcome the visits of friends to their studio (Lombard-lane, Pleydell-court; entrance by 55, Fleet-street, E.C.; door under the overhead bridge). The partners have brought artistic ideas into the realm of practical industry; their "key toys," at very moderate cost, are now well known among business firms, and include such diverting things as Boche Skittles, a game of skill and frolic; "Wickle Winnie Wilkins"; the prehistoric serenade; also humorous calendars, match-box holders, etc.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Entrance in Little Russell-st. (Near Holborn, British Museum and Tottenham Court-rd. Tube stations) every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Nov. 3: Speakers: Mrs. Montefiore on "Women and the Food Supply"; Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. Discussion invited.

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester, Wednesday, November 17, at 7.30 p.m. Recital of Works for Two Pianofortes, by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick. Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126 Deansgate, and at the door.

Miscellaneous Advertisement Charges.

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