

THE VOTE,
Sept. 17th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

WE PUT the RIGHT WOMAN in the RIGHT PLACE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 308.

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION: KINGSWAY HALL MEETING.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

LABOUR, SCIENCE AND WOMEN.

LEVELLING UP THE ARMY ("My Book," Sarah Robinson).

WHERE WE STAND.

C. Despard.

C. S. Bremner.

Eunice G. Murray.

WOMEN'S SERVICE: "A GREAT UNTAPPED RESERVOIR."

The Nation Must Accept Their Voluntary Service.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

National Service Organisation.

The Kingsway Hall Meeting, Sept. 14th.

The interest which is being aroused in the work of women for the nation brought a large and enthusiastic audience to the Kingsway Hall on Sept. 14 for the meeting arranged by the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation. A rousing welcome was accorded to Mrs. Despard, who was in the chair, and all the speakers were heard with close attention and evident sympathy. The work of the Organisation was warmly approved, and will gain in strength and extent by the enlightenment of the public as to its aims and achievements.

There was one disappointment—the absence of the Earl of Derby, who two months ago promised to take part in the meeting as evidence of his desire to see the women of the nation organised for needed service. The letter from his secretary, which was read by Mrs. Despard, showed that his disappointment was keen, but his absence was unavoidable. He was in bed with an acute attack of influenza, which had necessitated the cancelling of all engagements. His secretary wrote that Lord Derby had hoped to be present, even if unable to speak, but it was impossible. He wished the meeting every success, and added that if another meeting were contemplated later on, he hoped he might be fortunate enough to attend, if his presence were desired.

Commenting on the letter, Mrs. Despard expressed regret for Lord Derby's absence and its cause, and said it was good to have the sympathy of a man of such wide experience of life, whose great desire at the moment was that the country in

this crisis should have the best service both men and women could give.

MRS. DESPARD, welcoming the large audience, spoke of the representative character of the speakers and moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting approves of the objects and work of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation in organising the energies of women, in securing their services to the nation, and in upholding the principle of equal pay for equal work for both sexes.

She said the time had come for the nation to accept the high service which the women could render; they must be allowed, not compelled. Women, she observed, feel everything to do with the war even more intensely than men; woman is the mother; the soul of the nation speaks within her; in her veins is the blood of the race. At this moment she is suffering intensely, not only for her own, but for other nations, and longing to do everything possible to bring this hideous war to an end. Perhaps the most important discovery of this time is the necessity and worth of human labour. Men at the Front, ready to do and bear anything, are dependent upon the labour of those at home. It is a war between systems rather than between nations, and to conquer our whole strength must be thrown into the struggle. She deprecated the narrowing of the grand words "National Service" simply to compulsory service in the field. She defined true national service as that which is given freely, gladly, completely, with heart and soul, by men and women to the State. She declared that the service which women are anxious to give is a great untapped reservoir, but that the Labour Bureaux are not utilising that force; therefore the Women's Organisation had come into being to show how it ought to be done. Even at the beginning of the war a much harassed London mayor had said

to an applicant for work: "Go to the Suffrage Societies; they will be able to help!" Women are now coming into many trades; they owed a duty not only to themselves and their children but to the great body of labour. They must not be underpaid, and while training must have a living wage.

Mrs. PARKER, in supporting the resolution, expressed her pleasure in addressing such a splendid meeting and in speaking about women's work. Her advice to women was to stick to work when they got it. From her own experience of most varied work in many countries, she said that nursing was the hardest, but pointed out the numbers of women who are now doing that hard work. Nothing is so good for individuals as work. The Zeppelins, bombs, and guns had recently brought us almost into the war zone; an alarming experience to those who did no work. It was better for women, and for the country, that they should be at work. There must be no women slackers. If a woman undertakes a man's work, she must stick to it, and for the same wages must do the same amount as the man she is replacing. It may be hard at first, but with determination and practice women can succeed. She told the story of a cheerful one-armed soldier back from the Front, and the comment of a woman: "He's done his duty, so he feels happy!" She spoke of the new openings for women, and urged them to press on with the work of organisation.

Mr. BEN TILLET characterised the objects of the meeting as necessary and vital, declaring that the better the organisation the better the protection to the individual. Women workers must be organised. Women, he observed, were emotional; sometimes more chivalrous than men, but their chivalry and wholesome courage must not be exploited by the lower type of employer. Women knew what it was to face death in giving life; they were organisers in their households, and often more "handymen" than men themselves. "Without flattering women," he added, "it is wholly due to their courage that men at the Front have been able to do such great things." The war would determine our future character and destiny, and was disclosing a remarkable spiritual courage on the part of the women. He urged that all must pull together and realise the kind of foe that has to be met. Sitting comfortably here, he observed, under the protection of the huge floating steel wall of our navy and the Tommies in the trenches, we do not realise fully the actual conditions of war as experienced in France and Belgium. He told, in vivid phrase, of some of the sights witnessed during his recent visit to the Front, when he travelled 2,000 miles, and of war as he found it had been waged by the Teuton with brutal "frightfulness." He spoke with amazement of the work done by the British Army, and said that 96 per cent. of the fighting units were from the working classes, but there was a splendid unity between the men and their officers,

who often fought shoulder to shoulder with them. He made an impassioned appeal for more munitions to give our men a fair chance. Women, he said, suffer terribly in this war; they must organise in order to be able to play their part. "I would organise every possible form of labour. When a woman does not count, it does not matter much what the nation is!"

Miss PARKER, in a short, but informing speech, gave a resumé of the work of the Organisation. She told how British women had come from many parts of the Empire asking for work, which they had been unable to obtain on application to other Bureaux. They were disappointed with so much registering and so little result. Both employers and employed had been satisfied by the Women's Organisation, and Miss Parker referred to the grateful letters which had been received. Fair pay, fair conditions, and the right woman in the right place were the aims, she added, of the Organisation.

Miss EUNICE MURRAY was a welcome "extra"; her illuminating story of women and work in Scotland showed how serious had been the prejudice and opposition of men. British women, she maintained, should have been called upon for service at the beginning of the war, as was done in France and Germany. "It is not our fault," she said, "that we are not more fully organised; men have refused to work with women." She spoke of the threatened strike on the Clyde if women workers were introduced, and of the difficulties with tramway companies and the post-office; but in Glasgow there are now 800 women employed on the tramways and 500 doing new work in the post-office. It was the women, she insisted, who must maintain the industry of the country necessary to meet the expenses of the war and gain final victory. The Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation is finding new openings for women, and doing its best to give the nation what it needs. She hoped there would soon be a branch in every town in the kingdom.

After Miss Murray's speech the resolution was put to the meeting from the chair, and carried unanimously.

Miss LENA ASHWELL told the interesting story of the concert parties she had organised to entertain the men at the Front, and said that the thirteenth party left England last Monday; five hundred concerts had been given, and the men regarded them as a loving message from home. She declared that there had never been a time in the history of England when the women had failed to put their shoulders to the wheel, but on the outbreak of the war the service offered by thousands of women was refused by the Government. In no other country, she said, would the work of women be so persistently opposed. She told how Dr. Garratt Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray gave their work to France when refused by the British Government, but, having proved their worth, are now in charge of the military hospital in Endell-street. She alluded to the power of fatigue resistance shown by women workers, and the reference made to it by Miss Anderson and Dr. Legge at the British Association meetings. She ended by a special appeal to women to make themselves efficient for some kind of work, and expressed the hope that a better understanding would grow out of the ghastly tragedy of war.

During the evening Captain William Short, the King's trumpeter, played national and popular songs, which were much appreciated.

and Miss Nina Boyle, the chair being taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 3.30 p.m. Will our friends very kindly make this meeting known as widely as possible and help us to get a good audience for October 6? The speakers at future meetings include Mrs. Nevinson, Mr. J. Cameron Grant, and Mr. Laurence Housman.

Annual Conference.

All members of the Women's Freedom League have the right to attend this tenth annual conference which will be held on Saturday, October 16, at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, the nearest tube stations being Tottenham Court-road, Museum, and Holborn. Mrs. Tritton will be glad to hear at this Office of friends who can offer hospitality to delegates coming from a distance.

Reception of Delegates.

There will be a reception to delegates, members and friends of the Women's Freedom League on Sunday afternoon, October 17, at our Offices, 144, High Holborn, W.C., from 3.30 to 5.30. Teas will be served in our club-room.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

The attendance of our readers is directed to the change of place for these meetings. They will be held, as announced last week, at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell-street), which is only two minutes' walk from 144, High Holborn, so that those who attend these meetings can, as soon as they are over, come to our club-room, where Mrs. Fisher will provide tea. The first of our series of afternoon meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 6, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard

Lecture by a Woman Explorer.

It is with special pleasure that we announce an evening meeting during the first week in November at which Mademoiselle Marie de Czaplicka, the Polish scientist, explorer and suffragist, will lecture. As mentioned in THE VOTE last week, Mademoiselle de Czaplicka is the first woman to be appointed head of a scientific research expedition; she was invited by the University of Oxford to lead an expedition for anthropological research in Siberia and has just returned to England after an absence in Siberia of eighteen months. On her way back she visited her home in Warsaw, and travelled by the last train to leave the city before the entrance of the German army. Particulars of the lecture will be announced in due course, and we can promise our friends an evening of unique interest.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Madame Curie's War Work.

Madame Curie, the eminent scientist, is giving her invaluable services in connection with the X-ray work in military hospitals. The current *British Journal of Nursing* quotes an English nurse in the war zone, who writes to the Press as follows:—"Madame Curie came in her car, with two male assistants, to re-organise our X-rays department and to give us the benefit of her vast scientific researches. She goes from one hospital to another, repairing, arranging, and taking over the entire X-ray work, until she can leave it in capable hands. Her outfit is contained in her car, even to the battery that works the rays."

Swiss Suffragists in Conference.

Owing to the war, Swiss Suffragists postponed their annual conference last year, but *Le Mouvement Feministe*, the interesting monthly, edited by Mademoiselle Emilie Gourd, at Pregny, near Geneva, announces that the National Alliance of Swiss Feminist Societies will meet in conference at Berthoud on October 16 and 17—dates which coincide with our own conference and reception. Members are expected from all parts of Switzerland, and at a public meeting to be held on Saturday evening, October 16, two subjects to be discussed will be "The Duty of Women in War Time" and "The Lasting Peace." We wish our comrades a successful and encouraging reunion.

Readers of THE VOTE will hear with special interest that *Le Mouvement Feministe* this month (September 10) publishes a French translation of Miss Eunice Murray's excellent article, "Scotland, the War, and Women," which appeared in THE VOTE of August 13. We congratulate Mlle. Gourd on her editorship of *Le Mouvement Feministe*; it is one of the publications whose arrival we await with interest every month. We are glad that our Swiss contemporary takes a strong stand against the White Slave Traffic, and in the September issue a flagrant scandal against the women employees of a Geneva factory is brought to light with indignant protest.

The Trade Union Congress and the Employment of Women.

On the motion of the Brassworkers at the British Congress, it was resolved last Saturday, with regard to the employment of women:—

That in order to sustain the physique of Britain and to prevent physical degeneration, no relaxation of trade union rules shall lead to the employment of women in an occupation of a characted unsuited:

- (1) Carrying and turning over weights or by heavy foot pressure
- (2) Employment in hot or dusty trades in which lime, oil, grease, fine sand, or emery are used.
- (3) Or on heavy machinery producing abnormal fatigue, or such machines where often male employment produces a large number of accidents.

Trade Unionists and Woman Suffrage.

At the Bristol Conference last week, the resolution agreed to on electoral reform included "adult suffrage, male and female."

Women Tram Conductors admitted to the Union.

Women tram conductors at Cardiff have been admitted this week as members of the Union; they were given a cordial welcome. It was stated that the women and men had worked well together. In Birmingham the women tram conductors are being put on busier lines, having proved their smartness and powers of endurance; they have been welcomed by the public and are received in a very friendly spirit by the men in the service; more than two hundred women are at work. Hull and Scarborough employ women conductors on the trams; Nottingham is to follow suit, and will pay the women the full rate.



*DAINTY and
INEXPENSIVE
Rest Frocks.*

Designed and made by our own artist, in our own workrooms, from rich quality materials. The value of these gowns is quite exceptional, while the cut, style and finish is of a particularly high order.

REST FROCK, as sketch, in rich Lyons Brocade, some with Velvet designs on satin ground, others in brocades, interwoven with gold and silver, with neat embroidered chiffon collar

69/6.

Debenham & Freebody
WIGMORE STREET,
(Covendish Square) LONDON W

Post Women and Sorters.

Women are now delivering letters in the Peckham and Camberwell districts of London, and many are being employed as sorters for the South-Eastern district in the Borough High-street, Southwark.

IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park.

Last Sunday morning Miss Eunice Murray had a most successful meeting, and her interested audience included several Members of Parliament, who made themselves known to her after her vigorous speech.

Clapham Common.

A very good meeting was held on Clapham Common last Sunday evening, when the Kingsway Hall meeting and the objects of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation were well advertised. Our handbills were taken and read by most members of the audience with great interest. The chair was taken by Miss Spriggs and the speaker was Miss Eunice Murray. Many copies of THE VOTE were sold by Miss A. M. Clark. The speaker next Sunday will be Miss Murray, and the chair will be taken by Miss Spriggs.

OUR CLUB ROOM

Every day our Club Room at Headquarters is more and more appreciated and used by members and friends. It is under the able management of Mrs. Fisher; good light luncheons and teas are served from 1 to 6 p.m. every day, except, for the present, Saturdays and Sundays. Who will give practical help in developing the scheme by supplying some of the following urgent needs:—Knives, forks, dessert spoons, pie dishes, baking tins, wire sieve, paste-board and rolling-pin, white china sugar basins, milk jugs, plates; also two large cushions, or filling for them? They give well who give quickly.

A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our members and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list. E. KNIGHT.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, Sept. 17th, 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 VOTE
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

LABOUR, SCIENCE AND WOMAN.

Nothing could possibly be more significant of public feeling or more important to the larger life of the country than the course taken by the two great war-time congresses that were held in England last week. The British Association, that congress of scientists, bringing its eyes from the distant horizons has touched with the broad outlook of trained thinkers on some of the great problems with which at the present moment our Western civilisation is faced. The Labour Congress has been well-nigh unanimous on two points—the duty of Labour in every country with democratic aims, at any present sacrifice, to crush out militarism and the determination of Trade Unionism in this country to resist conscription.

Peculiar interest belongs to the discussions in the British Association on the social and economic problems, which, although they have existed for generations, have not been practically realised until now. We have gone on gaily in our rake's progress; prodigal of life; prodigal of labour; prodigal of our material resources such as wheat and coal. We have neglected production, because we could obtain by our own wealth and our shipping more than enough of life's necessities from rich young nations, abundantly to supply those who count and can pay. We have wasted the health of our women and our men; we have literally thrown away the lives of our young children; and now the Nemesis has come and organised science and organised labour are lifting up their voices to say that we cannot go on as we have been doing—that in view of the war ending as it inevitably will end when the nations are exhausted, preparation ought to be made for the reconstruction that must follow.

We confess that the Labour Congress was disappointing, save in its vigorous stand against conscription, and the determination of its members to throw all the force they possessed into a successful issue to the struggle which they rightly conceive to be rather between systems than between nations. For the rest, there was nothing constructive; nothing to indicate what policy trade unionism would adopt in view of the present relaxation of its rules, or what part it would play in the social reconstruction of the future, while the debate on women's labour showed a distant failure to apprehend the importance of this new departure to industry. We cannot approve of Miss MacArthur's one-sided resolution. Women were to pledge themselves to enter the Union of their trade when they accepted work; but no clear direction was given to the men. They were simply asked not to exclude women; and although trade unionism contains thousands of women in its ranks, the question of how the workers now flocking so readily into men's tasks were to be provided for when the men came

back was not discussed. As yet, in spite of the fact that there are a few women delegates, the Labour, like the National Parliament, is of and for the men. This, no doubt, will continue to be the case until women achieve their citizenship.

In the British Association many of the debates have been of great value. Nothing could be more suggestive than the demand of Professor Scott for the mobilisation of economic opinion. Many settled views are in the crucible to-day. These and the conventions and prejudices that paint persons with reputations for wisdom must be broken up, if the golden essence of scientific knowledge is to be made free from the grosser elements—if it is to enrich and redeem the world. We remember, in this connection an old alchemist formula: "If you dissolve the fixed and make the dissolved to fly and then fix the flying, you are safe eternally." It is this process of dissolving the fixed that we see in action now, and its effect is apparent in the practical and human character of the British Association's debates.

Economy in the use of coal, and improved scientific apparatus in the method of treating it, agriculture and the food supply were discussed, and one or two amazing statistics were given as to the area of the country under cultivation for wheat. In the year 1808 the average of acreage in wheat was 35½ acres to every hundred persons; in 1914 it was 5. Allowing for increased production to the acre, the figures per head are 8 bushels at the beginning of the nineteenth century to 1½ bushels now.

There was an interesting discussion in Industrial Harmony, and various reasons were given for the present industrial unrest, which, as these men saw, if it cannot be allayed will seriously endanger the future of our country. A much juster distribution of wealth was the most notable of the solutions offered. Mr. Evans brought in a resolution demanding for women workers engaged in the trades that have belonged to men equal pay for equal work; and there was an interesting, but somewhat ineffective, debate on the present industrial situation, from the point of view of the woman worker. Emigration was suggested. Men were soothed by the platitude that women took no special interest in work which was generally to them a stop-gap between childhood and marriage. Since there would in the future be fewer opportunities for marriage than there had been women who had to support themselves would probably drift into blind alley trades; and the suggestion was thrown out that to prevent these from being over-stocked with workers, half-timers and widows (we presume pensioned) should be eliminated. Nothing of which was particularly helpful.

Mrs. Henry Sidgwick spoke on education. She set forward a plea which we cannot certainly endorse, that the children in elementary schools in rural districts should be given up to the farmer, because they ought not to be denied the privilege of serving their country at the present crisis. Although we agree that most of their school education is defective, we insist that children properly trained and directed will know that in making themselves fit for human service they are enriching the country which, in time, when a well-based peace, takes the place of warfare, it will be their privilege to serve.

As touching upon the question of national education for men and women, we particularly like some of the closing words of Professor Schuster's fine presidential address: "The cry for organisation resolves itself into a cry for discipline. Not the discipline enforced by gun and bayonet, but that adopted by the individual who voluntarily subordinates his personal opinion to the will of a properly constituted authority."

Nothing could better describe the right attitude both of men and women at the present crisis. And

indeed this is the ever-growing spirit of our people. For the sake of our country, we freely surrender many of the things that are dear to us. But we will not be driven.

We also note with peculiarly deep sympathy Professor Schuster's expressions of sorrow that some of the most brilliant discoveries of science should have been instrumental in dealing destruction to human beings, and we heartily welcome his appeal for idealism. Had the higher imagination of which science should be the high priest been cultivated by the peoples of the world, they could not now be ranged one against the other in deadly feud.

The great crime and folly, with all it has wrought of misery, is already passing into history. Our hope is that the two congresses—Labour and Science—held in war time will quicken those impulses in the nation that make for a noble idealism, so that presently men and women of all classes standing together may be able to create a new order in which the patience and love of Science and the splendid achievements of Labour may be used, not to make death more hideous, but life more beautiful.

C. DESPARD.

LEVELLING UP THE ARMY.

(continued from page 746)

"MY BOOK." Sarah Robinson's Work for the
Soldiers. 5/- net. Partridge, London.

"THE SOLDIER'S FRIEND."

Usually the permission of Colonels and superiors had to be obtained before work could be undertaken. Some were eager that the men should be influenced for good; Miss Robinson had often great power over young officers who worked with and for her. But sometimes she had to contend with prejudice and opposition. The Commanding Officer of a Highland Regiment met her request for a temperance meeting with: "I know how to keep my regiment sober without such irregular means." The orderly room overlooked 80 men doing punishment drill in the barrack square. Miss Robinson retorted, pointing to these men: "Well, that does not look much like it!" and fled. The men had to attend her meetings in their free time in town. Another officer of the same stamp declared that "when anything queer is going on, you'll find Miss R. in the thick of it." This should be contrasted with the statement of the Warden of Aldershot prison who declared that committals were reduced four-fifths as one result of her work. So strange does right living, elementary decency, appear in the eyes of some people, that a report was carried to the War Office that all the Rifles were going mad. Orders were sent out for sanity as the officials understood it: the meetings were to be discontinued.

In the past, Portsmouth has been an infamous town, Satan's very seat. An officer said no description of its wickedness could ever equal the reality. So late as the sixties, there were innumerable dens of drink and infamy, but not one respectable place where a young soldier could take his mother or sister. Regiments returned to dear old England from India and Burmah with £6,000, £9,000 of savings; men would have from £15 to £90 apiece. Instantly all the harpies and vultures swooped down on the town; men, even officers, were decoyed, drugged, robbed and maltreated; shame shut their mouths; the Corporation even objected to complaint as giving the town a bad name. It was here that Miss Robinson opened the first Sol-

diers' Institute; there are now 90 all over the world. She bought a shameless and shameful old public-house, the "Fountain"; soon 21 disorderly houses in one street had to be shut up. The amount of begging that she had to do (doing what should have been the War Office's own work) was deplorable, and the soldiers sorrowfully observed that Miss Robinson would not kowtow to the great and rich and squeeze money out of them. Instead she gave the Institute over £4,000 that wealthy ladies had bequeathed her for old age. The anger of Churchmen at her doing work they might have done had to be reckoned with. An Archdeacon insisted that she made a good thing out of the Institute and with studied insolence remarked to her: "The idea of you giving religious instruction." Nevertheless, he began a Bible-class for the men—fifteen years after Miss Robinson's advent. All the harpies, publicans and sinners of Portsmouth conspired to burn her in effigy on November 5th, as a public enemy; she joyfully narrates the procedure, how a man dressed up somewhat like her called at all the public-houses to inquire if they were properly conducted and to sample the drink. "Robinson's lambs" made up their minds to go for Guy, but an order came from above confining all men to barracks for the day. Guy fell off his scraggy steed dead-drunk and finished the day in the lock-up. "Mars-smitten old maid" was another of the names bestowed on this female spoil-sport, and one local magistrate (no doubt interested in the drink traffic) asked her "if the men like to go to the devil, what business is it of yours?"

At Miss Robinson's meetings scores of temperance pledges were often taken. At the autumn manoeuvres in the seventies, the War Office provided breakfast for the men without tea or coffee, whilst sellers of intoxicants would be present from daylight. Hundreds of pledges would be broken. In 1873 she started a breakfast van, and went on with a victualling department from 4 a.m. till 10 p.m., wearing herself out, but saving her pledged men and many others. Even the officers did not disdain a rational breakfast. It is evident that this great bureaucratic and very male department of the Government "works in a mysterious way," and is a most ardent believer in *laissez faire*. Perhaps the War Office is different now; but as much as ever it needs women to help in its affairs. Infant mortality in Britain has risen since the War began. Never has there been seen such shameful waste as now prevails in the camps and at the front, and never within the memory of persons 50 years old has food been so dear; from 34 to 50 per cent. it has risen in price. Why therefore waste it anywhere?

Let us conclude with a pleasant story to illustrate the affection with which the soldiers regard Miss Robinson. Absurdly enough, the Army and Navy do not fraternize; as a rule they will not use the same public-houses. The Soldier's Friend tried to break through this foolishness. "Man is more childish than woman" as the sage Nietzsche remarked. In 1872, Miss Robinson was addressing a large and lively meeting of soldiers and marines at Portsea. The men took part and one sergeant bragged that the former had a "lady of their own," who went to all the garrisons and was always looking after them. Loud cheers from the soldiers. Up sprang a fine bluejacket and said they had a lady too, Miss Weston of Bath, who

COME TO MRS. DESPARD'S PUBLIC HOUSE!

"THE DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead Road (5 minutes from Maple's).

OPEN TO ALL for Refreshments and Recreation. HOUSE WARMING, Saturday, Sept. 25, 7.30—10 p.m.
Admission by "Pound Gift" in money or kind.

PUBLIC OPENING by Mrs. DESPARD, Tuesday, September 28, 7.30—10 p.m.

sent them beautiful letters all over the world. "Hear, hear!" shouted the sailors, on which a soldier bawled out, "Where is she, then?" another adding, "Nobody never seen her." Miss Weston was informed of this, and it led to her responding to the men's call and working personally amongst the sailors as Miss Robinson did amongst the soldiers.

Hundreds of women are working now for both arms of the service. Not one need hold back because the War Office swells the chorus that home is woman's sphere, and that it has no need for them, an attitude due to ignorance and vanity. It is only fair to say that both Florence Nightingale and Sarah Robinson found friends inside the citadel, men who knew the value of women's service, the devotion, affection and influence for right living which they inspire and who have welcomed and assisted them. Those who master the facts know that women have helped to give the Army its present high reputation, and that women's wise help and influence will maintain it. Women will do well to read the Life of Florence Nightingale, by Sir E. T. Cook (a cheap edition should be immediately issued), and Sarah Robinson's two volumes, "The Soldier's Friend" and "My Book." If men, if the Army itself, remain ignorant of what women have done for it, women should inform themselves, remember the great achievements of their sex. All these books would make admirable presents for soldiers' institutes, clubs, reading-rooms, for men at the Front, in the camps, in hospitals.

Soldiers have often prayed that the last years of Sarah Robinson's life might be the best; they are passed in peaceful but not useless retirement in a Hampshire village. She was a pioneer in brushing aside a narrow, irrational convention that would rob society of women's great gifts. Surely to her, if to any, will be awarded the Master's praise for trading diligently with the talents He bestowed: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

C. S. BREMNER.

WHERE WE STAND.

"By their fruit shall ye know them." Matt. vii, 16, 20.

More than a year has past since the outbreak of war. We should now review our position and see where we stand, and see what has been the result of the past year upon our Movement. We can view it dispassionately and see what we have gained and what we have lost.

In the first clash of arms, and in the deep anxiety shared by all, men and women alike, for their country, for their friends, and for themselves, all causes tended to sink into the background. Well it is for our Cause that some Suffrage Societies kept their balance, and determined to keep the Suffrage flag flying and their Cause before the country. It was hard just at the beginning to determine to do this, it was unpopular to speak upon any subject but war, it was thought unpatriotic to work except for so-called patriotic objects. But, fortunately for our Movement and the women of to-morrow, there were women who never faltered, women who announced loud and clearly that they were patriots because they were Suffragists, and as such would work for the nation; and because the labourer is worthy of his hire would continue to ask for that which is right and just for us to have, and that for which the country is suffering to-day because we are without—the Vote.

To take this stand twelve months ago required moral courage, but without moral courage no Cause can be won. In a Movement like ours, it is easier to find hundreds of people ready to storm a hostile stronghold or lead a regiment than to meet one person with the moral courage to stand up alone against the world for their conception of

justice and right. It may be a fine thing to organise and work for one's country; it is a brave thing to be ready to confront the enemy; but it is a far braver thing to be ready to confront even one's friends and co-workers in the defence and maintenance of what one believes to be just and right. It is this kind of moral heroism that is needed in such a Movement as Woman Suffrage, the courage that will stick to its principles even though by doing so one runs the risk of being misjudged. Had all women abandoned their Suffrage principles, where would our Movement be to-day? Lost and out of sight, buried and forgotten! True, some day it would have revived, for justice can only be delayed, not strangled; but it would have been difficult to rekindle the flame that had been allowed to die. Had our Movement collapsed in the hour of trial, the anti-Suffragist would have been justified in his contention that other things were more important than Votes for Women. If we ourselves act upon that assumption, then we deliberately play into the enemies' hands. The majority of us are apt, all our lives, to say things in virtue of custom rather than conviction, and when we are told by those in authority that "this is an exceptional time" or "an exceptional case," we are prone to accept it and repeat it without thinking what it means.

Reasons are various, some are deliberate, some are accidental, some are merely habit and tradition, and when women have failed just now to be true to their own oft-repeated declaration that nothing is more important than Woman Suffrage, it is not so much that they are false to their convictions as that habit and convention has been too strong for them, and instead of reasoning for themselves they have repeated what they have heard so often said. Those who wish to reach the goal must make up their minds to follow the only road to the goal, and in this case they must keep their flag

Concluded on Page 7.

LADIES' TAILORS, FURRIERS and DRESSMAKERS.

Mourning Orders in 24 hours.

By a Cutter and Fitter from

MARSHALL

AND . . .

SNELGROVE,

LTD.

VICTOR et Cie,
DE PARIS

COSTUMES

From £3 13s. 6d.
Coat Lined Silk.

43, Wigmore Street,
W.

— Telephone: Mayfair 2031. —

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



DARE TO BE FREE

Twickenham, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Miss Underwood.

Saturday, September 25.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), House-Warming, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Mrs. Despard will speak. Admission by "Pound Gift."

Tuesday, September 28.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), Public Opening by Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 29.—EAST LONDON, Branch Meeting, 56, Gore-road, South Hackney, 6 p.m.

Monday, October 4.—CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 6.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

Wednesday, October 13.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded," and others.

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

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, September 22.—PORTSMOUTH, Whist Drive, 79, New-road, 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. each.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, September 23.—GLASGOW, Branch Meeting, 70, St. George's-road.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

The next meeting of the London Branches Council will be held on Monday, September 20, at Headquarters, 144, High Holborn, at 6.30 p.m. A good attendance is earnestly desired. E. CLAYTON.

*The Lavender
Laundry*

The most delicate LACES, MUSLINS,
LAWNS, SILKS, SHIRTS, COLLARS
Dressed in an altogether Superior Style Equal to New.

STRAFFORD ROAD, ACTON. W.

Telephone 822 Chiswick.

This Laundry is Governed Entirely by a Woman.

WHERE WE STAND (concluded).

unfurled, and remain true in deed and word to their beliefs. In this past year, though we may regret the haste with which some have hauled down their colours, still we recognise, in spite of all discouragements, how much our Movement has deepened and expanded. Women have asserted themselves and have shown capacity as workers, as thinkers and as administrators. They have proved over and over again that their interests cannot be separated from men's, and that success in arms, good or bad government at home, a careful Chancellor of the Exchequer, or a reckless expender of the nation's wealth affect equally men and women. When liberty is won for the small nations and peace restored, is it too much to expect that our Prime Minister will put his principles into practice, and that he will apply his own memorable words—"no price is too high to pay when honour and freedom are at stake"—to the sex which he has hitherto ignored or oppressed? We may be sure he will only do so if the Suffragist is there alert and watchful, ready to remind him of her presence and his former broken pledges.

The past year has taught us much, not only our own worth, but our own failings. It has taught us where our strength and where our weakness lie. It has shown us more distinctly as the weeks have melted into months, and the months have made a year, that what we want most is cohesion and strength to stand together. In the Women's Freedom League, we may rejoice that, in the main, its members have remained true to their creed. Our League came into being because we believed in Votes for women, and until Votes for Women has become an accomplished fact we shall continue to exist.

On the whole, we are cheered when we review the past twelve months. We can put down a good record of work to our League's credit, work primarily affecting the welfare and happiness of women and children. Besides that, we have done an immense deal of propagandist work, and have been instrumental in righting some crying wrongs imposed upon voteless women. We have won much practical sympathy from the man in the street, and, above all and most important, we have been true to the trust reposed in us by other women.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Make the home bright by using
William CLARKE & SON'S

COAL.

SPLENDID VALUE.

Prices on Application.

341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone 3656 North.

Remember the GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 & 27, at CAXTON HALL.

Please put ✕ against the Stalls for which you can supply articles, and return this slip to Mrs. Fisher, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

General
Literature

Toy
White
Ye Olde Curiosity Shoppe

International
Home-made Produce

Name.....

Address.....

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 17,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

£500 WANTED FOR THE VOTE.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	278	4	2
Mrs. Walter Carey (Aug. and Sept.)	7	0	0
Mrs. Montefiore	2	2	0
Miss Anderson (per Mrs. J. E. Snow)	1	0	0
Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (Aug. and Sept.)	1	0	0
Miss Tennant (July and Aug.)	1	0	0
Miss Donaldson	10	0	0
Mrs. E. Grove	5	0	0
Mrs. Tritton (July)	5	0	0
Miss E. Gore-Brown (Aug. and Sept.)	4	0	0
Miss Gange	2	0	0
<i>Per Miss Eunice Murray—</i>			
Miss Janie Allan	2	0	0
Mrs. Murray (Aug. and Sept.)	10	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray (Aug. and Sept.)	10	10	
Miss Allen	5	0	0
Mrs. Snell Anderson	5	0	0
Miss Scrymgeour	5	0	0
Miss Baird	2	0	0
Mrs. Sinclair	2	0	0
Mrs. Taylor	1	0	0
	£295	13	0

a rug and carpet for the club room. To those of our members now on the sick list we sent best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting on September 7. The officials were re-elected *en bloc*. To raise money for the Birthday Fund, Mrs. Davies kindly offered her room at 79, New-road, for an afternoon whist drive on Wednesday, September 22, at 3 p.m. prompt. Tickets 1s. each. Members are reminded that the annual subscription is now due.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

Arrangements for the House-Warming on Saturday, September 25, and the opening to the public on Tuesday, September 28, 7.30 to 10 on both evenings, of the "Despard Arms," organised by the North London Branches of the Women's Freedom League, are making good progress. Members and friends are cordially invited to inspect the new premises at

123, Hampstead Road

on these occasions. Light refreshments will be served, and an interesting programme provided, including a speech by Mrs. Despard, music, recitations, etc. Admission will be by a "Pound Gift"—in money or in kind. Gifts of furniture for the restaurant, club room, bed rooms, also useful crockery, glass dishes, stands, cooking utensils, carpets, linoleum, stationery, illustrated daily and weekly papers, games, music, etc., will be warmly appreciated, and may now be sent to 123, Hampstead-road. Omnibuses Nos. 24, 27, 29, and several L.C.C. trams pass the door; Tottenham Court-road and Euston-road buses pass within five minutes' walk. Nearest stations: Warren-street, Euston, and Mornington-crescent, on the Hampstead Tube, and Euston-square on the Underground Railway.

IN MEMORIAM; Miss Emmeline Clark.

We record with deep regret the loss of one of the most valued and helpful members of the Reading Branch of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Emmeline Clark, who passed on, after great suffering bravely endured, on August 29. The Reading Branch will miss her keen interest and wise counsel as a member of its executive committee, and the League suffers with the Branch in the loss of so devoted a supporter of Votes for Women. Our sympathy goes out to all who knew Miss Emmeline Clark as a friend and comrade.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

The "Employment Bureau," which is managed by Miss Becher, is becoming well-known and used by employers, as well as employees. Week by week the work increases, showing the need of such a bureau. From Monday, Sept. 20, the Office hours will be as follows:—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, 11 to 12.30; Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, 2.30 to 4.

Wanted, for sale at the Office, home-made Preserves and any articles likely to sell, and so help to pay expenses; also goods for our autumn jumble sale.

Kensington.

Our meeting on September 8 was held in the new club room at Headquarters. Resolutions for the Conference were proposed and adopted. Several members agreed to fill up the 100 Pennies forms. Miss Parker most kindly came and spoke for a few minutes, and tickets were sold for the Kingsway Hall meeting. A further sale of produce brings the Branch contribution to the Birthday Fund to over £14. We are grateful to Mrs. Forbes for the gift of

SCHOOL OF COOKERY, 82, BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.

Dainty Table-d'hôte Luncheons 1/-, or à la carte; Tea 6d. Plain Household and High-class Cookery Lessons (Meatless) given daily by arrangement. Homemade Cakes, Jams, Marmalades, etc.

Principal: MISS DEACON.

Islington Dental Surgery.

60, UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

Mr. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man, Fee 7/6. Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door. CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone 3795 North.

A. SHAPCOTT, Tel. 1443 81, GEORGE STREET, CROYDON.

WIZARD, ELECTRIC AND
HAND VACUUM CLEANERS
FREE DEMONSTRATIONS

Telephone No. 3025 Kensington (4 lines.)

COOPER & CO.'s STORES, 68 to 74, Brompton Rd. London, S.W.

DEPARTMENTS.

Teas and Coffees. Groceries. Provisions. Cooked Meats. Poultry and Game. Bakery. Fish. Meat. Fruit and Flowers. Vegetables. Confections. Patent Medicines. Perfumery &c. Brushes. Turnery. Hardware. Stationery. Wines and Spirits. Tobacco, &c. Coal, &c. &c.

LUNCH ORDERS A SPECIALITY.
FAMILIES WAITED ON DAILY FOR ORDERS.

BOARD-RESIDENCE. Rooms, Holiday Homes, &c.

AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL, opposite Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London. Absolute Privacy. Quietude and Refinement. 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. For long stays, special terms. Finest English provisions. — MANAGERESS, 4788 Gerrard.

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

A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

TO LET, at the "Despard Arms," 123, Hampstead-road (5 mins.' walk from Maple's, and near the London Temperance Hospital), three light, airy ROOMS, singly or together, furnished or unfurnished, moderate rent. Most convenient position; trams, buses pass door. Bath (hot and cold water); meals can be taken as desired in the restaurant.—Apply, Miss A. A. SMITH (hon. sec. "Despard Arms"), 22, Harley-road, Hampstead, N.W.

A THEENIC UNDERWEAR is cosy, durable, and guaranteed unshrinkable. Get the maximum value at minimum cost by buying direct from the actual makers. Write for patterns. Dept. 30, Atheenic Mills, Hanwick, Scotland.

DEVONSHIRE CREAM.

Absolutely pure, very nourishing, much appreciated by wounded at the "London" Netley and on battle-ships; supplied three times weekly to the Duchess of Marlborough, the Countesses of Leven, Lonsdale, Dundonald, Viscountess Ridley, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. D. A. Thomas, and the Officers of H.M.S. Tiger. Sells well at bazaars. Business (sole source of income) seriously crippled by the war. 1/6 lb. 1/6; 1/6 lb. 2/6; post free.—Mrs. V. Conyers, Bridestowe, Devon.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Estab. 1879.