

THE VOTE  
Feb. 19, 1915.  
ONE PENNY

WE PRESENT OUR BILL. G. NINA BOYLE.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, FEB. 19, 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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## MRS. DESPARD'S EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE.

14, RUE DE GRENELLE, PARIS,  
14th February, 1915.

DEAR FELLOW-MEMBERS,—By the time this reaches you I hope to be in England again. I feel, however, you will be glad, while I am on French soil and the impressions of this wonderful time are fresh in my mind, that I should tell you what some of my experiences have been.

I think you know why I came here. It was in answer to a request from the Brotherhood Council of Great Britain that now, at the moment of our common sorrow, I should take a message of sympathy and goodwill from the women of Great Britain to the women of France.

In Britain, as in France, it is beginning to be realised, especially by the workers of both countries, that the nearer the idea of fraternity—which is really a much larger word than brotherhood—approaches the idea of the family, the greater its effectiveness will be, and that, consequently, in every true fraternity, women must have their place.

This principle forms the basis of the Suffrage Movement; it is an essential element in our gospel that the new and better society which we desire to establish must be moulded by men and women together. Taking a further step, we shall see that to bring about permanent stability and settled order the joint work of men and women must be international.

I was glad, therefore, to accept the opportunity offered to me, and with Mr. Ward, the President, and Mr. Mann, the Hon. Secretary of the Fraternity, I crossed the Channel on Friday, February 6.

Our first re-unions were at Boulogne, where we were most kindly received by members of the

Brotherhood—men and women. I visited a working party of mothers, principally the wives of soldiers and sailors, and said a few words of sympathy to them; immediately afterwards a few of the social workers came together, and we exchanged experiences; then later in the evening I was taken to the Soldiers' Club and was exceedingly touched by their friendly reception; finally, we attended a large and very enthusiastic meeting of men and women.

On Saturday, we travelled to Paris, and on Sunday afternoon I was given a reception that, in numbers and enthusiasm, reminded me of the finest of our Suffrage meetings at home. It was composed almost entirely of women, and they were of all classes. They listened to us with profound attention; each reference to *Entente Cordiale* between women as well as men and to our common hope of direct citizenship in the future being received with acclamation. I was made to feel that the women of France are with us.

On the following day I visited Rouen. The journey which should have taken two hours spread itself over six; I arrived late in the afternoon, and could not do all that had been planned for me. But in Rouen I had some delightful experiences. I was most politely received by Colonel Skinner, who organises hospital work at Rouen, and he gave me an order to see the tented hospital where one of my nieces, Miss Florence Harley, is serving. In the evening, in one of the poor quarters of Rouen, we had a crowded meeting of soldiers' wives and women workers, whose attention, gentleness and sympathy touched me very deeply indeed. I may add that in garrison towns and camps cabarets are closed to men, as well as to women, at 8 p.m.

The next day found me in Paris again. It is a grey and sober Paris, very different from the gay

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city which I visited in my youth. Black is the prevailing colour. All are busy; but there is perfect calm. I have had thrilling accounts of the three dread days when the Germans were only twenty miles distant from the outskirts of Paris and the French Government left for Bordeaux. Apparently, there was no panic; but when the wonderfully effected junction between the English and French armies and the Battle of the Marne, which immediately followed, relieved the frightful tension of suspense, the joy of the people I am told, quietly as it was expressed, could scarcely be described. Since then they have never once doubted what the issue of the struggle will be.

On the evening of my return from Rouen we had a re-union in a large hall, on the borders of one of the poorest quarters of Paris, attended by a crowd of women workers, many of them quite young girls. Patriotic songs were sung, amongst them, as a special tribute to our *Entente Cordiale*, the National Anthem of Great Britain in French. Admirable speeches were given by women, and I had again the privilege of delivering your message, which was received with enthusiastic welcome.

The following day brought a Conference, presided over by Madame Schlumberger, whom I had met at Budapest. She is the President of the principal Suffrage society here. At the desire of these ladies, I gave some account of the work we are doing in London. I hoped that this meeting would have been more of a Conference, that questions would be asked, and that a little discussion might follow; but unfortunately the question of pacificism concerning which there are many divergent opinions here, was mooted, and we got off the direct lines which were intended to be—how best to organise national aid. I had the opportunity later, however, of seeing what the Parisian women are doing; and I confess I was filled with admiration. One splendidly organised bureau is tackling the tremendous business of bringing together the scattered French and Belgian refugee families. I hear that no less than four thousand letters have been received from consular and other public bodies in England. Almost all the work done is voluntary. Fifty young women come every day to help in the pen work, which is prodigious. Some of these are English. I was introduced another day to the Mayor of Passy, a good feminist, who has a whole army of women engaged in his town hall supervising maternal and other relief and giving out work to those who need it. These also are giving their services, and the organisation appears to be splendid.

I have heard here some heart-rending stories of the sufferings endured by women through the German military occupation of the North. I will tell you some of these things later.

One of my wonderful experiences was a visit to Val de Grace, an old convent, full of historic interest, changed now into a military hospital, where no less than 1,400 wounded and invalid soldiers are treated. The most extraordinary part of it was the ward devoted to men whose faces and heads had been frightfully disfigured. It is not too much to say that the clever surgeon in charge of this department literally builds up faces again. In many cases the disfigurement is scarcely apparent.

On Friday we had a special Suffrage meeting at the house of Mme. Schlumberger, where I was able to describe, in some detail, the policy of the

Women's Freedom League and the work of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. We hope to be able to persuade one of these ladies—a professor at the University—to come over to England and to speak for us in London. I am perfectly sure members of the League and others will flock to hear her.

Yesterday brought two most interesting events. In the afternoon at a club in the Champs Elysées, organised, I imagine, very much on the lines of the Lyceum Club in London, Mme. Valentine Thomson, the president, had brought together a delightful company of women—artistic, literary and social workers—who met in their beautiful hall. A young French singer, Mme. Carré, sang the *Marsillaise* with extraordinary power and verve, and I had the great pleasure of giving your message of friendship, sympathy and admiration and of putting forward what, as we hope and believe, will result from the *Entente Cordiale* between the women of France and Great Britain.

In the evening my visit was to the Concoriat, a fine building in one of the poor quarters of Paris, built by some Americans for the girl students and shop assistants. Many came in from outside, the great hall being crowded to its utmost capacity, and here, too, there was enthusiastic response to our message.

When the meeting was over, the students, bright-faced girls, asked to be introduced, and I had a gay little conversation with them. Their chief desire was to hear all I could tell them about "*le maréchal*," to whom they sent cordial greetings.

I have one other engagement to fulfil this afternoon, and I leave for London early to-morrow morning.—Yours cordially, C. DESPARD.

### OUR OPEN COLUMN.

#### Child Slavery Again.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—I should like to draw the attention of your readers to the sinister efforts now being made by some farmers to get cheap child labour on the land, and to the mean and shuffling manner in which the Board of Education deals with this matter. This department (which ought to be one of the most important Government departments) practically promises to look the other way while the law with regard to school attendance is being broken.

They say "they have no power to over-ride the law, but the local authority is under no obligation to take proceedings."

Mr. Mundella, I am glad to say, points out that the "no obligation to take proceedings" deals with school attendance and not with child labour, which is quite a different thing. He says: "Any person employing a child under 14 before that child has reached the standard of attendances or the attainments definitely prescribed by law is liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 40s."

Surely it is bad enough that the flower of our young vigorous manhood should be destroyed or maimed in the war without undermining the health of the nation's children by putting them to laborious toil on farms. Let any mother ask herself how she would have felt if she had been obliged to let her children be set to such work as "ploughing with a pair of big horses" before they were 14.

The farmers are getting exceptional prices just now. Let them try whether, by offering good wages, they can't get enough adult labour. If there are not sufficient men available, are there not women willing and capable of working on the land?

Mr. Pease, in answer to the deputation which he received on Feb. 11, referred to the "curious fact" that, where wages are highest there is no tendency on the farmers' part to demand the help of the children. It is only where cheap labour is required that the children are withdrawn from school.

I trust the nation will insist on an absolute pledge from the Government to stamp out this new form of child slavery. K. S. TANNER.

## COME & WELCOME OUR PRESIDENT

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### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

#### Discussion Meeting.

To-night (Friday) Mr. W. L. George will speak on "The Break Up of the Home," to be followed by a discussion. Seats 1/- (reserved) and 6d. (unreserved). This meeting will take place at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Piccadilly, W.

#### Welcome to Mrs. Despard.

All members and friends are invited to join us in welcoming our President back from France at the Suffrage Club on Monday evening, February 22. The chair will be taken by Miss Anna Munro at 8 o'clock, and Mrs. Despard will speak on her impressions and experiences during her recent visit to France. Admission is free, but there will be a special collection in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

#### New Branches and New Activities.

We have recently formed a new Branch at Golders Green, and others at West Hampstead and Regent's Park are in the process of formation. These, together with our other North London Branches, have taken up the idea of opening a novel public-house called the "Despard Arms," near Camden Town, on the lines of Mrs. Despard's article "The Public House the Public Needs (THE VOTE, November 13). We welcome this enterprise, and commend it to the support of our members and friends. All who are interested are invited to attend a meeting to be held at 22, Harley-road, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage; also omnibus routes 2, 13 and 68), on Tuesday, February 23, at 8 p.m.

#### Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

Next Wednesday we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mr. Laurence Housman, who will speak on "Home Truths in War Time." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Mustard at 3.30. Will members kindly note that this meeting will begin promptly at the time appointed?

#### Miss Clark's Campaigns.

From March 4 to 10 Miss Clark and Miss Munro will be working in Letchworth, where there will be a public meeting Wednesday evening, March 10, the speakers being Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson and Miss Anna Munro. Miss Clark has arranged a campaign in Montgomery Boroughs from March 20 to 31, the speakers being Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### CAFÉ CHANTANT.

Great preparations are being made by our Social Committee to ensure that our Café Chantant on March 11 and 12 at Caxton Hall, shall be a great success. Miss Edith Craig has very kindly undertaken to arrange special dramatic entertainments as side-shows, and the programme for the two days in the big hall will be arranged by Madame Carola. Our object is to get at least £500 clear profit through this enterprise, and we urgently appeal to our readers for their assistance, which they can render as follows:—

1. Sending to this office saleable articles, especially well-made underclothing, overalls, blouses, plants, home-made foods, etc., and presents for our "white elephant" stall.

2. Sending cakes and provisions for the refreshment department, or money donations to buy milk, bread, etc.

3. Sending contributions of money for the special Café Chantant Fund to add to the profits of the undertaking.

4. Taking as many tickets as possible at 1/- (afternoon) and 6d. (evening), and selling them widely before the day.

The Social Committee was responsible for the success of our Belgian Party, and its members are confident that with the co-operation of our readers the Café Chantant will be even a greater success.

### OUR POINT OF VIEW.

#### War Office Meanness.

The question of fares for seamen and soldiers travelling on leave appears to be one open to some misconstruction. Popularly, they are understood to travel free; but that is very far from the case, and is only guaranteed under certain circumstances. Now, we cannot see why, when the whole country is claiming to entertain the greatest admiration for and gratitude to its "gallant defenders," that the entire financial policy of the grateful country towards its defenders should be suffered to be so painfully and degradingly stingy. For the life of us, we cannot understand why special week-end trains should not be run for the sailors and soldiers, and the fares either abolished, or lowered to a nominal sum. The Government is supposed to have control of the railways; the railway companies are supposed to be patriotically resigned to some necessary sacrifice of revenue. We take it this is a sacrifice that would be warmly appreciated by the people concerned, and would not send either the nation or the railways bankrupt. The fares are wrung from very bitter need. Either the men must resign themselves to not seeing their people—when every day may be bringing them nearer the final parting of all—or the money must be extracted from the meagre allowances, which are already doled out with grudging, with limitation, with infinite skill in deducting anything it is possible to deduct, and with a dilatoriness that is a national disgrace. The railways are raking in no small percentage of those allowances and payments, about whose possession and spending there has been so much fuss, and as to which women have had to suffer such unmerited insult and affront. If it is a crime that "some of these women are better off through the war than they ever were in their lives" the same quite clearly applies to the railway companies.

#### Stoppages of Pay.

We hold it to be a disgraceful piece of economy, and a cruel one to boot, that if a soldier be imprisoned for any military offence, his pay stops, and with it his family's allowance. The unimaginative vindictiveness of this form of punishment is one of the things that takes women by surprise when they come to know how the departmental machines work. There is no phase of the war, no single item of War Office work and management, that does not call for the woman's voice and touch and illustrate the need of her head in the national counsels.

#### OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO SUFFRAGISTS.

### "ENGLISH MEDICAL WOMEN,"

"Glimpses of their Work in Peace and War."

By A. H. BENNETT.

Preface by STEPHEN PAGET, F.R.C.S.

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**THE VOTE.**

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FRIDAY, February 19th, 1915.

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

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**EDITORIAL.**

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

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**WE PRESENT OUR BILL.**

Woman's place, by universal consensus of opinion, is no longer the Home. It is the battlefield, the farm, the factory, the shop. It is on the platform of the trams and buses in France; soon, belike, it will be on the foot-plate of the engine as it has been for some time on the chauffeur's seat of the ambulance van. The Government asks for her to take the place of the trades union man needed at the front. The *Times* asks for her to supply the dreaded dearth of doctors in the private and panel consulting-rooms and in the hospitals. War, instead of showing woman as a sheltered, protected cypher amid the general clamour, has on the contrary shown her to be the nation's sheet anchor. Lord Curzon asks: When the real issues of life, when war and its realities come along, where are women then? And their answer rings clear and firm to-day amid the clash of arms. Steadfast in their loyalty and patriotism, calm amid confusion, undaunted when faced with horrors no man can suffer, filling every gap, grappling with every problem, coming with full hands and all the arts of peace to heal the gaping sores of war, the women of Belgium, France and Britain, of Serbia, Russia and Montenegro—aye, and of Germany and Austria and of Hungary and Turkey also—answer him with one voice. They are where the suffering falls thick, the first to starve, the last to have their woes tended.

The place women take in war is clear. Theirs to make good by voluntary and unrecognised service the shortcomings of the vaunted male-managed machinery, that never by any chance is ready for or equal to any emergency, but that claims such credit for merely avoiding disaster. In danger, theirs is the cruel lot of being unarmed, impotent and unavenged (British officers and officials are treating as gentlemen and soldiers, and not as criminals, men guilty of the foulest horrors; no steps are taken to discriminate between guilty and not guilty). If danger assails our shores, the cold comfort is theirs that they may go to the cellars and take their choice of being trapped like rats or shot down in the streets. The one thing they are not to attempt is to defend their persons by any act of violence, as that might entail wholesale slaughter on the rest at the hands of—male persons, our protectors! Truly, chivalry and civilisation, in contact with the touchstone of this great male struggle for supremacy, have proved a hopeless, abject failure so far as women are concerned. Whether it be the homeless, outraged women of Belgium and France, the frozen, frost-bitten, starving thousands of Serbia, Turkey, Poland, and the Slav dependencies, the boast of protection,

always ludicrous, has been shown to be the veriest and most abject sham.

An article by Mr. Max Pemberton in last week's *Dispatch* quotes a story as absolutely "veracious," of a train full of school-girls who had been in a convent at Malines and were on their way home, who were outraged by officers. The *Lancet* gives a statement that of a convent of sixty nuns, twenty-nine are expecting to be confined as the result of similar brutal treatment. Monsieur Louis Martin is going to bring a bill before the French Senate for the suspension of the penalties relating to illegal operations, and the establishment of foundling hospitals, for the relief of such women. People are shocked and horrified; but this has been the fate of women in war time from the time history began. Only since about the middle of last century has there been anything in the nature of strong public opinion on these subjects; it was considered one of the inevitable adjuncts of war, and as little as possible was said about it. The sum total of unimaginable suffering under which women have groaned in every war ever waged is a thing from which the mind recoils and which no chronicler has ever attempted to portray.

This, then, being the position of women in war, it behoves us to turn our thoughts seriously towards what their position will be in peace, and especially in the settlement. Will any thought be taken to their needs; will justice, as well as compensation, be given them for the wrongs inflicted on them as non-combatants? Will any consultation be held with organised bodies of women in regard to the terms on which the different nationalities will live together when the struggle is over? Will they be allowed to dictate any of the conditions which will decide their own status, such as the alien-by-marriage question and the proper punishments, under the Geneva and Hague Conventions Rules, for those who attack non-combatants? All these questions, and many more, are surging in the hearts of women to-day; and in view of the tragedy of their position we can only look with uncomprehending wonder on the meanness of the men who would withhold from them their need of citizenship. A neutral lately landed on these shores, who has filled an important mission which has taken her several times through the danger zones of West and East Europe, comments on the extraordinary bitterness shown by the women of all nationalities. This, the worst and most real danger to the peace of the world in the future, is the natural result of the impotence imposed on the sex, which is the only true and natural sheet anchor of that great thing, "Nationality." Nationality is the strongest feeling human nature knows next to the primeval instinct of sex. The war arose from the outraged rights of Nationality; and women, the guardians of Nationality, demand the right and the power to establish it more firmly and sanely than men can do alone. C. NINA BOYLE.

**Mrs. Sproson: Speedy Return to the Fighting Line.**

Members will be glad to hear that after a long and serious illness our good friend and splendid worker, Mrs. Sproson, hopes soon to be able to return to active service under the Freedom League banner in the Woman Suffrage fighting line. In a touching letter she says: "As I lay so long under the shadow I feared I should never again take an active part in the greatest of all Causes—Women's Emancipation—but the encouragement and kindness I have received from my old colleagues, particularly those who stood with me when we first unfurled the Freedom League banner, have given me hope and enabled me to gather strength." She expresses appreciation to all who have kept the Suffrage flag flying; she feels that the vote will not be conceded as a reward of women's merit in this time of crisis, but says that by helping to restore the wreckage which men have made Women Suffragists are giving their opponents "the least possible power of resistance."

**OUR TREASURY.**

**NATIONAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

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Glasgow ...	7	15	0	
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Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Limited."

**OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.**

The Suffrage Club was crowded last Wednesday when Mrs. E. M. N. Clark took the chair for Mr. John Scurr and Miss Nina Boyle, who, she said, had previously spoken together on platforms in various parts of the country. Mrs. Clark declared she had never liked our Government less than at the present time, when they seemed to have the destinies of this country and of the world in their hands. If women had asked men to give them an object lesson in Woman Suffrage they could not have given them a better one than the present situation. Men were spending ten millions a day to kill each other, the necessities of life were going up in price and children were dying of hunger and cold. Women wanted the vote now five thousand times more than they wanted it before the war began, and when women secured it they would make it an effective weapon for both men and women. In the future, men and women would take up their own burdens and shoulder their own responsibilities; they would not give them up to a Cabinet of angels, or even to a mixed Cabinet of angels and men.

Mr. John Scurr, who was received with great applause, said it was the duty of every Suffragist at the present time to keep on with the agitation for votes for women, which was more necessary now than ever. Men were being slain and wounded by the thousand, but peace would have to be made, and if it was to be lasting it must be based largely on what the nations now at war wanted. In that peace settlement women must make their voice heard, otherwise the same people who made the war would try to patch up a peace.

Referring to the employment of child labour on farms and in factories, Mr. Scurr scathingly reminded his audience that the late Lord Salisbury and Sir John Gorst had once signed a paper promising that the school age should be raised to 16 years of age. That was only "a scrap of paper" so far as England was concerned, but in Germany the school age was 16. Mr. Scurr insisted that women wanted a vote as a protection against other women. The wives of soldiers and sailors were being told by other women how they should spend their paltry allowances. Such impertinence would be an impossibility if these soldiers' and sailors' wives had the vote. Now was the time to press for Woman Suffrage, and in Mr. Scurr's opinion there was a considerable volume of opinion in the country at the present time in favour of granting Woman Suffrage.

Miss Boyle gave a racy account of women's increasing list of grievances and the ridiculous attempts of our male legislators to deal with the pressing problems of the day. Miss Anna Munro gave a brief account of the recent North-Eastern campaign, and appealed for funds for the Women's Freedom League.

**Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.**

Service at Greenwich Road Congregational Church, Greenwich Road, S.E.  
Trams from all parts to Greenwich pass the Door.

**Preacher:**

Rev. A. CLIFFORD HALL, M.A.

ON

Sunday, Feb 28. 6.30 p.m.

Subject—"THE WOMAN'S BURDEN."

SPECIAL HYMNS AND PRAYERS.



## THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

### Jumble Sale.

The jumble sale arranged by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes and the Kensington Branch takes place next Saturday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. Will members kindly remember this, and send anything they can spare not later than the 19th to the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, c/o Mr. George Carter, 8, Chapel-st., Ladbroke-grove, W.

### Smoking Concert.

A smoking concert will be held on Friday, Feb. 26, at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, in aid of the funds of the Corps. The concert will begin punctually at eight o'clock, and the admission fee is one shilling. It is hoped that all members and sympathisers will come and bring their friends, as a most attractive programme has been arranged.

### Brackenhill Hospital.

Mrs. Harvey sends the following very interesting account of the work of the hospital:—

"We have already treated seventy-eight patients, and we refuse about three patients daily; our waiting list is long, and we could fill three houses. Three Belgian, three English and two French babies have been born in the hospital, and it is worth noting that the mothers who have been with us some weeks before the birth have all had babies weighing from 9 to 9½ lbs., while the other babies have turned the scale at from 5½ to 7½ lbs.

Surgical cases have been admitted at a very early stage after the operation, thus helping considerably to relieve the congestion at the London hospitals. We are constantly receiving urgent telephone messages, "If you cannot take these women (usually three to five in number) we must turn them out, for patients are pouring in from other hospitals that are filled with wounded men." Stern necessity gives us no choice but refusal, for our wards are over full as it is.

Babies suffering from rickets and wasting come to us looking scarcely human; they go home so bonny and bright, the mothers cry for sheer joy.

Do not take my word for all this, do not "wait and see," but come and see. No appointment is necessary; just come. You will go away abundantly satisfied that good, urgently needed, and most blessed work is being carried on, and so quietly and unostentatiously by the staff that it is difficult to realise the amount of self-devotion poured out on these poor sufferers.

Economy and importunity are our watchwords. By dint of exercising the one, and never losing an opportunity for the other, we manage to pay our way and keep a balance. So I make a most earnest appeal here for weekly subscriptions, however small." K. HARVEY.

### The Children's Play Club.

The Club was inaugurated amid great enthusiasm last Monday evening at the Vegetarian Restaurant, Nine Elms. The children are from four to ten years of age; fifteen were admitted, but the clamouring crowd outside showed that many more would like to join if there were room for them. Toys, games and recitations by the children were the principal attractions, and eight o'clock (closing time) came all too soon for the happy girls and boys. Mrs. Tippett makes an earnest appeal for regular helpers in this delightful work, and for a gramophone, picture books, a dolls' house, toys and games. The Club will be open every night from 6 to 8 o'clock.

### Nine Elms Vegetarian Restaurant.

Mrs. Tippett has much pleasure in thanking very warmly the following friends for their donations:—Mrs. C. Lenanton 17/6, Miss Grace Crombie 10/7, Miss Halford 2/-. She makes an urgent appeal for apples for the Restaurant.

### SOCIAL AT CARDROSS.

A very pleasant gathering was held recently on the Moorpark estate with the object of raising funds for the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, tenants on the estate, who for some considerable time have taken a great interest in the work of the Women's Freedom League, invited a number of friends and acquaintances to a social and dance, and to hear a few words on the situation and on the part women are playing during the war. The reception was held at Mrs. Wallace's, and short addresses were made to the assembled guests by Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle, a very hearty and appreciative vote of thanks being given them at the request of Mr. Wallace. Some charming examples of Scottish dancing were given by little Miss Cassidy, and the evening's festivities were opened with a quadrille, or country dance, of a kind now rarely seen, by expert dancers, with great spirit. Supper was served at Mrs. Graham's, who lent her premises for the occasion and assisted in making all the arrangements for the event. The result was a substantial sum for the W.S.N.A.C., and it is hoped that other members resident in the country will adopt this pleasant and simple device for combining social entertainment with the business of contributing to the funds needed for the varied activities of the League.

## WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.

Miss M. D. Dawson, who until recently was chief of the Women Police Volunteers, has severed her connection with that Corps, at the request of the founders of the Corps and the majority of the staff. The Corps will continue its work on the lines originally laid down, i.e., for the service of women, and not to assist the present authorities in carrying out laws and regulations known to be unjust and improper.

The experience gained in the work so far carried out points plainly to the fact that it is impossible under present conditions to work with or under the civil or military police and use their system without in some measure assisting improperly to coerce women for the benefit of men, and becoming acquainted with matters which for the welfare of women should be made public and not suppressed. Enquiries made in various towns where "women police" were said to have been engaged by town councils, watch committees or chief constables, have shown that the women so engaged are in no sense constables. They have neither authority nor power of initiative; they can conduct no case of their own, but only investigate or take statements as the result of suggestion on the part of some male official, and their title of "inspector" is entirely hollow. In some instances they are put on to special work, such as inspecting lodging-houses, but for the most part their sphere of usefulness as a reforming element is severely circumscribed. The position is, in Britain, exactly the same as that described by Sister Arendt in Germany; there are sores and scandals that no woman is allowed to probe or to make public.

For the present, therefore, the Women Police Volunteers will in no way prejudice their position by associating themselves with any sort of officialism, and are no longer responsible for the work carried on in military centres.

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DRESSMAKER

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. £500 WANTED FOR THE VOTE.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.



### DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, February 19.—PUBLIC MEETING; 32a, The Arcade, High-st., Croydon; 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Miss Lake-man. DISCUSSION MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; speaker, Mr. W. L. George, subject "The Break-up of the Home"; 8 p.m.; chair, Miss A. A. Smith; admission 1/- (reserved seats) and 6d.; tickets from W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi.

Saturday, February 20.—W.S.N.A.C. JUMBLE SALE; N. Kensington Baptist Church, Cornwall-rd.; 2 p.m.

Monday, February 22.—WELCOME TO MRS. DESPARD; The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 8 p.m.; Mrs. Despard will speak on her impressions and experiences in France; chair, Miss Anna Munro.

Tuesday, February 23.—NORTHERN BRANCHES MEETING, re "Despard Arms"; 22, Harley-rd., Hampstead, near Swiss Cottage; 8.15 p.m.; friends invited.

Wednesday, February 24.—PUBLIC MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mr. Laurence Housman, "Home Truths in War Time"; chair, Mrs. Mustard.

Friday, February 26.—SMOKING CONCERT, in aid of Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps; The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W.; 8 p.m.; admission 1/-.

Saturday, February 27.—WHIST DRIVE, in aid of Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps; arranged by Herne Hill and Norwood Branch; 69, Danecroft-rd., Herne Hill; 7 p.m.; tickets 1/- each.

Monday, March 1.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING; 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-rd.; 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2.—EAST LONDON BRANCH MEETING; 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow; 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3.—PUBLIC MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Lady Muir Mackenzie, "British Women's Hospital Unit for Serbia," Miss Anna Munro; chair, Miss A. E. Jacob.

Thursday, March 4.—PUBLIC MEETING; Wirtemberg Hall, Wirtemberg-st., near The Plough, Clapham; speakers, Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle; chair, Miss St. Clair; 3.30 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, March 11 & 12.—Caxton Hall, Cafe Chantant, 3.30 till 10 p.m. Sale of Work, Songs, Dancing, Recitations, Refreshments, Musical and Dramatic Entertainment. Admission, before 6 p.m., 1/- (including Tea), a terwards, 6d.

### PROVINCES.

Monday, February 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Public Meeting; 8 p.m.; speaker, Mr. A. B. Crow, subject "A Scheme for Political and International Re-construction." LIVERPOOL, Clarion Café, 30, Lord-st.; speaker, Miss Janet Heyes; chair, Miss Broughton; 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24.—PORTSMOUTH; Suffrage Tea; Suffrage Rooms, Kent-rd.; 4 to 5 p.m.; guest, Mrs. Despard. PORTSMOUTH; Public Meeting; Portsea Parish Institute; 8; speaker, Mrs. Despard; chair, Mrs. Whetton.

Monday, March 1.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Business Meeting; Suffrage Centre; 8 p.m. SOUTHAMPTON; Public Meeting; Morris Hall; at 8 p.m.; speaker, Miss Eunice Murray.

Tuesday, March 2.—BOURNEMOUTH; Public Meeting; Freedom Hall (Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens); Miss Eunice Murray; 3 p.m.

### WALES.

Sunday, February 21.—CARDIFF; Public Meeting; I.L.P. Rooms, Ruskin Institute; 7 p.m.; speaker, Miss N. Boyle.

Monday, February 22.—CARDIFF; Afternoon Meeting, at Madame Eva Trimoon's, 2, Newport-rd.; speaker, Miss N. Boyle; chair, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, February 23.—CARDIFF; Afternoon Meeting, at Madame Eva Trimoon's, 2, Newport-rd.; Miss N. Boyle; chair 3 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING; Ruskin Institute; speaker, Miss N. Boyle; chair 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24.—CARDIFF; Public Meeting; Welsh Industries, Queen-st.; Miss N. Boyle; chair 8 p.m.

Thursday, February 25.—CARDIFF; Co-operative Women's Guild (Cathay Branch); speaker, Miss N. Boyle.

Friday, February 26.—CARDIFF; Open-air Meeting; Victoria-park, Canton; speaker, Miss Boyle; chair, Miss Barrs.

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Amount already acknowledged	£154 12 0
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Miss Edith Evans	2 0
Miss E. Scrymgeour (monthly)	5 0
Miss Kate Evans	1 0
Miss Holman	5 0
Miss Jane Brown (Jan. and Feb.)	4 0
Miss McCallum	6 0
Miss Tennant (Edinburgh)	2 0
Mrs. Snell Anderson	5 0
Mr. and Mrs. James	10 0
Misses Milner	10 0
Mrs. Murray	10 0
Mrs. McIntyre	1 0
Mrs. McPhee	1 0
Miss S. A. Turle	50 0 0
"A Friend," from New Zealand	1 1 0
Dr. E. Knight	5 0 0
Miss Constance Harvey (monthly donation)	1 0
Mrs. L. Pilsbury	5 0
Miss Gange	2 0

Total £214 7 6

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Cardiff.

The competition organised in Cardiff was decided on Feb. 8 at Mrs. Whale's, 33, Stacey-rd., and resulted in a clear gain of £4 14s. 6d., which will be sent up to Headquarters for the general funds. Any further contributions, however small, will be gratefully received by Miss Barrs. We thank very sincerely all who gave prizes and helped to sell the tickets. Five new members have been enrolled this week. THE VOTE is being sold in the streets, but more volunteers are badly needed for this work.

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

Successful sales of garments for the children were held at two of the local elementary girls' schools last week. Mrs. Loveday and Miss Dickson started a weekly afternoon meeting on Feb. 9, at the Office, for the wives of soldiers and sailors. At these meetings it is hoped to have interesting chats on subjects which will be helpful to all concerned. One member has promised to give demonstrations

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Valuable Lending and Reference Library for Members. English and Foreign Books dealing with every aspect of the Women's Movement. Non-members enrolled as Associates by paying 5/6 per annum. Luncheons, 1/- and 1/6. Dinners, 1/- and 1/9.  
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ONE  
PENNY]

# THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

on "first aid" work. We hope members will bring friends to the first afternoon meeting of this session on Feb. 19, when Miss Lakeman will be the speaker. Two new members have joined this week.

## East London.

A general meeting will take place, by kind invitation of Miss Adams, at 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow, E., on Tuesday, March 2, at 6 p.m. Members are urged to make an effort to attend to discuss the general prospects and future conduct of the Branch.

## Hampstead

At a well-attended meeting at 22, Harley-road, to which the Northern Branches of the League sent representatives, the proposal of the "Despard Arms" was further discussed and offers of personal and financial help received. Another meeting will be held at 22, Harley-rd. on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 8.15 p.m., when it is hoped definite arrangements may be made. A hearty invitation to be present is given to all members and friends; practical suggestions and offers of help will be welcomed.

## Liverpool.

On Feb. 2 Miss Ada Broughton gave an address to the Vauxhall-rd. Girls' Club; she explained the policy and aims of the W.F.L. and showed how the vote would improve the condition of the working woman. More than 40 girls were present; they evinced great interest, and urged Miss Broughton to "come again." Free literature was distributed, which the girls eagerly accepted. On Feb. 4 Miss Broughton was invited to speak at the Southport Co-operative Women's Guild, where she was accorded a very enthusiastic reception. THE VOTE sold well. A drawing-room meeting was held on Feb. 11 at 10, Wylon-rd., Anfield, by kind permission of Mrs. Black. Mrs. Ridgway ably presided and Miss Broughton spoke on the social and economic importance of the vote. The interesting address evoked a hearty discussion led by an "Anti," with the result that the futility of the "Antis'" position was shown up, and the Anfield Branch gained in supporters.

## THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James Sq., S.W. FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

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MEETINGS on Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m., Mr. W. L. George (Tickets 6d. & 1/-).  
Monday, Feb. 22, at 3.30, Mrs. Dawson Scott.  
Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 3.30 p.m., Mr. Laurence Housman.

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## SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Feb. 24, Mr. Laurence Housman, on "Home Truths in War Time." Admission free. Collection. Buy THE VOTE, 1d. weekly.

FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION will hold Meetings in Hyde Park on alternate Sundays at 3 p.m., commencing February 21st. Look out for the Red Dragon! Hon. Secretary:—69, Wimpole-street, W.

and THE VOTE in regular subscribers. On Monday last, in the Clarion Café, representatives from the three local Branches met Miss Broughton to discuss the formation of a Central Branch in Liverpool. After hearing a promising report of new and likely members, it was decided to form a Central Branch; a meeting will be held on Feb. 22 to appoint an hon. secretary and officers; also a public meeting in March and an "American Tea."

## Middlesbrough. Suffrage Centre—231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

At a meeting on Feb. 8 at which Miss L. Mahony presided, Mr. G. A. Wetterstrand spoke on "The Practical Use of Health Foods," and gave helpful advice with regard to the selection and the preparation of vegetarian foods. Many questions were asked, and a lively discussion followed. The interest created by these lectures has had a practical issue in the increased sale of health foods, which are a particular feature of our shop. The committee met on Feb. 12; as sufficient voluntary helpers were available to take charge of the shop in the afternoons, as well as in the evenings, it was decided to discontinue paid assistance, and a new scheme of shop hours was drawn up. On Feb. 24 a "Tipperary" afternoon will be held for the wives of soldiers and sailors. Tea will be provided by the members and a musical programme will be arranged by Nurse Lee.

## Portsmouth and Gosport.

Mrs. Everard, 70, Alverstone-rd., Southsea, has kindly undertaken the duties of Merchandise Secretary in the place of Mrs. White, whose resignation was regretfully accepted at our last members' meeting. Parcels for the forthcoming jumble sale may be left at Mrs. Speck's, 17, Duncan-rd. The Suffrage tea in honour of Mrs. Despard promises to be a great success. Tea will be served from 3.30 to 4.30, and the tickets are 6d. each. We are expecting a visit from Miss Murray and Miss Trott on March 4. Further particulars will be given next week.

## Jumble Sale.

The London Branches Council will hold a jumble sale on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 27, at Tolmer's-sq. Institute, Hampstead-rd. Parcels may be sent to Mrs. Fisher at the Office. Articles of any kind are welcome, but especially men's and children's clothing. Mrs. Fisher will be very glad to receive the names of any members and friends who will help at the sale.

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