

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Our Cartoon	313
The Outlook	315
A National Danger Ahead	316
The Gentle Giant. By H. W. Nevinson	317
Congratulations to the Danes. By Martina G. Kramers	318
Special U.S. Conferences	318
United Suffragists	319
Comparison of Punishments	320
Book Reviews	320

DEDICATION

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

THE OUTLOOK

Men and Food

As President of the Board of Agriculture, Lord Selborne has appointed a Departmental Committee to report what steps should be taken for the purpose of maintaining and, if possible, increasing the present production of food in England and Wales, on the assumption that the war may be prolonged beyond the harvest of 1916. Lord Milner is to be chairman, and on the committee we find the names of several distinguished men, including four who are not members of either House. But not one woman is included, and this is the more remarkable because Lord Selborne is known as a good Suffragist. Yet even the most cringing "Anti" would hardly contend that the supply of the nation's food is entirely a male question. Those who have seen something of the enormous waste in rationing our armies and some of our military hospitals, know very well where the assistance of good women housekeepers might now be called in. And to guard against a future deficiency in the country's food, women's counsel would be equally helpful.

Women's Wages

We deal more fully with this question in our leading article, and we wish only to call attention here to two further evidences in support of our main contention. At the annual congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild in Liverpool last week, the President, Mrs. Barton, observed that, owing to the influx of women who were forced to take work at low wages for long hours, and sometimes at night, they were losing at a stroke many of the rights which had been won in the past by hard fighting, and the Congress unanimously passed a resolution against low wages, long hours, and the undercutting of men. Again, at a meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen at Nottingham on Sunday, Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., said that women's labour on railways had undoubtedly come to stay, and that the men should only insist that women must not be used as a means for reducing the prices that had been secured for particular grades by years of agitation. On the other hand, he strongly protested against the very limited minority of the men who wanted to refuse to work with women labour. We are sorry to see that men in the South Staffordshire Tramway Company have joined that limited minority, and the local Watch Committee has yielded by appointing boys between 14 and 18 to take the women's place.

Infant Mortality

As a commentary on our last week's leading article, "The Casualties at Home," we give the following figures from a Parliamentary Paper issued last week. Comparing the first quarter of 1915 with the first quarter of 1914, the births in England and Wales were 221,447 as against 217,187. The deaths of infants under one year old during the same quarters respectively were

28,417 as against 25,017. And in London alone the infant mortality for the first quarter of 1915 was 3,142 as against 2,717 for the corresponding months last year. The infant death-rate for the first and third quarters of a year is always rather higher than for the second and fourth. If the rate of this year's first quarter were maintained, the loss of infant life in England and Wales would be nearly 114,000 in the year, and after making all deductions, we cannot put it at less than 105,000. Most of this loss is due to the poverty and hard work of the mothers, and to the general depressed condition of women.

The "Enemy Woman"

We continue to hear of many hard cases in which German or Austrian women who have lived nearly all their lives in England, and are entirely English in sympathy, are now threatened with deportation; or are suddenly deported to Holland, being allowed to take only £10 of their savings with them, any remainder being left in the care of the Public Trustee. It is difficult to investigate the justice or injustice of such cases. The question appears to depend largely upon the reasonableness of the official before whom the "enemy aliens' application for exemption comes. In any case, it is obvious that governesses and other professional women who have been working here and tried to save something for their old age, suffer great hardship in being bundled off to another country at their own expense and with only £10 in their pockets, no matter how carefully the Public Trustee may guard the property they leave behind. Happily, the myth of the "governess spy" has been exploded, together with the "war babies," the "Russian troops," and the visionary bombs hidden in her portmanteau.

The British Alien

On the other hand, we gladly notice that the Government propose to extend a certain amount of just consideration to a number of women whom our absurd law treats with peculiar harshness. We mean English widows whom the law regards as "enemy aliens" because they were once married to Germans. In the House of Commons on June 17 Sir John Simon, as Home Secretary, made the following statement, which women should remember in these days, when they must be thankful for small mercies:—

We do on occasion naturalise a woman who is the widow of a German or Austrian, or other enemy husband. We naturalise such a woman if she was of British origin. She may have been as a girl an ordinary English, Scotch, Welsh, or Irish girl. She marries a German or an Austrian. Her husband has died. The effect of marriage is to change the nationality of the woman, not only during the time of marriage, but even after the marriage has been dissolved by the death of the husband. Therefore she is in law still a German or an Austrian lady. It is a very hard thing that the woman whose family connections are all British, and who, by the fact of marrying a German has acquired a German name, and associations—because at this time that is a stigma for a British subject—without so much as a certificate of re-naturalisation. Therefore the Home Office have, in proper cases, and we shall continue to do so, recognised that, and we have given certificates of naturalisation to women of British origin and British family whose only reason for being enemies alien at this time is that they are the widows of German or other enemy husbands.

Mr. Sheehy Skeffington

As we mentioned last week, Mr. Sheehy Skeffington, editor of the *Irish Citizen*, and always a true and valiant friend of our cause, was sentenced to six months' hard labour (with a further six months in default of finding £50 bail, making a year in all) for "making statements likely to be prejudicial to recruiting" under the Defence of the Realm Act. After a hunger-strike of six days without food and four without water, he was released in a state of extreme weakness, but under the Cat and Mouse Act must return

to prison on June 30. Hitherto this atrocious Act, passed for the purpose of breaking down the resistance of political offenders, has been used only against Suffragists. Under its provisions Mr. Skeffington would have to endure fifty-two weeks of hunger-strikes, interrupted by fortnightly periods of recuperation, for two years. We heartily commend to the notice of Mr. Birrell and other authorities the following sentences from an editorial note in this week's *Nation*:—

We imagine that the authorities who committed the folly of prosecuting Mr. Sheehy Skeffington will not commit the further folly of re-arresting him. His sentence would have been difficult to excuse even in a country where open rebellion by powerful people has not been condoned and rewarded. He takes, in our opinion, a very mistaken view of the war, but we cannot imagine a more unfortunate method of persuading people that he is wrong. The habit of prosecuting the weaker rebels while the stronger rebels are left alone might, we think, be suspended with advantage for the period of the war. Inequality before the law happens to be one of the features of the Prussian system against which we are fighting, and the suppression of criticism another.

Items of Interest

Miss Jane Addams, the well-known American Social Reformer, who presided over the Women's International Congress at The Hague, and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, President of the Dutch Committee which called the Congress, are now in London. As delegates from the Congress, they have visited the chief European capitals and been received in Paris by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Switzerland by the President of the Swiss Confederation, in Rome by the Pope, in Vienna by the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in Berlin by the Imperial Chancellor and the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Herr von Jagow.

In the *Liverpool Courier* we read that two women were sentenced to three months' imprisonment for keeping brothels (at New Brighton). For a similar offence a third woman was fined £10 or twenty-five days, and a fourth was fined £5 or twenty-five days for "assisting." The paragraph is headed "Sharp Sentences on Women." Sharp sentences! Compare these with the sentences imposed on suffragettes in their struggle to save women from this and other degradation.

We quote the following passage from a recent article by the Countess of Warwick in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

People write glibly of the war that is to end war, but let us remember that this issue depends not upon statesmen but upon the democracies of all the combatant and neutral countries. What we want is a modern Peter the Hermit or two in every country of Europe, to preach the crusade of Christianity and to bring home to the world at large the price of war. There is no material reward for this service, and even recognition is likely to be posthumous; the courage required is of the fine kind that moves alone over uncharted ground. But a return of peace calls for its heroes of thought to do battle with all the evils that make it possible for men who have no quarrel to assemble in their millions for mutual destruction.

We gladly draw attention to the matinee to be given at the Palace Theatre next Tuesday, June 29, for the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. About £25,000 is needed. The medical staff of the Women's Military Hospital in Endell Street among others contributing fifty guinea stalls for their patients. We need not remind our readers of the "Royal Free's" splendid record in regard to the medical training of women.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in *VOTES FOR WOMEN* should be sent to The Editors, *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1915.

A NATIONAL DANGER AHEAD

Equal pay for equal work is an elementary principle of right-dealing which cannot be violated without damage to the health and stability of the nation. Apart altogether from the moral baseness of the employer who stoops at the present time to exploit cheap labour, and so reaps personal advantage from his country's need, the mere practical question of adjustment, the bare dull economics of our national situation, require a measure of investigation far in excess of anything which politicians or journalists seem in general inclined to vouchsafe them. Let us see how we stand.

Before the war there were nearly seven million women in employment for pay. The war has removed from industry a number of men—a number not, for obvious reasons, officially stated, but frequently estimated in responsible newspapers as "over two millions," as "about three millions," even as "three or four millions." Into the details of displacement and replacement it is unnecessary to go. Obviously, by the end of the war the number of girls and women in industry will not fall far short of—will almost certainly, indeed, exceed—ten millions. And the overwhelming majority of these women will be employed at wages far lower than the wages of men. Mr. Runciman recently told the representatives of various women's organisations that the women "registered" for war-work were to receive the same rates as men—as far as piece-rates were concerned. Since the statement was specifically limited to piece-rates, it amounted to just nothing at all. But suppose it had amounted to something. Suppose it really were the intention of the Government to see, if only in Government work itself, that wages were equal for men and women. Suppose those wages in those works were equal—what then? Immediately (by one of the few economic laws which are really laws, because they correspond to facts) labour would be drawn from other industries to Government work, and private employers would be compelled to put up their wages. A re-adjustment would take place, by which the nation would profit infinitely in health and wealth. Is the Government giving any proof, are most municipal authorities giving any proof, are private employers giving any proof, of a patriotic desire on their part for such re-adjustment? The answer is all too lamentably in the negative.

Ordinarily the average wage of men is nearly 26s., the average wage of women nearly 11s., a week. One would have expected any decently patriotic person to jump at the chance which the present need for women's work offers of overthrowing this monstrous inequality. Far from that, we hear from all over the country of cases in which women are being exploited. It is not universally so. At Newcastle and Cardiff, we understand, wages and conditions are equal for the tramway employees of both sexes. But we hear of other places where women are employed as tramway workers at 14s. a week, as agricultural labourers at 10s. a week, as lift-women at 15s. a week, as Government clerks at

18s. a week—in all cases replacing men who earned considerably higher sums, and shamefully little at that. And most of these occupations are nobly remunerated in comparison with the unspeakably "sweated" industries which still exist!—which, indeed, in a special sense exist more than ever, since, with the rise in the cost of living, people starve more bitterly than ever on a "starvation" wage. After all, it requires some particular gift or training, some outstanding qualities of physical or mental agility, to be a tram-conductor—as compared, anyway, to the state of physical and mental exhaustion to which people can be reduced and still labour away at "sweated" toil such as is involved in many of the sub-let contracts habitually responsible for much Government work.

The Government, indeed, is deeply to blame in this matter, and not only for setting a bad example in actual wage-paying. The late Government was responsible—will the present one continue in the same sin?—for the refusal of those citizen rights which, if granted, would long ago have guarded the economic position of women and prevented such calamities as threaten us now. We are not concerned at the moment to accuse individual employers or employing bodies. But the general fact is common knowledge. Women are replacing men at "under-cutting" rates, and, side by side with that, comes the relaxation of Trade Union regulations. It is not our business here to discuss that relaxation or those regulations, except in so far as the change will facilitate the substitution of cheap female labour for the usual male labour. Is it possible our rulers do not see the national disaster to which they are heading?

The thing is so vast, so perilous, so terrible, that it is no exaggeration to say our national greatness may go hopelessly to pieces on it, even at the end of the most successful war that our most sanguine hopes can anticipate. For consider: When at the very least two millions of men return to find their places filled by women who are doing their work, sometimes better than they did it themselves, sometimes worse, but, on the whole, to much the same effect as they, and at a far lower rate, what will happen? The men have been promised that Trade Union rules shall instantly come into force again, and that the women shall be immediately ejected to make room for the men returned. For this thing *not* to be done would be an outrageous injustice to the men, would embitter them against the women, and would give rise to a real sex war, in which all chance of progress and democracy would be lost for a generation. For this thing to be done would be an outrageous injustice to the women, who would be thrown out of work without compensation and—this is what we must expect—a male Government to take advantage of—without the political weapon of self-preservation. This is the fatal dilemma to which we are—not drifting, but rushing, apparently by the deliberate will and intention of our rulers. If nothing but the well-being of women were at issue, it would be understandable that such a ghastly future should be courted by those who have always shown themselves hostile or indifferent to women's claims. But in the first place the present Government contains several men who have not so shown themselves, but have led us to expect better things; and in the second place, it is not women's position only that is at issue. The industrial upheaval that is being invited may involve famine, riots, the very dissolution of our social life. We take no pleasure in calling attention to what our rulers ought to see for themselves; but we do insist that true patriotism consists, not in tying one's hands and delivering oneself bound into the power of such rulers, but in fighting by every means of protest and persuasion the doom which threatens us all.

THE GENTLE GIANT

By Henry W. Nevinson

When Madame Tissant's son was born, the neighbours congratulated her upon his size and strength.

"Mark my word," said a grandmother of experience, "that child will live to be a giant."

"He's too gentle for any such thing," Madame Tissant retorted; for her notion of giants was founded on fairy tales.

But the way the boy grew was almost alarming. At one year old he was too heavy to carry, and the neighbours called him "Cuckoo-chick." At two an artist from Paris made a picture of him as the Infant Hercules strangling enormous pythons. At ten he wore his father's trousers. He began to outgrow them, and the question of his size became serious.

The Curé was consulted. "God has made a giant of him," he said, "and we must accept the Divine Will. Let him be a giant."

"It's a good business, and requires no education," said the father.

"But my Pierre has a gentle nature," the mother objected.

"Madame," said the Curé, "it is possible to be virtuous even in a palace of flesh."

So the boy was fed and exercised with a view to his future profession. And though his training availed nothing towards the subjugation of his gentleness, it was entirely successful in regard to size. At school he was a popular hero because he could walk about with a child on his head, two on his back, and one under each arm. He could swing you up to a height that gave a tingling sense of giddiness, and it was believed that the schoolmaster would have felt afraid of him if Pierre had not always shown consideration.

When he presented himself for his military training the officer jumped at the sight.

"My dear friend," he said, standing on tiptoe to pat his shoulder, "France cannot afford you! Double uniform, double rations! Never in my life! You would reduce the ranks to insignificance. The drum-major would feel hurt. My friend, you are too large for modern war."

Then Pierre entered upon his self-supporting profession in earnest. Since his own village was accustomed to seeing him for nothing, he started on tour through Provence. Within a year or two he acquired such fame that no fair was thought complete without him, and when he crossed the Channel his reputation was advertised as European. His mother observed, with some concern, that no giant's characteristics made their appearance, but she was proud of his success, and accompanied him on his tour to take the money at the doors and purchase the requisite ells of cloth for his suits.

When the war broke out, the giant rejoiced. Making a livelihood by being stared at provided insufficient scope for his energies. "Now," he said, "I can accomplish something salutary."

"Nothing is salutary in war," said his mother. "But I have devised a new military operation," he replied.

I was on the pier at Boulogne when he landed, returning from a Bank Holiday engagement on Hampstead Heath. He stood on deck, conspicuous but modest, in rear of the hustling crowd. His round face shone high above them, like a lighthouse above the storm. When every one had passed, he advanced. The gangway creaked under his enormous boots. The porters stared at him, and turned aside to laugh. The passport official touched his hat and exclaimed, "Pass, Monsieur Tissant! You no more need a passport than the President of the Republic."

The giant held out a hand so vast that even I, who have seen much, was astonished. Into it the official's hand disappeared, like a diver into a wave.

"The object of your return, Monsieur?" asked the agent of police on his left.

"To serve our country," the giant replied. "The place of your military training?" asked the agent.

"My service requires no training," said the giant.

"He'll be a semaphore," whispered one porter to another.

"They'll climb him for an observation post," said another.

"He'll take a Saucepan all to himself," said a third. Now a "Saucepan" is a "Jack Johnson."

"Pass, madame the mother of Monsieur Tissant! France honours you," said the official, saluting the little woman who emerged, clinging to one of her son's coat-pockets.

"Monsieur desires a porter to the barracks?" asked a powerful porter in light-blue blouse.

"If you are going in that direction I shall be delighted to carry you," said the giant, and we watched him disappear down the long road, like a ship traversing the horizon.

Some weeks later I was again in Boulogne, and saw the neatly-dressed little mother sitting on a doorstep in a side street. She was stitching at what appeared to be a huge blue tablecloth, but was a French soldier's overcoat. At the same moment two Corporals came up, and, after polite introductions, exclaimed simultaneously,

"Madame the mother of our giant, our Colonel has sent us to demand that you quietly withdraw your son as being subversive of discipline."

"My son is too gentle to subvert anything," said the mother.

"On the contrary, madame," the soldiers replied, "he subverts war."

"You see, madame," one of them continued, "it's like this. Your son is too big for the parapet. No enemy could miss him, and in marching to and from the communication trench he draws fire like a steeple. So our Captain

point gained. But Mr. Begbie ends on a note of hope; for, as he shows in his preface, he believes in the future of womanhood. The most human character in the book—old Miss Roach—says in reply to the young engineer who asks her why this thing has not been stopped before—

"We are governed by men, Mr. Baverstock; and a blow at this traffic would be a blow at that section of society which still exercises the greatest power of government, that section of society whose safety depends on hushing up the abominations of vice. But we are going to stop it all the same. We are only holding our hands, believe me, till we are perfectly certain that our blow will shatter the iniquity once and for all. Wait a little, wait a little!"

That women have waited long enough for the power to strike this blow will be the reflection of all Suffragists who read Mr. Harold Begbie's remarkable book.

Surely the foundations must be laid in reverence for women. Difficult as the question of women is, more difficult now than before this world-wide calamity of destruction, at least we must be rid of that inexpressible devilry which in defiling multitudes of women poisons the very springs of life and in degrading hosts of little children hangs about the neck of our civilisation the millstone of God.

The story hinges on the terrible fate of a little girl of eight who is entrapped for the purposes of prostitution, and is only found by her parents when she is dying, bereft of her reason, in a Lock hospital. Haunting as the scene by her bedside is, we cannot help wishing it might be read by all those adult men and women who refuse to believe that this horrible traffic goes on. If it only impresses them as exaggerated, that is something; for it may send them in search of proofs, and to stop their unquestioning acquiescence in the present state of things is a great

"Where are you going to?" What is more, Mr. Begbie practically admits that he sees this himself, when he goes on to say in his preface that the war intervened before he finished correcting his proofs, and he wishes to add now that in the "Great work of reconstructing human society which so soon will confront us"—

"Millstone." By Harold Begbie. (London: Constable. Price 6s.)
"Hyssop." By M. T. H. Sadler. (London: Constable. Price 6s.)
"The Prussian Terror." By Alexandre Dumas (London: Stanley Paul. Price 6s.)
"Pioneer Work for Women." By Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, with introduction by Mrs. Fawcett. (London: Dent and Sons. Price 1s. net.)
"Sex Differentiation in Salary." By H. F. Norman, B.A. (London: National Federation of Women Teachers. Price 3d.)
"Is Britain Blameless?" Revised Edition, with letter from G. Bernard Shaw. By A. Fenner Brockway. (Manchester: National Labour Press. Price 1d.)
"On the Retention of the Word 'Obey' in the Marriage Service." By J. Wickham Legg. (London: Wells, Gardner, and Darton. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

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THE MAN-RULED WORLD

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OUR NEW DEPARTURE
SPECIAL WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS

The great upheaval caused by the war in all conditions of life is particularly affecting the lives of women, whether they are employed in "industry" or out of it. In order to keep abreast of the situation, which is constantly changing, the U.S. have arranged a special series of weekly meetings, to be held in the Small Hall, Portman Rooms, on Thursday afternoons, at 3 p.m., to discuss the varying aspects of the woman movement from week to week. The speakers will be "experts" in their several subjects, and after the speeches an open discussion will follow. Admission free.

Last week the first meeting was held, and sufficient funds were raised to pay the cost of that occasion. There were also several promises of weekly subscriptions, including those from Mr. A. E. Powell, £1; Miss Marshall, £1; Miss V. Cooke, 10s.; Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, 10s.; Miss Pethick, 10s.; Mrs. Maitland, 5s.; and Lieut. Geo. L. Brown, A.S.C., 10s.

We earnestly call upon our members and all visitors to the Conferences to support this new undertaking to the utmost of their power.

THE HAGUE CONGRESS*

The British Committee have now issued their record of the Women's International Congress, held at The Hague from April 28 to May 1 of this year. It will be remembered that though 180 British women gave in their names to attend, the Home Office selected only 24 for permits, and that an Admiralty order, closing the North Sea "for strong naval reasons," and holding good only for the two or three days when it was possible for the delegates to reach Holland in time, just prevented their attendance—one of the most peculiar coincidences in the history of the war. In consequence, our country was represented by only three delegates, as against twenty-eight from Germany. Other countries sent larger numbers still, the Netherlands themselves supplying 1,000 members.

Of course, we cannot recommend this record to Anti-Suffragists of the "war-at-any-price" party. But all Suffragists and all who desire what the Prime Minister has called "an honourable and

* "Towards Permanent Peace." (Published by the British Committee of the International Congress, 37, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster. Price 2d.)

permanent peace" may read it with profit; for they will find in it the weapons of truth with which to confound the scurrilous attacks and stupid libels directed against the Congress by "Antis" and the advocates of irreconcilable war. The pamphlet contains a list of all the resolutions laid before the Congress, and a brief summary of the debate on each. A few excellent articles upon the general subject are included, together with a sympathetic letter from Frenchwomen of high distinction, who, to their regret, were prevented from being present. We may quote part of one paragraph from this letter:—

"We have faith in women's power, and our greatest hope is in their action during this period of inexpiable culpability. We say with you, 'We must speak, we must act.' It is too often and persistently said, 'We must act after the war.' We only ask one question of those who demand of us that as an act of patriotism we should be silent: For how long?"

The pamphlet also contains a brief essay of singular beauty by Romain Rolland, entitled "The Eternal Antigone," in which this great writer upholds for women the example of that noblest character in Greek tragedy, who saw only her brothers in the enemies of the State, and, careless of man's temporary and short-sighted laws of hatred, clung, at risk of her life, to those laws eternal which are not of to-day or yesterday, but are proclaimed by God, and of their origin no one knoweth.

VIOLET HUNT'S NEW BOOK*

There is a good deal in "The House of Many Mirrors" that recalls Miss Hunt's earlier novel, "White Rose of Weary Leaf," which we have always considered her masterpiece. There is the same ruthless analysis of unpleasant people, the same remorseless presentation of sordid motives, the same beating of caged people against gilt bars that they do not really want to break, though one feels they easily could. But in the earlier and greater book the author achieves the rare feat of making ugliness beautiful, and out of a series of revolting incidents the story of Amy is woven with a charm that is both subtle and arresting. Now it seems to us that Violet Hunt is just as clever and just as unsentimental in "The House of Many Mirrors," but she fails to move us in the same way. It is difficult to say

* "The House of Many Mirrors." By Violet Hunt (London: Stanley Paul and Co. Price 6s.)

exactly where the difference lies. The magnificent unselfishness of Rosamond Pleydell is as great as that of Amy Stevens, and in both cases the man, the lover, is not worth the woman's sacrifice, judged by ordinary standards. Perhaps it is that the idle, nervous manner of Rosamond's life, its expenditure of big qualities to attain little ends, contrasts poorly with the more interesting struggle of the poorer woman's existence in the other book. And in any case, it is not fair to judge Violet Hunt by ordinary standards. Her utter lack of sentimentality, her love of dissecting little, mean, vicious men and women, and then in a flash showing us something approaching nobility in them, mark her off from all other living writers of fiction in this country. If one does not like that sort of thing one can always read Marie Corelli.

"SAME HERE!" SAYS "JOHN BULL"

When cows fall ill the Government proceeds to take alarm, And sends a veterinarian to sanitize the farm. The cow herself is put to bed and plied with drugs and pills, And Uncle Sam comes forward, when she's cured, To pay the bills. But when a baby falls in need of medicine and care The Government contends that that is none of its affair. When pigs and lambs are threatened by a deadly pestilence, Their tender lives are guarded at the Government's expense. They're coddled, nursed, and dieted until they're well and fat, And never reckon of the cost—for Uncle Sam pays that. But when an epidemic marks the babies for its own, The Government, untroubled, lets them fight it out alone. Some day, perhaps, when all the pork has lavishly been passed, When every scrap of patronage is handed out at last, When all our noble congressmen have got all they desire, And have attained whatever heights to which they may aspire— To unknown heights of common sense the Government will leap, And do as much for mothers as it does for cows and sheep. —"The Chicago Examiner."

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES
Assault on Wife by Constable
The *Morning Advertiser* (June 15) reports case of a constable charged at Westminster Police Court with assaulting his wife and threatening to cut her throat with a razor. Mr. Francis said the wife was quite justified in bringing the charge.
Sentence: Ordered to find a surety in £10 to be of good behaviour for twelve months, and to enter into recognisances for the same period to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

Wife Illused
The *Morning Advertiser* (June 17) reports case of a coal porter charged at the Thames Police Court, before Mr. Leveester, with assaulting his wife. The prosecutrix, who had bad black eyes, stated that after her husband punched her about the face he knocked her down and kicked her. He also bit her on the thumb. A witness proved seeing Ryan dragging his wife along by her hair, and the female gaoler stated that the woman's arms and shoulders were bruised, while on the chest were fourteen bruises. She was granted a separation order.
Sentence: Three months' hard labour.

Indecently Assaulting Girls
The *Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph* (June 19) reports case of a music teacher, charged at the Kent Assizes with indecently assaulting three girls. It was stated that prisoner's behaviour was very bad, but no harm had been done. Evidence showed that it was his persistent practice to corrupt such little girls, and he had previously been convicted.
Sentence: Eighteen months' hard labour.

HEAVY SENTENCES
Theft by a Constable
The *News of the World* (June 13) reports case of a constable charged at Greenwich with stealing a silver watch, chain, and medal which had been lent to him by another constable on March 14. Prisoner said he really had no intention of stealing the watch, and meant to give it back but had not the courage. Mr. Halkett said that theft by a police officer merited the most severe punishment.
Sentence: Three months' hard labour.

The Confidence Trick
The *Morning Advertiser* (June 15) reports case of a man charged at the Guildhall, before Sir John Baddeley, with stealing £10 10s. by means of the confidence trick. Prisoner pleaded guilty, declaring that it was his first offence, and that he had committed it through getting into bad company.
Sentence: Six months' hard labour.

False Pretences
The *Daily Mail* (June 19) reports case of two men, charged at the Old Bailey before the Recorder, with obtaining goods and credit by false pretences. One of them had gone about pretending to be an army officer. The Recorder said he was a pest to society, and had never worked.
Sentences: Four years' and three years' penal servitude.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN

The above cases are telling instances of the comparative value set upon property and women by the ordinary law and practice of magistrates. In one case it will be observed that a police constable got three months' hard labour for stealing a watch, and the magistrate remarked that theft by a police officer merited the most severe punishment. In the contrasted case a police constable was released after finding a razor and entering into recognisances, though he had assaulted his wife and threatened her life with a razor. The magistrate appears to have made no remark to the effect that brutality and murderous threats by a police officer merit any severe punishment. In one of the second pair of contrasted cases a man who had violently struck, hit, and kicked his wife, also dragging her along the ground by the hair, was sentenced to three months' hard labour; while another man, for obtaining ten guineas by the silly old confidence trick (his first offence), was sentenced to exactly double the time. If we could reduce crimes to terms of money value in proportion to the sentences, we should thus discover that in the opinion of the law a woman's eyes, face, chest, thumb, other limbs, and hair are worth just five guineas, everything included. As to the third pair of cases, the iniquity of the contrast is too flagrant to require comment.

A TRUE "WAR BABY" CASE

In the *Daily News* of last Tuesday Mr. Arnold Bennett mentions the following case of a mother's unjust treatment by the War Office:—
A young woman in an excellent situ-

ation, having dominion over eight other employees, fell in love with a Reserve man who was in trade. He offered to marry her, but sudden mobilisation prevented the ceremony. A child was born in December, 1914, the mother being incapacitated for work during fourteen weeks. She never asked her lover for any money, nor did he offer money, until after the birth of the child. In February of this year the father made an allotment in favour of his child. In March the Local Pensions Committee recommended the mother for full allowance as for wife and child. No allowance had been paid at the end of April. In April, and again in May, application was made to the proper quarter, in vain. On May 8 the truth was out. The War Office, through the regimental paymaster, refused any allowance, so that the mother could only receive the sum, necessarily small, allotted to her out of his pay by the father. Thus the unfortunate creature suffers heavily through her lover's patriotism.

The explanation of the official refusal is twofold. First, the mother had never had money from the father before the war; secondly, the child was born after mobilisation. From which it appears that unless an unmarried mother has forfeited her independence before the war, the War Office, when independence is no longer possible, will let her starve. Whereas if she has consented to be a kept mistress the War Office will in any case look after her. From which it appears also that a soldier's illegitimate child born before August 4 is entitled to State help, whereas a soldier's illegitimate child born after August 4 is entitled to die. Note that this rule will apply to all "war-babies," whose mothers must expect nothing because the fathers are away in Flanders "saving our national existence." This wants altering.

COMING EVENTS

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Small Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., on Thursday, June 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. (See page 319.)

The Woman's Theatre, under the direction of the Actresses' Franchise League, will hold the last of their series of War Relief Matinees at the London Pavilion on Friday, June 25, at 2.30 p.m.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage will hold a service of intercession at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, on Saturday, June 26, at 3 p.m. Address by the Rev. O. C. Quick. All members and friends are invited.

The United Suffragists will hold a meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, June 27, at 5.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Gow and others. U.S. members are particularly requested to attend these Hyde Park meetings.

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union will hold a meeting in Hyde Park (near the Marble Arch), on Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m.

The Queen will be present at a matinee which is to be given at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, June 29, to raise funds for the extension of the Medical School of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women. The entertainment has been organised by the Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Arthur Paget, and all the best known members of the theatrical profession have promised their services. Tickets can be obtained either from Sunderland House, Curzon Street, or at the box-office of the Palace Theatre.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a public meeting at the Fabian

Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 30, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss Nina Boyle.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Small Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., on Thursday, July 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. (See page 319.)

A SUMMER SALE

During the summer, when the care of one's feet is such a necessary consideration, a sale of boots and shoes should be a particularly welcome event. Messrs. Hanan-Gingell, of 328, Oxford Street, W., are offering shoes at exceptionally low prices. Boots suitable for all kinds of sport may be obtained at reduced prices, and for walking or evening wear a vast selection is illustrated in their catalogue just issued.

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ECONOMICAL FOODS

A review of the present situation shows, that in so far as the cost of foods is concerned, there is no improvement. The necessity for comestibles of an economical nature is, in consequence, felt more keenly to day than ever before. There are many commodities, such as tapioca, rice, macaroni, and rolled oats, the exceptional health-giving and body-building powers of which are already well known, that might well be increased in use just now with considerable advantage. The time to think about them is now, and your thoughts should be centred at once in our Grocery Department—First Floor—where a large variety of such foods of the very best quality are to be found—priced at LONDON'S LOWEST.

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