

THE VOTE,  
Oct. 9, 1914.  
ONE PENNY

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**A Plea for Wounded Women.**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

VOL. X. NO. 259.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 1914.

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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## WAR AND RELIEF WORK: Red Tape or Common Sense?

The Government, assisted by a large body of voluntary workers, are fully occupied in sending out troops and in forwarding to those same troops arms, clothes, food and medical necessaries, and so pushing on the war that it may be brought to a speedy and final victory.

All this work, we know, is of vital importance, but let us fully realise that there is another part of our army, which, though not in the fighting line, is absolutely indispensable in the settlement of this war. This part of our army is composed of the workers, men and women, who not only produce the things needed by our vast population, but whose work it is to see that the army at the front is equipped with all that they require to enable them to achieve a final triumph.

It is the nation's duty to give, and to give generously, the best of everything that is needed to make our soldiers and sailors both efficient and as comfortable as possible in the circumstances; but it is no less a duty to see also that the workers are kept in good condition and enabled to produce the required goods. The two sections are so inter-laced that only by the latter being well-managed can the former be successful.

Many people are suffering from lack of work at this moment, and innumerable schemes are afoot to cope with the existent distress. Two stand out prominently—the National Relief Fund and the Queen's Fund for giving work to women.

Members of the Women's Freedom League, as

representatives of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, are working on local committees under these two Funds, and are finding that the whole work of relief is being handicapped by official red-tape.

The Central Committee of the National Relief Fund insist that there shall be great distress in a district before any money is forthcoming, and at the same time urge local committees not to open their registers to applicants until all local schemes of work for relief have been put in hand. After inquiring into unemployment as a whole they declare that there is not sufficient distress to justify the opening of the registers; but the local committees know that in many districts there is acute suffering, and yet, without opening the registers, they are unable to prove it by figures that would satisfy the Central Authority. So week after week goes by in this vicious circle, whilst the people starve.

The Queen's Fund, from which we hoped so much, seems also inclined to wrap itself round in red-tape, and many local committees who have taken up with enthusiasm the cause of helping unemployed women are finding much difficulty in getting work-rooms opened because of all the bindings and knots in the tape.

Our advice to these two Funds is to "cut the tape" and get to the real work. There is no better way of increasing the Funds than by showing the public that they are really relieving distress.

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## Women's Freedom League.

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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

#### Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party

We look forward to seeing a great number of our members and friends at the Birthday Party which Mrs. Despard is giving at Portman Rooms, Baker-street (entrance in Dorset-street), Saturday evening, October 10th. Our President will receive her guests from 7.30 to 8.30, when there will be brief speeches followed by music and recitations. During the evening there will be a special collection in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

#### Members' Meeting

The speakers at our members' meeting, to be held in the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, next Monday evening, will be Miss Andrews, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Eunice Murray, and the chair will be taken at 8 o'clock by Miss Anna Munro. London members are specially urged to attend this meeting.

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings

At the Suffrage Club, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly. The first of the series will take place next Wednesday, when the speakers will be the Rev. C. Baumgarten, who has chosen as his subject "War and Franchise," and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 3.30.

#### Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps

A joint meeting of this Corps and the Women's Freedom League will be held at Portman Rooms, Baker-street, on Tuesday evening, October 27. Among the speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Miss Lind-of-Hageby and Miss Nina Boyle. Others will be announced later. Will readers kindly keep this date free, and help us by making this meeting widely known?

#### Discussion Meeting

Friday evening, October 30, Mrs. Marion Cunningham will lecture on "Flashes from the French Frontier," at the Suffrage Club. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock.

#### Christmas Presents Sale

We should be glad to receive promises of money or goods for our Christmas Presents Sale, the date of which will be announced in next week's VOTE. Useful articles and toys should find a ready sale.  
 F. A. U.

### THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

Few things would be more surprising to a chance visitor from Mars, or some other alien region in space, than the ingenuous delight now being displayed by the British people in the fancied efficiency which it imagines has distinguished its Government during the crisis. There is a touching and childlike note of wonder, and almost of awe, in this delight; and one is tempted to paraphrase the unkind sentence of Dr. Maginn and apply it to the present situation. "We like to hear a few words of sense from a woman," dogmatised that worthy, "as we do from a parrot; they are so unexpected." Put "Government" for "woman" and one has, to all intents and purposes, summed up the indulgent and utterly unpractical attitude of the British public towards its Government. If the visitant from another planet, to whose invasion of our globe we fancifully turn our thoughts, were sufficiently intelligent to catch the spirit of the thing, he, she, or it would have reason for profound cogitation—unless, indeed, the arrant silliness of the people of Earth made them appear unworthy of aught but contempt.

Let us analyse this comic—or tragic—situation. We have a Government, the members of which are

learned in the law, trained and skilled in professions, educated and travelled persons who have lacked no opportunity for self-development, and who have graduated for Cabinet rank by service in the House of Commons and possibly also by under-secretaryships in the Government Departments. They have an army of trained and experienced permanent officials at their service—permanent officials to whom Secretaries of State are but things of the fleeting hour, who come and go and are but as grass; they have the army and the navy and the police and the Bench under their control, with all their secrets unfolded and all their knowledge pooled. They have the secret service and the diplomatic service with the Ambassadors and Consuls and Special Envoys and King's Messengers; and they have the Royal Family and its very definite private intimacy with the family affairs of other Royal Families. And they have the Board of Trade and the Labour Exchanges, and Somerset House and Dublin Castle, and the London County Council; and they have Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Josiah Wedgwood. It would almost seem to the visitant from above—or below, or roundabout—that they could have no source of information left untapped and no earthly excuse for making a mistake. And to insure against the possibility of getting incompetents in the Government, there are salaries—salaries of £5,000 and £7,000 a year, and even more; the highest "skilled wages" in the world—so that the most skilled workmen shall be employed. And when the need arises for serious action, action that is not merely making a few more or less undesirable laws or coercing one set of the community by studied appeals and incitements to the prejudices of another, but serious work concerning an urgent and immediate peril to the whole nation, the whole nation becomes hysterical with glee at finding, firstly, that their expensive and well-informed Government can cope with one or two outstanding matters that any great European convulsion must inevitably bring to the front; secondly, that it could, and did, dispatch an Expeditionary Force across the Channel in a few weeks; and thirdly, that it really will try and do something—it was not quite sure for some time what that something would be—to ease the trouble for the general mass of the people.

One does not know what Governments are for if it be not to do these very things. We do not go into paroxysms of admiration over the man who, while calling himself a carpenter, actually turns out a satisfactory table or chair. We do not shriek "Hip! Hip! Hurrah!" and sing "For he's a jolly good fellow!" over them when the skilled workmen on the Tyne and the Clyde and the Thames turn out the great warships and the submarines on which our safety depends. We take it for granted that if these men did not know their job they would not be employed; and that if they turned out bad work they would be "sacked." It is a confession, and a naive and amusing one, of the habit of mind, which, in politics—the most important work of the nation—expects and is prepared to condone inefficiency, and is hysterically joyful over the smallest manifestation of ability and skill.

The "Gloomy Dean," in a recent outburst, revelled in the good things which the war had brought us—in rather marked contrast to previous and less hopeful lucubrations. He has discovered the abeyance of "the foolish hysteria of sex antagonism," and opines that we are recovering our self-respect as a nation. With all due respect to this sagacious observer, we venture to submit the theory that what we have discovered or recovered is merely a new and attractive channel for hysteria of all sorts; and the worst of all the offenders are men whose chief objection to equal rights for women has been that women are addicted to hysterical emotionalism.  
 C. NINA BOYLE.

### A PLEA FOR WOUNDED WOMEN.

We publish with pleasure the following letter from our good friend and fellow worker, Mrs. Harvey, and have no doubt that her example will stimulate others to go and do likewise. The scheme has already received a grant from our National Aid Corps:—

"We honour and are proud beyond words of our wounded men, but that must not make us overlook our wounded women—wounded in the battle of life, and for life. We must not forget that responsibility, overwork, insufficient food and anxiety will increase their usual average of sickness which is always large during the wet and cold season.

The heavy death-roll of young and healthy men must seriously affect the coming generation. Therefore it becomes a national duty, of more than ordinary importance, to keep the mothers—actual and potential—in a high state of efficiency, physically and mentally, and the children robust, for in them, more than ever, lies our hope for the life of our world to be. Not one woman or child should be denied medical aid and nursing if within human power to give them the help they need; to handicap them in the matter of health, if by any means we can prevent it, would be national suicide. Civilian patients are already suffering severely from shortage of hospital beds, doctors and nurses. At one hospital alone there are one hundred women waiting for admission. Urgent cases have been refused help, and children cannot be sent to convalescent homes because they are being reserved for the soldiers. My knowledge has all been obtained first hand, and I am ready to give full information to anyone who likes to call upon me. It is playing with words to argue that, in this way, the war is entailing no extra suffering, because it is the logical outcome of the situation. Taking hospitals all round, there cannot be as many beds as usual at the disposal of civilians; this must raise the "waiting" average somewhere, and the trouble will get rapidly worse.

If common-sense bids us, for national preservation, send our men to the front, it also bids us keep our women strong, so that their super-abundant health may counteract, as far as possible, one evil effect of war.

I intend to run my house (Brackenhill, High-land-road, Bromley, Kent) on these lines, and will make all necessary preparations to that end as a "sample" of what can be done, hoping that the scheme will take hold of the public conscience. But I cannot run a hospital personally long enough to make the expense worth while unless I can obtain financial support.

I propose taking—  
 Maternity Cases (after their dismissal at the end of ten days).

Surgical Operation Cases, which have to leave the hospital before any real approach to health has been attained.

Children, who cannot be admitted to the Convalescent homes.

This work is undoubtedly "national service," also "relief for soldiers and sailors," for I am much mistaken in "Tommy Atkins" and "Jack" if it will not afford them the greatest relief to know that their women and children are being well and systematically cared for.

There is no reason why my scheme should not be carried out in other towns, and so relieve the congestion at the London hospitals and enable them to deal with many more acute cases. Local doctors could give their services so as to encroach upon their time as little as possible; local nurses from hospitals, nursing homes, etc., could take short shifts so that no one should be overtaxed;

chemists could supply medicine, etc., at cost price; and local tradesmen could help, at any rate, in kind. All mechanical work, such as washing patients, taking temperatures, etc., could be done by those women who have offered their services for wounded men; it would keep them in practice for actual war work.

For the future welfare of the nation, I beg you will kindly give this scheme as much publicity as possible. It would greatly increase the efficiency of the work to have a permanent fully qualified nurse. Will those sympathisers who cannot give any large sum contribute one shilling weekly towards a "Nurse's Fee Fund"? Donations may be paid direct to Lloyd's Bank, Limited, Bromley, for the credit of "Brackenhill Hospital" account, or sent to me personally; and every subscriber of £5 or over will receive a monthly memo. of expenditure.—Yours truly,  
 KATE HARVEY.

### DRAWING-ROOM MEETING.

By the kindness of Mrs. James Boyd, a very successful drawing-room meeting was held last Friday at 39, Campden Hill-road, W. In introducing the speakers, Miss Anna Munro explained that the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps was an adjunct of the Women's Freedom League. She showed the present need for such an organisation which enabled the woman's outlook on life to be taken into account. Mrs. Despard gave a brief outline of the work being done by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, its care for necessitous children and for nursing and helping expectant mothers, and the efforts it was making to find employment for women who were suffering through the unemployment caused by the dislocation of trade at the present time.

Miss Nina Boyle said that all members of the Women's Freedom League, as well as the armies now engaged in battle, were keeping our flags flying. Without hauling down our Suffrage flag we were doing national work in rendering help to the needy. There was an appalling amount of national waste in the life and health of the children of this country, and she was convinced that if women had some say in the management of affairs they would see that the widows of soldiers killed in this war would receive more than 5s. a week from a grateful country. Miss Boyle stated that there were 60,000 women now out of employment in London alone.

WOMEN IN COMMERCIAL LIFE.—To succeed, women must be well equipped; knowledge and training are valuable assets. The City of London College, near Moorgate-street Station, offers excellent opportunities to women equally with men, and covers the whole field of commercial life. Lectures are given by experts on the following subjects, among others:—Tea, textiles, fashion drawing and costume design, shorthand, commercial arithmetic, accountancy, book-keeping, theory and practice of commerce, foreign exchange and bills, rubber, chemistry of commercial products, modern languages and economics. The fees are very moderate. Women thinking of entering commercial life, should pay a visit to the College, or send for information with regard to the day and evening classes.

### "Woman in War-time."

This is the title of a little book just published by Achille Serre, Limited. It deals with the effects of War on the domestic life of women and offers a solution of some of their problems. It is published at 1d., but a specimen copy will be sent gratis (if THE VOTE is mentioned) on application to the Publishers at Hackney Wick, London.

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## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY October, 9th, 1914.

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.  
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

### 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.

## THE IRON CROSS.

In one of Ruskin's admirable essays he has shown that it is easy to estimate the characters of men and women, if we know what they admire; and, in his own inimitable fashion, he proceeds to impress upon his readers the urgent necessity of using this principle in education. The child who has been trained to admire beauty and order and thoroughness will not willingly do slipshod and ugly work. It is the same with the emotions. Train the young to admire courage and they will build into their lives the quality they love. Train them to recognise the higher courage which, while readily undergoing personal risks, protects, at all hazards, those who are unable to help themselves, and you develop in them the spirit of true chivalry. Advance still further. Teach every boy and girl the honour of service—the glory of offering their talents, their strength, their work at the altar of their country—and you get the capacity for that nobler devotion which has enriched the life and literature of nations.

There can be no doubt in the minds of those who have watched the development of human character that there is much truth in Ruskin's conception. "We live by admiration, love and hope," says Wordsworth. But admiration by great masses of people may be true or false—it may damn or it may bless. Surely, therefore, in view of the tremendous necessity, which will presently face us, so to organise our national and international relations that such a war as the one which is now ravaging Europe shall, for all the future, become impossible, it may be well to ask now what do the nations admire. That which the world admires it is always ready to honour; and, in fact, we find that every nation has its own decorations and honours and orders; its own way of expressing the value in which it holds certain qualities; the importance it attaches to certain successes. Great Britain has her Victoria Cross, France her Légion d'Honneur, and Germany her Iron Cross.

We note first, as that which, with the exception of France, is common to them, that they are orders conferred by men on men. That our Cross, coveted as the highest honour which can possibly be gained by any British citizen, bears the name of a Queen was merely an incident. Reigning in her own right she was, during her reign, the fount of honour, the dispenser of the prizes that were allotted by men. Two of these orders—the Victoria Cross and the Iron Cross—are military. They must be won for war service. The French Légion d'Honneur is granted for great national service, whether in peace or war, and therefore marks a larger and truer range of admiration. The Victoria Cross has this in its favour, that it is granted, not for valour in war alone, but for

some gallant deed of daring to save a comrade in distress.

The Iron Cross, given by the German Emperor, so far as we can discover, is merely for courage and distinction in battle, and stands as a symbol of that against which the women and the workers of every European nation have been fruitlessly striving; that against which they will continue to strive while breath is left in their bodies: cynical disregard of plighted faith, barbarous indifference to human suffering; a false admiration and a false religion. It is said that for their valour in war no less than 42,000 German soldiers have won that coveted honour—the Iron Cross.

War decorations, then, are given for valour. Naturally that sets us asking what valour is, and how its elements are compounded. Courage first! Yes; that leaps to the lips. We have learned, and righteously learned, to admire courage. The mistake is, and it arises in a great measure from our education—which glorifies battle heroes—to imagine that courage can only or even chiefly be displayed in war, for it has been and is being shown in many other fields. Thousands of women to-day, suffering unspeakably from the effects of the war, are taking valiantly their courage in both hands and doing their best. What recognition is there for them?

Endurance next! It is easy enough to make a dash when comrades are on every side and the ardour of battle fills the soul; but to wait, to bear; that is much harder. We think of the men in the trenches, in fog, in darkness, in bitter cold, holding with dogged tenacity the positions they have gained; we think of the wounded left uncared for on the battlefield, suffering cruelly, yet preserving their fortitude. But we think also of the women. British, French, Belgian, German—many of them robbed of their homes, bereft of their friends, finding their whole lives changed. We have seen such women, young mothers of little children, with a haunting misery in their faces as if pictures of horror were perpetually present to their minds. But no complaint. "We have to bear it; we can do no other." They may not be conscious that their courage and endurance are making the better future of their nations possible. Nevertheless, the qualities are there—elements of the valour for which men are rewarded.

Death and glory for the man! Life and suffering long drawn out for the woman. Thousands of men wearing the cross upon the breast; every true woman bearing the sacred cross of a love which "saving others cannot save itself" upon her heart. Truly the pain of it all would be unbearable were it not that through the present darkness there is shining a light which, faint as yet, is destined to grow more and more until the perfect day. Opinions are changing; new ideals are being formed. Those who have looked upon war as a natural and necessary evil are beginning, through the aggravated horror which faces us, to see that it is not only evil but unnatural.

When this conviction is fully formed, it will bear fruit in strenuous action. Public right between nations, as well as within nations, will be recognised; and admiration will be given to the great old-fashioned virtues which men, who claim to be foremost in culture and wisdom, seem to have forgotten. "We still believe," said Mr. Asquith on Friday last, "in the sanctity of treaties—that the weak have rights, and that the strong have duties; and we look forward at the end of this war to a Europe in which those great and simple and venerable truths will be recognised and safeguarded for ever against the recrudescence of the era of blood and iron." Earnestly do we crave for Mr. Asquith a recognition of the truth that

while the spirit of domination shown in imagined class and sex superiority lives within the nations we shall never be blessed with the permanent peace which he foreshadows. We must revise the principles of action that have brought the nations to the present terrible crisis; we must practice and teach a higher and nobler standard of admiration; we must give honour where honour is due, if Human Society is to be saved from irreparable disaster. Men alone will never accomplish this.  
C. DESPARD.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

### A Day's Work for a Provincial Secretary.

Evening meeting.—Two members ask for information regarding relatives of those who have joined the army. Secretary will try and find out. Open letters: Will I find a building suitable for a hospital, at once, for at least forty beds? Gasp with astonishment, but resolve to do my best.

Next morning.—Go to recruiting office to get answers to questions as promised. Everyone looks rather astonished to see me. Gentleman receives me, but knows no more than I do. He calls a non-com., who, as usual, is really running most of the show, and is able to give required information. Hurry round to house agents to find any possible places for hospital and send off results. Then to our Suffrage shop. Put up newspaper notices, and measure space for notice of "Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps." Take parcel of books to literature bureau. They promise to show a notice of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. Return to shop to draw it up; then to lunch.

Afternoon.—Back to shop; drape box, and place near door, asking for contributions of books, games, etc., for soldiers and sailors. A lady will take Belgian or French refugee as mother's help. Can I get one? Promise to try. Working woman in distress wants advice. Give it to the best of my ability. Promise to get books mended, which have been sent to a reception bureau in bad condition. Excited lady hovers round door for sometime, then makes a sudden plunge inside. "Why don't the Suffragettes kill the Kaiser? Quite sure they could; quite sure they would get the vote if they did!" Flattered by faith thus displayed by visitor, but point out obvious difficulties. Visitor refuses to listen. "Suffragettes so clever; capable of anything; have shown they don't mind risking their lives; why not hire an aeroplane and let a bomb down on him? Sure, if Secretary had the idea put in THE VOTE someone would work out a plan!"

Promise to do my best—ready to promise anything by this time! Visitor departs; I do likewise, in terror of what the next request may be.

That night I dream I am chasing the Kaiser in an aeroplane till he promises to become a "mother's help," if his life is spared!

Who could say Suffrage work is monotonous after this?  
M. T. H.

### Glasgow's Workshop.

The pleasure taken by the Glasgow Branch in their workshop is rapidly increasing. Members feel a personal pride in the articles turned out by the girls under a forewoman of more than average capability. There is every prospect that Miss Findlay will soon have an addition to the staff under her care. Work is coming in from various societies, an order having been lately received from the Patrick Civic Guild. A pleasant incident in connection with the enterprise was the offer made by the Rector of Glasgow Academy to supply dinner to the workers. Needless to say, this thoughtful aid was accepted by the League, and is being taken advantage of by the workers. Subscriptions now amount to £40 17s. 3d., and Miss Stevens reports the promise of many monthly contributions, which give the new venture a feeling of stability and independence.

### News from Headquarters.

A general council meeting of the Corps will be held on Monday, October 12, at 11.30 a.m.

The Treasurer will be glad to receive affiliation fees of 5s. from the country Branches; so far only two have been received.

Badges of the Corps are on sale at these Offices for London members; Branch secretaries desiring to buy them for country members may obtain samples from the Head Office. The badges are in the form of a button, with the colours of the W.F.L., and are sold at 1½d. each.

Warm thanks to Miss Le Croisette for the parcel of clothes she has collected and sent to these Offices for distribution among very poor children.

## PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

Third Year.

### THIRD LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	461	0	3
<b>Branches—</b>			
Clapham (Additional)	2	7	0
Dunfermline	1	6	
Hackney (Additional)	3	0	
Mrs. A. W. Thomson	50	0	0
Mrs. Sargent Florence	5	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray	4	0	0
Mrs. Murray	4	0	0
Miss Sylvia Murray	2	0	0
"One Greatly Helped by Friends"	2	0	0
Mrs. Frances Lewis	1	1	0
Mrs. Valentine Russell	1	1	0
Mrs. Darent Harrison	1	0	0
Miss S. G. Barnet	10	0	
Miss C. S. Bremner	5	0	
Miss R. Mayo	5	0	
Mrs. Ponder (Collected)	5	0	
Miss M. Rawlings	5	0	
Miss Helen K. Watts	5	0	
Mrs. Aaron	2	6	
Miss Baker	2	6	
Miss M. A. Farrow	2	6	
Miss G. M. Telling (Collected)	2	6	
Miss Hutchinson	2	0	
	£536	0	9

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

There are still a number of contributions to this Fund from Branches, members and friends to come in, and I should be particularly grateful to receive them on or before the evening of October 10th, the date of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, for which a most enjoyable programme has been arranged.  
E. KNIGHT.

### THE SPHINX.

The Court Theatre was well filled last Saturday evening to see the first performance of "The Sphinx." The title itself arouses interest. Have not most of us been fascinated at one time or another with those stone representations of the she-monster who seems to see everything and to say nothing; and do we not remember that she once proposed a riddle to the Thebans and killed all who were not able to guess it? To punish people for what they cannot help, is not that highly illogical? Who knows? May not men have based their charge of the illogicality of our sex on that legend? Indeed the Sphinx conjures up more questions than we can find time to answer.

But "The Sphinx" of Miss Janette Steer, as represented at the Court Theatre, was not the study of a she-monster, nor a solution of the riddle of the Universe. It was the story of a man who considered that all women were his province. To distract her attention from his many infidelities, Mary, his wife, took up art as a profession, and devoted her leisure to aiding social wrecks to recover themselves. Matters were just tolerable until her pretty young half-sister, Evelyn, left school and came to live with them. Tom lost no time in making love to this girl; a divorce followed, and some months later Mary and her little daughter, Sibby, came across them unexpectedly in Grindelwald. From a high-spirited school girl, Evelyn had changed into a hopeless crushed woman, and Tom had added to his peccadilloes a mania for drink. We are not surprised that she found it easier to take her own life than to submit to his mean taunts and the slavery he offered her. In the last Act, we find Mary and Sibby and Tom back in the old home. Mary had given up her career; she devoted her time to looking after Tom, now a helpless paralytic, to running a crèche and to teaching poor little Sibby to look after the babies and make their frocks with a sewing-machine, which never would stitch a straight hem.

And the Sphinx? At the opening of the play it was an unfinished product in Mary's studio, the object of her devotion and ambition; in the last Act it was still unfinished, but now carefully concealed in a cupboard. The play itself was a disappointment. To tell women at this time of day that they should suffer everything, sacrifice everything for the regeneration of men, is not very helpful. A generation ago women were not credited with the possibility of equal intelligence with men; there is still a tendency to discredit the possibility of men having the same moral code as women. Should we not strive for equality all round? If women are sincere in their struggle for freedom they must preach and practice something more virile than self-sacrifice, and must not surrender all they have won the moment a signal of distress is waved by a member of the opposite sex.

Miss Barbara Everest's "Evelyn" was a charming piece of acting; it was the one living, human character in the play. Miss Janette Steer as "Mary," and Mr. Langhorne Burton as "Tom," filled their respective parts with much credit.  
F. A. U.

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

**Friday, October 9.** — CROYDON OFFICE, 32a, The Arcade, High-street. Meeting at 3.30 p.m. THORNTON HEATH CLOCK TOWER. Open-air meeting, 7.30.

**Saturday, October 10.** — PORTMAN ROOMS. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, 7.30. Admission free.

**Sunday, October 11.** — BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Andrews and Mr. Doherty. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Murray and Mrs. Hyde. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Munro. DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 129, East Dulwich-grove, S.E. (by kind permission of Mrs. Mockford), 3.30-5 p.m. Speaker, Miss Boyle.

**DARE TO BE FREE.**

**Monday, October 12.** — W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Members' meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Murray, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Andrews. Chair, Miss Anna Munro.

**Tuesday, October 13.** — TOTTENHAM (outside Gas Offices, High-road). Open-air meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Anna Munro and Miss Eggett.

**Wednesday, October 14.** — Public Meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, 3.30 p.m. The Rev. C. Bauggarten ("War and Franchise"), and Miss Boyle. Chair, Miss Murray. Admission free.

**Thursday, October 15.** — Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

**Sunday, October 18.** — REGENT'S PARK, noon. BROCKWELL PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croisette. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Miss Anna Munro.

**Monday, October 19.** — KENSINGTON (corner Lancaster-road and Portobello-road), 8 p.m. CLAPHAM (46, Lynette-avenue). Public meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Samuel), 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro. Chair, Mrs. Samuel.

**Tuesday, October 20.** — BROMLEY (Kitsilano, King's-avenue). Public meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Hope), 3.30 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro.

**Wednesday, October 21.** — Public meeting at The Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, 3.30. Speakers, Mrs. Tanner ("Woman, the Peacemaker") and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair, Miss Anna Munro.

**Friday, October 23.** — CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE (32a, The Arcade, High-street). Public meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

**Sunday, October 25.** — REGENT'S PARK, noon. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

**Monday, October 26.** — CLAPHAM (1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road), 7.30. Working party.

**Tuesday, October 27.** — PORTMAN ROOMS, Baker-street. Joint meeting of Women's Freedom League and Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, 8 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Despard, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Miss Boyle and others. Admission free.

**Wednesday, October 28.** — Public meeting at Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly), 3.30 p.m. Speakers, Mr. J. Cameron Grant ("Women in the Inventor's World") and others.

**Friday, October 30.** — Discussion Meeting at Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly), 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Marion Cunningham. Subject, "Flashes from the French Frontier."

**PROVINCES.**

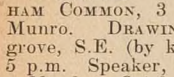
**Wednesday, October 14.** — MANCHESTER, 79, Piccadilly, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray.

**Thursday, October 15.** — SALE, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 3 p.m. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray.

**Friday, October 16.** — ANFIELD, 7.30. Speaker, Miss Eunice Murray. MANCHESTER, New Thought School (19, Brazenose-street), 5 p.m. Speaker, Miss C. Andrews ("New Thought and the Woman's Movement").

**Saturday, October 17.** — MANCHESTER, 79, Piccadilly, 11 a.m. Meeting of District Secretaries.

**Monday, October 19.** — MIDDLESBROUGH, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. "At Home." Speaker, Mrs. Schofield Coates. Chair, Miss W. M. Jones.



**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

**Sunday, October 11.** — KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCY., Fife Hall, Kingston-on-Thames. Lecture by Miss Andrews. "War—and after?" 7 p.m.

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**BRANCH NOTES.**

**Kensington.**

Any doubts which may be entertained as to the advisability or usefulness of holding Suffrage meetings now would be dispelled by attending some of the open-air meetings in North Kensington. These meetings have been resumed since early in September, and they have been even more popular than before the war. This week we were fortunate in having Miss Munro as our speaker, and the masterly way in which she dealt with the whole Suffrage question was thoroughly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience; the women in particular applauded her arguments, and were quite triumphant at the clever way in which she answered a number of questions put to her. THE VOTE sold well. During our meetings members of other societies have come and spoken to us, and rejoiced that we are keeping the Suffrage flag flying. There will be no open-air meeting next Monday, October 12, as all Branch members are asked to attend the meeting at the Office. Announcements with regard to the following meetings will be made in THE VOTE.

**Mid-London**

The quarterly meeting was held at the Office on Oct. 2, and after business had been concluded Miss Anna Munro gave a stirring address. She told how the North Wales campaign, which put Suffrage first, had been continued with excellent success to the end of September, in spite of the war. She found that Suffragists were listened to because they had the credit of doing things well. The aims and work of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps were much appreciated.

**Streatham and Thornton Heath.**

Miss Anna Munro spoke on Streatham Common on September 30. THE VOTE was nearly sold out, and a new member made. It has been decided to start a series of evening meetings at Thornton Heath clock tower on Friday, October 9, at 7.30 p.m.

**Clapham**

There will be no working meeting at 1, Imperial Mansions next Monday evening owing to the members' meeting at the Office, nor on the following Monday, October 19, because Mrs. Samuel has kindly lent us her room at 46, Lunette-avenue, Clapham Common, that evening for a meeting of members and friends. Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Samuel at 7.30. We hope to see a really good rally of Clapham friends on the occasion.

**PROVINCES.**

**Chester.**

The Branch has been having a very strenuous time with the organisation of the sale of patriotic badges, which was the work allotted to it by the Mayoress of Chester, when we offered our services at the outbreak of the war. The success of the sales is largely due to our Hon. Treasurer (Miss F. Taylor), who has worked unceasingly. On October 1 the Branch hired a barrel-organ, which was decorated with the English and Belgian colours, and taken out by some of our members. Miss Barrs, Miss Love and Miss Roberts put in some hard work.

**SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.**

We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, copy should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Monday Morning.

**Miscellaneous Advertisements.**

For insertion in the next week's issue, copy must be sent in by Monday morning to THE ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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**THE MID-LONDON BRANCH** of the Women's Freedom League holds open-air Meetings in Regent's Park every Sunday at 12 o'clock. Speakers next Sunday: Miss Eunice Murray and Mrs. Hyde.

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**Edinburgh.**

The scheme outlined in a previous report has now been set on foot, and, thanks to the enthusiasm with which the idea has been taken up by members and friends, it bids fair to be a great success. The number of girls employed will depend entirely on the amount of the weekly levies promised, and Miss Nannie McLaren will be glad to hear from any member who has not yet communicated with her. We have been encouraged especially by donations from non-members and by the interest shown by members of the public in our window display and in the explanatory bill contributed by Mrs. Bliss. A list of donations will be published shortly.

**Ipswich**

At our meeting on October 1, future work was discussed, and we hope to have Mrs. Despard with us on some date in November. Mrs. Willis gave an account of the Soldiers' Concert at their Institute, at which the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps gave the refreshments. The Secretary told of other good work of the Corps. Miss Webb has kindly consented to take Mrs. Pratt's place and give two nursing lectures on the two Thursday evenings, October 8 and 15. We hope members will make a special effort to be present. Many will remember how much they enjoyed Miss Webb's lecture last year.

**Middlesbrough.**

A Branch meeting was held on September 28, and on October 1 a meeting, arranged by the Women's Council, which consists of representative women from the various local organisations, was held in the Co-operative Hall, and an address was given by Mrs. Barton, President of the Central Council of the Women's Co-operative Guild, on the need for the establishment of maternity centres. Will members please remember the "At Home," Oct. 19?

**In Brockwell Park**

A good meeting was held in Brockwell Park last Sunday morning, when Miss Rushbrooke gave a telling and forceful address on the work that women are doing in war time, and their claim to share in the government of the country alike in war and peace. Next Sunday, Miss Constance Andrews and Mr. Doherty will be the speakers; and members are also asked to remember Mrs. Mockford's drawing-room meeting in the afternoon of that day at 129, East Dulwich-grove, when Miss Boyle will give an address on the work of the Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps. Please come and bring your friends.

**On Clapham Common.**

The meeting addressed by Mrs. Mustard last Sunday afternoon was a great success. For more than an hour she kept an ever increasing audience interested in the policy of the Women's Freedom League and the work of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. At the end of her speech a good collection was taken, and many of those present insisted on coming up to Mrs. Mustard to express their appreciation of the efforts of the Women's Freedom League to relieve civilian distress. The chair was ably taken by Miss W. St. Clair.

**BUSINESS, &c.**

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