

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

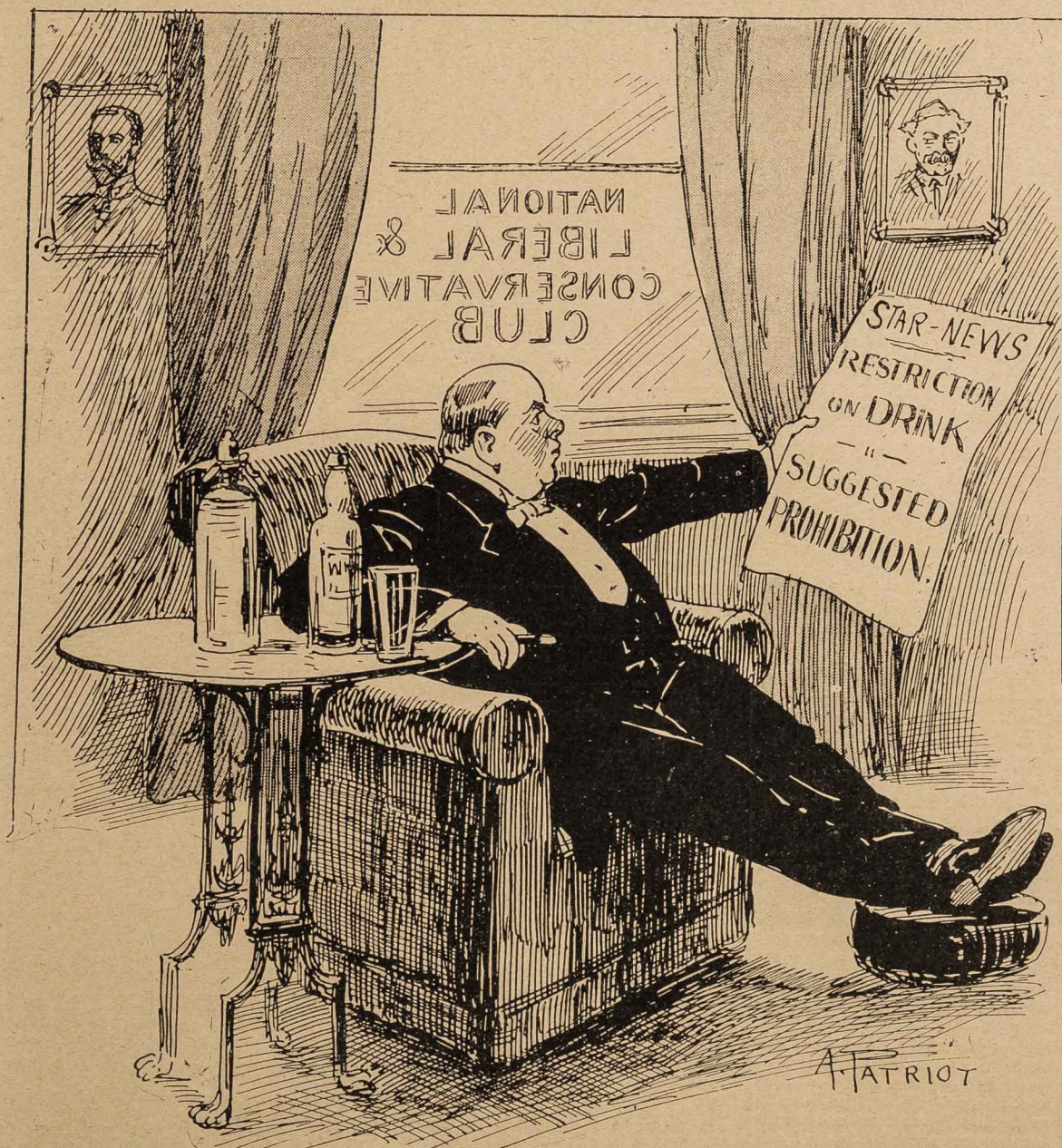
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 370.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1915.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free 1 1/2d.)

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A. PATRIOT

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UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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THE CAMPAIGN Indoor Meetings

Tuesday, April 13; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting—U.S. Women's Club.

THURSDAY, April 15; 8 p.m.—PUBLIC MEETING.—ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND. SPEAKERS: DR. LETITIA FAIRFIELD, THE REV. J. M. MAILLARD, AND MR. CHARLES GRAY. CHAIR: MRS. AYRTON GOULD. ADMISSION FREE. RESERVED SEATS 1s.

Thursday, April 15; 7.30 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Spinner's Hall, Bolton. Speakers: Mr. John Scurr, and others.

Friday, April 16; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Rushworth Hall, Liverpool. Speakers: Mr. John Scurr and others. Admission free.

Wednesday, April 21; 3 p.m.—Drawing-room Meeting.—Walmer House, Aldridge, Walsall. Speaker: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Chair: Miss Annie Somers.

Wednesday, April 21; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Queen's College (Large Hall), Birmingham. Speaker: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Chair: Mr. Percy Adams.

Saturday, April 24; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Larger Lansdown Hall, Stroud. Speaker: Mr. Gerald Gould. Chair: Miss I. G. Hyett.

Thursday, April 29; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.—Red Cross Hall, White Cross Street, Borough. Speakers: The Rev. J. M. Maillard, Mrs. Ayrton Gould and others. Admission free.

Friday, May 14; 3 p.m.—Drawing-room Meeting.—Brondean House, Headingley, Leeds. Speaker: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

Friday, May 14; Public Meeting, Manchester.—Speakers: Dr. Helena Jones and others. Chair: Miss Isabel Basnet. Tickets 1s. and 6d. from Hon. Sec. at Manchester Friday evening meetings.

Outdoor Meetings

Sunday, April 11; 12 p.m.—The Flagstaff, Hampstead Heath. Speakers: Miss Sonnett and Miss Fraser Smith.

Tuesday, April 20; 7.30 p.m.—Bull Ring, Birmingham. Speaker: Miss Annie Somers. Chair: Miss M. Haly.

Thursday, April 22; 7.30 p.m.—Small Heath, Park Gates, Birmingham.

Friday, April 23; 7.30 p.m.—Stirchley, Birmingham.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, S.E.
Secretary, Miss M. R. Cochrane

The Club was open on Good Friday, and was much appreciated by the members, who now number eighty.

On Monday evening a party was given to all members who cared to come, and over fifty came. A concert and supper occupied part of the evening, and Mr. Nevinson described the life, feeding, and washing of the soldiers at the front. But the great event was the opening of the new rooms in the basement, where merry dances were held till the Club closed.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"

Tributes from our Readers

Miss A. M. Wright sends us an interesting letter from Kashmir, India: "I enclose a year's subscription for your interesting paper, VOTES FOR WOMEN. I wish some Suffragettes would come over here and get up meetings on the subject of the vote."

From another quarter of the globe Mrs. C. B. Griffiths writes: "I am proud to say I have secured many subscribers to your paper, both in England and Johannesburg, and incidentally a few in Cape Town. I would not miss it for anything. You can rest assured I do all I can to increase your subscribers wherever I go."

Please Note!

Wimbledon readers will be glad to know that VOTES FOR WOMEN can now be obtained at the W.S.P.U. shop at 9, Victoria Crescent Broadway.

More Posters

We have great pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Miller, of Blundellsands, will pay for a poster to be exhibited at Exchange Station, Liverpool.

This Liverpool U.S. have collected 25s. for the display of a VOTES FOR WOMEN poster at the Central Station, the following members subscribing: Mrs. Graham, Miss Carlin, Captain and Mrs. Granville Giles, Miss Grice, Mrs. Halsall, Mrs. Imlack, Mrs. Loinquinos, Miss Marks, Miss McHugh, Miss Osborne, and Miss Reid. We are also delighted to record that Miss Jesse Wade has sent us 25s. for a poster to be exhibited at Hampstead Tube Station.

More posters and still more posters are needed. Kilburn Park new tube station has not yet its VOTES FOR WOMEN poster. Will any member provide the necessary sum (25s.), or a group of members combine?

Several members have written undertaking poster inspection. Names will be published next week; but there are yet many more inspectors urgently needed.

CHORLEY WOOD U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Agnes H. Harben, Newland Park, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks

The Chorley Wood and District U.S. held their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 25, when Mr. Cameron Grant gave a most impressive ad-

needed. Will any who have not already undertaken poster inspection come forward and volunteer at once? Here is simple work which all can do. It takes up very little time, and is invaluable. Full particulars will gladly be given by the Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. L. E. Smith, Onward Buildings, Deansgate, Manchester

We wish to remind members of the weekly meeting and of the general meeting on May 14, when it is hoped that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will speak if she is able to come to Manchester.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN" FUND

Donations Received up to April 1st			
£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged	675	12	11
Mrs. M. Andrews	2	15	0
Anon	2	0	0
Mrs. C. Blair	1	1	0
Lawrence Bradbury, Esq. (per Miss Neal)	1	1	0
Miss C. Brown (extra profit on VOTES FOR WOMEN)	0	2	3
Mrs. C. Debenham (per Miss Neal)	1	0	0
			£690 10 5

WOMEN'S CLUB FUND

[Donations Received up to April 1st	
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Already acknowledged	235 19 8
Mrs. Butterick	0 10 0
Hampstead Branch	1 0 0
	£236 9 8

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dress, dealing with present-day questions affecting the Suffrage. Mrs. Biddle, who has recently joined our Committee, made her debut in the chair with marked success, and proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting is profoundly convinced that the basis of peace, at the end of the war, in common with all other international and domestic affairs, cannot be satisfactorily settled while women are excluded from the rights of citizenship, and accordingly its demands that the Government take advantage of the present party truce to carry into law a non-party measure for women's enfranchisement." This was seconded by Mr. Cameron Grant, and carried unanimously. The meeting is the last of the winter session, and the Committee are busy planning their work for the spring and summer.

LIVERPOOL U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Isabel Buxton, 111, Queen's Road

We are relying upon the co-operation of all our members to help us to have a good meeting on the 16th inst. at Rushworth Hall (two doors above Walker Art Gallery), at 8 p.m., to be addressed by Mr. John Scurr and others, admission free. The Hon. Secretary will be grateful if helpers will hand in their names to her at once. We are glad to welcome Miss Osborne to our ranks. Many thanks to her for donation, which completed the necessary amount for Central Station poster. We gratefully acknowledge subscriptions towards expenses of April meeting from the following: Mrs. Miller, 10s.; Miss Reid, 2s. 6d. Paper-sellers are badly

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CONTENTS		PAGE
Our Cartoon	225
United Suffragists	226
The Outlook	227
Women, Drink, and the King	228
That Ministering Angel. By H. W. Nevinson ..	..	229
Correspondence ..	..	230
Two New Books ..	..	231
Comparison of Punishments ..	..	231
General News ..	..	231

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

A large number of distinguished Suffragists, including Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Fawcett, Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Snowden, and Mrs. Beatrice Webb, have written to protest against the continued exclusion of women from the Civil Service. In the Post Office nearly 3,000 women are employed, with entirely satisfactory results, but in all the rest of the public service barely 500. And this in spite of the strong recommendations of the Civil Service Commission, which reported just a year ago. That Commission advocated the employment of women not only as typists and clerks, but for responsible posts in museums, libraries, and public institutions of that kind. The signatories point out that now if ever the Government might take advantage of the shortage of men, and the great distress existing among an educated class of women to put the Commission's advice into effect. Among the others who sign the letter of protest we notice the name of one of the very few distinguished Anti-Suffragists who still hold out. Of course we mean Mrs. Mary Ward. But now that Mr. Holford Knight has renounced his unbelief and joined us, we need not despair of anyone. Least of all need we despair of Mrs. Ward, whose main objection to the Suffrage, we believe, has been the same as Mr. Knight's—a fear of women's supposed ignorance of foreign affairs and their supposed inability to fight. If only the men who study foreign affairs and can join the army had the Suffrage, we imagine even Liberals would cease talking about democracy!

The "Westminster's" Appeal

As it is, they talk any amount about democracy, though half the grown-up people are excluded from it. A few days ago, for instance, the Westminster Gazette published a peculiar appeal which it called "A Word to All Classes." It was about the war, but its peculiarity lay in its unconscious assumption that only men form "the people," and only men should have any kind of self-government. Let us take one or two of its fifteen or twenty clauses:—

"Only in Britain, France, and America," it says, "has free Democracy been able to establish Governments of the people and for the people." That is not even true. In Norway, Finland, New Zealand, and Australia there is a much higher conception of Democracy than in England, and "the people" are not there limited to males.

"This is a war," says another clause, "for the uplifting of every man, woman, and child; the right to make laws for the social improvement, well-being, comfort, and happiness of all."

That is a charming ideal. We should all like it realised. But who is to make these laws? The people who are to obey them? Or are only the men to impose the laws on the rest of the adult population? What is the Westminster Gazette's answer? It has always been a half-hearted Suffragist, glad to bolt at the smallest danger or excuse for fear. Again it says:—

"Don't cry out to your Government for help in your troubles? Help the Government! You made your Government by your votes."

Well, as a matter of fact, we did not. But there is no fear of Suffragists crying out to this Government for help in their troubles. They know by hideous experience what sort of help they would get.

Stultifying the Next Generation

It is becoming obvious that the burden of war is to fall on the minds of the children as well as on their bodies. Not only is the rise in prices for the necessaries of food reducing the health and strength of children throughout the country, but they are to be stunted now of knowledge and of such chance of education as the children of working people get. We have all heard how the regulations for school attendance are to be relaxed, with the connivance of the Government, wherever agricultural labour is scarce and the farmer demands cheap child labour for the fields. And now it appears that in Manchester, at all events, the Board Schools are being commandeered as training depots and as hospitals for the wounded. It seems probable that temporary sheds will be erected for the children's classes; but while we admit that the best possible arrangements should be made for the wounded, we may quote the opinion of Sir Alexander

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS.

ESSEX HALL MEETING,
THURSDAY, APRIL 15th,
at 8 p.m.

Chair:

Mrs. AYRTON GOULD.

Speakers:

Dr. LETITIA FAIRFIELD,
Rev. J. M. MAILLARD,
Mr. CHARLES GRAY.

Admission Free. Reserved Seats 1s.

Hon. Sec., 3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Porter, chairman of the Manchester District Education Association, that it would have been better to use the temporary sheds as hospitals, especially now that finer weather is likely. Or if sheds are not good enough, are there not still plenty of large hotels, clubs, and country houses which the war has left almost untenanted for the summer months?

The Vote as "Gratitude"

We see that the Evening Sun of New York was edited by Suffragists last Tuesday with a view to collecting women's opinion on Suffrage "all the world over." It is needless to say what the verdict was. But the Daily News quotes a significant passage from the reply of Frau Hedwig Heyl, the president of the famous chemical works in Berlin. "The suffrage in Germany will come when the war is over," she said. "The Government will find that we have been of such help in war that our assistance will be needed in peace." We should all like to believe that our own Government would be equally clear-sighted and grateful. No one can over-estimate the immense services rendered to our country by women during the war. But immense services have always been rendered by women in peace before the war was thought of, and the "gratitude" of our Government took the form of insult, ignominy, and persecution. So now we are cautious whom we trust. "Trau

schau wem" is a good German proverb for Suffragists "all the world over."

Items of Interest

We may commend even an enemy when he shows signs of repentance, and we are glad to see that even Mr. McKenna is lumbering in the wake of time. On the Committee of Inquiry to consider the conditions of retail trade which can best secure that the further enlistment of men may not interfere with the trade itself, he has actually included the women—Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss R. E. Squire, of the Home Office.

Lady Selborne, like many other people, is disturbed at the gradually declining increase of our population. It is not only that the birth-rate is slowly falling, but that the death-rate of infants is so high—higher, we believe, than the death-rate of people over 75. As a bare fact, this country loses about 100,000 infants under one year old every twelve months. That is double the infant death-rate of New Zealand, where women have the vote. We do not say that women's freedom alone causes the difference, but it has a great deal to do with it.

We are very glad to hear that Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, one of our Vice-Presidents, is likely to receive the rank of Major in the R.A.M.C. in connection with the large new military hospital which she and Dr. Flora Murray are preparing in the Endell Street Workhouse. By their successful work at Claridge's in Paris and the Mauricain hospital in Wimereux they have fully established their right to army recognition.

Our readers will like to hear that Miss Muriel Thompson, that excellent motorist and Suffragette, has just received the Order of Leopold from the King of the Belgians for tending the wounded under shell fire. She is now driving a motor ambulance at Calais for the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, attached to the Belgian Military Hospital. The members of the Corps are all Englishwomen, but the doctors, orderlies, and patients are Belgians (they have forty-five wounded and forty-five typhoid cases, in separate buildings). Sometimes also Miss Thompson has to drive her motor from Calais right up to the Belgian front, conveying a supply of necessaries and little luxuries to the troops.

Last Thursday the Field Hospital Unit of the Women's Imperial Service League started upon another great adventure. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart is in charge, and the unit is the natural successor of the party she organised for Bulgaria in the Balkan war, and for Belgium last autumn. It consists of forty-eight members, and is composed entirely of women except for six men orderlies. We notice that the distinguished Suffragist, Dr. Helen Hanson goes as one of the surgeons, and she is not the only member distinguished both as Suffragist and surgeon.

Mrs. Dearmer also accompanies the party, and our valued supporter, Dr. Dearmer, has received leave of absence for at least three months to minister to the British Red Cross workers in Serbia.

We are informed that the voluntary Women Police Corps in Hull now counts nearly sixty members, and the movement is much encouraged by the local police authorities. The chief duty of the women police is to patrol the streets in couples between 7 and 11 at night in order to warn young girls and to protect them from possible dangers. They wear no uniform beyond a badge.

We see that of the London District Exchanges where women have registered for work, Holloway ranks among the very highest in numbers. There is a certain gaol in Holloway, and the Government has proved again that stone walls do not make a prison for ideas. Where the idea is noble and strong, the Government's prison becomes a platform or a pulpit.

Mr. Joseph Clayton, so long a true friend and valued speaker in our cause, is, unhappily, unable for the present to undertake any Suffrage engagements to speak, as he is on active service in the National Reserve.

Subscriptions to the paper should be sent to The Publisher, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 47, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

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For quotations for Advertisements, apply to the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 47, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS. THE HOUSE, April 28th, 29th, and 30th, 1915.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at MORLEY HALL, 26, George Street, Hanover Square, on Thursday, April 15, at 3 p.m.

Speakers: Miss PICTON-TURBERVILLE, Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN. Admission Free. Information about the Congress given, and donations received, by the Hon. Sec., Queen Anne's Chambers (Room 37, Sixth Floor), 23, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB
9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W.
FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

MEETING: Wednesday, April 14, 2.30 to 6 p.m.—"Proposed Women's Training Colony." Miss Helen Wilson, M.D., Club Tea.
SUBSCRIPTIONS:
London Members (Resident within 15 miles of Charing Cross) per annum One Guinea (Entrance Fee One Guinea).
Country Members (England and Wales) per annum One Guinea (No Entrance Fee).
Country Members (Ireland and Scotland) per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee).
Foreign Members (Resident abroad) per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee). Valuable Lending and Reference Library for Members. Non-members enrolled as Associates by paying 5s. 6d. per annum. Lunches 1s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. Dinners, 1s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. All particulars—SECRETARY. Tel.: 3932 Mayfair.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE,

A RE-UNION will be held at the HOLBORN HALL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., On Saturday, April 17.
Dancing, Singing and Speaking from 6.30 p.m. to midnight. Doors open 5.30 p.m. Tickets 1s. each.
The "Cosmo" Quadrille Band of fourteen instrumentalists will be in attendance.
M.C.s—F. C. Hagger, F. Furhmann.
Among the Speakers will be:—G. LANSBURY, SYLVIA PANKHURST, WILL DYSON (who will also sketch), JOHN SCURR, Mrs. DESPARD, and others.
Refreshments at democratic prices will be on sale at the bar. Fancy dress optional.
Tickets may be had from J. Burg, 13, Vernon Road, Bow, or League Secretary, 21, Tudor Street, E.C.

See This Week's Issue
OF THE
HERALD
Out on FRIDAY,
Price One Penny,
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Striking Special Article by Miss
Maude Royden, on "Seed Time
and Harvest."

VOTES FOR WOMEN

4-7, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET

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FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1915.

WOMEN, DRINK, AND THE KING.

It is well known that the vice of drink is confined to women. Recognising this, the Government some months ago took vigorous steps to stamp out the evil, and restricted the access of that deplorable sex to the enjoyment of alcoholic liquors. In some cases the logic of the restriction was recognised as covering soldiers too, for since women face all the pain and danger of producing the nation, and soldiers face all the pain and danger of defending it, the opportunity of embracing women and soldiers in a common insult was rightly felt to be too good to be missed. Statesmanship could do no more, and there the matter might surely have rested.

But the last fortnight has witnessed an extraordinary change in the Government's view of the question. A deputation of employers has waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to allege that the production of war-munitions is being seriously hampered by the drink evil among workmen, and the Chancellor has gravely accepted that statement as correct. More than one of the men's Trade Unions have issued spirited protests against the slur thus cast upon them, and have denied the allegation point-blank. It has also been pointed out that the speeding-up process in factories and dockyards entails a strain upon the physique of the workers which may well be the cause of such drinking as there is; and indeed, quite apart from the exceptional strain of war conditions, the problem of drink is inextricably bound up with all other social problems—with work that is too heavy and homes that are too poor, with the private house as well as with the public-house. If woman's place is (as we are credibly informed) the home, then indeed she is deeply concerned with the problem of drink; nothing affects the home more. Starved homes drive men to drink, and drink drives men to starve their homes. On every aspect of the question woman's views are needed, in every ramification of it her interests are involved, and the bare suggestion of legislation on so vital a matter while women remain voteless is a fresh reminder of their humiliating and ridiculous position in the State.

But that is by no means the only point of interest for suffragists in the present discussions. Whether legislation is to be introduced or no, the agitation as far as it has gone invites various comments. It will be remembered that when it was a matter of limiting women's access to public-houses, the thing was done with a stroke of the pen and no questions asked (the restriction on soldiers offers no really complete analogy, since, by the very fact of being soldiers, they are under the special control of military law). Partly this public apathy was due to the fact that women in any case drink so much less than men that the question of their having access to drink is, in the mere arithmetical sense, a much smaller one than that of men's access. Also, however, it was due to that general indifference and contempt which a voteless part

of the population always has received, and always will receive, from Press and Parliament. Nor is it any answer to say that some of the restrictions—for instance, as to hours of closing—have applied to men; for in the first place men as a whole have suffered much less restriction than women, and in the second place, even such restriction as they have suffered has in fact called forth a great deal of comment and some cavilling in the general Press.

Another obvious point is this: Legislation may or may not be passed, it is at any rate calmly proposed. What has become of our young friend the political truce? Sometimes, when we have pressed our reasonable and seasonable request for a non-party measure to embody the non-party principle of woman suffrage, we have been told, "It is true suffrage is not a party question, but it is a controversial question. Many members of both Houses are strongly opposed to it, and therefore it cannot even be introduced or discussed in Parliament."

For our part, though we have never been friendly to the inanities and insincerities of party, we have always regretted this ridiculously wide interpretation of the truce—an interpretation according to which no measure, however urgent, vital, or beneficent, could be so much as considered at any time during the war if it was objected to by the most ignorant or most incompetent or most pernicious dodderer in the darkest corner of either House. But if this fatuous sense—or rather nonsense—is the sense in which the "truce" is to be understood, let us be impartial in our application of it. If suffrage is to be barred because it is controversial, so must legislation on drink be barred—unless indeed it is in the power of the Government to frame a measure of prohibition or limitation which is incapable of being disliked by anyone, from the extremest teetotaler to the most enthusiastic producer or consumer of alcoholic liquors. If we are not to drink confusion to the truce, let us at least have a truce to this confusion.

Lastly, what about "dragging in the King"? When suffragists appealed to His Majesty to take an interest in a question which affected the honour and welfare of his country, to stretch forth a hand of protection over his countrywomen who were being tortured in prison, were met with abuse and reproach for attempting to "drag him into the area of political conflict." But the great questions that concerned us then—the questions of prostitution, of poverty, of citizenship, of the right to be spared the horrors of torture in English prisons—were and are no more and no less political than the question of drink. In all alike England's good name and England's safety are involved. Yet when it comes to the drink problem, Mr. Lloyd George drags in the King amid universal applause. The King's concern is published abroad; the King's example is held up to the nation. We yield to no one in our admiration of the King's example, but we call upon him to be consistent, and express his opinion with equal distinctness on the even more important question of votes for women. We say "even more important" not only because with the freedom of its own population is bound up the whole stability of the State, but also—and this makes the suffrage no less immediate than any other matter in its application to the war—because it is of the highest importance that we should, as a nation, have the consciousness of consistency and honesty in our waging of a war for freedom. We need to wipe out—as far as it ever can be wiped out—the national disgrace of having persecuted and tortured women who, at the worst, were fighting for their political freedom with extraordinary devotion and faith.

THAT MINISTERING ANGEL

By Henry W. Nevinson

A few weeks ago I was at a magnificent hospital for the wounded in Paris. The place had been a public building of some kind, and its marble halls were now converted into wards that anyone might dream to dwell in. One felt the presence of every possible apparatus which modern science has devised for man's comfort and for the healing of the ghastly injuries which modern science so marvellously inflicts. Radiators maintained the atmosphere at a pleasing warmth; telephones connected each ward with the surgeons' rooms, the motor garage, and the chief provision shops and markets of the city. In the operating room a patient could be put to rest as gently as a baby in its cradle, while the lumps of lead or iron which interrupted the function of tissues and organs could be detected by a miraculous form of light, and extracted almost as rapidly as they had entered.

Most of the wounded were French, but a few came from Africa—from Senegal, Algiers, and Morocco. And in passing their beds I had memories of native African life as I had so often seen it in peace time and in war—the kraals of the black and negroid races, the mud houses, ragged tents, and gipsy chaos of brown Moors and Arabs. At the foot of one bed I stopped for a moment to look at a splendid specimen of the Moroccan race—nose hooked and thin, dark skin, black hair and beard, one arm like iron lying quietly upon the red counterpane. The nurse, in her scientific manner, told me he had received a shrapnel bullet in his humerus, which at the worst, I suppose, meant little more than his shoulder. He was quite conscious, for the wound was not serious, and he suffered no particular pain. The nurse informed me he lay perfectly still all day, except, indeed, at meal-times, when, as she put it, he assimilated large quantities of nutriment. He never made the smallest effort to speak, or even to pray, as some of his fellow Moslems did, taking the bearings of Mecca as nearly as they could by the wintry sun and the angles of the ward.

My conviction is that he thought himself past praying or praying for. I believe that, like the Ancient Mariner, he thought he had died in sleep and was a happy ghost. It was Paradise that he beheld around him. Contrasted with his ramshackle tent in the desert, what finer vision of Paradise could he imagine! The richly painted walls, the polished columns, the inlaid floor, the marble-top tables, the distant groaning of a gramophone, the large quantities of nutriment to be assimilated—all combined to realise a primitive being's ideal of heavenly bliss—

"A goodly place, a goodly time,
Well worthy of the golden prime
Of good Haroun Alraschid."

And through this scene divine glided gracious and lovely figures. Clad in pearly grey, illuminated with touches of scarlet at the throat and shoulder, they moved noiselessly to and fro, ministering like angels to the needs of himself and other blessed souls, while on their heads, like angels' wings, caps of whitest lawn fluttered in the celestial air. No doubt for him the bitterness of death was passed. The enemy were unbelievers, and for killing them he had won the reward of the Prophet's Paradise to come.

I was interested, for I once suffered under a similar illusion myself, and found a rude but wholesome awakening. I had caught scarlet fever as virtue's own reward for carrying a hop-picker's sick child along a Kentish road. As people rightly insisted on my going to a fever hospital, I was wrapped in blankets and dragged away in a kind of hearse driven by two men, one of whom observed, "Neither Scotch nor Irish!" and relapsed into befitting gloom.

A doctor looked at my chest, took my temperature, and wrote a ticket, grasping which I was led to a long ward and put into a bed. It was really the fever that kept me awake all night, but of course I put it down to the cough-

ing and groaning of the patients, the movements of a woman with a lamp (I felt I ought to kiss her shadow on my pillow, but I didn't), and the ceaseless howling of a baby for its mother, who was far away in Bow.

Being a man, and in those days unaccustomed to fevers, I thought I was pretty sure to die, cut off in the flower of my manhood. But as light came and I heard the morning trams beginning to pass, I grew calmer, comforted by the thought that I not only need not, but could not go to work. I raised my head and looked around. There lay all the tiresome creatures I had heard coughing and groaning. Tied to the bediron above me was the label that the doctor had written out, and I saw upon it a sort of hop-scotch diagram, at one side of which was written "Temp. 102." I knew that in course of time my "temp." would draw a waggling line across it, like a statistic of the birthrate, or a tidemark upon the yellow sands. But I was more interested to read at the top of the label the ominous words, "Scarlet male, 7143."

"Good heavens!" I thought, "that's a pretty accurate description of me, but what would be Mrs. Grundy's feelings to wake and read above her bed 'Scarlet female, 71430'?" It would be the death of her."

I am inclined now to think that something of that kind did in fact happen, for Mrs. Grundy died soon afterwards.

Though agitated by these sympathetic fears, I fell into a soothing trance, in the midst of which I became dimly conscious that the day-nurses were coming in. Drowsily I followed their movements with a tender and admiring comfort, so fresh and bright and clean they looked, and all for my service. My pleasure increased as I saw one of them approaching my bed, as though to welcome the new arrival.

"Now for the ministering angel," I thought, and waited with half-closed eyes.

"Get up and wash!" she said, in a loud, firm voice.

I lay silent, bewildered, confused, as though by earthquake.

"Get up and wash!" she repeated, in more decisive tones.

I could not move. I was overwhelmed. My first principles of angelic behaviour lay in the throes of revolution.

Then I felt my left leg seized by a powerful grasp and vigorously shaken.

"Do you hear me!" repeated that persistent voice, with gathering emphasis: "Get up and wash!"

At last I felt impelled to speak. "You are neither uncertain nor coy, madam," I whispered through my burning throat, "and perhaps you are not really hard to please. I doubt if you are variable as the shade by the light quivering aspen made. But you appear scarcely to realise that pain and anguish wring my brow."

"Here's your flannel and the soap," she said, and looking round, I saw she was right. On a locker beside the bed stood an enamelled basin with a bit of flannel, a small cube of kitchen soap—the kind that won't wash human beings—and a towel.

"Now be quick," she cried; "the maids will be round in half a minute to scrub the floor."

She gave my leg another vigorous shaking to make sure I shouldn't backslide into sleep again, and passed on to the next bed.

I had never felt quite like that since I was five and had to do what the nursemaid told me. So I got out of bed and washed all right—I who thought myself dying. Hardly had I finished what novelists would call my "hurried toilet" when maids actually did arrive with clattering pails, and swished the soap and water in vast circles over the boards, while on the island of my bed I trembled, like Belinda's sylphs, at the sea that frothed below.

I recovered from that fever with unexampled rapidity, and so found out how a really first-class angel ministers. "A man," said Dr. Johnson, "should never put himself out to nurse." I imagine he was afraid of exposing himself to a softening, sentimental, and invalid habit. If he had enjoyed so bracing an experience as mine, he need have laboured under no such apprehension.



"HER CROWN OF THORNS"
The sufferings of the mothers of the nations at war have inspired this cartoon, which is reprinted from the "New York Evening Mail." Block kindly lent by the "Daily Chronicle."

CORRESPONDENCE

ARE SUFFRAGISTS SLAVES TO FASHION?

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—The curiously disjointed style of the "Anonymous Correspondent" who contributes a letter on Fashion to your columns this week makes it a little difficult to follow her arguments; but in any case I doubt if her arguments are of very great importance or interest to us as Suffragists. The fashions which we are out to remedy—the fashions which shock and disgust and horrify us—may be seen any day in our slums and mean streets; and men, women and children alike wear them. Until there is a pretty radical change in this direction, I think we do right to "restrict our energies" to wider and graver questions than the question of the number of inches round the hems of our skirts. But in our fight we need every weapon, the vote not least of all; and ours, being a paper chiefly devoted to securing this advantage for us, may really be excused for not inaugurating a "silly season column" on the best Carmelite model, as your correspondent appears to suggest.—Yours, &c.,

M. MEARS.

North Shields.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—You invite criticism of "Your Anonymous Critic in the 'Times'" criticism of VOTES FOR WOMEN. Perhaps the consideration which prevented my sending you a suggestion that Suffragists should decline, as a body, to adopt a silly and ill-timed change of dress may enlighten your correspondent as to why a subject concerning women so intimately was noticed in the "Times," and was not noticed in VOTES FOR WOMEN.

My reason, then, for deciding not to send you my small scheme, was the fact that the women who read VOTES FOR WOMEN are one and all women competent to judge, each for herself, what is or is not a suitable and dignified dress for self-respecting women, and that to suppose that your readers needed to be instructed as to what they should put on, and "warned off" a silly fashion, as if they were the children and lunatics with whom the law classes them, would be an impertinence to which you very properly would decline to give a place in your columns.

TWO NEW BOOKS

HUMAN RELATIONS*

Whether Mr. G. E. Boxall's book was originally published in French, or whether the volume before us is a translation, does not appear. As, however, the name of a translator is not given, we conclude the former. The headings of chapters indicate the scope of the work, which ranges, a trifle discursively and superficially perhaps, from the Patriarchal period and the Patriarchal period to Education and what it ought to be, to the Importance of Free Speech, Maternity in the Future, and the Coming Era. There is much that is suggestive and shrewd—the definition of the "great docile class," for instance, who form the mass of every nation. They are neither mad nor imbecile, but simply serious folk, logical to a certain degree. These are taught certain opinions in childhood, and acquire a certain character, which seldom changes afterwards, although sometimes the docile are forced into rebellion by the pressure of outer conditions. They are found in all classes, from princes to professors, however learned; they are not original, nor do they question authority. Contrasted with these are the disturbers or "agitators," who rebel and innovate. Mr. Boxall recognises the importance of France, the Republic, to the world, by reason of her intellectual force and tolerant spirit; but he seems to ignore Germany, a striking omission in the light of recent events. He considers that "at present men and women have different interests, and struggle against each other," but looks forward to an age of progress under democracy, "an age in which many in-

justices will be righted, in which we shall leave behind darkness, war, and cruelty, and shall finally enter upon a new era of peace, justice, and science." A little vague, but comforting! M. H.

THEOSOPHICAL IDEALS†

The interest of this collection of essays lies very largely in their diversity, and in the way each one demonstrates the appeal made by Theosophy to a certain type of mind. Mrs. Annie Besant's views on Theosophy are too well known to need any remarks of ours, but the connection she sees between Social Reform and Theosophy, the theme of the opening paper in the collection, would alone recommend the book to reformers. Mr. Laurence Housman's lecture on "The Moving Spirit of Womanhood" does not profess to express anything but the views of an "outsider," from the theosophical point of view; but as such it offers many attractions, not least to Suffragists. Mr. Baillie-Weaver propounds in "The Treatment of Animals and Its Effects" the very fine doctrine of the Theosophist with regard to what are so glibly termed the "lower" animals; and Mrs. Baillie-Weaver, well known to our readers as "G. Colmore," gives a straight talk on "Standards and Ideals of Purity," and shows the terrible national effects of the low ideals resulting from the present dual standard of morality for the two sexes.

* "Les Trois Ages de l'Homme. Etude de l'Evolution de l'Humainite." By George Eedes Boxall. (London: Williams and Norgate. Price 3s.)

† "Theosophical Ideals and the Immediate Future." Lectures by Mrs. Besant, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Baillie-Weaver, Mrs. Baillie-Weaver. (London: Theosophical Publishing Society. Price 1s. net)

The columns of the "Times," on the contrary, are a fit and proper place for that impertinence, for the "Times" invariably deals with questions concerning women on the assumption that a woman is either a child or a lunatic, and in need of shepherdly care. The paper which could give hospitality to women of a kind which could hardly be found elsewhere in the twentieth century outside the nursery or the schoolroom. VOTES FOR WOMEN is read by and intended for grown women—women two centuries beyond the eighteenth century type of amiability which still is "woman" for the survivors of that century, of which last the "Times" and (in most cases) its distinguished contributors are interesting examples.

But even the "Times" does not give its space for advice to men on the cut of their coats, or for hints as to chaste designs in waistcoats—it considers men to be responsible and reasonable beings, and, as such, to be left to themselves in these matters, however ugly or ungrainly the results may prove. But it dragoons women, because it does not believe them to be either reasonable or responsible beings. VOTES FOR WOMEN, therefore, is acting on precisely the same principle when it refuses to advise women as to dress and kind matters, for it is then treating women as reasonable and responsible beings able to judge in such matters for themselves, just as the "Times" treats men when it abstains from playing the part of grandmother to them.

This, I think, is a sufficient answer for such a letter as that of your correspondent in the "Times," and it would be useless to go deeper and to point out to your correspondent that VOTES FOR WOMEN deals weekly with cases of aberration in men beside which any possible nonsense of dress in women fade to nothingness. Women, in VOTES FOR WOMEN and out of it, are too gravely occupied in awakening men to a sense of responsibility for the hideous evils resulting from a want of self-control and will power in men, which, so long as it continues, forbids them any claim to either reason or responsibility, and which renders them both fatuous and ridiculous, or, rather, perhaps, pitiful, to a woman, when they blindly and stupidly turn and admonish her on the length of a skirt or the height of a pair of heels.

When the great majority of men have proved that they possess the self-control proper to any being claiming to be a reasonable creature, and not merely a brute possessed of a thinking machine, women will respect them and be ready to tolerate

even foolish letters to the "Times." Until which time, let them keep silence.—Yours, &c., LILLIAN F. SUFFERN.

THE REGISTER OF WOMEN

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—In your list of statements on the question of the Board of Trade Scheme on War Service for Women, which you published in your issue of March 26, you reprint a statement made by me on behalf of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, a paragraph which appeared in the *Evening News*. It is a result of a telephone conversation which passed between me and a reporter of that newspaper, and the sentence "We approve of the scheme if it will help women to get the vote" is a pure invention of his. The statement which I made to him was identical with that which I afterwards sent to the Press, and which appeared in a number of newspapers.—Yours, &c., E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The East London Federation of Suffragettes. [In a previous issue we gave a brief abstract of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's statement, together with the opinions of other leading Suffragists on the subject.—Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

TRAGEDY OF RELIEF

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—May I call attention to the recent action of the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund? A working woman in distress through the war has been receiving ten shillings per week for a few months. Recently the committee reduced her allowance to five shillings per week on the plea that there is plenty of work to be found. During the time relief has been received the woman has tried in all manner of ways to get work without success. She formerly kept a tiny sweetstuff shop, which failed through war prices. She is fifty-seven years of age, and has weak eyesight, which prevents her from sewing and doing any close work. From the five shillings she now receives, there is three and sixpence to be paid for rent, leaving 1s. 6d. for food, light, coal, clothes, and fares to hunt for work!—Yours, &c., "LEYTON DISTRICT."

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS AT THE HAGUE

As we have already announced, this Congress will be held on April 28, 29 and 30.

The resolutions (which are open to amendment) are divided under three heads: (1) Some principles of a peace settlement; (2) War in its relation to women; (3) General, e.g., promotion of good feeling between nations, and the influence of education.

No discussion upon the relative national responsibility for or conduct of the present war will be allowed. The invitation to the Congress is issued by the women of Holland, a neutral country. There is no proposal for a "peace-at-any-price" propaganda.

Application forms for passports should be obtained at once from the Foreign Office. Two duplicate photographs must accompany the application. Application for a permit to visit Holland must also be made at the Permit office, Downing Street, at least three days before sailing. The applicant must take the passport to the office in person. People living in the country may apply by letter a week beforehand, but must visit the office personally the day before sailing.

The British Committee asks for names of all intending to go, as they have to arrange for a special ship to start on April 24 or 25. Address, Queen Anne's Chambers (Room 37, sixth floor), 22, Broadway, Westminster. Information as to hotels and hospitalities at The Hague is supplied at the same address.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES AND RELATIVES

From a letter signed by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Harben, and Mrs. Lansbury, we extract the following:—

We write to call your attention to the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives, several branches of which have already been formed in various districts. The soldiers' wives, mothers and other dependent relatives need an organisation of their own to act for them in all cases of individual or collective difficulty. The members of this League are all bona fide dependants of soldiers and sailors eligible for pensions and separation allowances, and at least two-thirds of each local or central committee of the organisation must be composed in the same way. The League will make it their business to enquire into and secure redress for individual grievances, beside striving to improve the conditions of the whole body of soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives. The League will act as the family lawyer does in the case of well-to-do people, and as the Trade Union does in the case of miners, millwaymen and others.

Though the majority of the League's members will, of course, be women, fathers and other dependant men relatives are eligible for membership, and one of these has been placed on the committee of the branch of the League which has recently been formed in West Ham.

The members of the League will each pay a minimum subscription of 1d. a month, or more if they choose, and when once the League has been firmly established all over the country, its members will no doubt collect the money that is needed for its maintenance. But at the present time subscriptions are urgently needed in order to make the existence of the League of Rights widely known to the vast numbers of people whose mutual help and protection it has been started. The Financial Secretary is Mr. J. Banks, 6, Campbell Road, Bow, E.

UNLIKE THE MEN!

He: "Suppose you get into office and there's a proposition comes up that you know absolutely nothing about. What would you do?" She: "Unlike the men, I think I'd have sense enough not to meddle with it.—Puck.

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COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES	HEAVY SENTENCES
Assaulting a Wife	Forgery
The <i>Morning Advertiser</i> (March 29) reports case of a fishmonger charged at Marylebone Police Court, before Mr. Paul Taylor, with assaulting his wife. It was stated that he gave her a "knock-out" blow on the chin, sending her senseless to the ground. On recovering, she hit him back, and he then kicked her in the face. He had often assaulted her in this manner. Prisoner had been charged many times with larceny and assault. Sentence: <i>Fourteen days' hard labour.</i>	The <i>Morning Advertiser</i> (March 31) reports case of a furrier charged at the Central Criminal Court, before Mr. Justice Low, with forging and uttering a £5 Bank of England note. Prisoner, who denied all knowledge of the forgery, said he picked up sixteen notes in a pocket-book at Gatwick races, and believed them to be genuine. The judge, referring to this assertion, pointed out that as one of the notes had been passed by a cashier of a bank, prisoner, who was given a good character, was not alone in believing them to be genuine. Sentence: <i>Three years' penal servitude.</i>
Ill-treating a Donkey	Housebreaking
The <i>Morning Advertiser</i> (March 17) reports case of a labourer charged at North London Police Court, before Mr. Hedderwick, with cruelly beating a donkey, and further with biting the police constable. It was stated that prisoner beat the animal with a stick until it fell down and then struck it while on the ground. Sentence: <i>One month's hard labour for the cruelty and fourteen days for biting the constable.</i>	The <i>Morning Advertiser</i> (March 8) reports case of a French polisher and a carpenter charged at the Middlesex Sessions, before Mr. Montagu Sharpe, with housebreaking. There were previous convictions against the first prisoner, who pleaded for leniency, stating that he was in a very weak state of health and unable to work. Sentence: <i>Three and a half years' penal servitude and eighteen months' hard labour respectively.</i>

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All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORENCE CANNING MEMO. — FRIAL. Subscribers are invited to endow a cot in the Women's Hospital for Children, Harrow Road, founded by Drs. Garrett Anderson and Flora Murray.—Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Monck Mason, 93, Oakley Street, Chelsea.

MISS CHRISTOPHER ST. JOHN will lecture on "Woman under Monasticism" at the Suffrage Club on Tuesday, April 13, at 8 p.m. Tickets: 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Charing Cross.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will resume its Wednesday afternoon Public Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, W., April 14, at 3.30. Speakers: The Rev. W. Piggott, subject "Expert Bureaucracy as Freedom's Poe," and Mrs. Marion Holmes, subject "Their Amazing Doings." Admission free.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE announce a Public Meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, W., Sunday, April 18, 3.30. Speaker: The Rev. Hatty Baker, subject "The War and After." Admission free. Discussion. Collection. Tea.

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