

THE VOTE
March 5, 1915
ONE PENNY

KVINDELIG
LÆSEFORENING
LAURENCE HOUSMAN ON THE WAR.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1915.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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INSULT TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

STATUE UNVEILED BY A WORKMAN AT 7.30 A.M.

It is the strangest thing; should I live to be the age of Methusaleh, I shall never forget the unveiling of Florence Nightingale's statue. Early in February I wrote to the First Commissioner of Works for an invitation to be present at the unveiling of the statue in Waterloo Place. The reply referred me to someone else, and he made answer that should there be an unveiling he would do his best to oblige me. Suddenly we all read in the press that on the most slushy morning of the year a workman, at 7.30 a.m., tears the veil off Mr. A. G. Walker's statue of the Lady of the Lamp.

The Nightingale Memorial Committee did not think a public ceremonial suitable. Why not? We are at war. This woman saved thousands of lives of men by skill, devotion, high organising capacity, and a courage that has never been surpassed. One would like to know whether there were any women on the Committee; if there were, surely they have strangely misjudged the wishes of their sex, their undoubted desire to do honour to one of the greatest and noblest of women. Miss Nightingale became a member of the London Society for Women's Suffrage very shortly after its foundation, and remained so till her death; she joined at the request of John Stuart Mill. The National Union would doubtless gladly have made the unveiling of the statue a great demonstration in Miss Nightingale's honour. The hospitals of London would have been delighted to seize the occasion on behalf of the founder of modern scientific nursing. Suffragists would have hailed the opportunity, and one could mention a dozen other bodies, including the Statistical Society, the Royal Army Medical Corps, the Royal Army Medical College, which would only have been too glad to co-operate in honouring Florence Nightingale.

It is something to have erected a statue in her

honour, something that it should be near that of "her Master" as she delighted to call Sydney Herbert, her life-long friend and beloved co-adjutor, something that it should be near the Crimean monument, for it was in the Crimea that the first and smaller part of her life-work was done. It was there she lost her health, there that she made so many official enemies that, as she herself observed, they would gladly have burned her at the stake, like Joan Darc, had they only dared. Had Florence Nightingale died in 1859, as she herself and nearly all her friends expected, in all probability, despite the shameful mismanagement of the Army in the Crimean War, that gigantic muddle which resulted in 9,000 preventable deaths in hospital, we should have had an imposing public ceremonial on Feb. 24th, 1915, in honour of Miss Nightingale, instead of a workman pulling the canvas off at 7.30 a.m. But Florence Nightingale returned to England in August 1856 "filled with a passion of resentment" against those who had murdered "her children," as she styled British soldiers: "I stand at the altar of the murdered men," she declared, "and whilst I live I fight their cause." Her splendid fight has been made plain to us in Sir Edward Cook's admirable biography.

Many years of her patriarchally long life were taken up fighting the War Office; on more than one occasion she nearly burst it with statistical bombs, for she was one of the greatest living statisticians. She had the talent for *applying* figures; they began to take on meaning. It was thus that when she learnt from a census report that the civil death-rate for Kensington for men of a certain age was 3.3 and from an army report that that of the Knightsbridge Barracks was 17.5, she collated the two and pointed out that our men were enlisting to death in the barracks. As the same kind of thing—that is,

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complete neglect of sanitation and of rational living—was going on in all the barracks of the country the Lady-in-Chief pointed out that it was much the same thing as if the authorities took 1,100 soldiers annually to Salisbury Plain and shot them by platoons. The War Office in time, and with a little exercise of Christian charity, could have forgiven our heroine for dragging down the deathrate at Scutari from 42 per cent. to 2.2; after all, the permanent officials were not on the spot in the Crimea. But when it came to actual things at home and at the moment, they felt consumed by the rage which French generals felt when Joan Darc succeeded where they had failed, and by the same fury of the English generals whose career of conquest was ended by a woman.

In 1859 Sidney Herbert was appointed Secretary for War. He and Florence Nightingale worked hand in glove to reform the War Office; he overworked to such a point that he died in 1861, to Miss Nightingale's infinite grief. When she had recovered somewhat and had taken stock of the situation she caustically observed: "The reign of intelligence at the War Office is over; the reign of muffs has now begun." Her nickname for Herbert's successor was "the muff." Indeed, as Surgeon-General Evatt remarked in a recent lecture, Florence Nightingale was far more the lady of the torpedo than the Lady of the Lamp. This is not the place to tell of her great work for the army, her lifelong devotion to its welfare. She placed army statistics on such a footing that they were the model for Europe. She founded the Army Medical School now housed on the site of the old Millbank prison. Her great idea was not only that the sickness of the soldier should be cured, but that his health, moral, mental and physical, should be the unceasing care of the army authorities. To this end drinking facilities were lessened, every barracks must have a reading-room, temperance refreshment room, provision for games, and, in course of time, regimental workshops were set on foot. In the Crimea the officers called the soldiers drunken animals, and told Miss Nightingale she was spoiling the brutes, for it was then and there that she began this work. But she has revolutionised the soldier's life, made a man of him, something more than the mere fighting machine that the Duke of Wellington cared for, whilst calling our army the rabble and scum of the earth. Had they but known of the immense work Florence Nightingale achieved for the army—the work in the Crimea was mere child's play to the work in the War Office—I believe every recruit of the three millions England has raised within the last few months would have wished to be present at the unveiling of her statue, even at 7.30 a.m.

Of course a statue comes under the Department of Works and Public Buildings, not the War Office. It is difficult to know exactly how these things are managed; a mere nod or a wink probably suffices. I observed at the time Sir E. T. Cook's "Life" was published and reviewed that military papers were most chary of alluding to Miss Nightingale's heroic attempt to "redd up" the War Office. One of them stated that she developed a fine talent for intrigue, a curious way of looking at this woman reformer's work.

Miss Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820. Might not a great demonstration be held on the anniversary of her birth to mark the place she holds in the affections of her sex? No woman has ever excited amongst her own sex so much passionate and affectionate admiration. Feb. 24, at 7.30 a.m. should not close the account; if ceremony cannot be permitted by "Them as is Above," women should go in their thousands to testify what they think. More than 300 years ago the poet Spenser drew attention to the fact that men belittle women's doings. Never has there been a more striking example of this kind of meanness and ingratitude than Feb. 24, 1915, at 7.30 a.m. C. S. BREMNER.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

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HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Piccadilly.

Next Wednesday afternoon our President (Mrs. Despard) will speak on "The Public-House." This will be of special interest as our North London Branches expect to open "The Despard Arms" on March 27. Miss Nina Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m. The following week we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. E. M. Moore, whose subject is "The Price."

Sunday afternoon, April 18, the Rev. Hatty Baker has promised to give us an address. Will readers kindly keep this date free? Those who have heard Miss Baker on previous occasions will be anxious not to miss this opportunity of hearing her again, and those who have not done so may look forward to a really pleasant Sunday afternoon.

English and Welsh Campaigns.

During the coming week a fine series of meetings has been arranged at Letchworth, the speakers being Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, Miss Anna Munro and Miss Alix M. Clark. After the Letchworth campaign Miss Clark will run another in Montgomery Boroughs. A number of drawing-room and public meetings have been arranged, at which the speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro and Miss Clark. On March 29 a public meeting will be held at Aberdovey Hall, the speakers being Mrs. Despard and Miss Munro, when we hope a Branch of the Women's Freedom League will be firmly established. Mrs. Frances Lewis has for some time been working hard with this end in view, and we trust that her efforts will be crowned with success. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

CAFÉ CHANTANT.

The Actresses' Franchise League, United Suffragists, the East London Federation of Suffragettes, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, and the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps have all taken stalls at our Café Chantant at Caxton Hall, Thursday and Friday, March 11 and 12, from 3.30 to 10.30 p.m. Miss Lena Ashwell has consented to open the Café Chantant on Friday, and we hope next week to give the list of artistes who have so kindly promised their services. Tickets are now on sale at Headquarters: 1/- before 6 o'clock, including tea, and 6d. after six o'clock.

Our friends will greatly help us by securing their own tickets as early as possible, and taking others to sell to their friends. Madame Carola and Mrs. Corner are arranging a first-rate programme for the big hall; Miss Edith Craig has promised specially attractive side-shows; and Mrs. Thomson Price has very kindly promised to give "Psychic Delineations." We again appeal to our readers to assist us in any of the following ways:—

1. Sending to this office saleable articles, especially well-made underclothing, overalls, blouses, household linen, plants, home-made foods, etc., and presents for our "white elephant" stall, which will be in charge of Mrs. Tanner.
2. Sending cakes and provisions for the refreshment department, or money donations to buy milk, bread, etc.
3. Sending contributions of money for the special Café Chantant Fund to add to the profits of the undertaking.
4. Taking as many tickets as possible at 1/- (afternoon) and 6d. (evening), and selling them widely before the day. We want to sell at least 1,000 of each before March 11.

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

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN ON HOME TRUTHS IN WAR TIME.

Speaking at our "Wednesday" at the Suffrage Club on Feb. 24, Mr. Laurence Housman said that when a nation went to war or a Government to the country, it struck a platform attitude, thumped a spotless breast and boasted "All the Virtues." It became inhumanly good, or wanted people to think it so. That might be an expedient, necessary under certain circumstances, but Mr. Housman maintained that neither expediency nor necessity made it true. Suffragists, at any rate, could hardly trust the protestations of Governments, and he urged them to use their common-sense in judging the value of such protestations when made by nations. War was a breakdown of civilisation, a ghastly catastrophe, a disease breaking out of peace conditions; the peace conditions of all nations contained the unsolved problems of poverty, disease, prostitution, luxury, greed, capitalism, over-population, bureaucracy and unequal laws, all of which were conducive to war because conducive to discontent and unrest. For those things all the nations alike were responsible, and if people wanted to arrive at the truth of things they would not easily find it in the general assumption that "we are angels, our opponents are devils!"

Mr. Housman declared that physical force, the basis of anti-Suffragist government, always needed a good moral conscience to back it, otherwise it fell to pieces, and a good moral conscience had become more and more necessary for nations at war. That necessity was carefully supplied to the belligerents by their own diplomatists and their Press. The result was that we were presented with one picture and our opponents with another, and no matter how they varied, each believed the picture presented to be the true one. Politicians were in the habit of dealing only with immediate causes, but the truth lay deeper—in the normal conditions shared by all. Suffragists, in their fight for freedom, had had some experience of our national conditions. Had they not encountered tyranny, selfishness, greed, injustice, untruth, breaches of faith, broken promises, "scraps of paper" thrown to the winds? These things did not disappear from view as they approached Ministers of Cabinet rank. Indeed, political rank bred them like tares. The lecturer thought that the best we could say for our nation was that the common people wished to be just, or did not wish to be unjust, if the case were made clear and were also made to matter. But even among the common people there was plenty of indolence, indifference, prejudice and any amount of stupidity, all of which were encouraged by the Party politicians and the Press. Such were the ingredients before the war began. They had not now suddenly ceased to exist; their evil effects were at work in other directions. Given those ingredients, Mr. Housman declared it was easier to stumble into a just quarrel than to come out victors content to impose no more than a just peace. We might trust our soldiers to win for us, but could we trust our bureaucrats to make peace for us? Had they given Suffragists much cause for confidence?

Mr. Housman wanted a Suffragist peace, with the Suffrage principle raised high for all nations alike, whether friend or foe. It was difficult to remain fair under war conditions, and there were many who did not want to be fair to enemies—they wanted to revenge themselves, to dominate. Yet, if we insisted on dominance over other nationalities, Kaiserism had conquered us, had infected us. There were many in this country who were clamouring for the "bitter end" solution, that Germany should be crushed; but our terms of peace should

assert the principle of nationality fearlessly—in Poland, in Finland, in Serbia and in Alsace. We need not crush anybody.

Mr. Housman considered that modern war conditions were a strong argument for Woman Suffrage. Non-combatants had paid a heavy price, they had been pushed into the fighting line, and it was clearly proved that men could not protect women. It was time women came in to share in the policies of nations, if only to prevent a demonstration of the powerlessness of men.

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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.

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CHARMERS OR DRUDGES?

How difficult it is for the mere man to discuss any question in which women's affairs are concerned without jocularity, let those who study the long-winded pages of Hansard bear record. Mr. Chaplin and Sir Harry Verney, a few days back, were entertaining the House with their views on the agricultural labour problem; the three positions open to the Government and the farmer being:—(a) Better wages; (b) child labour; and (c) women labourers. (Let us remark, *en parenthèse*, that better wages and women labourers would, of course, not be a proposition that these representative gentlemen could by any possibility contemplate. "Better wages" would be for the male labourer only. Female labour naturally presupposes no necessity to discuss wages of any sort.) Mr. Chaplin deplored the disappearance of the milkmaid. It grieved him to the soul that the chance wayfarer no longer found opportunity for saying "Where are you going, my pretty maid?" And Sir Harry Verney, in evident distrust of Mr. Chaplin's motives—or so anyone not versed in Parliamentary methods of debate might have been pardoned for imagining—would not promise, in attempting to restore the long lost milkmaid, to detail the pretty ones for duty in Mr. Chaplin's constituency.

Mr. Chaplin further lamented that the pretty maids now-a-days, instead of desiring a future devoted to curds and churns, want to play the piano or read Shakespeare. It is, of course, and always has been, an obvious and unpardonable grievance that young women have desired to share the educational advantages of their brothers. The sons of families in which the accomplishments alluded to so sourly by Mr. Chaplin are to be found do not go out as plough-boys or crow-scarers. They are probably mechanics or clerks; while the girls become teachers or typists. This is a very sad state of things; and although the incurable facetiousness with which hon. and right hon. gentlemen, and noble lords, are always afflicted when speaking of women impelled Mr. Chaplin and Sir Harry to make their waggish contributions as usual, yet anyone reading between the lines could see how sad and mad and bad it was and what another example of feminine folly and perversity.

Men people always want to have it both ways at once with women. Mr. Chaplin demands in captious and complaining terms that the milkmaid shall be restored to his agricultural horizon. He also demands that she shall be a pretty maid. But when the question of better wages came under consideration only two members remembered the maids—pretty or otherwise. Their minds flew at once to the Labour Exchanges, to Irish, to Belgian labour; not female. Members shied away impatiently from statements that women could do the work

better than boys; reasons of every sort were discovered why they should not and could not do the work at all. Regardless of the facts that Belgium, France and many other countries whose agricultural activities, infinitely superior to ours, are to an enormous extent carried on by women, hon. members shook their heads over women's incapacity and unsuitableness. Sir Harry Verney showed that in Scotland and the north of England from 35 to 40 per cent. of the persons employed in agricultural work were women, *exclusive* of wives and families of farmers; but that did not shake the conviction of the House that female labour is unsuitable and insufficient, once the alluring subject of better wages had been raised.

So woman working on a farm must be a "pretty maid" and please Mr. Chaplin. She must also be a sweated maid, and compete with the school-boy of 11 and 12 for wages. She should not have other accomplishments or information than those calculated to enhance her agricultural value (without enhancing her pay); and she must always labour under the imputation of being an unsuitable person for the job, so that if ever it became a coveted one it may be taken from her for her good. The world of women is still divided into the charmers and the drudges; but now Mr. Chaplin wants to impose a new burden and have it both ways.

The debate, like that on the rise in the price of food, was inconclusive and silly. One hon. member spoke nothing but the truth when he said that it was an ill-informed debate, and that few had brought to it any facts or figures of importance. No one seemed even to know what the shortage of farm labour was; neither was there the foggiest glimmer of light in regard to the amount that Ireland, or the Labour Exchanges, could supply if applied to. The rank and hopeless ignorance of the part played by women in agricultural life in really agricultural countries, and the services rendered by them in building up the structure of agricultural commerce, was grotesque. Like most of the House of Commons' views on women's questions, the debate was distinguished by incapacity of thought and narrow-mindedness of outlook; the reasons for woman's disappearance from the agricultural field in the south and her survival in the hard-headed north no one ever considered.

The debate, of course, was supposed to be on the question of child employment. The point of whether or not women should be employed was a side issue, and was—again, of course—debated without the views of any one organisation being sought or any attention being devoted to their point of view. But more insulting and intolerable still is the position that this question of child labour can be decided without consultation with the mothers. No woman is to be allowed to help to decide whether or not her sons are to be robbed of their last year of schooling, or whether they are to be handed over to the tender mercy of task-masters before their infancy has passed. The fate of the farm boy is a hard one; unimaginable suffering is his lot. We note that the jocund Mr. Chaplin and his merry mates refrained from chorussing about his fate in gleeful staves. "To be a farmer's boy" is not so seductive as even to be the pretty maid going a milking. But the mothers of the children have a right to say whether this question should or should not be discussed—a right that, it is a foregone conclusion, will be repudiated by the men who misgovern us.

Until women wield power as well as give service, ill-informed, unrepresentative representatives will blunder on their way, making their foolish jests, missing the obvious points, and being the tools and pawns of a small handful of clever wire-pullers and controllers of profits and policies. C. NINA BOYLE.

THE "CHIVALRY" OF SCOTTISH MEN.

Once more Edinburgh men have distinguished themselves by gallantry and chivalry towards the other sex. The memory of the book-binding dispute is still fresh in our minds; now we have another example of the uncompromising opposition of Edinburgh men towards women attempting to enter a new trade. Some weeks ago the Edinburgh Tramcar Company advertised for "women of respectable parentage and patriotic feeling, to present themselves as suitable candidates for tramcar conductors." Why the "respectable parentage" was deemed necessary I know not, but so it was. A large number of women answered the advertisement, duly presented themselves, were found suitable, and accepted. The men's Union then interfered, and said they would not work with women. The masters, instead of being firm, gave in, and said: "If the men within a week could find a sufficiency of men to work the cars, they would reconsider their decision." Finally, as the *Glasgow Herald* puts it, "the difficulty was solved"; the Union, after a great effort, found the required number, and the men already working agreed to work overtime.

At this time of national crisis and anxiety, I consider the action of the men most unpatriotic, narrow-minded, absurd and productive of great economic waste. In Scotland there are no men on relief works, though there are thousands of women who, directly owing to the war, lost their employment and often the man who was their wage-earner. For these women in all the large towns special work-rooms have been opened. Men's labour, on the contrary, is being eagerly sought. Every employer of labour has the same story: "Plenty of work, but a shortage of labourers." A ship-builder told me last week "not an able-bodied man need be idle for an hour." Another man told me one of the reasons for the rise in the cost of living was the scarcity of labour at the docks, ships come in and sometimes lie there days before they can be unloaded, and every hour they lie in the docks adds to the cost of their cargoes. All Government works on the Clyde could employ more men; the same is true on the East coast; dockers are scarce at Leith, and more men are required all the time at Rosyth for the new naval base. In the face of all this, when every man can find a job, surely the Edinburgh tramcar men should have welcomed the help of women rather than have refused to work with them.

Mr. Lloyd George at the beginning of the war said that everyone's duty was not only to fight the foe, but to keep trade and commerce as usual, so that financially we could stand the strain of the war; this can best be done, not by setting up relief works, but by allowing men and women to work wherever their work is wanted. To handicap a sex at this time is nothing short of idiocy.

The prejudice that still exists in regard to woman's work is unbelievable. In Glasgow for some time there has been considerable talk about appointing women police. At a meeting of the Vigilance Society in Glasgow on February 23, Sir Samuel Chisholm, Bart., in the chair, it was declared that the matter was temporarily in abeyance because of the war. Sir Samuel, in his speech, referring to the proposal to appoint women police, said he thought "the name of *Women Police* stood in the way of their appointment." It would be well, he added, if some other name could be found to describe the particular work they would be called on to perform. There it is again; women are to be allowed to do the work, but it must be carefully disguised from the public that they have any power or authority; if they are graciously allowed to work,

this privilege alone must content them. They may wriggle in through the back door, but never walk in by the front. How often have these weary fights to be fought? The first woman doctor was advised to hide her sex and don male attire, and overcome male prejudice by thus disguising her identity.

We have become so accustomed to the usual stock arguments against women's right to work, and above all her right to enter a new trade or profession, that the replies come to us automatically; they are card indexed, so to speak, in our brains. But just now, when the country requires every man and woman, we feel particularly sore about the attitude adopted by the men's Union of the Edinburgh tramcars.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

Smoking Concert.

A very successful and enjoyable concert in aid of the funds of the Corps was held at the Suffrage Club on Feb. 26. Dr. Houston Collisson delighted everybody with his Irish songs and witty anecdotes; Miss Fox's troupe of Merry Maids danced and sang; Mme. Anna Carola's singing of English and French songs was pleasing as always; Mr. Rose's songs and Miss Dorothy Sidley's piano solo were well received. A novel feature of the programme was a sketch by Miss K. Raleigh entitled "Dogs and People," an actual conversation overheard in Hyde Park; Miss Gladys Gullen's whistling and Miss Gullen's recitations won much applause. To all who helped us we tender our sincere thanks.

Clothes from the Dominions Overseas.

A large case of clothes arrived last week from Pietermaritzburg; we are unable to discover and thank the kind donor as no letter was enclosed. We have had an urgent appeal to help the poor of Brittany, who are in very great want at present, so the larger portion of these garments will be sent to them through the Red Cross. A large parcel of clothes has been received from Herne Bay, also without the slightest clue as to who sent it. If the donor sees this acknowledgment, will she kindly accept our grateful thanks?

Nine Elms Restaurant and Play Club.

Mrs. Tippet thanks most cordially the following friends for gifts to the Restaurant, Club, etc.:—Miss Benett for dusters and khaki for boys' shirts; Miss Crombie for cake and a sieve; an anonymous friend for a gift of apples and vegetables; many good friends for toys for the Club; Miss Ethel Bull for making two sets of clothes (Despard design) for little girls of 4. Other sets wanted are:—Two sets for girls of 6; one set for a girl of 8; one for a girl of 9. Helpers are urgently wanted for the Children's Play Club, and gifts of all kinds for the Restaurant will be most welcome.

Jumble Sale.

The London Branches Council Jumble Sale will take place at Tolmer's Square Institute, Drummond-st., N.W., Saturday, March 6, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Fisher appeals urgently for saleable goods and for helpers who should be at the Institute at 3 o'clock. Parcels can be sent addressed to Mrs. Fisher at the W.F.L. Office up till Friday.

WOMAN VETERINARY SURGEON AT THE FRONT.—The Galway County Council has unanimously granted Miss Cush, V.S., Mount Bellew, one of the few women veterinary surgeons in Ireland, leave of absence on her appointment with the Expeditionary Army.

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Mrs. Julia Wood (per Miss F. A. Underwood) ... 2 2 0
Mrs. Letts (per Mrs. Fisher) ... 10 0
Mrs. E. F. Yeo (per Miss F. A. Underwood) ... 10 0

North-Eastern Campaign.—
Mrs. Walter Carey ... 3 0 0
Per Miss Clark:—
Mrs. Leech ... 1 1 0
Mrs. Jobson ... 18 6
Mrs. Taylor ... 2 6
Mrs. Beckitt ... 1 0
Mrs. Berks ... 1 0
Miss Purvis ... 1 0
Mrs. English ... 6

Mrs. Despard ... 5 5 6
"M.A." ... 10 0 0
Per Miss Eunice Murray ... 3 4 0
Mrs. T. L. Graham ... 3 3 0
For "Special Organiser" ... 2 0 0
Mrs. Murray ... 2 0 0
Mrs. Fisher ... 1 0 0
The Hon. Mrs. Frederick Guest ... 1 0 0
Miss H. Symons ... 13 6
Mrs. S. Bancroft Clark ... 10 0
Miss M. I. Saunders ... 10 0
Uxbridge Suffrage Society (per Miss F. A. Underwood) ... 6 8
Miss Spencer ... 6 0
Miss S. G. Barnett ... 5 0
Miss Bisdee ... 5 0
Mrs. Walter Carey (for "Special Organiser") ... 5 0
Miss C. E. Lawson ... 5 0
Miss J. Macdonald ... 5 0
Mrs. C. Bryant ... 2 6
Miss O'Halloran (Café Chantant) ... 2 6
Miss A. Hight ... 2 6
Miss Enid Leale ... 2 6
Miss M. Murray ... 2 6
Mrs. Aaron ... 2 0
Miss Poppleton ... 2 0
Miss Prendergast ... 2 0
Mr. Townsend ... 2 0
Mrs. E. Delbanco ... 1 6
"A Sympathiser" ... 1 0
Miss Helen Colt ... 1 0
Miss Lilian Field ... 1 0
Mrs. K. M. Henry ... 1 0
Mrs. Pierotti ... 1 0
Miss M. R. Sanderson ... 1 0
Miss E. A. Wells ... 1 0
"X.Y.Z." ... 1 0
Profit on THE VOTE (per Miss Barrs) ... 4 2 6
Tickets ... 9 6 5
Collections ... 5 6
Office Sales ... 5 6

Branches.—
Bowes Park ... 5 0
Cardiff (Competition profits) ... 4 14 6
Chester ... 14 8
Edinburgh ... 14 8
Glasgow ... 14 6
Hackney (Political and Militant) ... 1 0 0
Sheffield ... 10 6
Swansea ... 4 10 0
Waterloo ... 14 8

Capitation Fees.—
Chester ... 1 2 6
Hackney ... 1 11 0
Hampstead ... 13 0
Mid-London ... 17 6
£232 9 7

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.
A week's campaign, with Miss Nina Boyle as speaker, began on Feb. 21, when Miss Boyle addressed a large and interested gathering of I.L.P. men and women at the Ruskin Institute. Mrs. Keating Hill was in the chair. On Tuesday evening Mr. T. B. Davies presided at a meeting at the Institute; Miss Boyle spoke on the need of Women's Enfranchisement. An interesting discussion followed, and new members were enrolled. A public meeting was held at the Art Galleries, Queen-st., on Wednesday. Mr. James Edmunds was an ideal chairman, and Miss Boyle made a great impression on the audience by her racy speech, and the very able way in which she dealt with the present crisis. A good collection was taken. THE VOTE and Miss Boyle's pamphlets sold well. Afternoon meetings were also held on Monday and Tuesday, for which our member, Mrs. Trimorris, very kindly lent her room. Miss Boyle discussed the work of the Women's Freedom League and the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps at the present time. We hope to start in Cardiff a work-room on the same lines as those in London. A Branch meeting was held on Friday evening at which the scheme was further discussed. Miss Boyle was most enthusiastically welcomed by the Women's Co-operative Guild at their Branch meeting on Thursday. A lively discussion took place at the end of her address. Open-air meetings were held on Monday and Friday evenings at Priory-place, Queen-st., at which Miss Barrs presided. Although a few irresponsibles made a futile attempt to create a disturbance, a huge crowd listened with keen interest to Miss Boyle's able speech on the present situation. We hope all in Cardiff interested in the Woman's Movement will join the colours of the Freedom League and help to extend the good work already accomplished.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.
We wish to thank all members and friends who contributed in kind or in money to our "Pound Day" on Feb. 25 in aid of Brackenhill Hospital. A descriptive article of the hospital by Mrs. Marian Holmes was published (Continued on page 524.)

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

Friday, March 5.—WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS, Executive Committee Meeting, 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 6.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL JUMBLE SALE, Tolmer's-sq. Institute, Drummond-st., N.W., 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10.—PUBLIC MEETING; The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m.; Mrs. Despard on "The Public House," and Nina Boyle. MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, 7 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, March 11 & 12. Caxton Hall. Café Chantant. 8.30 till 10 p.m. To be opened on Friday, March 12, by Miss Lena Ashwell. Sale of Work, Songs, Dancing, Recitations, Refreshments, Musical and Dramatic Entertainment. Admission, before 6 p.m., 1/- (including Tea), afterwards, 6d. Men in Uniform, Half-price.

Monday, March 15.—MEMBERS' MEETING; W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.; 8 p.m.; speakers, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Anna Munro; chairman, Miss Barrow.

Wednesday, March 17.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m.; Mrs. E. M. Moore, "The Price," and others. HACKNEY BRANCH MEETING; Mrs. Despard, "A Recent Visit to France."

Friday, March 19.—PUBLIC MEETING; Croydon W.F.L., 32a, The Arcade, High-st.; 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Miss Goddard.

Wednesday, March 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W.; speaker, the Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Ideals of Social Government," and Miss Nina Boyle.

PROVINCES.
Friday, March 5.—BRIGHTON, Open-air Meeting, Lower Promenade, in front of Bedford Hotel, 3.30 p.m.; Miss Eunice Murray. PUBLIC MEETING, Theosophical Rooms (19, Norfolk-terrace); 8 p.m., speaker, Miss Eunice Murray; chair, Miss Hare; admission free, reserved seats 1/-; tickets from 8, San Remo, Hove, and W.F.L. Committee.

Saturday, March 6.—LIVERPOOL; Open-air Meetings; Exchange Flags, 12.45 p.m., St. George's Plateau, 3 p.m. (if permission is granted), Clayton-sq., 7 p.m.; speakers, Miss Janet Heyes and Miss Broughton. LETCHWORTH; Drawing-room Meeting; Thelma; hostess, Mrs. Manning Prentice; speaker, Miss Anna Munro, "Poetry and the Woman's Movement." LETCHWORTH; Open-air Meeting; speaker, Miss Anna Munro; chair, Miss A. M. Clark.

Monday, March 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH; "At Home," Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; Miss Winifred M. Jones will read her new play, "The Inexorable Truth"; musical programme, arranged by Miss Jessie Ward; chair, Mr. H. Hobson. LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Clayton-sq., 7.30 p.m. LETCHWORTH, Drawing-room Meeting, 124, Pedmore Way; hostess, Mrs. Turpin; speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

Tuesday, March 9.—LETCWORTH, Drawing-room Meeting, 12, Norton-rd.; hostess, Mrs. Harrison; speaker, Miss Anna Munro. PORTSMOUTH, Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-st., 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10.—LETCWORTH; Public Meeting, Howard Hall, 8 p.m.; speakers, Mrs. Nevinson and Miss Anna Munro; chair, Miss A. M. Clark. LIVERPOOL, Public Meeting, Hardman Hall, Hardman-st.; speakers, Miss Alice Abadam and Miss Eunice Murray and others; chair, Councillor W. A. Robinson; tickets 6d. and 1/- each. MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, 3 p.m.; Discussion, "The Outlook for Women"; afternoon tea; collection; hostess, Mrs. Schofield Coates. EDINBURGH, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-rd., 8 p.m.; Miss Mary E. Christie, Edinburgh School of Cookery and Domestic Economy, "Technical Education for Girls."

Friday, March 12.—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Clayton-sq., 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13.—PORTSMOUTH, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

Monday, March 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; speaker, Miss Veitch.

March 21 to 31.—MONTGOMERY BOROUGH CAMPAIGN. (Hon. Organiser, Miss A. M. Clark). Particulars next week.

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In Sympathy.

To Miss Eggett, of Tottenham, who has lost her mother, and to Miss Leahy, who has lost her father, we express our heartfelt sympathy.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.—At a meeting on Feb. 26, presided over by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, it was decided to co-operate with the women of Holland in organising an International Conference to be held in April at the Hague. A British Committee of representative women is being formed.

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AT HOME
On Wednesday, March 10th, 7 to 9 p.m.
AT THE
Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Westminster.
Chair: The Rev. F. M. GREEN, B.D.
Speaker: Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN, on "Women and Church Councils."
Refreshments 7 to 7.30 p.m., 6d.

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THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

the previous Saturday in the *Croydon Advertiser*. Will members please send their contributions for the Provision Stall at the Café Chantant to Miss Jessett not later than March 9? Promises of other help should be sent earlier. (1) Wanted.—Material for children's clothes; (2) Offers of refreshments for our Women's Social, held every Wednesday evening; (3) A doormat for the office; and (4) An umbrella stand for the office. Next whist drive March 20.

Liverpool.

A successful meeting was held in the Clarion Café on Feb. 22 to inaugurate the Central Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Miss Ada Broughton presided and Miss Janet Heyes gave a stimulating address on the growth of the national spirit to which women in no small measure had contributed to create. A collection was taken and two new members were enrolled; we hope to have a very flourishing Central Branch in Liverpool. Miss Broughton was asked to act as hon. secretary as long as she remains in the district, and Mrs. Gibson kindly consented to be hon. treasurer; the following members were appointed to serve on the committee:—Mrs. Imlach, Miss Schofield, Mrs. Howroyd and Mrs. Robson. On Feb. 24 a successful meeting was held at the house of the organiser, to which a number of women clerks from the Tramways' Department were invited. Miss Broughton gave an interesting address on the economic and legal position of women. An animated discussion followed, and it was decided to hold similar meetings wherever possible. Members are requested to remember the public meeting on March 10, when we shall have the pleasure of welcoming both Miss Abadam and Miss Eunice Murray. More helpers are needed for VOTE selling in the streets and at open-air meetings. Gratefully acknowledged:—Mrs. Cairns-Crosby 5/-, Women's Guild 4/-, and Anon 1/1.

Middlesbrough.

A well-attended meeting was held on Feb. 22 in the Suffrage Centre. The chair was taken by Madame Richardson, and a very interesting address was given by Mr. A. B. Cross on the subject of "A Scheme for Political and International Re-construction"; the novel scheme aroused considerable discussion. The "Tipperary" afternoon on Feb. 24 was a great success. The rooms were crowded to their fullest extent with the wives of soldiers and sailors. Tea was provided by members of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, and a musical programme arranged by Nurse Lee, assisted by Mrs. Macnamara, Miss Colpits, and Miss Kirby, was thoroughly enjoyed; also the recitations by Miss Betty Storrow. Short speeches were made by Miss Purvis and Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

"A distinct success!" was the verdict on both our meetings on Feb. 24. The Suffrage Room was well filled, and the cup that cheers, etc., etc., was being merrily passed round when Mrs. Despard arrived. After partaking of some refreshment, she delighted our friends with a most inspiring speech. The evening meeting was crowded, many people not being able to get in. Mrs. Despard again made an excellent speech, telling of the work of the Women's Freedom League and the National Suffrage Aid Corps. She aroused great interest when she told of some of her recent experiences in France. A record collection was taken and every copy of THE VOTE sold.

UNIFORMS A SPECIALITY.—All interested in the various Women's Corps in which uniforms are worn are advised to place their orders with our old advertiser, Colloa, 5 and 6, Paternoster-row, who makes uniforms a speciality. His Spring coats and skirts, as per sketch, are novel, smart and moderate in price.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Mar. 10, Mrs. Despard on "The Public House," and Miss Nina Boyle.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street, St. James's-square, S.W. FOR MEN AND WOMEN. During the War, there will be no entrance fee, and subscription reduced to ONE GUINEA per annum. Bedrooms and board (for lady members only) on exceptionally economical terms. Meetings:—Monday, Mar. 8, at 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Mrs. Kineton Parkes; chair, The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield; subject, "The Women's Emergency Corps." Wednesday, Mar. 10, at 3.30 p.m.; Women's Freedom League. Full particulars—Secretary.

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