

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 39.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S.:— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Dec. 13th, 3 p.m.—Marble Arch, Hyde Park—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Bouvier and others.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mr. E. Duval.
Monday, Dec. 14th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—Miss Barry.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.
8 p.m.—Salmon Lane, Poplar—Mrs. Drake.
8.30 p.m.—Lesbia Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 2.30 p.m.—
8 p.m.—Limehouse—Burdett Road—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Tidal Basin, 14 Butcher's Rd.—Miss Phillips.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mr. L. Franklin.
8 p.m.—Bromley, St. Leonard's Hall.
Wednesday, Dec. 16th, 8 p.m.—Chrip St. Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, Dec. 17th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walshe.
8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow Choir Practice.
Friday, Dec. 18th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Figgott St.—Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Canning Town—Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

Miss FOX'S CONCERT

WOMEN'S HALL,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow.
SATURDAY, DEC. 12th, at 8 p.m.
SONGS AND DANCES IN COSTUME.

ADMISSION FREE. Collection in aid of E.L.F.S. Funds.

THE MEMBERS' NEW YEAR PARTY.

The Members' New Year Party will be held in Bow Baths, on the evening of January 2nd. Volunteers for the entertainment and those who will contribute towards the refreshments should write to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Mrs. Murray Clark, Mrs. Inez Bensusan, and Miss Irene Bouvier have kindly promised their services.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

The E.L.F.S. is arranging three Children's Parties in the New Year, one to be held in Bow Baths, on Saturday afternoon, January 2nd, one in Poplar Town Hall, on January 11th, and one in Canning Town. Promises of refreshments and presents for the children should be sent to Miss Mackay, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, E. Miss Evelyn Sharp has promised to tell some fairy stories. Miss Irene Bouvier has promised to sing. Mr. Broadbear has promised to bring his band. Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett has promised to be responsible for the Christmas Tree.

We expect to entertain about 2,000 children, and as each child is to have a present, we shall need upwards of 2000 gifts. Please send us dolls, toys and little garments for these functions

Our Christmas number will be published on December 23rd. It will cost one penny. Be sure to order it in good time.

MILK DAYS

STREET COLLECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE
Milk for necessitous Mothers and Babies of East London

ON
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, DEC. 16th and 17th.

WHO WILL HELP BY TAKING A BOX?



COME TO FETCH BABY'S MILK.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.
Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.
Two nightgowns, a woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Our milk bill increases weekly. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

EGGS.
For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL and MALT.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Monday at 6 p.m., and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

MORE INSULTS TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

At the close of last week further steps were taken by the authorities to rivet police supervision upon soldiers' wives and mothers.

The following memorandum was sent out from the Home Office to local police offices throughout the country:—

I am directed by the Secretary of State to bring to your notice the revised conditions, of which a copy is enclosed, as to the payment of separation allowances to the unworthy, and to say that the Army Council hope to receive the assistance of the police in this matter. The Army Council and the Secretary of State are both anxious that the police should endeavour by all means in their power to prevent such a course of conduct on the part of women as would be likely to lead to the loss of the allowance.

The allowances granted to the wives and dependents of soldiers are now on a more liberal scale than hitherto, and the result has been to put in the hands of many of their larger sums than they have previously enjoyed. This has happened at a time when these women are deprived of the company and guidance of their husbands, and are subject sometimes to extreme anxiety, and a other times to natural feelings of pride and exultation. Under these circumstances many who ordinarily are quiet and well-conducted are exposed to special temptations, and may be led momentarily to careless spending of money and excessive drinking not in accordance with their ordinary habits.

In such cases it is believed that discreet and tactful action on the part of the police may be a real assistance in inducing them to refrain from drinking and to resume their normal mode of life.

Should the "tactful" efforts of policemen be reported to have failed, the women are to lose the allowances which the War Office has pledged itself to pay.

It was further announced that soldiers' dependents are to have their "records" indexed by the local police. Army paymasters were instructed to forward at once to the Chief Constables of counties and towns all particulars of those receiving allotments and separation allowances.

To the criminals, convicts on ticket-of-leave, and suspected persons, the only people whose records

have hitherto been indexed at police stations, soldiers' wives are added. Already the police have begun to enter and inspect the homes of soldiers' wives, and to ask them if they drink too much, and why, as in one case we know of, two bedrooms should be occupied instead of one. Some women have even been ordered to have their photographs taken, in order that they may supply the police with the means of identifying them. One soldier's wife has told us that she dare not glance at a newspaper for fear she may see printed therein some regulation with which she will be ordered to comply.

Protests have naturally been made against this tightening of the objectionable and insulting police net around the soldiers' wives. Sir Edward Henry, the Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, has therefore issued a modified police order as follows:—

"When a woman is arrested for being drunk and incapable, drunk and disorderly, or drunk in charge of children, she will be detained at the police station until sober. If she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature, warn her of the serious consequences, including the loss of separation allowance, that must ensue if she persists in such irregularity of conduct, and urge upon her to prove herself worthy of the husband who is away fighting for his country.

"A record will be kept of such admonition having been given. Should the wife of a soldier or a sailor be convicted in Court on a drinking charge after previous warnings, or of immorality, or other serious offence, the fact of the conviction will be reported."

This order is supposed to be less stringent and offensive than the earlier orders that have been issued, but we protest most emphatically against any such regulations.

This order is monstrously unjust for under it a woman has no opportunity to defend herself in open Court. She is liable to lose her livelihood without trial through confidential reports.

No special rules are needed for the control of soldiers' wives, they must not be treated like a pariah class apart. Whilst subject to the ordinary law, like other people, they must have preserved to them all the safeguards against unjust accusation and punishment, all the personal liberty of action that have been won by other members of the community.

At Chesterfield notices are hung in the schools headed:

CESSATION OF SEPARATION ALLOWANCES TO THE UNWORTHY DEPENDENTS OF SOLDIERS & SAILORS.

These notices suggest that school managers should report cases in which soldiers' and sailors' children come to school in a neglected condition.

It is appalling that the children should see such notices hanging in the schools, and it should be remembered that the allowances of soldiers' wives and mothers are too small for them to provide for the children as they would wish. Let the Government pluck out the huge beam from its own eye before it begins to seek for the motes that may be in those of the women.

A correspondent writes to give the case of a soldier's wife receiving 12s. 6d. This is her only income. Her rent is 6s. 6d., insurance 1s. There is only 5s. left for food, fire, clothes and everything else. She is an invalid suffering from a very acute form of rheumatism and has recently had a serious operation. She is still a patient at the dispensary and is told that she must have nourishing food. Our correspondent points out that in a case like this a separation allowance of 12s. 6d. means slow starvation.

