

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 290.

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FRIDAY, MAY 14, 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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"WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST!"

The age-honoured call, "Women and Children First," with its accompaniment of heroism and self-abnegation on the part of ordinary men—stirred by the touchstone of peril to the uttermost depths of their souls—resounded on the decks of the ill-fated *Lusitania*, as it so often has done before in the history of our far-flung Empire. Lamentable indeed it is that no honourable sacrifice, none of the splendid examples given of how high and humble alike, in the face of danger, could rise above paltry considerations of personal safety; not any of the self-sacrifice, the heroism, the devotion, availed to save the great majority of the helpless non-combatants involved in this tragic disaster. The swiftness of the collapse, the capsizing of the boats, the suction and the explosions, combined to render all aid ineffective; and the result goes to show, if proof were needed, how completely women are involved with men, in the great dramas as well as the petty details, of our national existence, and how impotent are men to protect and shield.

None could read, unmoved, of the impression created on one spectator by the sight of some thirty bodies of little babies laid out in their soaked, disordered clothes for identification. Some forty babies of under one year were among the piteous spoils of this German triumph. The thought seems almost more than one can bear. One's mind envisages in a harrowing picture those thirty poor little bodies, lying in rows, silent, cold, unresponsive; to be buried in trenches, "unidentified," with other unnamed dead. Indeed, one almost takes a pride in realising how much it hurts one to think of this pitiful item, among so much that is terrible and distressing.

It is, however, not so very long ago, when it comes to a question of months, that I saw in a daily paper that 2,000 cases of measles had been reported at —. This item of news was in a small paragraph in an insignificant corner of the paper. There were no big headlines. Only a short time before the same journal had notified its readers, as a rather interesting and peculiar piece

of news, that measles carries off more little children than any other two diseases put together (I do not vouch for the accuracy of the journalistic figures!) and that from 59 to 70 deaths a week was the toll that particular complaint was claiming at that particular time in London alone. There were no big headlines. The outbreak of 2,000 cases in — did not seem to shock or distress anybody, journalistic or otherwise. The complaint is not yet one of the notifiable diseases. No hospital will take it in, it is infectious; yet no provision is made for keeping it within bounds.

Let us think of it for a moment. More babies dying of that one disease in a week, week after week, than were drowned on the *Lusitania*; and no one cares. No newspaper writes big headlines about it; no artist in words paints pictures of it at column's length; no one is in the least shocked. Only the mothers, we presume; but some people think the mothers "get used to it." We need to have our women and children murdered before we attach value to their lives; and then, they must be murdered under sufficiently dramatic circumstances and in sufficiently large numbers to make a real or deep sensation.

Of every 1,000 babies born 150 or more die before they are a year old. More than three times as many as were on the *Lusitania*, out of every 1,000. Yet people do not care, and no one prints it with big headlines.

There has been an exhibition at Caxton Hall—not the first, but one of many such sad sights—showing the sweated women at work on the articles for which they are paid 2½d. the dozen, or 5d. a gross, or some such criminal rate. They keep body and soul together and feed and rear their children, heaven alone knows how. It is beyond the ken of such as I. At present the bulk of the work the home workers are dealing with is Government work. Sailors' trousers stitched and finished for 5d.; button-holes for khaki coats and tunics at 4d. a hundred; sevenpence a day, ninepence a day, one-and-twopence a day, to keep a family on. We stand petrified with horror at the fate of the

Lusitania; we have no words for the atrocities in Belgium, Poland and Serbia; but we allow these atrocities in our midst. No fate could be more cruel than the fate of these home workers, crushed between the upper and nether mill-stones of poverty and profit-mongering. We see these exhibitions; we are only mildly shocked. The Press has no big headlines.

We want the noble pass-word "Women and Children First" to enter into the real life of the nation, not to be only a rallying cry for a great emergency. Women are the life of the race, children its future; we cannot hold their welfare too carefully in trust. So long as their lives are held cheap, their death viewed with unconcern, their labour exploited and their energy exting-

Women's Freedom League.

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HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Suffrage Club "Wednesdays."

Next Wednesday afternoon the speakers at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Piccadilly, W., will be Mr. George Lansbury and Miss Nina Boyle, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30. The following Wednesday, May 26, we shall have no meeting, but we have arranged one for Wednesday afternoon, June 2, the speakers at which will be announced in next week's issue of THE VOTE.

Miss Alix. M. Clark urgently appeals for forty volunteers to sell our paper in the streets of London, Friday, Saturday and Monday. If volunteers will come to the W.F.L. Office any time during the morning, afternoon or evening of these days they will find VOTES and instructions regarding pitches, etc., awaiting them. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Florence Nightingale Commeration.

Our meeting took place after we had gone to Press, and we are glad to record that similar meetings have been organised by our Branches in many parts of the country including Manchester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, Brighton, Reading, and Glasgow. Reports will appear next week. We rejoice that women retrieved the lamentable failure on the part of those responsible, and combined to organise a worthy tribute to a great Englishwoman whose services have benefited the whole world.

A Small Appeal.

We still need £5 to clear the expenses of the Florence Nightingale Celebration, and I shall be grateful for this small amount to relieve the general funds from the cost of this special piece of work. Besides the donations already acknowledged, best thanks are given to Mrs. Fox Bourne, Mrs. Sargent Florence, Reginald Pott, Esq., Miss Powell, and Miss Reckitt. E. KNIGHT.

TOO GOOD TO MISS.

Miss Alix M. Clark has begun again to make her famous Mayonnaise Sauce in aid of the Birthday Fund, and solicits orders until the end of July. Miss Clark will be glad to have weekly orders, which will be despatched promptly. All letters will receive immediate attention. Price 9d. per pot, post free 1s. Address:—11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, North Wales.

ished, our horror at the ugly deeds perpetrated at our doors must be in some measure the horror of the hypocrite, even if the hypocrite be all unconscious of hypocrisy. If this terrible war and its evil phases do but rouse us to a more tender care of our young, to a more economic distribution of our wealth and our resources; and above all to a more humane consideration for those who are in very truth "the people," it will have done something to compensate us for its harm and its unhappiness. We want to make it as impossible for babies to die at the rate of 70 a week, or of 150 in the thousand, and for British women to be forced to live on a few pence a day for Government work, as for the German submarines to repeat the *Lusitania* outrage. C. NINA BOYLE.

Women's Work in Agriculture and Horticulture

The Conference on Women's Work in Agriculture and Horticulture, held on May 6 during the "Women and Their Work" Exhibition, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, was marked by sound practical advice given by "women who know." Miss Binnie Clark, the pioneer woman farmer in Canada, presided, and declared that no profession under the sun is so excellent for nervous diseases. In view of the changes which the war is bringing, the cry of "back to the land" is one which vitally affects women and is of great importance in their economic status.

Miss Helen Colt, teacher of gardening under the L.C.C., speaking on the training of the woman gardener, gave the following as essentials: maturity of outlook and character; some knowledge of handicraft, wood and metal work, natural science, nature study and drawing; to be followed by a definite training for gardening at a college, and including design for garden planning which has a great future.

Miss C. M. Dixon dealt with the business side of horticulture for women. She pointed out that to make market gardening pay a woman must have enough capital to finance her for two or three years, but a good and thorough training is equivalent to one-half one's capital. She advised nursery work, not glass, as the most profitable now; well trained women will have to replace head gardeners who have lost their lives in the war. She sounded a note of warning with regard to owners of gardens who sell vegetables and fruit for charity at prices which are below market value and so make the struggle very hard for the market gardener.

Miss J. S. Turner, principal of the County and Colonial Training College, Arlesey, spoke on the training in England for the Colonies. Emigration, she said, had really practically stopped; but a great increase in emigration is certain at the end of the war. There will be good prospects for women agriculturists in the Colonies, and incidentally a great opening for women workers in England, because men will emigrate. She spoke of the varying conditions in the Colonies, and said a girl who is taught to increase her commonsense, to adapt herself to new circumstances, and be prepared for anything, is being properly trained for the Colonial life. She recommended a course of plain cooking, laundry, rough carpentering, and dairying in England lasting about one year; the student should then go to some place in the Colonies for six months to study the local conditions before attempting to take any place of her own. She was very much in favour of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, rather than South Africa, for women as prospective

settlers. She said that training for the Colonies or for England is comparatively long and expensive, and was scornful of the student who says: "I want to come and learn all about bees and poultry and dairy work, and I can only stay a fortnight!" Her final word was "Now is the woman-worker's chance."

Miss Violet Bertram, a Co-operative small-holder, spoke at length on training applied in Canada, and gave instances of the work women are doing. She laid stress on the urgent necessity for a student to take full advantage of her time at the training college and to study such important subjects as wages, the handling of people, auction-rooms, and buying and selling generally. She urged co-operation and advised women to work in couples, settle in groups and to be ready to take advantage of any change that might come.

Mrs. Farrant spoke of conditions in South Africa and of the work of the Women Farmers' Training College at Potchefstroom. Mrs. Norman Grosvenor, president of the Women's Horticultural and Agricultural International Union, told of the useful work of the Union during the sixteen years of its existence. All the speeches were practical and informing, emphasising the promising outlook for women at home and overseas in agricultural work, provided they are well trained, adaptable to new conditions, and ready to seize opportunity by the forelock.

WOMAN'S WIT.

Miss C. S. Bremner writes:—
"I was immensely interested in the suggestion of Lord Hugh Cecil in the House of Commons the other day that all prisoners of war should be interned in neutral countries, and the treatment be uniform with gradations for the various ranks. It appeared to me sensible, practical, a rational solution of the difficulty, very necessary for the relief of English sufferers in Germany. A few nights ago the matter was discussed in the International Suffrage Club. To my astonishment I learnt that the suggestion was made to his lordship by one of our women members. The astonishment was caused, not that a woman's sense and sensibility had evolved it, but that due acknowledgement was not made. Can it be that the M.P. divined the suggestion would receive fairer treatment if supposed to emanate from a man? In Miss Travers' charming book on Finland we are told that Finnish women in Parliament display great practical wisdom. Men often listen, admire and adopt it. I call to mind the dictum of Spenser:—

Here have I cause in men just blame to find
That in their proper praise too partial bee,
And not indifferent* to womankind.
Scarce do they spare to one, or two, or three,
Rowme in their writtēs; yet the same writing small
Does all their deeds deface, and dims their glories all.
"Let us hope we shall gradually accustom ourselves to fair play all round. There is rowme for it!"

*Impartial.

OLIVE SCHREINER AND THE VOTE.

On May 10 Olive Schreiner opened the exhibition of women's work at the Caxton Hall in which most of the Suffrage Societies co-operated with the East London Federation. She declared that the exhibition was of special interest to her as it dealt with women's labour and showed how under-rewarded it was. She had always desired that women of all countries should possess the franchise on the same terms as men, as only then would all avenues of labour be open to women, and their reward would be according to their work, not their sex; only then, also, would the greatest moral and social evils be swept away.

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OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Speaking at the Suffrage Club on May 6, on "Women and Brute Force," Mrs. Nevinson said she had recently met an anti-Suffragist who asked her if she did not consider that the present war was an object lesson in the uselessness of women and in the triumph of brute force? She acknowledged that the war was a triumph of brute force, but asked her questioner how he liked it? Mrs. Nevinson said that this World War was far worse than the wars of Napoleon. It was waged on land and sea, in the air and under the sea, all the ingenuity of man, all science and invention were being used to one end—the slaughter of human beings. Surely the world had gone mad; the Gott of the Germans was a sort of Baal, and his worshippers who laughed at the agony of dying men, women and children were nothing less than devils. Women had to suffer keenly while all this life was being wasted; they believed that something higher than brute force should rule the world, and Mrs. Nevinson rejoiced to note that the women of Denmark had had the right to vote conferred on them lately. Even Mr. Asquith had discovered that women were capable of doing good work, indeed only the previous day he had declared that in some ammunition work women's skill and care was almost better than men's.

Mrs. Tanner dealt with the Press and the politician whose arguments and views of things gave us good cause for diversion. The Press considered it would be a farce to hold a general election while so many men were away and could not record their votes. Women had always considered these elections were farces so long as no woman in the land was allowed to record her vote. The Press preached a good deal of mischievous nonsense about War Babies. She had no wish to idealise illegitimacy, but she insisted that men and women should share equally the responsibility of their actions. It was difficult to know what politicians thought of the drink question, so contradictory were their statements. The King had given up strong drink, but the House of Commons had not followed his example. The cry of men that woman's place is the home has now become woman's place is outside the home doing national work. Men, it seemed, were too emotional for public life and too hysterical for statesmanship.

The chair was taken by Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 14th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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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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"IN NATIONS THAT ARE FREE."

In times like these when the Press, public orators, Cabinet Ministers, noted politicians—when everything, in fact, of any account in the world is looking one way, and speaking with one voice, it may be well for some of us to try and find out what the charm means, and to discover if we can the secret of its power over the peoples.

We are at war; men and women in all the belligerent nations are suffering intolerably; a holocaust of lives and accumulated treasure, the amount of which will presently be uncalculable, are being poured out. The cry is still "More! more!" and more is given. If we ask why this unanimity, why these sacrifices, we shall be told, as the people in other nations are being told, "These men are called out to fight for the sacred cause of Liberty and to prevent the enslavement of their country."

We, who have been working, and suffering, and sacrificing our substance, our ease, even our reputation for the freedom which some of our men enjoy, and which, as we feel, they have used so badly, are not in the least surprised at the leaping forward of the men in our nation. We know it is the consciousness of a great motive that gives them their cheerfulness under hardship, their contempt for danger, their readiness to face death in its most painful forms. We know also that the women of our nation and others are bearing with dignity innumerable sorrows and privations because they believe that the liberty of their country is at stake.

That may be so; we do not desire to dispute it. What we do desire is definite thinking about that which, as we are told, is our common aim.

We are fighting for liberty. Would it not be the part of wisdom to understand what we mean by liberty. In Shelley's "Mask of Anarchy" the primal elements of a people's freedom are simply and clearly set forth:—

"For the labourer thou art bread,
And a comely table spread,
From his daily labour come
To a neat and happy home.
Thou art shelter, fire and food
To the famished multitude,
No; in nations that are free
Such starvation cannot be,
As in England now we see."

That was written many years ago, but alas! it is true now. Our hearts are rent by the piteous waste of life that is going on in the battlefield. Do we know or do we consider that in our nation, which is so lustily asserting her right to freedom, there are yearly, through insufficient nourishment, insanitary dwellings, bad conditions in workshops, and preventable accidents, no less than 200,000 unnecessary deaths? In some of our manufacturing

towns thousands of infants die before they are a month old; and yet we are a free nation, democratic, self-governed. Surely there is here a contradiction in terms. To be free is to have certain rights; and this is the first of rights—to live. Can it be seriously contended that a nation which submits to the daily and hourly slaughter of her children is herself free?

But that is not all. The free people of a free nation have a right not only to a bare existence, but to a human life. The most cursory inspection of the working quarters of such cities as London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, will make it evident that thousands of men and women cannot be said to possess the first attribute of freedom, health, soundness of mind and limb. Defrauded of their natural heritage, they either die untimely or drag out lives of toil, ending with the workhouse infirmity or the old age pension, and the pathetic struggle to live upon it. Slaves are allowed to live; they may even be protected and well nourished; but will any with a living spark of liberty in their souls say that such a fate is living? In nations that are free—and we doubt if any such exist now—there will be liberty for all to develop to the limit of their powers.

There is yet more than this in freedom. The free man and the free woman are able to control themselves. They have a delicate sense of honour. They value above all material things the power of preserving it. The free woman will allow nothing but love for the mate of her choice and responsibility towards the race to govern her will when it is a question of marriage or any other career. But when, as has happened in the past and as happens even now, no other career is open to her, she is forced to accept what may be utterly repugnant to her nature. It is only in nations where life, conditions are slavish that a woman's honour can be sold for food and shelter, or that it can be possible for any compulsion either of brute force or economic pressure to deprive her of her moral and spiritual liberty.

It is said that when this war is over there will be a re-construction of society, and much stress is laid upon international relations. That is well. A peace settlement which can be of any permanent value to the European nations must have for its basis the principles embodied in our commonplace and commonsense morality. The women of Great Britain and Ireland, nearly two hundred in number, who wished to take part in The Hague Congress had this and nothing but this in their minds—the establishment of international righteousness—the prevention for all time of crimes and outrages the mere thought of which presses upon us like an unholy and poisonous nightmare.

For let us be perfectly certain of this—nothing will ever civilise war. Sooner or later it must end. It may be recognised then that the interests of the workers in all the nations—men and women—are one; that motherhood, fatherhood, a common labour and a mutual aim bind the whole of the human family together; it may be possible for the peoples everywhere to shake off the detestable yoke of militarism and to give the toil and energy that have been thrown into the building up of ever more deadly instruments of destruction to the gentle arts of peace. This accomplished, it will be our duty to consider how, within our own borders, we can be free.

Shelley says: "For the labourer thou art bread." That means sufficiency of bodily nourishment. During these months of war for liberty, evidence has been given to us that the bread of the people, and how they can obtain enough to nourish them are the last considerations of the Government.

For instance, a certain allowance was allotted to

the wives and children of soldiers and sailors. Since the allotment was made, bread, tea, sugar, lentils, beans, peas and other items in the people's diet have become much more costly. This is so fully recognised that Boards of Guardians have, in many cases, increased the amount of outdoor relief. Has any Cabinet Minister proposed that the allowances should be raised on account of the increased price of commodities? Yet it has been pointed out that millers, coal owners and others have profited enormously. When this was represented by deputations of women to the Government, a feeble proposal was made to tax war profits. Of the people who suffer incalculably from the high price of food and firing no notice was taken. Will anyone, we ask, have the boldness to say that in nations that are free those who organise and govern them would dare to deal thus with their just complaints, would dare to enrich one class at the expense of the life-blood of another?

There is every probability that when the war, with its enormous expenditure of life and treasure, is over, the strain of economic pressure, here and in other nations, will be very severely felt. We hope that then the men who are fighting for their country will demand to live, not only to exist, in the land for which they and theirs have made such costly sacrifices. And there can be little doubt that if they have wisdom enough to press their claim, if they refuse to be put off by subterfuges and evasions, attention will be given to them. Women—the main sufferers now—have no political freedom and their complaints mean nothing to Governments.

We have had an illustration of the power of the vote, and of the money that means so much to rival politicians, in the Government's treatment of the drink question. The people may suffer in all sorts of ways—the Ministers know this—and Parliament will not help them. Let such vested interests as the drink traffic be touched and the stability of the Government is threatened. Why? Because neither the House of Commons nor the Government represents the people.

Earnestly do we hope that the lessons the nation is learning in her hour of test and trial will not be forgotten when the hour of reckoning comes. An awakening there must be. We venture to predict that out of the miserable conventionalities and illusions that hamper us to-day, there will arise a new democracy, in which women as well as men will play their part. Then, not all at once but step by step, as we add to courage wisdom and to wisdom determination, there will grow up a nation that is free in whose beauty and glory her children may rejoice. C. DESPARD.

Miss Jane Addams in London.

Miss Jane Addams, of whom Mr. John Burns said "the greatest man in the United States is a woman, Jane Addams," is spending a few days in London, and a meeting was arranged at very short notice at the Kingsway Hall, on Thursday, May 13, at which she promised to give an account of the recent Conference of women at The Hague, over which she presided. Miss Chrystal MacMillan and Miss K. D. Courtney, the only British women who attended, were also to speak. We go to Press before the meeting, but we forecast a large audience eager to embrace the opportunity of hearing an American woman, a keen Suffragist, who is the founder of Hull House, Chicago, an early but a brilliantly successful social settlement in the United States.

WHAT ALL WOMEN MUST FEEL.

We have received the following letter, to which we willingly give publicity, and point out that the Women's Freedom League is the right organisation to which to appeal as it has taken special steps to help these distressing cases through Mrs. Watson's work at the Police Courts and Miss Boyle's Women Police Volunteers:—

I have listened to and heard tales of such suffering during the last eight months that I thought I had pretty nearly gauged the depths, but all seemed to fade into nothingness after my experience of yesterday. Some six weeks ago a girl was brought to me who had been seduced and deserted by a man. He had given her money week by week to pay her expenses, and had promised to see her through. One week, instead of the payment she received a lawyer's letter, forbidding her to "annoy" their client further; that in the event of her doing so they would take steps to protect him from further annoyance. The man is in practice in Harley-street, and had met the girl while she was serving her probation as nurse in a London hospital, and when her condition became obvious he desired her to leave. She went to a boarding-house, and there, as I have said, he paid for her keep until six weeks ago. She came to me for help. I was enabled to pay up her arrears of rent, and sent her to a rescue home whilst I interviewed the lawyers on her behalf. I had made immense efforts to see the man in Harley-street, but without success. The lawyers, in my numerous interviews with them, were very courteous, and I am quite sure were sorry for the position, but, of course, had to act under instructions. They said their client absolutely denied being the father of the child, and notwithstanding the fact that I had letters in my possession written by him to the poor girl, he denied point blank and said, through his solicitors, there had been "other men." That I knew to be false, because I believed in the girl and had faith in her assertions. The day after I had sent her to the rescue home she came to me and begged me not to send her back. She said it was like prison. I obtained permission to keep her for the night, and in the middle of the night she was taken ill with asthma, and I had to send for the doctor. Of course, there was no question of moving her, and for four weeks I kept her in my house and looked after her.

At the end of that time the doctor said she ought to go to some place where girls expecting to be confined could be

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THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

members' meeting on May 17, but as there will not be a members' meeting on that date, the next meeting of the East London Branch will be at 6 p.m. on May 31, at 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, E. All members are reminded to bring needlework in preparation for the Fancy Fair in November. Those members who cannot come to Branch meetings please do extra needlework at home. Will all who have not yet paid their subscriptions for this year please do so as soon and as liberally as possible? Our Branch has no banner. Will anyone remedy this please?

Ipswich. Suffrage Shop.—22, Queen Street

We arranged a party to see the "Florence Nightingale" film at the picture-house on May 12, which the management agreed to show on that date at our request in commemoration of her birthday. At our last meeting it was decided to develop our hospital work by making bandages and swabs for one of the hospitals started by women. We shall be glad of gifts of old linen, bleached or unbleached calico, butter muslin or cotton wool, especially the medicated, and gauze. More workers are also wanted. Our meetings are on Thursdays at 3 p.m. Our thanks are due to Mrs. McCreesey for toys for soldiers' children, and to Miss Dot Cooper for a cake. Over a thousand soldiers have come into the town, and many of our old friends have left. The secretary will be most grateful for books, magazines and illustrated papers, cakes, cigarettes, or jam, especially for the military hospitals. On May 6 we had a small jumble sale. We hope soon to have another; contributions will be gladly received at the Club, 22, Queen-street. Miss Bobby has accepted the post of hon. treasurer, and we hope she will be kept busy.

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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: Mr. George Lansbury and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A business meeting was held on May 3, at which the usual monthly reports were given. It was decided to hold a Florence Nightingale Commemoration meeting in the W.F.L. Rooms on May 12, and a Surprise Party on July 7, to help to Birthday Fund. After the business of the meeting was disposed of, a discussion was held on the subject of "War Babies."

N.B.—We have decided to adopt the name of W.F.L. Rooms instead of Suffrage Centre, as it is more distinctive, and in Press reports there was a tendency to omit W.F.L. altogether.

IN SYMPATHY.

It is with deep regret and sympathy that we record the heavy loss which has fallen on Mrs. Labrousse, an old and valued worker in the Women's Freedom League, and especially in the Croydon Branch, in the death of her husband, Mr. E. H. Labrousse, after a painful illness. The cremation ceremony took place at Golder's Green on May 4. Mr. Labrousse was an associate of the Women's Freedom League and took a keen interest in all matters relating to the Society. We tender our sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Labrousse in her sad bereavement.

Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

At the recent annual meeting of the League the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. That this meeting of the Men's League draws attention to the statement of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons, on April 20, that the Government is considering a proposal for the enfranchisement of all soldiers, and protests against any measure being submitted to Parliament for the extension of the Suffrage which does not include women.

2. That this meeting, rejoicing that the women of some parts of the British Empire, through the representatives they have elected, are expected to have some voice in the terms of the eventful Peace, urges upon the Government the manifest justice of giving the women of the Mother Country a corresponding constitutional right. We congratulate the League on its splendid service and constant watchfulness, and wish for it still greater success in the future.

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