

THE VOTE
July 23, 1915
ONE PENNY

WHOM CAN WE BELIEVE?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 300.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. *E.M.N.C.*

HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

PERPLEXED. WHOM CAN WE BELIEVE? *C. Nina Boyle.*

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IS COMING.

AN OPEN SECRET. *C. Despard.*

ALIENS. *G. Colmore.*

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

BRACKENHILL HOSPITAL. "DESPARD ARMS," ETC.

"THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN"

In the Old Kent Road, reminiscent of Albert Chevalier, stands a humble tavern with the sign of "The World Turned Upside Down." Who named it thus? Was it some seer, professing the Ptolemaic cosmogony, whose prophetic gaze envisaged the world of to-day? Was he one of those who, in all ages of the world's history, have declared with Hamlet that the times were rotten and the world out of joint?

We seem to live to-day in a world of reversed ideas—a position as distorting to the mental and moral being as the reversal of our bodily position would be to the physical economy of the individual. That which was of extreme value in the days before the war is worthless to-day. The standard of value—economic, moral, and mental—is changed. Events which a year ago would have thrilled the world with a desolating sense of horror leave us cold. They are "incidents with no military significance." The casualty lists are measured by military and not by human standards.

A European conflagration has wakened the Government of the day to the conviction that the men and women of the country are worth having, that their work is so important that, without it, it is a question whether the country can be saved from the worse dangers with which it is faced. Up to the age of 65, we are all wanted either to kill or maim as many of our fellow creatures as possible, to make the implements of war which shall facilitate the killing and maiming of our fellow-beings or to take the place of those who go out to kill and maim. It seems impossible for long to contemplate the miseries endured by those in the fighting line, the anguish of those who are wounded, the sorrows of those who mourn the dead or endure the agony of suspense. And more or less, in sheer self-defence, men and women drug themselves by work. The injunction "to get something to do and you

will not think about it" is mainly good advice, but the result is undoubtedly that Red Cross work, making respirators, etc., however valuable in themselves, do form a sedative to thought, and perhaps the State Register is welcomed by many in the hope that in opening avenues of work it may close those of thought, which lead at the present time to an abyss which we shrink from contemplating.

It may not be wholly unprofitable to contrast the present situation with the one which obtained before the war. We are to be a nation organised to kill, we are asked to put out every possible unit of energy, to work day and night with that object. The children in schools, the young people in colleges are to be utilised. The little boys are to leave school and work. It is claimed that the nation cannot do without them. Boys of fourteen are working all night at Woolwich Arsenal. In our more lucid moments it does occur to us as strange that the work of men and women is so valuable when the object of work is *killing* and of so little worth, when the object of work is *living*. How often was it pointed out in the days before the war that to deny a man or woman work was to deny them life. Did the Government of the country care that men and women starved in body and soul because work was denied them, that their children died by thousands from lack of the food which the parents could not provide them. How was the great root question of Unemployment dealt with? What backing from the Government did the Labour Party ever obtain for their Right to Work Bill, or if, as they said, the proposals of this Bill were "impossible," were they ready with practicable proposals of their own to deal with it? If in time of peace the Government of the country, instead of falling back on the "deterrent" methods of the Poor Law, had organised the people so that each unit of the community, man and woman, could have

put forth their strength, "all starting fairly, all equipped alike," would it not have been able now to fall back on a far more efficient and more resourceful body of citizens than the Register to be formed next month will be able to present?

Such questions are not wholly of an academic interest.

Whether in time of war or of peace, the future lies in the womb of the present. The future of the country does not lie wholly with our countrymen who are fighting in Flanders or the Dardanelles. The future must depend largely on the children of to-day, on those children that the community is allowing to leave school at 12, and even at 11, with the almost certain result of a measure of moral and physical deterioration of the next generation.

Mr. Lloyd George says that "Women can help us through to victory." It is strange that their work should be considered so valuable in time of war, and yet should have been ignored in time of peace. Hath not peace her victories? Women are considered good enough to help the nation to vic-

tory over the Germans; yet they were denied the weapon of the vote, by which they could have helped the nation to victory over poverty and ignorance and bad conditions, over muddle and mis-management and unnecessary suffering. We are, indeed, living in a world turned upside down.

It was a Liberal Government, though not under the leadership of the present Prime Minister, which gave constitutional rights to South Africa. Many were the doleful forecasts of the ills which were prophesied in consequence. A decade and a half ago, the name of General Botha was regarded as that of a rebel; to-day, he is acclaimed as a saviour of the Empire. He is eulogised in Parliament, and it is even suggested that the Order of the Garter, from which the Kaiser was recently degraded, should be conferred upon him.

If the broadening of human liberty in South Africa has resulted in a sensible relief from a great danger to our national interests, would the broadening of liberty at home, by the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women, be likely to result in loss to the Empire?
E.M.N.C.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Annual Conference.

At a recent meeting of the National Executive Committee it was decided that our Annual Conference should take place in London, Saturday, October 16. Further particulars will be given in later numbers of THE VOTE, but members are asked to keep this day free for the Women's Freedom League Parliament, when resolutions dealing with our policy for the coming year will be discussed, and the President, officials and members of the committee will be elected to carry out that policy. We look forward to seeing delegates from all our Branches in England, Scotland and Wales at this Conference, which is open only to members of the Women's Freedom League.

PLEASE HELP

Thanks to the exertions of our Branches and friends, the President's Birthday Fund has made a good start. To help it still further on its way we have begun a special little holiday scheme, and ask every reader to save up an extra penny a day for 100 days to be added to the Fund.

I should like to have the names of all penny savers and the date of beginning; I shall be pleased to send special collecting boxes if desired. E. KNIGHT.

THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED.

Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation Public Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 14th.
Annual Conference, Saturday, October 16th.
W.F.L. Fancy Fair at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th.

WE rely on YOUR help to make these a SUCCESS!

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Wear your Badge. Never go out without it!

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. National Service Organisation.

Our work continues to develop in many directions; women who enrol are classified according to their capabilities, and some have been placed without delay in positions for which they are qualified.

We desire to thank those helpers who have made it possible to increase the scope of our work.

FRANCES M. PARKER.
ETHEL MOORHEAD.

DONT OVERLOOK THIS.

Miss Murray calls the attention of readers of THE VOTE and members of the Freedom League to a fund which she is starting to supply W.F.L. cigarettes, purchasable from our Literature Department, to soldiers at the Front. A large number of people habitually send this form of gift to their soldier friends; and cigarettes of all prices, qualities, and varieties can be ordered through Miss Thomas, to the advantage of her department, and at the same time securing a pleasant and welcome advertisement for the League. If with every packet or parcel of cigarettes a copy of THE VOTE is also despatched, it would be an admirable propagandist method. We have good reason to know that the little paper is very popular at the Front.

Miss Boyle	...	...	5s.	0d.
Mrs. Fisher	...	...	2s.	6d.
Mrs. Huntsman	...	...	2s.	6d.
Miss Murray	...	...	5s.	0d.
Mrs. Thomson	...	...	2s.	6d.

He Got It!—"The other evening," said the *Glasgow Herald* recently, "a party of 'blades' in civilian attire were chaffing a woman tramway conductor about her uniform, which was somewhat nondescript. 'It's too bad,' said one of them, 'making you go about in these clothes. When do you expect to get your new skirt?' 'If you want to know,' said the lady, 'I expect you'll see me in my new skirt before I see you in khaki!' (End of conversation.)"

PERPLEXITY.]

WHOM CAN WE BELIEVE?

The past week has contained elements of extraordinary perplexity and complexity, which may well cause consternation among the helpless, disfranchised sex, condemned by male thoughtfulness and protection to stand aside and see its most prized national interests made the subject of confused wrangling. For some time past the public pronouncements of the great men of the race have savoured of those mysteries that suggest intrigue and under currents of potential conflict. Mr. George, for instance, told us in unforgettable phrases of the dangers and losses we were incurring through the drunkenness of working men employed in Government work; and very shortly after, the Prime Minister, prancing up to the Lyne, denied point blank that the tales of drunkenness, slacking, and unfinished contracts were true. Mr. Churchill followed on with an optimistic forecast of what was to happen in the Balkans, where "a few miles only" lay between the Fleet and the Army, and the greatest victory ever known; but this boast was promptly discounted by Lord Curzon, whose gloom was only equalled by his pomposity. Questions in the House failed to elicit any cohesion between these points of view. Mr. Lloyd George adhered to his passionate asseverations, Mr. Asquith declined to alter, explain or withdraw his own remarks, nor would he support or repudiate those of his late colleague at the Admiralty. Later, it was Mr. Asquith's turn to suffer contradiction. Having given an assurance that there was nothing in the shape of compulsion to be dreaded as the sequel to the National Register, it must have been pleasant reading for him when Mr. Long assured the local authorities whom he had gathered in conclave, that if he believed that the Prime Minister had pledged the Government to no compulsion, he would not have entered nor would he remain in that Government. And Mr. Long was ably seconded by Lord Lansdowne, who boldly heralded the National Register as the harbinger of compulsion. Lord Haldane was no more fortunate. In attempting to explain his idea of the reasons for a shortage of munitions, he mentioned labour difficulties; and Mr. George, still smarting, we presume, from his treatment at the hands of Mr. Asquith, turned and rent Mr. Asquith's friend and accused his memory of playing him false—a piece of terminological acrobatics which we greatly appreciate.

As if this were not enough, Mr. Long, in introducing the National Register, said that it had been the original intention to omit women; but on account of the very pressing demand of "representative" women, who wrote, 'phoned or wired from all quarters to protest against such an insult, it had been determined to include them. Lord Lansdowne appeared to hold a different view, and had, apparently, not received any such missives or messages. His version of it was, that it was necessary to bring the women under compulsion, seeing that they had been given the opportunity to register voluntarily, and out of thirteen million women only some ninety thousand had registered. Once more a conflict of opinion, or memory.

We cannot imagine anything more disconcerting, more alarming, than for voteless women, with no machinery that they can possibly put in motion to secure definite information, to find themselves at the mercy of gentlemen who, while vowing they are all united, differ so openly and so emphatically on all material points and facts. From the day that the

Prime Minister announced the necessity of forming a Coalition Government, only a few short days after his declaration that he had no such intention, uneasiness has been steadily gaining ground; and it cannot be denied that the probability is, that some common bond, other than the welfare of the country, has bound together elements so discordant and so contradictory. That common bond appears to be the sweets, or spoils, of office, which both sides share as the price of keeping the public in ignorance of its own affairs. When the public does find out how its affairs have been handled, we may look for results; but it will be a tardy and expensive discovery.

A further point must be put also. The Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, have all—the latter at the beginning of the war, and the two former quite lately—made grave speeches impressing on the public the need for economy. Every imaginable phrase, device, and advertisement has been used to bring home to the mind of the public the need for economy, and the virtue of investing in War Loan, even to the smallest sum. Yet what do we find in the new department for munitions, founded to save, organise and co-ordinate public resources of labour, machinery, and money, encourages and practically stage-manages the most wasteful, ostentatious, and unnecessary demonstration that surely was ever imagined—a procession of women bedecked with nags and banners and rancy dresses, at huge expense and heavy advertisement, to ask for work which two-thirds of them would probably be totally incapable or taking up seriously. This immense waste of money and effort receives the cordial approval of Mr. George, who, if he believed that women should be employed, has power in his hands now to get them employment in the business he is supposed to control. A greater insult to the women of the nation than that they should be expected to waste time and money and to clamour in the streets at a time like the present to demonstrate their willingness to give service to the nation, could not be conceived; and in conjunction with Mr. Asquith's recent statement, that every man and every woman could be put to the service for which each was best fitted, seems additionally offensive. It is, of course, only what one might expect that, the Prime Minister having made such a statement, Mr. George should set to work to show that it did not necessarily follow. That is what we are having to expect of Cabinet Ministers. We have, however, to congratulate Mr. George on having at last discovered that "prejudice" is one of the things that bars the way to women giving their service freely. It is not for want of telling that he did not achieve that knowledge much sooner; but having at last acquired it, he might hand it on to his subordinates with advantage. Had he done so, Mr. Morgan would not have committed himself to the astounding remarks which were quoted on our front page last week, making one wonder why persons ignorant of the A.B.C. of labour conditions and agitations should be placed in a department where labour is the most important factor to be considered.

It is hardly surprising that women feel uneasy. And when the fate of the women of Belgium is flourished in our faces to incite us to "patriotic" activity, we may well ask ourselves whether that fate will not be brought appreciably nearer to the women of these islands by the confusion of thought and purpose, and the ignorance of palpable facts, which distinguish governing circles.

C. NINA BOYLE.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, July 23rd, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

AN OPEN SECRET.

There is a game known to children, the fun of which consists in hiding some specified object in a perfectly obvious place. The seekers come into the room, search everywhere, with the utmost care, give it up, and are shown the object looking at them, as it were, from a place which has been within the sphere of their vision the whole time.

That is a simple illustration of what is going on at the present moment in our country. Something has to be done—and quickly. It is unthinkable that the horror, which has the nations in its grip, should go on much longer. It must be brought to an end. Some heaven-sent leader must be found. Some radiant qualities must be developed. Some way must be discovered of using to the best effect the bottled up energy of the many who are anxious to serve their country. Meanwhile there is bland, spirit-soothing talk of courage, fortitude, determination, self-sacrifice and the grand virtues which it appears we possess in abundance; the Press has its "Roll of Honour," and we speak of those who have gone in such terms as to make the others feel that dying is, on the whole, much finer and more heroic than living, and recruits and money pour in; but, with it all, there is manifest uneasiness. Something more is wanted. What is it? Where is it to be found?

If we would, just for a few moments, leaving heroics, tread the common earth and look round us in the ordinary way, we might find it; for, indeed, like the children's hidden object, it is actually under our eyes. The quality we need in our legislators is that upon which Britons have always prided themselves. Common-sense—ordinary, homely, common-place wisdom, such wisdom as a good woman exercises in the bringing up of her family. Instead of it we have boasting and panic-mongering, scolding and praising, demonstrating and waving of banners. On the one hand forty-thousand women in the streets, pledging themselves to go where they are bid and to do as they are told; on the other, ninety thousand women registered at the Labour Bureaux and two thousand accepted. On the one hand admonitions about wasting nothing, about reducing expenditure in private houses, and giving up everything in the shape of luxuries; on the other hand, waste of the most abominable description in great military camps, and in big industrial areas workmen driven to drink because they cannot get good and well-cooked food. On the one hand, huge yearly imports of wheat; on the other, large tracks of uncultivated land, and, before the

war began, a surplus of unemployed labour. On the one hand shocking loss of life and much unnecessary suffering through lack at the Front of trained nurses and sanitary appliances, such as the Japanese used with extraordinary success in their war; on the other, hundreds of brave and strong and well-trained women at hand, ready to give this or any other service, so only that they may save life and lessen pain.

It would be the part of that homely wisdom which, perhaps because it is becoming so rare, we call common-sense, to bring these needs together. We hope this will be done; but we would point out that eleven months of the war have gone by, and while ingenuity, patience and cleverness have played their part, the dictates of ordinary common-sense have not been heard.

The coal strike in South Wales is a case in point. It may be over before these words appear. We earnestly hope it will be, as we are soory for the miners whom all the world abuses. We merely wish here to state our conviction, that had the Government, without respect of persons, organised long ago the great life industries, we should have had no industrial strife. Had they exercised common-sense they would have known that where suspicion exists amongst workers of any kind there will be no heart in their labour. The Welsh miners who to-day stand idle are of the same blood as the miners who have joined the colours. How do we imagine a soldier would fight if he had come even to suspect that his generals were enriching themselves out of his sacrifice? But plainly, that is what the miners feel.

Again, in the case of the women. Common-sense ought to have made it clear that, without organisation, shouting is useless. It only advertises that which does not need advertisement. Let approved societies—other than Labour Bureaux, which are not adapted for such a purpose—register, classify and group the women; let those who know what women stand for instruct them; and then it will be for the Government and private firms to put them on war service which, let it be clearly understood, is not only the making of munitions.

It occurs to us to quote from a quaint half-mystic story, "The Crock of Gold." The conversation is between the philosopher and a countryman:—

"Sir," said the bearded man, "your words thrill in my heart like music; but my head does not understand them."

"I have learned," said the philosopher, "that the head does not hear anything until the heart has listened, and that what the heart knows to-day the head will understand to-morrow."

There is truth in that. The heart, in its simplicity, holds the open secret of nature. The head listens, but does not always understand. When it does—and sooner or later that must come—the way will be open for homely wisdom, nature's sublime common-sense, to change the face of the world.

C. DESPARD.

OUR PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Mrs. Fisher offers grateful thanks for donations of cakes, flowers, etc., for the Birthday Party to the following friends:—Miss Bosley, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. de Vismes, Edinburgh Branch, the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Harbord, Miss Lee, Mrs. Letts, Miss Middleton, Mrs. Montefiore, Mrs. Moscheles, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Raleigh, Mrs. Sharman, Mrs. Saul Solomon, Mrs. Crosland Taylor, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Thomson, and Mrs. Tritton.

ALIENS.

It was dusk in the house, and dusk in the street, the soft dusk of summer, in which the lamplight seemed intrusive, alien. It was quiet, too—in the house; no sound took its rise within; but sounds came into it, distant, but coming nearer; muffled, but growing more distinct; sounds of tumult. The woman standing by the window knew what they meant; there was a riot, a German hunt, the hunters drawn from that same section of the population which stones starved cats, which breaks up meetings, which is ready to break up women. They were hunting—surely—a woman now. Round the corner she came, into the deserted side street, hair streaming, hands clenched, eyes The woman within could not see her eyes, but she knew the look that was in them, because the emotion that called it up was astir in her own heart. The hands within beat upon the window pane; the head without turned; and there was an open door and a figure falling behind it as it closed; and then the murmur in the main street rising to a roar as the crowd turned its course along the side road where its quarry lay.

From the far end of the room the two women watched the mob go by; because of the dim light, they could not see the fierceness of the faces, but they could see the waving arms, the menacing fists, and could hear the shouts and screams and the cruel growling murmur which was the ground note of the cries, the booing and the articulate words.

Preserved and preserver sat side by side.
"You are a German?" asked the saviour of the saved.

"No; it is my husband who is German; and I—we—have a son fighting for my country in the trenches."

"And I have a son, too, fighting in the trenches—against my country."

"You are—?"
"I am a German woman married to an Englishman."

"And you are safe, though—?"
"Though I love my fatherland."

"And I am pursued, though I love my mother country."

They looked at each other; their eyes asked the question: "Why?"

The Englishwoman answered with her lips: "We are not counted as beings, but as property."

"No country owns us," said the German; "only our husbands."

They sat and looked at each other in silence.
"Your son—?" said the German at last,

"He was twenty-two the day he left me. And yours?"

"Just nineteen."
"They fight side by side," said the Englishwoman.

"Side by side," repeated the other.

Again they sat in silence; the sounds of the mob were dim with distance, and the room was still.

"If we counted—," said the German.

"If we were citizens in our countries," said the Englishwoman, "not property or aliens—"

"If motherhood could speak—"

"And were listened to—"

"If nations could learn that to make men—"

"Is harder than to break men—"

"Perhaps—," said the German.

"Yes; perhaps," echoed the Englishwoman.

"In time."
"It would take time."
"There might be no trenches," said the German.

"No trenches of death," said the Englishwoman,

"yet our sons—."
"The sons of all mothers—."
"Might be working side by side."

G. COLMORE.

"WOMAN SUFFRAGE IS COMING."

Mr. Bryan, who till recently was State Secretary in the Government of the United States, is a strong champion of votes for women. In the autumn New York and other States will vote on the question, and most energetic campaigns are being carried on by Suffragists. Writing in *The Commoner*, Mr. Bryan said:—

"Woman Suffrage is coming—nothing in the future is more certain. Every day's discussion among the people increases the adherents and weakens the opposition. The very means employed to prevent it are sure to cause disintegration among the anti-Suffrage forces. The active opposition to Woman's Suffrage is to be found in the brewery, the distillery and the saloon, and when this fact is known, those who are associated with the anti-Suffragist will inquire the cause. When the cause is known, there will be wholesale abandonment of that side, for the most active opponents of equal Suffrage cannot give their real reason for opposing it without driving all the virtuous elements of society to the support of Woman's Suffrage.

"The bad are a unit against Woman's Suffrage. Every woman who profits by vice; every man who draws dividend on crime; every man who makes it his business to encourage sin of any kind—all these are by instinct opposed to Woman's Suffrage because they know that woman's conscience is against their business. Why do the better elements divide in the presence of a united opposition? Why? Because they do not understand the nature of the contest.

"Man's sense of justice cries out against the unfairness of present conditions. The man who sets traps for the young men and lays snares for the boys as they grow up—he has the ballot and uses it in support of his work of destruction. Who will say it is fair to tie a mother's hands and deprive her of the ballot while she is trying to save her son? What husband, when he is fully informed, will take the side of the saloon keeper against his own wife?

Whenever an issue arises which touches the home or deeply concerns the welfare of society, the women can be called upon—and they will not fail."

A HOLIDAY RESORT FOR ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

The one certain cure for anti-Suffragism is a trip to breezy California. This is the opinion of Professor A. W. Whitney, lately of the University of California, and now manager of the Workmen's Compensation Service Bureau in New York State. Professor Whitney, who has just returned from California, reports a great change in the State, and all to the good.

"I wish," says he, "every anti-Suffragist could go to California. The Suffragists there have the strongest possible argument for their Cause. Politics are no longer a sordid game. They are a healthy and permanent social interest. They are discussed in the family, at the dinner table and over cups of tea in a broad and tolerant spirit. The best hope for California lies in the deep and widespread political interests of its people. The awakening of the people, largely through the stimulus of Woman Suffrage, has dealt a blow at the bosses. The people, and not the party machine, are coming into their own."

"At the recent election it was noticeable that a progressive Governor, with a democratic federal Senator, and a stand-pat Republican Secretary of State were elected. Each of these men was showed that the people were not the slaves of the party ticket. Everywhere meetings were held to discuss the forty-eight amendments; and those carried were just those which were best for the State. No one, knowing the conditions of California, could dispute this. On all the broad lines of social and political life I see a marked change, and a change for the better since women have been enfranchised."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

AGAINST REGISTRATION.

Rocks Hall, Crowborough.
DEAR EDITOR,—I want, as a pioneer International Suffragist, to raise my voice in protest against what is going on at present in the English Suffragist Movement. The Woman Suffrage Organisations in this country were originally formed to obtain political freedom for women; their funds were subscribed with that object, and their members gathered in under that banner. Part of our strength, we have always acknowledged, has lain in the international appeal; and on each extension of the suffrage to women of other countries we have held out the hand of sisterly friendship, and acknowledged that their struggle was our struggle, and their victory our victory.

At the present moment these same Suffrage Organisations are throwing themselves heart and soul into the men's game of life, and especially into that side of it which clashes the most cruelly with the developments of women's best and truest functions. Women are essentially the givers, the conservers, the nurturers of life; men are the wasters of life. Yet we find women—and organised Suffragists—clamouring to be registered for the making of munitions destined to destroy the sons of other women! We find women lauding the militarist ideal, that ideal so aptly and concisely defined by Nietzsche: "Man is made for war, and woman for the relaxation of the warrior. All else is foolishness." Surely all intelligent Suffragists will refuse to fill up the forms which the Government Registration Bill demands. The Government has paid its judges to say we women were not "persons." The law does not acknowledge the married woman as the parent of her child. We have been dragged through the streets, imprisoned, insulted, made to wear the prison clothes of felons and prostitutes because we dared to ask out loud to be made citizens; and we cannot help looking askance now at the "honour" this Coalition Government is attempting to thrust upon us in ordering us to register under their War Bill.—Faithfully yours,

July 14, 1915.

D. B. MONTEFIORE.

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

A Tribute to French Women.

The Rev. Hugh Chapman, of the Royal Chapel of the Savoy, in a letter to the *Times* (July 12) says that "the one outstanding impression" of his recent visit to France, which included half-an-hour alone with General Joffre, a visit to Rheims, and the inspection of a factory for making explosive shells, was "the spirit which obtains among French women and the use to which it is being put in all directions. . . . There is in France a wave of female enthusiasm and of consecrated passion which the State recognises as well nigh its chief asset in the termination of the war. . . ." He adds: "What I desire to impress upon the authorities is that the moment has come when women [in this country] not only should, but must, have their chance of service, and that of national prejudice or of selfishness on the part of trades unions and employers there must be an immediate end if victory is to be assured."

A Wise Step.

War work for the Government is taking girls away from their homes. Many firms which did not employ girls have now taken on from 100 to 700. One of the big firms, says the *Daily News*, applied to the Young Women's Christian Association to undertake the supervision of the whole of the women's side of their new munition works, including sleeping huts, canteens and recreation rooms. The resources of the Y.W.C.A. hostels are being severely taxed, and the establishment of new ones is necessary in many districts.

Why?

In order that shopkeepers may employ female assistants and so release men for the Army, the *Westminster Gazette* reports that the Local Government Board advises local authorities that certain requirements as to accommodation laid down by the Public Health Act need not now be insisted upon.

Women as Cinema Operators.

Sir John Simon, in reply to a suggestion from the London County Council, has stated that women who are really competent should not be excluded from employment as operators in picture palaces.

BRACKENHILL HOSPITAL.

With the weather doing its worst, and escape from rain, wind and mud impossible, it seemed as though fête day at Brackenhill on July 17 could be nothing but a dismal failure. But Brackenhill has surprised the public on many occasions, and this time the public surprised Brackenhill. It turned out in force to show sympathy with Mrs. Harvey's splendid work for the nation by caring for the wounded women and children at home. The programme had to be carried out in the house instead of in the garden, but visitors made themselves as small as possible, and while a roomful enjoyed "Hiawatha" others wandered round the wards and saw the excellent arrangements made for the comfort of the patients. Some could hardly believe that the bright little children they saw—the babies in white frocks, kindly sent by friends and made to fit by the devoted nurses; and the older children in pretty green dresses—were really invalids, but they had not seen them when they were brought into the hospital almost helpless and racked with pain. The mothers—Belgian, French, and English—and their tiny babies looked very happy; since Saturday triplets (Belgian) have been born, and another Belgian baby.

Three performances of "Hiawatha" were given and keenly enjoyed; with the Misses Moore, Harvey and Chick and others taking the principal parts, it goes without saying that the performances were admirable. The financial result was excellent, and widespread interest was aroused in the work of the hospital.

Steps are being taken to develop the work at Brackenhill in many ways. A school for mothers is to begin in October, and an open-air kindergarten school for children who are well enough to take part in the work. Interest in the hospital is growing every day, and Saturday's fête added to the many sympathisers with this practical effort on behalf of women and children. It is, therefore, intended to hold "At Home's" every month at Brackenhill; the visitors will be limited to one hundred in order to avoid overcrowding. Other plans for increasing efficiency are under consideration.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

The closing evening for the summer was made memorable by the presence of Mrs. Despard, who received a warm welcome from many who made constant use of the "Despard Arms." She gave great pleasure and encouragement to the young men, who are forming a new football club, by consenting to become its president, and agreeing that its name should be "The Despard Uniteds." All present were much interested in her little talk, in which she spoke of her ideas as to a real public-house—a house for the public, including men, women and children—and were much amused by the stories she told of Sir John French. Mrs. Corner most kindly sang, and Mrs. Van Rualte played the piano. Hearty cheers were given for Mrs. Despard, for "Auntie"—otherwise Mrs. Bushell, the able housekeeper, whose home-made cakes are so much appreciated—and for all who have helped. The re-opening in the autumn is eagerly anticipated.

IMPORTANT.—Will all helpers and friends attend a business meeting at 22, Harley-road, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage), by invitation of Miss A. A. Smith, on Monday, July 26, at 8.15 p.m.? Important questions with regard to the development of the scheme must be decided.

WHAT TO READ IN THE HOLIDAYS.

Even in war time holidays are a necessity. We recommend for specially interesting reading two pamphlets at one penny each, and a book at 7s. 6d. "Magna Carta and Women" (W.F.L., 1d.), by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., contains in most interesting form, as our reviewer showed last week, an able statement as to woman's part in securing the Charter and her position under its provisions.

"Quaker Women" (7s. 6d.), by Mabel Brailsford, has already been shown to be of remarkable interest through Miss Murray's graphic article in THE VOTE of July 2.

In view of the pressing question of the moment, namely, the payment of women's work, every reader should possess "Sweated Women and the Vote," by Isabel Tippett (W.F.L., 1d.), in which wages are given in tabulated form and many facts which bring to light the terrible conditions under which women now work.

The pamphlets and the book can be obtained from the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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

DARE TO BE FREE

NINE ELMS VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-st., open every day at 4.30 p.m. To be closed on July 26 till October.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, July 27.—SALE, Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps Meeting, Bankfield, 3 p.m.

Friday, July 30.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Open-air Meeting, Borough-road Corner, 8 p.m. Speakers: The Rev. T. C. Gobat and Miss Goddard.

SCOTLAND

Tuesday, July 27.—GLASGOW, Branch Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 70, St. George-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. M. Parker, on "Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation." Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

BRANCH NOTES.

Glasgow. Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's Road.

An emergency meeting will be held at 70, St. George's-road on Tuesday, July 27, at 7 p.m. Miss Parker will speak on the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation, and Miss Eunice Murray will preside. It is hoped that all members of the Branch who are in town will show their interest by being present.

Hackney.

A garden meeting was held at Mrs. Catmur's house on July 15, when Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson were the speakers, with Miss Rawlings in the chair. About sixty members and friends were present; home-made cakes, jams, needlework by members of the Branch, and dolls from the "Toy Workroom" sold well. "Hoop-la" and various guessing competitions added to the fun and the funds. It is expected that a substantial sum will be added to our Birthday Fund contributions as the result of Mrs. Catmur's efforts. In response to Mrs. Mustard's appeal, a good collection was taken, and two new members joined the League.

Kensington.

In spite of torrents of rain, there was a very fair attendance at the public meeting on July 16 in North Kensington. The meeting was held in response to the request of some visitors at a recent social of the Branch, who were anxious for another opportunity of hearing Miss Boyle and Miss Murray. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, who introduced the speakers in a very apt speech, which was much appreciated by the audience. Miss Murray urged every one that there should be no slackening in our insistent demand for votes for women, and warned us against believing that the vote would be given to women at the end of the war by a grateful country as a reward for their help. The only way to get it would be to demand it constantly and to keep the Suffrage flag flying. Miss Boyle spoke of the danger of indiscriminate voluntary and underpaid work offered and given by women in their desire to help their country in this time of danger. We must be careful that by a mistaken idea of patriotism we do not cheapen women's labour, and so add to the burden of the already sweated women workers, and the industrial complications that will arise when the war is ended. The speeches were warmly appreciated, and the Branch is deeply indebted to Miss Murray, as well as to its own members, the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, and Miss Boyle, for coming on such a wet night and for the encouragement they gave us in our efforts to keep our Cause to the fore. A good collection was taken, and THE VOTE sold well.

Liverpool.

On July 14 a very successful musical evening was held in the Clarion Café. There was a good attendance, presided over by Mrs. Evans (Waterloo Branch). Everyone enjoyed the fine musical programme, which was rendered by Mrs. Howroyd (violinist), Madame Lilian Walshe, Miss May Anderson, Miss Caroline Davey (elocutionist), and Mrs. Cousins and Miss Theresa Anderson (accompanists). Mrs. M. F. Cousins, Mus. Bac., gave an inspiring address on "Music and its relation to Womanhood." A good collection was taken, of which £1 was sent to the Birthday Fund. THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature sold well, and new members and sympathisers were enrolled. The

Liverpool Council in conjunction with the other Suffrage Societies hope to arrange a farewell social before Mr. and Mrs. Cousins sail for India in September.

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

On July 12 Mr. Crow gave an address on the subject of "Free Will and Necessity," which he dealt with from the Theosophical standpoint. On July 13 at a Branch meeting, the resolutions sent out by the N.E.C. were discussed. Mr. Wetterstrand resigned his position as treasurer of the Shop Committee, and was accorded the thanks of the members for the efficient work he has done. Miss Goddard was elected secretary *pro tem*. It was decided to arrange an open-air meeting for Miss Normanton, who is visiting Middlesbrough on July 22.

Reading.

Members and friends had the very great pleasure on July 15 of a visit from Miss Florence Underwood, and much appreciated her practical, stimulating, and helpful address. Many questions were asked in regard to "Women and Wages." Mrs. Tregay, who presided with her usual spirit and success, thanked Miss Underwood most heartily, and hoped there might be many such visits in store. Mrs. Justins supported the vote of thanks. After the meeting Miss Underwood paid a visit to the Reading Day Nursery, in which the Women's Freedom League Branch have been practically interested.

Sale.

A Branch meeting was held at Bankfield on July 13. Miss Hines presided, and important business from Headquarters was considered. It was decided to continue the work of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps during the summer months.

WATERSIDE PICNIC.

The Kensington Branch would be glad to hear from any members or friends who will take tickets for Saturday's picnic at East Molesey (Hampton Court station), or who will supply provisions for the tea—fruit, cakes, etc. The tickets (2s.), obtainable from Miss Reeves, 141, Highlever-road, N. Kensington, or from Headquarters Office, include refreshments; and the place of *rendez-vous* is Mrs. Bell's house, Wingfield, Summer-road, East Molesey. Hampton Court station can be reached from Waterloo, trains running every half-hour; also from Hammersmith or Shepherd's Bush by tram. Bus 33 from Charing Cross or Piccadilly goes to Richmond Bridge, the other side of the bridge a tram runs to Hampton Court. Trams run direct from Hammersmith, and the Piccadilly tube is the quickest way to Hammersmith.

The picnic will last all the afternoon, and guests may arrive at any time they like. Please help make it a success.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

A *Causerie* will be held at 16, John-street, Adelphi, on July 28, at 3.30 p.m., when Miss Ethel Stout will recount her experiences of helping in a military hospital in France. Mrs. Fenwick Miller, the new President of the Writers' Suffrage League, will preside. Free tickets for the *Causerie* can be had by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Offices of the League, 12, Henrietta-street, Strand.

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

NO ENTRANCE FEE DURING THE WAR.
SUBSCRIPTION: One Guinea per annum from date of Entrance (Ireland, Scotland and Foreign Members, 10/6)

MEETINGS.
Wednesday, 14th July, 3.30 p.m. Club Tea. (Lecture 4.30.) Mrs. DESPARD. "The Despard Arms." Hostess: LADY NOTT-BOWER, P.L.G.

VALUABLE FEMINIST LIBRARY. Free to Members. Non-members, 5/6 per annum.

Catering now re-organised on NEW lines.
— LUNCHEONS AND DINNERS from 1/- —

Make the home bright by using
William CLARKE & SON'S
COAL.
SPLENDID VALUE.
Prices on Application.

341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone. 3656 North.

ONE
PENNY]

THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

TOO GOOD TO MISS.

Miss Alix M. Clark is continuing 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.

IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park.

Miss Boyle was the speaker in Hyde Park last Sunday, and the hearty welcome she received leaves no doubt as to the wisdom of continuing to hold Suffrage meetings at the present time. She spoke of the various activities for national service that have been carried on by the League since the outbreak of war, and of the need to keep the Cause of votes for women before the public. She spoke of the anxiety with which women watched, powerless to interfere, while the male administrators managed or mismanaged the affairs of the country, of the contradictory statements made by different highly paid men in responsible positions. The earnestness of her speech made a very strong appeal; the thanks expressed by a man in the audience and the interest of the crowd in questioning was evidence that they realised the loss to the country, now more than ever, that the reason and logic of women are not used in the councils of the nation.

Brockwell Park

The meetings in Brockwell Park are still "going strong" in spite of the presence of khaki and other attractions. On Sunday, July 11, Mrs. Tanner was the speaker, and on July 18 we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Schofield Coates for the first time in Brockwell Park. On each occasion a large and interested audience listened with evident sympathy to the presentation of our case, and seemed convinced of the need for Woman Suffrage. Both speakers cited instances of the oppression and exploitation of women both in war and peace time, which left little room for

doubt regarding the justice and urgency of our Cause. Good collections were taken, and THE VOTE sold well. Next Sunday Miss Rushbrooke will be the speaker and Miss Alison Burley will take the chair.

Clapham Common.

We had a magnificent meeting last Sunday evening on Clapham Common, the speaker being Miss Eunice Murray and the chairman Mrs. Schofield Coates. Both speeches were warmly appreciated, and an attentive crowd stayed until after 8 o'clock. THE VOTE sold out, and a good collection was taken.

THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A great demonstration was held in the East Meadows, Edinburgh, last Sunday afternoon, with two purposes in view. It emphasised the important part women are taking in war service, and will be entitled to take in other spheres when the war is over, and it celebrated the second anniversary of the deputation of the Scottish Bailies to London to impress the Prime Minister in favour of Woman Suffrage. Delegates from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Berwick-on-Tweed branches of the Federation took part; there are also branches in Morpeth, Newcastle, and Manchester. At the platform of the Edinburgh branch Mr. Wilson McLaren presided. The principal speakers were Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, the President and the founder of the Federation, Councillors Barrie and Graham. Mrs. Sennett said that the Governments of the world had to be taught that only in the unity of man and woman lay the strength of the future. The speakers on the Glasgow platform, where Mr. J. Illingworth presided, were ex-Provost Perry, Bailie Alston, J.P., and Councillors Hamilton Brown and Charlton. Mr. Andrew Young, M.A., ex-Councillor Colbron, Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, and Parish Councillor Miller spoke on the Berwick-on-Tweed platform. Twelve new members, including Judge Stevenson, joined the Federation after the demonstration.

Telephone No. 3025 Kensington (4 lines.)

COOPER & CO.'S STORES, 68 to 74, Brompton Rd., London, S.W.

DEPARTMENTS.

Teas and Coffees. Groceries. Provisions. Cooked Meats. Poultry and Game. Bakery. Fish. Meat. Fruit and Flowers. Vegetables. Confections. Patent Medicines. Perfumery, &c. Brushes. Turnery. Hardware. Stationery.

Wines and Spirits. Tobacco, &c. Coal, &c. &c.

LUNCH ORDERS A SPECIALITY.

FAMILIES WAITED ON DAILY FOR ORDERS.

Islington Dental Surgery.

60, UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

Mr. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man. Fee 7 6
Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches
Send Postcard for Pamphlet N.B.—No Showcase at door
CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone 3795 North

A. SHAPCOTT, Tel. 1443
81, GEORGE STREET, CROYDON.

**WIZARD, ELECTRIC AND
HAND VACUUM CLEANERS**
FREE DEMONSTRATIONS

SCHOOL OF COOKERY,
82, BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.

Dainty Table-d'hôte Luncheons 1/6, or à la carte; Tea 6d.
Plain Household and High-class Cookery Lessons (Meatless) given
daily by arrangement. Homemade Cakes, Jams, Marmalades, etc.

Principal: **MISS DEACON.**

BOARD-RESIDENCE.
Rooms, Holiday Homes, &c.

**AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL
HOTEL,** opposite Gaiety Theatre
Strand, London. — Absolute Privacy.
Quietude and Refinement.—Ladies will
find the freshest, warmest, daintiest,
coziest quarters. Sumptuous Bed-
room with h. and c. water fitted
Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and
Lights, from 5s 6d. En pension, 9s
For long stays, special terms. Finest
English provisions.—**MANAGERS, 4788
Gerrard.**

A HOLIDAY CAMP amid delight-
ful country. £1 per week in-
clusive.—Stamp for particulars to
ARCHISON, Newdigate, Surrey.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHANCE FOR SUFFRAGISTS.

THREE LARGE LIGHT ROOMS,
at very moderate rent, TO LET,
business, residential, or combined;
rest of premises occupied by business
women.—Apply, **SECRETARY, Minerva
Publishing Co., Ltd., 144, High
Holborn, W.C.**

WANTED, in October, a Voluntary
Helper for Nine Elms, to live
with Mrs. Tippett and give her time
to the work of the Restaurant and
Guest House.

DEVONSHIRE CREAM.
Absolutely pure, very nourish-
ing, much appreciated by wounded at
the "London" Netley and on battle-
ships; supplied three times weekly to
the Duchess of Marlborough, the
Countesses of Leven, Lonsdale, Dun-
donald, Viscountess Ridley, Mrs. Des-
pard, Mrs. D. A. Thomas, and the
Officers of H.M.S. *Tiger*. Sells well
at bazaars. Business (sole source of
income) seriously crippled by the war.
½-lb. 1/6; 1-lb. 2/6; post free.—Mrs.
V. Conyers, Bridestowe, Devon.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS
AND HOW TO USE THEM,** free
Send for one.—**TRIMNELL, The Herbalist,
144, Richmond-road, Cardiff Estab 1879,**