

THE VOTE
Dec. 25, 1914.
ONE PENNY

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How Germany Treats Her Women Workers.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, DEC. 25, 1914.

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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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW MEMBERS,—

Instead of the usual leader this week I am asked to give you and the readers of our VOTE a Christmas message.

I have written to you at this season in former years, and the words have flowed easily from my pen. I remember on one occasion expressing the wish that the feelings which animate so many at Christmas might go right on through the year—that always at every season charity in its divine meaning, not almsgiving, but all interpenetrating love might rule society, and that the things which make for strife, jealousy, domination, rivalry, might pass away and be no more. Years ago I read a beautiful story by a gifted woman, long since dead. I think it appeared in a Christmas number.

A woman of the ordinary sort, busy, anxious, careful, cross pretty often because her nerves were constantly jarred, woke one morning with a peculiar feeling of peace in her soul. Dressing, after a much more leisurely fashion than usual, she found with the peace an ardent desire for others to share it. Why, she asks herself, should there not be peace everywhere? Then she remembers that there have been dissensions in her house. Only the day before she had herself been, as she now thinks, unreasonably irritable. She will begin by putting that straight. She goes down into the kitchen and finds the cook of the same mind as herself, sorry for the little crossness of the day before and planning how to make things more comfortable for the whole household. This is surprising, and it intensifies the feeling of peace. All through the day the

story takes the woman, indoors, out-of-doors, to neighbours' houses; everywhere the same peace, the same mutual confidence, the same stirring of dormant imaginations to vivid consciousness of joys and sorrows not their own. And there the story leaves us. Whether it was of the present or the to-come, we are not told. The impression it leaves is of a happy and peaceful world, not at one season alone, but at all times.

A little time ago it was easy to think those thoughts: things, as we have felt and said, were not as they ought to have been. We have with all our energies fought against the evils and abuses engendered by the spirit of strife, but we were never without hope. Sooner or later, we believed the cloud would lift, the spirit of strife would be forsaken, the spirit of truth would prevail, and the new world, "that better Eden," would begin to rise, before us.

A little time ago—and now! Ah! has not everything changed? The cloud has not lifted; it has fallen in storm and fury upon the suffering earth. The spirit of truth has not prevailed. Domination by sheer physical force, concentrated in big battalions alone fills the field of our vision; and Christmas may seem to some of us almost a mockery.

And yet, though we set it aside, though we call it an illusion, must we not remember it with aching regret?

Christmas! The star in the East, the shepherds, the Angels' song: "Peace and goodwill"—how the words haunt us!—the cradled child, the mother! In the dear old days they were all so vividly real

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters sends its kindest greetings to all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League. The present season cannot be one of great rejoicing to any of us, and after a few days' rest we must all be prepared to work harder than we have ever worked before. We have to keep our organisation together, the Suffrage flag flying, to increase the circulation of THE VOTE, and extend the varied activities of our Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. All this means further effort, but we confidently rely on our readers throughout England, Scotland, Wales and the Colonies to assist us in all these matters.

Our Belgian Party.

At Caxton Hall, Thursday, January 7, will be our first function in the New Year. We shall have at least three hundred Belgian guests, and quite half of them will be children. Mrs. Fisher appeals for contributions in the way of refreshments, toys and presents for the children's Christmas Tree, and for many volunteer stewards that day, and our hon. treas., Dr. Knight, would be grateful for donations towards the expenses of this fête. Belgian artists have kindly promised to take part in the entertainment, one of the chief items of which will be a "Ballet des Nations Alliées," to the production of which M. Emile Graux is devoting himself with infectious energy and enthusiasm. Tickets for this party can be obtained by our readers from the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, but we cannot promise to sell any at Caxton Hall on the 7th January.

Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club:

Our first meeting in 1915 will take place Wednesday, January 13, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30. F.A.U.

British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union.

The Union reports that an appeal for clothing for poor children in London was drafted immediately after the war began, and one thousand copies were sent overseas. A month afterwards an account of the wonderful schemes of relief organised by the British Suffrage Societies was sent out. The response from every one of the Dominions to these appeals, both in clothing and money, has been most generous. The full list, with particulars of distribution, will be published later.

The following proposal, received from one of the South African delegates, has been communicated to the Union:—"That a day should be set apart by the Women of the Dominions overseas for prayer for enlightenment on their true work in the present world crisis, and even more in the coming period of social reconstruction, that counsels may prevail that in the peace which will follow this war, the woman's voice may be heard, and that spiritual and permanent interests may prevail over those which are material and temporary."

"For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound with gold chains about the feet of God."
The day fixed is December 31.

to us. Then we could not have imagined this. But then we were children. Alas! it seems to me sometimes that the greater number of us—men and women—have remained children. Year after year Christmas has been knocking at our doors, and, except in an individualistic fashion of our own, we have not tried to read its message. We have taken it superficially—a pretty story, sweet ideas, an unusual opening of the purse-strings, family meetings, eating and drinking, present-giving and receiving. Of the deeper things, of the beautiful symbolism, of the heaven-sent gift of peace and goodwill—and one cannot exist without the other—of the responsibility laid upon us so to order our national and international life that peace and goodwill may be possible—these are the things that not even the Churches have thought of practically. And because of our blindness and folly this terrible Christmas season has come upon us.

But is it really so terrible?

Friends and fellow members, let me try to pass on to you the message that has come to myself. Christianity has not failed. It is we who have failed to grasp its meaning. We have been afraid, like children, to launch out into deep waters. We have said: "These fine maxims are far too fine for humanity; they belong to another sphere. Perhaps we may reach that some day; meantime we must jog on as best we can." And so kings and emperors and politicians and diplomatists have been given a free hand; and the result of this weakness is disastrously apparent to us all.

I say to you at this Christmas season: Let cowardice die; determine that your Christianity shall be a real thing and a brave thing! This generally. To you of the Women's Freedom League who have worked so tirelessly, I say more. They talk of Christmas joys. You have made the discovery that joy comes of service, and of serving together. Nothing, I think, cheers us all more than the spirit of harmony that reigns amongst us, as a League. Do not let us lose that joy. We shall have all sorts of troubles and difficulties, but with this spirit we shall surmount them. And do not let us lose heart. The Woman's Movement is bound to go on until it merges into the human movement, which will lead us out of war and into the "most great peace."

Finally, and with all my heart, at this strange Christmas season, I wish you, my friends and colleagues, that joy which is much deeper than happiness. With all my heart I thank you for the work you have given to our Cause, and with the deepest conviction I say the bitter pain of this sad time will pass; but the service, the sacrifice, the devotion of the men and women who are giving their all to the needs of their several countries will not pass. It will bring the harvest of recollection and redemption to the European nations.

In this hope and these wishes I sign myself,
your friend and fellow-worker,

C. DESPARD.

RED CROSS WOMEN.

Mother Britannia, helmeted and armed,
See, how thy daughters in the dreadful fray,
Like the good Saint Nightingale, their zeal display,
Steadfast to succour, proudly unalarmed!
The hell of pain, by tender fingers charmed,
From the poor broken soldiers flies away,
He blesses Woman in that awful day,
When Teuton fiends over Europe swarmed!

History hears and never shall forget
That Woman for great work was then prepared.
She could not at the crisis rest supine!
She knew the healing task to her was set,
And nought for death or danger Woman cared.
God save Britannia and her Sisters fine!

E. URWICK.

HOW GERMANY TREATS HER WOMEN WORKERS.

"Come and ask questions" is the invitation printed on the cards for the weekly meetings of the Women Suffrage Forum which the Empire State Campaign Committee, New York, has started. Suffragists believe that this is an invitation which they can well afford to give. They know that if the public will but inquire, their case is won. The first question put at the Forum was one that lies back of many doubting minds: "Do you think it is good for society that women should be wage earners and voters?" Until it was pointed out to him it had not occurred to the questioner that he was putting the cart before the horse, and coupling things that had no connection. If there were a connection we should find larger numbers of women in the wage market in countries where they have political rights. Far from this being the case, we find that among leading powers of the world Germany stands out as a nation which depends to the greatest extent on the labour of millions of her women, and yet gives them no citizen rights. German women are emphatically told that church, children and the kitchen are the circumference of their duty and interests. Yet it is Germany which has the highest percentage of women, and especially of married women in industry, of any of the great nations.

In the last quarter of a century the number of German women in occupations has increased from five and a half millions to nine and a half millions, twice as fast as the population itself. Of these occupied women the amazingly high proportion of 46.2 per cent. are married, that is they are women who are led to expect that their work lies only at home. "These women," said J. T. Hills, "are compelled to be, in addition to their duties as mothers and housewives, also breadwinners; yet these sweated millions of German women are deprived of every vestige of citizenship."

It is not Suffrage which has brought these women into the labour market. It is forces beyond their control. Not only are German women in normal times to be found working in the factories, but there are thousands of them occupied in heavy agricultural work. The withdrawal of all young men from industry by the conscript system brings into their places thousands of women. The years of military service break home ties and all maternal control, and many men drift away from their country homes attracted by the excitements of town life. So marked are these tendencies that Government reports showed that, in the year 1907, 58½ per cent. of the agricultural toilers were women.

The wages of women in Germany are very low, and the German Government, like all other Governments, takes advantage of this. In 1911 the Chancellor in the German Reichstag drew on himself the censure of the men's trade unions by proposing to displace 30,000 male postal clerks and substituting females. The first reason given was the women were more accurate in doing the work, and the second that they were paid about \$175,000 a year less than the men.

Only the romantic and ill-informed can suppose that Suffragists have a definite programme to force women into the labour market. Women are there from necessity, and not from choice, and they are there in even greater numbers when they have no voice in the Government. Being there as cheap labour, they need the same weapons of defence as their brothers, and it will be a matter for wonder if the better organisation of the labour market in

which women's participation is necessary does not enable many more of them to attend to their homes and their children from whom they are now called away.

A Woman Diplomatist's Skill and Kindness.

Mr. Alex. Ginzburg writes to the *World* (New York), saying: "That Mrs. Gerard was able to find and care for his aged mother in Germany when Government agencies had failed to do so." He adds: "Our Anti-Suffragist friends may question whether women are qualified for diplomatic service. Most assuredly they are; besides diplomacy, they also possess kind-heartedness, which so often is lacking in great men, whether in diplomatic or other Government service."

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

WOMEN WORKERS IN SEVEN PROFESSIONS,
Edited for the Studies Committee of the Fabian Women
Group by Edith J. Morley. George Routledge & Sons
Ltd.: London and New York. Price, 6/-.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the value of this book, which has been compiled by the Fabian Women's Group and edited by Edith J. Morley. Interesting, reliable, and thoroughly up-to-date information is given by leading members of the respective professions regarding the economic conditions and prospects of teachers, doctors, nurses, dentists, civil servants, clerks, secretaries and actresses. The disabilities under which the workers labour are thoroughly thrashed out, the prospects of advancement, the various difficulties, hindrances and advantages of each profession are clearly and honestly set forth, and advice given as to the best means of realising a higher ideal, and abolishing some of the special abuses. A girl desiring to enter any of the above professions should certainly read, mark and learn every word dealing with her chosen employment; it will save her from the heart-burning that is the inevitable aftermath of disillusion; but it may also give her courage to persevere through all discouragement, for, to quote from the foreword:—"The future as foreshadowed in these papers seems to us bright with hope. In spite of difficulties, opposition, rebuffs, and prejudice, professional women workers are slowly but surely advancing in status and in recognition. They are gaining courage to train themselves to claim positions or responsibility and command, and to refuse, if occasion arises, to be subordinated to men less able than themselves. They are learning by experience—many have already learned—the need for co-operation and loyalty to one another."

It will not surprise Suffragists to learn that widely different as are the professional interests and divergent the opinions of the writers of these essays, on certain fundamental questions there is almost unanimous agreement among them. "Almost all," to quote the preface again—"as a result of their professional experience, definitely express the conviction that women need economic independence and political emancipation; nowhere is there any hint of opposition to either of these ideals. The writers are unanimous in their insistence upon the importance—to men as well as women—of equal pay for equal work, irrespective of sex. Wherever the subject of the employment of married women is mentioned—and it crops up in most of the papers—there is adverse comment on the economically unsound, unjust and radically dangerous tendency in many salaried professions to enforce upon women resignation on marriage." A remarkable consensus of expert opinion which may be respectfully pressed on the notice of Mrs. Humphrey Ward and her male colleagues. It is a matter for congratulation that this volume is the forerunner of others that are to deal in the same thorough and reliable manner with other branches of women's employment; for it must be noted that the present volume deals with professions that are suited, in the main, only for women of education, robust health, and those who have sufficient means to enable them to secure a thorough training, or to wait for some little time before earning a living wage. What is urgently wanted is an exhaustive statement of the conditions attaching to the "blind alley" employments, into which so many girls, and boys as well, drift because of the pressing necessity to earn a "full" wage—a pitiful misnomer!—immediately the wage-earning age is reached. If the Fabian Women's Group can supply this kind of information they will perform one of the most valuable services to the State in general, and the coming generation in particular, that it is possible to imagine. And meantime grateful thanks are due to the busy women whose generous gifts of time and experience and knowledge have made the compilation of the present work possible.

M. H.

THE VOTE.

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EDITORIAL.

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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

In an address given at the Suffrage Club last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Montefiore said that war intensified everything, both evil and good, and the causes for which we stand. She reminded her audience that she was not speaking under ordinary circumstances, but in a time of great stress, when the enemy was attacking our shores. The occasion therefore was serious, and women had to review their position seriously. In war time women were subjected to new laws and regulations more unjust than the old ones because military law overrules everything. Mrs. Montefiore pointed out that the wives of working men were in greater need of the vote than other women—they were economically dependent, and the State stepped in to take the place of the man when that man went away to defend our country. In all their struggle women must never lose sight of the fact that they must secure economic independence, and it was for women themselves to grapple with this problem; they must not allow it to be settled by men. In war time women were called into the counsels of the land, with a certain amount of dignity, and Mrs. Montefiore urged women to insist that no committee for public work should be formed without women being on that committee. At the present time there was a slump in politics, but women should see to it that their own power was increased.

Women, said the speaker, had always suffered in war time. In olden days women of high birth were part of the spoils of the conqueror; in some cases their rôle had not been passive but active, and she cited instances of women warriors. French women had led a revolution, yet at the end of it their own cause was further back than ever. Napoleon came in, and the only literature he thought fit reading for women was the Bible and the cookery book! Joan of Arc had led troops to victory, but did that help her? Why was it that women had not improved their position? Mrs. Montefiore thought that through the ages both men and women had been unconscious of their actions, and that a new interpretation of things, giving the why and the wherefore of their actions and their lives, would make for the improvement so much desired. Women had knowledge of this life, and they should try to make it as beautiful and full of love as possible. They could at any rate improve conditions for the children.

Women should struggle for general improvement, and should insist on knowing why things were done. With a growing sense of consciousness, they would not take war as a matter of course; they would ask: "Is the quarrel worth while?" and in the future they will say that there shall be an end

of all war. But now women are never consulted about these things. How were they to alter this? Mr. Lloyd George had said that in this war it would be the last million that would command success. Women did not possess the last million—that was the secret of their subjection. Financial power was in the hands of men, and that was the reason why women were kept under. Mrs. Montefiore urged that this should be the basis of women's future work; they should organise to employ themselves, and by a system of co-operation they ought to be able to run most of the things in this world. Women could immediately set themselves to undertake the baking, brewing, washing, cooking, sewing, etc., which was now so largely in the hands of men profitmongers, but which fifty years ago was done in the home by women. The speaker elaborated the means by which these industries could be recaptured by women co-operatively. Under such a system the consumer would get better value for his money, the work would be done under improved conditions, and the workers would gain more leisure and better wages than is now possible. "Indeed," said Mrs. Montefiore, "we could make laundresses into ladies!" The speaker concluded with an appeal to all women to try to make themselves economically independent—that was the only way by which they would free themselves in the future.

The chair on this occasion was taken by Miss Anna Munro, who explained that the Women's Freedom League, which was determined to work for Women Suffrage, to keep its organisation together, and its weekly paper afloat, was already building up a merchandise department through which members made all kinds of purchases, and by so doing helped towards the finances of THE VOTE.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM: FORSHADOWINGS IN FICTION.

By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY (Mrs. Geo. McCracken).
Author of "Love Stories of Eminent Women," etc.

IX.

"SHIRLEY." By Charlotte Brontë.

Despite the restrictions and conventions imposed upon her by circumstances, Charlotte Brontë—the daughter of the Parsonage, and our great English novelist—was at heart a rebel. The Woman question, as we know it to-day, had not been formulated when she loosed her heroines from traditional, though sickly, sentimentality, and gave them the right to select from the best and truest motives the man whom they would marry; allowed them to feel their own heart beat and register its decrees. This in itself was a notable and far-reaching advance. Male novelists before her had always depicted the heroine as *waiting* to be chosen without personal volition or independent judgment on her part. The heroine, in their estimation, was a beautiful female reserved as a necessary appendage to the hero, a sort of prize presented to him at the end of his adventures. Even Jane Austen—though she gave us Elizabeth Bennett—regarded the heroine much in this light. The idea of a woman falling in love before she was sought, exercising the right of responsible judgment in the matter as men had always done, was personated in *Jane Eyre*, and, like all departures from customary methods, was greeted with strong disapproval by the critics. In *Shirley* we have some further manifestations that the author was not content with the subject lot the limited uniform sphere which man's rule and man's dominance forced upon the gentler sex. Mr. Helstone represents the generally accepted opinions upon women prevalent in those—to us, apparently—far-off days when she was just the wife and mother, and nothing else, and marriage the only

trade upon which a self-respecting female could embark.

"He thought, so long as a woman was silent, nothing ailed her, and she wanted nothing. If she did not complain of solitude, solitude, however continued, could not be irksome to her. If she did not talk and put herself forward, express a partiality for this, an aversion to that, she had no partialities or aversions, and it was useless to consult her tastes. He made no pretence of comprehending women, or comparing them with men; they were a different, probably a very inferior order of existence; a wife could not be her husband's companion, much less his confident, much less his stay. His wife, after a year or two, was of no great importance to him. At heart he could not abide sense in women; he liked to see them as silly, as light-headed, as vain, as open to ridicule as possible; because they were then in reality what he held them to be, and wished them to be—inferior; toys to play with—to amuse a vacant hour and to be thrown away."

In Mr. Helstone's advice to his niece, Caroline, summed up the once accepted sole standard of feminine ability:—

"Well, that will do; stick to the needle—learn shirt-making and gown-making, and piecrust making and you'll be a clever woman some day."

The author casts Shirley Keeldar—the lady of the Manor—in heroic mould as if to disprove Mr. Helstone's ideas of women. Between her and Caroline a charming friendship develops, and in their talk one discovers flashes of hope and scorn and insight concerning woman's nature and destiny that reveals the author's interest and belief in the evolution of a finer and more independent type.

"Caroline," demanded Miss Keeldar, abruptly, "don't you wish you had a profession—a trade?"

"I wish it fifty times a day. As it is, I often wonder what I came into the world for. I long to have something absorbing and compulsory to fill my head and hands, and to occupy my thoughts."

"Can labour alone make a human being happy?"

"No; but it can give varieties of pain, and prevent us from breaking our hearts with a single tyrant master-torture. Besides, successful labour has its recompense; a vacant, weary, lonely, hopeless life has none."

"But hard labour and learned professions, they say, make women masculine, coarse, unwomanly."

"And what does it signify whether unmarried and never-to-be-married women are unattractive and inelegant or not—provided only they are decent, decorous, and neat, it is enough? The utmost which ought to be required of old maids, in the way of appearance, is that they should not absolutely offend men's eyes as they pass them in the street; for the rest, they should be allowed, without too much scorn, to be as absorbed, grave, plain-looking, and plain-dressed as they please."

Shirley further demonstrates her right to consult her own feelings, and not to be meekly guided by her uncle, regarding a husband. The old order whereby a marriage was "arranged" by parent or guardian, and the new order where the girl decides for herself, are very clearly emphasised in the encounters between uncle and niece. As strongly as any of our most modern heroines, Shirley objects to being a bit of merchandise in the matrimonial market. She strikes, too, the modern note that *any* man is not good enough for a husband—good character, good morals are essential in an acceptable suitor:—

"Mr. Wynne proposed in form for his son—Samuel Fawthrop Wynne."

"Decidedly suitable! Most proper!" pronounced Mr. Symson (Shirley's uncle). "A fine unencumbered estate; real substance; good connections. *It must be done!*"

He sent for his niece to the oak parlour; he shut himself up there with her alone; he communicated the offer; he gave his opinion; he claimed her consent.

It was withheld.

"No; I shall not marry Samuel Fawthrop Wynne."

"I ask why? I must have a reason. In all respects he is more than worthy of you."

She stood on the hearth; she was pale as the white marble slab behind her; her eyes flashed large, dilated, unsmiling.

"And I ask in what sense that young man is worthy of me?"

"He has twice your money, twice your common-sense, equal connections, equal respectability."

"Had he my money counted five score times, I would take no vow to love him."

"Please to state your objections."

"He has run a course of despicable, commonplace profligacy. Accept that as the first reason why I spurn him."

"Miss Keeldar, you shock me!"

"That conduct alone sinks him in a gulf of immeasurable inferiority. His intellect reaches no standard I can esteem. His views are narrow; his feelings are blunt; his tastes are coarse; his manners vulgar!"

"The man is a respectable, wealthy man. To refuse him is a presumption on your part."

"Before I marry, I am resolved to esteem, to admire, to love."

"Preposterous stuff! indecorous! unwomanly!"

"To love with my whole heart, I know I speak in an unknown tongue; but I feel indifferent whether I am comprehended or not."

In respect to another wealthy and titled suitor urged upon her acceptance by her uncle, Shirley addresses her relation in an outburst of righteous indignation:—

"Your god, sir, is the world. Sir, your god, your great Bel, your fish-tailed dragon rises before me like a demon. You, and such as you, have raised him to a throne, put on him a crown, given him a sceptre. Behold how hideously he governs! Se him busied at the work he likes best—making marriages. He binds the young to the old, the strong to the imbecile. He stretches out the arm of Menzientius and fetters the dead to the living. In his realm there is hatred—secret hatred; there is disgust—unspoken disgust; there is treachery—family treachery; there is vice—deep, deadly, domestic vice. In his dominions children grow unloving between parents who have never loved; infants are nursed on deception from their very birth; they are reared in an atmosphere corrupt with lies. Your God is a marked death."

Now, sir, do you begin to be aware that it is useless to scheme for me? I am anchored on a resolve you cannot shake. My heart, my conscience shall dispose of my hand—*they only*. Know this at last."

Little wonder that her feminine circle, reared in conventionalities, looked upon Shirley "as quiet poultry might look on an egret, an ibis, or any other strange fowl":—

"What made her sing so? They never sang so. Was it proper to sing with such expression, with such originality—so unlike a schoolgirl? Decidedly not; it was strange; it was unusual. What was *strange* must be *wrong*; what was *unusual* must be *improper*. Shirley was judged."

Unfortunately that method of judgment, even to-day, is still extant where pioneer women are concerned.

(To be continued.)

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Women and Unemployment in Hungary.

One unforeseen, yet vitally important result of the Census of Unemployment taken last March in Budapest was that it strengthened the Woman's Movement, both in widening the sphere of woman's work and in affording evidence necessitating its further extension.

This Census was the first in Hungary in which women were drawn into the work. The municipal authorities decided to carry out the Census by voluntary workers, but it is extremely difficult to obtain the necessary number in Hungary, so they had to accept the offer of the National Union of Woman Officials, which chiefly includes clerks and those employed in banks, offices and commercial houses, in spite of the objection of the men of the Trade Unions from which the Census workers were chiefly recruited.

The town was divided for the purpose into small areas of work so that the quality of the work done in each could afterwards be examined by the authorities. They gave an account of it in the official report, and stated that the Trade Union workers—especially the women—accomplished their new task with great zeal and goodwill, and that the most complete and successful work was done in the areas of the printers, bookbinders, iron and metalworkers and among women.

Yet, in spite of this rare success, mentioned several times by the report, it was compelled also to give the following account of the unemployment of women:—

"Considering the important part that woman's work takes in the present economic organisation, that as domestic workers their labour is wage-labour, and further that in times of unemployment they become to a certain extent a competition to the unemployed of some other branches of trade, the Census was taken of women as well as of men."

How does it come, then, that: "Considering that the general Census (in 1911) gave the proportion of men and women labourers as 79.1 per cent. to 20.9 per cent., the proportion of the unemployed of the two sexes showing 90.3 per cent. of men to only 9.7 of women seems to lead to the conclusion that the Census was not successful in embracing whole scope of women's unemployment."

In spite of the figures proving that the bulk of unemployment falls on industries employing men's labour only (metal, machines, etc.), and in spite of the fact that Census workers did not succeed in obtaining the full figures of women's unemployment, especially in some branches of seasonal industry, the report admits that: "The facts prove that unemployment in these industries still prevails to a great extent."

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Listen, you troglodite men! Come out you cavedwellers! See that women are freeing themselves and help them to do so! They are no longer shut up tight in an egg; they have broken the shell; they are fledging fast and soon they will be able to fly. Then they will be your bodily equals, but being still spiritually purer and stronger, they will help men to rise to their higher level.

What woman to-day, who sees a man struggling to rise, will fail to help him in every way possible?

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Men want and have clothes to suit every occasion; they don't go ski-ing and mountain climbing in a top hat and frock coat; yet it is they who decree that a woman must be kept in the thralldom of her skirts! Oh! cavedwellers; wake up! Come out and salute the new woman, who will lose none of her old charm because she has added commonsense to her other virtues; who will love you none the less, and who will be only the more loveable because she can be a real comrade in all branches of life. She does not want to take your work or your play from you; she wants to do them both with you on an equal footing, but when she proves she can do either better than you do, then it must be to the better, regardless of sex, that the work or the play goes.

Then again, open your eyes and know that clothes do not represent purity! Cleanse out from your minds old-fashioned ideas of what is pure and what is not. Realise new truths and help your own dear womenfolk to throw off all unnecessary trammels; give them a hand up, and by doing so you will find you are raising yourselves. I sign this with a great name; it is mine only by right of high endeavour, PURITY.

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Special House ... 26/6	Large Kitchen ... 23/6	Anthracite Nuts ... 41/-
	Coke ... 13/- per Chaldron.	

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Yet, in spite of this rare success, mentioned several times by the report, it was compelled also to give the following account of the unemployment of women:—

"Considering the important part that woman's work takes in the present economic organisation, that as domestic workers their labour is wage-labour, and further that in times of unemployment they become to a certain extent a competition to the unemployed of some other branches of trade, the Census was taken of women as well as of men."

How does it come, then, that: "Considering that the general Census (in 1911) gave the proportion of men and women labourers as 79.1 per cent. to 20.9 per cent., the proportion of the unemployed of the two sexes showing 90.3 per cent. of men to only 9.7 of women seems to lead to the conclusion that the Census was not successful in embracing whole scope of women's unemployment."

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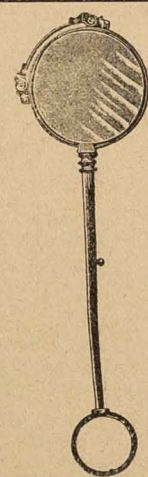
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Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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*** 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.

WOMEN'S LABOUR AND WAR.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—One can but agree with Miss C. S. Bremner as regards employment for women at the present time. It is what I have favoured now for some time. Indeed, women's work and wages, and the conditions under which they work, is a subject that I have dealt with for many years, and not so long ago, in *The Nation*. Women's services could be requisitioned in many directions now untouched. The English, however, are slow to move or create any new innovation under any circumstances. Many of the services to-day are controlled, and staffed by men where women could do as well, if not even better. The mischief, however, is that the wages are not put on the same level as man's.

In the post-office, where women's labour abounds, perhaps there is still room for a much larger number to supplant the men fit for war service. I am sure that railways could well employ women. Women are at the box-offices and similar places, and could quite well carry out the duties of the ticket-office; no less as waitresses and attendants on the restaurant cars, and whatnot. But railways, like the steam-roller, take some moving. Here, however, the suggestion would be carried out if the public only pegged away and be full-hearted about it.

I, certainly, as a publicist of no small experience, can fully testify, as Miss Bremner does, to the splendid, not to say noble, work put in by such women as Lady Balfour, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Besant. But the names of such women are legion.

FRANK MARSHALL.

St. Stephen's Chambers, E.C.

Dec. 14, 1914.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR EDITOR,—I quote the following extract from the *Morning Post* of December 14, and think very little comment is necessary:—

"The governors of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Hospital (owing to the scarcity of doctors) having been unable to secure men for the posts of 3 resident medical officers, called to military duties, have appointed 3 lady doctors."

This notice is given in its bold, laconic statement of fact, leaving its readers to draw their own inferences as to the attitude of despair of the governors, presumably all men, thus being obliged to call on women to fill the place of men to heal, cure and operate on the sick in the Wolverhampton Hospital.

It shows the public that, though apparently very reluctant to acknowledge the equality and suitability of women in the medical arena, these governors, in spite of their prejudices and conventionalities, are compelled to call on lady doctors to come to their rescue in this hospital.

I should like to know whether these ladies will be considered worthy to receive the same salaries as the men doctors?

I rejoice to think that the result of this ghastly European war will bring about the adjustment of the balance between the feminine and the masculine, and will bring to life the words of the Holy Bible, spoken thousands of years ago, that "in the image of God made He them male and female," thus proving that God made neither sex superior to the other, though man, in his arrogance and selfishness, has thought he knew better than the Deity as to inequality of the sexes.

KATHLEEN FORBES.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

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