

THE VOTE,
August 21, 1914.
ONE PENNY

2-4-18
WOMEN VOLUNTEER POLICE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 252.

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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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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"Votes for Fighters."

In those eventful days before Parliament rose a fortnight ago for a brief adjournment, when momentous decisions were in the balance and Bills were introduced, passed through their various stages, and became Acts within a few hours, time was found to place on the Statute Book a short Act to ensure "votes for our fighters." The Government, knowing that many voters, through being called away on naval or military service, would not be able to register at the appointed time (August 20), brought in and carried a Bill to enable a relative or friend to make the necessary claim on behalf of the absent voter. Even a wife is permitted to render this service for her husband, though she may not enter her own name on the register. The male voter is further protected against disfranchisement if, during his absence, his wife and children are obliged to receive Poor Law relief. When we see these steps taken in time of stress to safeguard the rights of male voters, we smile at the cold comfort so often given by voters to voteless women, that "the vote is of little value after all!" We trust the time is not far distant when equal care will be taken to make sure that women voters are not deprived of their rights by the dire calamity of war or any other catastrophe.

How Women Suffer.

The ranks of women suffragists are likely to be strengthened by the addition of married women, many of them heedless or apathetic hitherto as to the need for the vote, who are at the moment suffering seriously because they are obliged under man-made law to adopt the nationality of their husband.

British women married to Germans are compelled, under penalty of £100 fine or six months' imprisonment, to register themselves as Alien Enemies in the land of their birth. They suffer many disabilities; they may not go more than five miles from their registered domicile, except by permission; telephones and motor-cars or cycles are prohibited, and many other galling restrictions reduce these British women to the status of those in arms against us. Efforts failed recently to secure justice for women when Mr. Harcourt's Aliens' and Nationalities Bill was before the House of Commons. Their present sufferings will spur women to demand the vote, in order that such disabilities of British women in their own country may be made impossible.

Women to the Rescue—Officially.

It is gratifying to be able to record that not only in all manner of volunteer social service being performed by women, on whom the Local Government Board and the Local Governing bodies are relying more and more for the continuous discharge of the duties relating to the relief of distress; but that the Government itself has had to depend for the discharge of very important and urgent work on the women in its service, who in the moment of crisis proved themselves admirably competent and reliable. Owing to the hurried withdrawal of Reservists, Territorials, etc., from the Post, Telegraph and Telephone services, much of the emergency work during the early days of mobilisation fell on the women clerks and operators. The women telephonists, after the declaration of war, were on duty from 2 p.m. to 8 a.m.—a total of 20 hours on end. The telegraphists all volunteered for Sunday duty; and a large proportion for night duty. The demand of "equal pay for equal work" on the part of the women has been hitherto met with the reminder that they were not liable for night duty!

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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.
VOTE Street Sales Organiser—Miss P. LEAHY.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AND THE NATIONAL CRISIS.

1. Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps.

The National Aid Corps organized by the Women's Freedom League, is already in working order and fast enrolling members. The formation of the Committee took place on August 20, after we had gone to press. The members of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League are *ipso facto* already members. Next week we shall publish the names of many valuable helpers added at the meeting. Mrs. Despard is President of the Corps.

The National Aid Corps is actively co-operating not only with the Women's Emergency Corps, but with all existing organizations, unions and committees for the relief of distress and finding of employment for those women and girls whom the dislocation of trade, owing to war conditions, has deprived of work. Members of W.F.L. outside London wishing to help in national aid are desired to enroll at their own Branch, and make known to the secretary what they are prepared to do. They will be supplied with the registration and qualification form, comprising a wide variety of service and aid to meet this time of their country's need. It is earnestly hoped that all will respond according to their capacity and gifts, for there is work for all.

The Secretaries of all Branches have been asked to work in conjunction with their Local and Care Committees and Trade Unions, so as to avoid studiously any overlapping.

Further particulars can be had at the Head Office, Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand. Hours 10.30 to 4.30; Saturdays, 10.30 to 2 p.m.

2. Women Volunteer Police.

A scheme for securing the public welfare, in consonance with the views entertained not only by Suffragists but by most bodies of persons engaged in social reform work, by enrolling able-bodied and respectable women as volunteer "special constables" is now under consideration. It has not yet secured official recognition; it may not do so for some time to come; but its possibilities for usefulness cannot be denied.

If the inspired articles in the "Times" and other papers may form any guide to the exact position in which the nation stands, it is obvious that more and yet more of the able-bodied male workers will be withdrawn from ordinary civic service. Their places where possible will have to be filled by women; and quite a large proportion of the duties performed by men constables, such as the custody of public buildings, the regulation of street "queues," the policing of railway stations, and so on, could be undertaken by women, leaving the available men free to perform sterner duties.

Appeals are being issued in every direction with a view to engaging and utilising for the benefit of the nation the vast reserve of feminine energy and ingenuity. I am confident that this form of public

service, which is not competing with any established trade or profession, nor taking work away from any business, will be found a valuable outlet for volunteer service.

It is essential that volunteers should be healthy, self-reliant and reliable, punctual and regular, and not under-sized. The Corps will be called the Women Volunteer Police; and it is hoped that by degrees a uniform costume will be adopted, consisting of useful blue serge skirt, Norfolk jacket of the same with pockets, straw hat (Panama style) with blue ribbon, and white armband with W.V.P. in bold lettering. Contributions, that would enable women in necessitous circumstances to be employed in making the jackets, will be gladly received by Miss Sidley.

C. NINA BOYLE,

Letter to Members.

The following communication has been sent from the Political and Militant Department to our members on this important subject:—

DEAR FELLOW MEMBER,

The enclosed letter has been sent to Sir Edward Ward, who is organising the enrolment of Special Constables, and we hope for favourable consideration of it, if not actually at the present moment, at any rate in the not far distant future.

Will you offer your services *at once* as recruiters, or canvassers for women, able-bodied, respectable, and willing to give time *regularly* for this work? Four hours a day is all that will be expected.

If we *now* equip every district in the country with a body of women able and willing to do this class of work, it will be very difficult for the authorities to refuse to employ women in such capacity after the war. We hope to hear that you will co-operate warmly with us in this very necessary work.

Letter to Sir Edward Ward.

13th August, 1914.

SIR,

My department has called the attention of the Women's Freedom League to the need of Special Constables to replace the men called away from the police forces to the colours; and in view of the fact that there may be duties of a more urgent nature which all male citizens will be called upon to perform should the present crisis become more acute, I am instructed to ask whether you would give favourable consideration to the suggestion that able-bodied women should be recruited to assist in maintaining public peace and order.

Should you entertain sympathetically this offer of national service, my League will make it its business:

- To recruit from all classes of the community able-bodied and respectable women who will give service in the way specified by your regulations.
- To see that such recruits receive some measure of instruction in their duties by some qualified person, preferably a suitable member of the police force.
- To supply marshals to conduct recruits to and from instruction, and to place them on their points or beats.
- To guarantee that all serving in this capacity shall be suitably dressed.
- To equip each special constable with a list of the depots, offices, or organisations dealing in the different kinds of relief within her district, for the information of distressed or destitute women (according as they may be wives of soldiers, sailors, Territorials, unemployed, or themselves discharged from work). Also with lists of the hospitals, ambulance-vans, fire-stations, or alarms, public telephones, etc., in their beat.

I would suggest that suitable work for these special service women, in addition to the ordinary routine, would be to take duty at all Town Halls

to obtain from women seeking relief the information concerning their status and conditions, which would enable them to be at once directed to the right quarter without long periods of waiting to see some hard-worked official; at the main railway stations, in the absence of porters to relieve women travellers of the care of their children during the search for luggage, tickets, cabs, etc.; as interpreters, wearing an arm-badge to that effect; at all relief depots to help to regulate queues of women or children; in the parks, etc., where children play; and to keep a vigilant watch on undue prices of food in retail premises within crowded and necessitous areas.

I have reason to believe that the greatest possible amount of usefulness could be derived by the public from such a corps, and that a volume of goodwill would be put into making it efficient and effective.

Believe me, Sir, to be,

Faithfully yours,

C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of Political and Militant Department.

WHAT OTHER WOMEN ARE DOING.

Suffragists have taken a bold lead in organising the prompt and far-reaching response of women to the call of their country. They have their organisations in being, and the experience of recent years has rendered them efficient in co-operation and ready in resource. Information about the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps and the Women Volunteer Police, organised by the Women's Freedom League, is given above. We append news of the work of other societies.

The Women's Emergency Corps.

The Little Theatre, John Street, Adelphi, as the present local habitation of the Women's Emergency Corps, is a hive of industry. The work is systematised and every volunteer, after passing the examiners, is drafted to the section she is qualified to join. With the view of keeping the workers working, it is hoped to start work-rooms, in which women thrown out of employment through the war will be able to work and receive payment. Orders have been received by the Corps, houses put at their disposal, and sewing machines supplied. Miss Beatrice Harraden has made a public appeal to women to support this scheme instead of organising sewing parties of the well-to-do.

The International Suffrage Alliance.

7, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The Alliance continues its special work of befriending foreign women left stranded or detained in this country. Most of them are eager to find work rather than receive doles; among them are teachers, typists, domestic servants, etc., also women of position, who would give help in various ways in return for a home.

British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

The Union has sent an appeal to its members throughout the Empire to assist in mitigating the distress of the coming winter by sending warm clothing for the poor, and suggesting a personal message, to be stitched on by the maker, to the recipient of each article.

The National Union of Women Workers.

Mrs. Creighton, the President, sent a letter to the 53 branches of the Union, asking them to do all they can to co-operate with the civic or county authorities and other agencies in order to prepare to meet the distress caused

Our readers who are nurses will be glad to hear that Messrs. Debenham & Freebody, of Wigmore-street, are ready to undertake the making of hospital uniforms of all grades. The name of the firm is guarantee for good work.

A GOOD WAY TO HELP.

Buy your Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Chocolate, Vegetarian Foods, Butter, Eggs, etc., from the Merchandise Dept. at Headquarters, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, London, W.C. All depts. are now well supplied with new stock. Call or write to Mrs. Snow without delay. Current prices charged. Profits go to support "THE VOTE."

by the war. The proposed conference of the N.U.W.W. at Bristol will in all probability not be held in October, as arranged.

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

The Executive Committee have unanimously decided to suspend for the time being active political work, and to offer the services and organization of the association to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association throughout the country.

The National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage is devoting itself to the same work.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

The League has put its central offices and salaried staff at the disposal of the authorities as a voluntary contribution for the purpose of relief or other patriotic work during the crisis, and is advising all its branches to take similar action.

The Women's Social and Political Union.

In view of the European war, the Union has decided to suspend all hostilities and activities at once now that their women political prisoners are released, and every member of the Union will loyally abide by this decision.

Women on the National Relief Committee.

Miss Mary MacArthur, Miss Violet Markham, and Mrs. McKenna, have been appointed to the Committee of Fifteen which, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Wedgwood Benn, M.P., will be responsible for the distribution of the Prince of Wales' Fund.

WOMEN AS VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The Workers' Committee formed as a result of the recently called Conference of Labour and allied organisations, which included among its delegates Miss Mary MacArthur and Mr. Sidney Webb, passed the following resolution among others, dealing with the subject of the present unemployment.

"That in view of the supreme importance of doing everything possible to maintain undiminished the volume of wage-earning employment and especially in view of the hundreds of thousands of women now being thrown out of work, this Committee strongly protests against various well-meaning suggestions that women of independent means, or girls of school age, should undertake gratuitously the making of garments for the poor, necessaries for the troops, or other work that would otherwise be paid for on commercial lines; and this Committee urges upon benevolent persons willing to give their help that they can only avoid doing positive harm by confining themselves to the many duties and services that are performed only by volunteers, of which more will be required."

THE SPHINX.

A strong emotional drama entitled "The Sphinx," which purports to present in symbolism the mystery underlying the sex problem, is to be produced at the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, Saturday night, October 3rd. We have had many feminist plays, setting forth the deplorable conditions of the woman's position, but we have not yet had a play founded on a spiritual and scientific basis, showing how these conditions can be changed. Literature dealing with the subject from its esoteric as well as its scientific aspect, will be on sale in the theatre during the run of the play.

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I remain, yours sincerely,

R. J. C. WOLSELEY.

Stafford, March 16th, 1914.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS—

435, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY August, 21st, 1914.

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

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

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

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.

NATURE DEMANDS PRODUCTION NOT DESTRUCTION.

Times of stress, like that through which our nation is passing at the present moment, have one useful feature. They are times of revelation. In their ordinary every-day life of business and pleasure, men and women fail, in the vast majority of cases, to realize themselves. They think they are contented. Things as they are have them in an iron grip; and if, now and then, the restlessness of disenchantment breaks in upon their slumbers, they set it aside. "After all," they say, "what would you have? These things are natural. To kick against them is stupid. If you must blame someone, blame the constitution of humanity." Therefore, because nature has willed it so, we have wars; therefore we have selfishness; therefore we have preventable disease; therefore we have hideous social differences—one child born to every opportunity the world can offer for leading a happy, useful and honourable life; another born to lack of opportunity, failure and degradation.

This is the explanation which is offered to us of the awful madness—the blood-thirst and fury—that has been unloosed amongst the nations. It is natural.

Has not the time come when we women, who so piteously suffer from men's conception of the natural, should lift up our voices in protest; is it not time we should convince ourselves and impress it with all our force, upon the world that war and disease and selfishness and the industrial strife—which, in the long run is more destructive than even militarism—are not natural; nay, that they are unnatural in the highest degree?

This is particularly incumbent upon us now, because we have before us in vivid presentment the acute danger of accepting as truth the prejudices and fictions that have grown up in the community, through the physical and mental laziness of myriads of people.

This is how it stands. Generation after generation we ourselves have learnt, and, alas, have taught our children, that we must be content to lead crippled lives because war, disease, and industrial strife are necessary evils. Therefore our armaments must be kept always on a war-footing, no matter how great the sacrifice to the nation; therefore, instead of amending the social wrongs to which by far the larger part of our disease is due, vast institutions in which they can be treated must be built up; therefore, while in their churches the rich are

taught to be kind to the poor, it is held to be no sin to exploit poor workers mercilessly.

We may be told that we are wrong, that every sort of human experience is against us, that the prophets and seers have dreamed vainly, that there will never be peace upon the earth. This we deny and we can do so with the greater confidence, because of the evidence to the contrary that we find on every side of us to-day.

Let us see how it is with us. We are engaged in what may prove to be the most awful war the world has ever known. As to the reasons for the war, we have nothing to say. We believe when its true history is written, it will be seen that the war-caste and the diplomatists of more than one nation are responsible for it. In any case, Britain is at war. Lord Kitchener prophesies that it will be a long war. His recruits are bound to the colours until peace is declared or for three years. If, at the end of that time *the war still continues*, they may be released.

It is impossible even dimly to foreshadow what the effect of so protracted a struggle would be upon the nations. It may be that this long and awful strain will be too great for European civilization. Of this we know nothing. We can only testify to that which we have seen. For, unquestionably, we are having to-day a revelation of what lies at the heart of humanity; of what is therefore in the truest sense, natural.

In our own nation, and, we believe, in other nations that are engaged in this dire struggle, there is a fine spirit of courage. People of every class, not responsible for the sudden conflagration, are showing themselves ready to share in the hardships it will bring; and, with this, we find on the part of multitudes an earnest, almost passionate, desire to render service, not only to the actual combatants, and those dependent on them, but to all who will suffer through the dislocation of the ordinary life of the community. Of this there is no doubt. Thousands upon thousands of women, marshalled by the Suffrage Societies, are pouring into the various centres, offering their services.

At the same time we find everywhere, especially amongst women and hand-workers, a strong detestation of war as war, coupled with a resolve which, we hope and pray, will grow in intensity, so to regulate international relations in the future that such another European war shall be impossible.

What does all this prove? Surely what we of the Suffrage Societies have been trying to make the country see for these last few years—that the physical force theory which has betrayed the nations into the terrible *impasse* in which they find themselves to-day—is not natural. It is an illusion, a hideous shadow that will vanish away when "the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" dispels our darkness and reveals us to ourselves.

We do not hate. There is no desire on the part of the peoples to kill and ravage one another. When a wounded man lies helpless on the enemy's field, he is not treated as a foe. Rather, he is cherished, healed and comforted. German soldiers are now being kindly tended in Belgium hospitals. So it will be everywhere throughout the struggle, and this is an indication of the spirit which, when it has gathered force enough, will bring wars to an end.

Many are asking what shall we do? What is our duty in this crisis?

To the members of our League and to all other women we answer. First: be certain in your own souls. Open your eyes to the truth that the life of the nations depends not upon diplomatists and politicians, nor even upon Emperors and Kings, and

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

A Census of Policewomen.

There are 63 policemen in the United States. Of this number Chicago has 20, Rochester has one, and Syracuse has one. The rest are divided among 20 cities. Three cities: Portland (Oregon), Tacoma (Washington), and Oakland (California), have Departments of Public Safety for women and children. Departments of Public Safety are established in States where women are enfranchised.

Books for Suffrage.

The University of Wisconsin, which has a department of debating and public discussion, and sends out packages of books all over the State, announces that during the past six months Woman Suffrage was the most popular of the 1167 subjects asked for.

Australian Women and Politics.

"*Woman Voter*," just to hand from Australia, gives the following interesting figures of the percentage of women voters:—"We learn by last week's mail that Sir Henricker Heaton has been taking away the character of Australian women voters by saying they do not care a two-penny stamp about the franchise, and that barely 50 per cent. of them vote. Who supplied him with the supposed 'facts' he is serving up to the British people? We have great pleasure in giving him the actual facts, taken from the Commonwealth Register after the 1913 elections:—

Men Enrolled	...	...	1,453,949
Women Enrolled	...	...	1,306,267
Percentage Men Voters	...	...	77.22
Percentage Women Voters	...	...	69.71

The following figures show how the interest taken by women in politics has stimulated the men's vote, and how the increase in the women's vote has been greater than the increase in the men's vote at each election since 1903:—

	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
1903	53.09	39.96	First election at which women voted	
1906	56.38	43.30	3.29	3.34
1910	67.58	56.17	11.20	12.87
1913	77.22	69.71	9.64	13.54

These figures offer remarkable proof of the interest taken by women in politics, and they are all the more remarkable when we remember that if one parent has to sacrifice their vote it is always "mother!"

Royal Court Theatre,

SLOANE SQUARE.

Saturday, October 3rd, at 8 o'clock.

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will present a strong, emotional Drama,

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"THE SPHINX"

For seven Performances and two Matinées.

£400 approximately will cover the entire expenses.

The net profits accruing from the nine performances will belong exclusively to the shareholders. It is hoped that the capital will be subscribed by the members of the Suffrage Societies, and should the play prove a success and continue for a long run, the original shareholders will also continue to participate in the profits during the whole of the initial London run of the play.

For Prospectus and Information apply—

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armed hosts of warriors—but upon the women and the workers of both sexes. If these combine, if these hold fast to the truth, it will be in their power, perhaps in the near future, to stop war. Society—let us hold this in our minds—must be regulated not for war, but for peace. Let us not be afraid to say so plainly. Every day until this conflict ends will see the destruction of war material. If we are wise and strong it will never be replaced. Not material for destruction but for production; not hatred but love; not competition but community of interests must be our cry.

This first, and, while the horror lasts, to keep our own banner flying, and to give ourselves in every possible way to the help and comfort of those who suffer.

"Ye are not bound; the soul of things is sweet.
The heart of being is celestial rest;
Stronger than woe is will."

C. DESPARD.

THE RELEASE OF SUFFRAGIST PRISONERS.

The following letter was sent from Headquarters on August 13 to the Home Secretary:—

SIR,
I have the honour to request that you will convey to His Majesty the King the thanks of the Women's Freedom League for his gracious act of conciliation in extending an amnesty to women political prisoners sentenced in connection with the Suffrage movement.

His Majesty's action has given strength to the natural desire of my League to give all the public service in its power at this time of severe national strain.

I have the honour, Sir, to be,
Your obedient servant,
C. NINA BOYLE.

Head of Political and Militant Department.

A SUFFRAGE BATTLE HYMN.

By S. GERTRUDE FORD.

God save our British arms
To guard our British land!
Defending them from all that harms
In every hostile band.

God save the British man,
The British youth and boy!
That each may do the thing he can
For Britain's pride and joy.

God save the British wife,
Mother of British men!
Their hope in peace, their help in strife,
Their comrade, now as then.

God save the British maid,
Her country's fairest flower;
Unbind her hands, to heal and aid
With undefeated power!

God save the weak, the poor!
Give these their daily bread.
Bid every house keep open door
Till all Thy flock be fed.

God save the nations all!
Till war and wrong shall cease,
And every kingdom, great and small,
Proclaim the League of Peace.

REGENT'S PARK.

A successful meeting was held in Regent's Park last Sunday morning. Miss Munro was the speaker, and dealt very effectively with woman's many responsibilities and activities during war time, and afterwards. She strongly emphasized the futility of the antiquated argument that fighting was a necessary qualification for the Parliamentary Franchise. At the close of the meeting, the chairman asked for questions, but there were none forthcoming; and a gentleman in the audience called out to Miss Munro, "There are no questions; you have converted us all!"

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Sunday, August 23.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Underwood and Miss Spriggs. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy and Mrs. Hyde. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.
Monday, August 24.—CLAPHAM (1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road). Branch meeting, 7.30.
Sunday, August 30.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Mrs. Tanner. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Underwood and Mr. Darby. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.
Thursday, September 3.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.
Saturday, September 5.—CLAPHAM BRANCH GARDEN PARTY, 4, Ryde Vale Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Every, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard will be present.
Sunday, September 6.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.
Monday, September 7.—KENSINGTON. Corner Lancaster Road and Blenheim Crescent, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.
Sunday, September 13.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Eunice Murray. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.
Monday, September 14.—KENSINGTON, corner Lancaster-road and Blenheim Crescent, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
Sunday, September 20.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Nina Boyle, REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Brighton and Hove W.S.N.A. Corps.

Friday, August 21.—BRIGHTON. The Front. Open-air meeting, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.
Monday, August 24.—HOVE, 8, San Remo. First-Aid Lecture by Dr. L. Martindale, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, August 25.—HOVE, 8, San Remo. Sewing Meeting, 8 p.m.
Thursday, August 27.—HOVE, 8, San Remo. First-Aid Lecture by Dr. L. Martindale, 6 p.m.
Friday, August 28.—HOVE, 8, San Remo. Sewing Meeting, 8 p.m.

WAR NOTICE.

We wish to assure the Public that we have not increased any of our prices and that all orders are being dealt with as usual. We would also point out that at a time like the present, when economy of all kinds is both a duty and a necessity, the cleaning and pressing of clothes by our process saves the expense of buying new.

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Forthcoming Events—(continued).

Monday, August 31.—GRAYS. Open-air meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss F. A. Underwood.
Thursday, September 3.—MIDDLESBROUGH (Hinton's Café). Business meeting.
Monday, September 14.—GRAYS. Open-air meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Tippett.

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

August 21 to August 28.—ABERYSTWYTH (c/o Post-office). Meetings on Beach daily. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro. Organiser, Miss A. M. Clark.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, August 21.—BRIGHTON (Reform Diet Summer School). Miss Nina Boyle, on "The Future of the Race." 8 p.m.

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To BRANCH TREASURERS.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for that purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer

BRANCH NOTES.

Clapham.

On Saturday, September 5, a Garden Party will be held by kind invitation of Mrs. Every, 4, Ryde Vale Road, Balham, at 3 p.m. We shall have the great pleasure of welcoming among us our President, Mrs. Despard, and we know that this fact will be the best possible incentive to all our members and friends to do their utmost to make the Garden Party a great success. There will be an attractive dramatic programme arranged by Miss Winifred St. Clair, also games, competitions, etc. Gifts for prizes and help towards tea will be most welcome. All particulars from Miss St. Clair, 16, Ryde Vale Road, Balham. Members are urged to attend the committee meeting on August 24 at 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's Road.

Brighton and Hove.

This Branch has started busily to work again as the Women Suffrage National Aid Corps. Miss Gregory, Vice Organiser for this district, is to be the head of one of the Emergency Hospitals, and we have undertaken: (a) the responsibility for all the sewing required by it, and (b) to hold Meetings on the Front to raise funds, of which part will go for the same purpose. Sewing Parties will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. at 8, San Remo, Hove; the first was well attended by Suffragists and "Antis," and in this way we hope to interest friends in the Cause who would not otherwise come to our meetings. On Monday the first of a series of First-Aid Lectures was held at 204, Church-road, Hove, by the kindness of Mrs. Knowles. We are fortunate in having Dr. Louisa Martindale to conduct the classes; they will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at 6 p.m., at 8, San Remo, in future, owing to the large attendance.

Middlesbrough.

The Middlesbrough Branch met on August 14 and formed itself into an Aid Corps on the lines laid down in the resolution of the N.E.C. Miss James, 9, King Edward's Road, Middlesbrough, was appointed captain, and Mrs. Schofield Coates was elected to represent the Corps on the local Committee of Citizens.

Schemes discussed were:—
1. The employment of girls dismissed from dressmaking establishments; 2. The employment of dismissed servants in the food depots and for cleaning the streets, etc.; 3. The provision for care of babies and mothers; 4. Women as gar-



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deners, harvesters, police; 5. Collecting wearing apparel for people needing clothing.

A Sub-committee was appointed to collect information from Labour Exchanges with a view to finding out vacant posts which could be filled by women, and also to make a list of unemployed women. At the close of the meeting the Mayor called and promised to submit Mrs. Schofield Coates' name to the Local Government Board for membership of the Citizen Committee. Members and friends desiring to help should send names to Miss James.

In view of the national crisis the Garden Party and the Sweated Industries Exhibition have been cancelled. A business meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3, in Hinton's Café to decide what definite-line of action can be taken up during the winter months.

Winchester.

Mrs. Carey arranged a Jumble Sale on August 12 in aid of the Branch funds. The result was satisfactory, as she was able to hand over £6 to the local treasurer, and £2 to Miss Leahy for advertising THE VOTE.

Paisley and Clyde Bank.

The campaign on the Clyde was brought to a close last week, and the League will now concentrate its energy on the great industrial centres. On Saturday afternoon, Miss Broughton held a meeting in the Abbey Close, Paisley, and another at Clydebank in the evening. Both meetings were orderly and attentive, despite some interruptions. THE VOTE was sold at both meetings.

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Debenham and Freebody, of Wigmore Street, with their long experience and special facilities for making every grade of hospital uniform, including the Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service, are in a position to undertake every garment and requisite required for the Nursing Profession at very moderate prices, and will be pleased to forward anyone an illustrated catalogue upon application. They also hold a large stock of flannels, calicoes, blankets, etc; also natural and blue flannel, as used for soldiers' shirts and pyjamas, and red flannel for hospital wear.

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