

The Suffragist (U.S.A.) reports:—

"Eyes were turned on that unknown white-washed Government reformatory for criminals from many parts of the country when the suffrage prisoners' release was announced. A dinner and reception was tendered the intrepid little group at the headquarters of the National Woman's Party in Washington, D.C., and men and women from many Eastern and Western States met together, not only to honour these women, but to voice the thought they brought from prison: that the fight for democracy must go on.

"Amongst the prisoners honoured were Miss Lavinia Dock, of Pennsylvania, a worker with Clara Barton, and author of authoritative works on nursing and dietetics.

"In the drawing-rooms of Cameron House, gay with the suffrage flags that it is a police misdemeanor to carry on the streets of the National Capital, there was an exultant air; yet there was a singular absence of reminiscence, of dwelling on those gray days of work in the Government prison to which the Administration is sending liberty-loving women.

"Outsiders knew that the brave little band had, through their protest, made prison conditions more livable in that place for all women; they knew the petty tyrannies inflicted on high-minded women there. But the prisoners themselves, paler, more worn, but with a new light in their eyes, refused to speak of those things. They refused to look upon themselves as martyrs. Their pride was that they left eleven more women in prison to continue the protest."

It was a brilliant meeting. The prisoners had a tremendous and well deserved ovation.

Representative John M. Baer spoke on the struggle democracy must continue to make at this time, and gloried in the fact that suffragists were pointing the way, and all the speakers paid eloquent tribute to the Women's Party. Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont (the mother of the Duchess of Marlborough) said that if cowardly persecutions did not cease, the Administration should be shorn of power in the next congressional election.

But of the group of speakers that stood under the brilliant colour of the Woman's Party, it was the group of released suffrage pickets who made the abiding and touching impression on that tense audience. Young in years, but for that veteran feminist, Lavinia Dock, there was not one who had not brought from the Government workhouse a larger impression of the liberty the women of this nation are now fighting for.

It is only a few weeks since these dramatic scenes took place in Washington. We know that the women with the mental and moral force to win this great victory will know well how to use the vote for the uplifting of their own people and of the world in general. We shall soon be shoulder to shoulder with them marching onward and upward, happy citizens of this wonderful world—so full of beauty and goodness—in spite of the ignoble few.

V.A.D. ORGANIZATION.

The passage of arms between Dame Furse, Commandant-in-Chief of the Women's V.A.D.s, and the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, Chairman, Central Joint V.A.D. Committee, has resulted in the resignation of Dame Furse and several of her supporters. Dame Furse invited reforms from her point of view; the Chairman and Central Joint V.A.D. Committee told her in very unvarnished language that, if she did not as an officer obey the orders of the governing body, it was impossible to carry on the work; and they accepted her resignation and shut up the correspondence in the *Times* with a sledge hammer.

When a few people have had the handling of eight millions of money, no flowery frills of verbosity are necessary in dealing with subordinates. The basis on which the organization of the V.A.D.s is built up is rotten. We have expressed our opinion on this point quite frankly on numerous occasions.

The care of sick and wounded sailors and soldiers is the duty of the State, both in times of peace and war. The people are taxed hugely to pay that this work shall be done through the State Departments of the War Office and the Admiralty. In the case of the War Office—quite unconstitutionally—it has recognised the authority of a Charitable Organization—the Joint War Committee, largely composed of amateurs—and deputed certain of its very important national duties to its control.

After some considerable personal experience of this system, Dame Furse claims direct War Office status for V.A.D. workers; naturally, the Joint Central V.A.D. Committee objects to be deprived of power.

Let us hope, in the re-organization of Government, after the next election, the War Office, like every other Government Department, will be compelled to perform the duties, irrespective of charity and social influence, for which the people are taxed and its officials highly paid.

[* A National Army with political power, will no doubt see the force of our argument.

THE SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association was held at the Masonic Hall, 100, West Regent Street, Glasgow, on Monday, November 19th. Mrs. Strong, who was in the chair, was unanimously re-elected President. The Honble. Albinia Brodrick repeated the splendid address which she gave at the N.U.T.N. Conference in London on Professional Development and Organisation, and Miss Jentie Paterson explained why she took exception to the College of Nursing, Ltd. We regret being compelled to hold over the interesting report, received as we go to press, until next week.

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