

Sussex and Surrey Courier 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914, page 6

## THE LEAGUE OF HONOUR.

### Crowded Meeting at East Grinstead.

Since the outbreak of the war an organisation has been established in this country under the title of The League of Honour, and women and girls of all classes and all creeds are asked to join for the period of the war and help to uphold the three objects for which the League was formed, namely, prayer, purity and temperance. Already large numbers of women and girls have been enrolled in various parts of the country, and on Tuesday evening a meeting was held at the Queens Hall, East Grinstead, to appeal to the patriotism of the fair sex of the town. There was a crowded attendance, presided over by Miss POYNTER, and an eloquent address on the principles of the League was given by Mrs. HUDSON-PILE.

Amongst those present were the members of the Girl Guides, wearing their uniform. The proceedings opened in a devotional manner.

Miss POYNTER, in referring to the admiration they had for their soldiers and sailors, said they all felt they would like to do something to help them in some way or other in this great struggle against the foes of their country. There were two ways of helping, one of doing and one of being. Miss Poynter emphasised the need for prayer under the heading of doing, and remarked that if at some future date there was military training for all men in this country it would be well if there was training for all the women in the country also. In this way they would be able to do their work exceedingly well, and it would be of real value. Under the second heading they had to be truly womanly. They all had to take part in a much larger battle than they were waging against the Germans and Austrians; they had to take part in an unseen battle against unseen foes. They were all attacked by the same enemy and had to take their share, and as men and women they had to cast away the darkness and put upon them the armour of light. The League of Honour was giving them the opportunity of joining in the war for freedom, for which the organisation stood.

Mrs. HUDSON-PILE, in the course of her address, pointed out that it was just as important for the women to do something as for the men, and each one had to do their bit; women of all classes and of all religious beliefs. They were on their honour to be and to do their best whatever their opportunities may be. They had to turn out from them all thoughtlessness. The League of Honour was formed to band together women of all ages, and of all classes and all religious bodies, to use their influence for prayer, purity and temperance.

This was a great national righteous war, in which all could take part. What were they fighting for and why? They were fighting for their honour as a nation. It was given in a most solemn way by this country and by France and Germany, and other countries, to protect Belgium. They knew what had happened, and they had had to take their part in this war because they kept their word of honour. It was better to go into the war, because there was something worse than war, and that was a dishonourable peace; the worst peace anyone could have. If they had not gone into this war they would not have been worthy of the traditions of their nation! Here in East Grinstead the men had done their duty splendidly (applause), and that showed that the women had done their duty, too, because they had to do it together. The first thing that was asked of the women was to give their mankind. Mrs. Hudson-Pile recalled that all through the ages the women had inspired the men to brave deeds, and God forbid that they in the twentieth century should not uphold that record. They wanted courage; a big enduring courage and a cheerful courage, and should bring up their children to be worthy of the great sacrifices that were being made for them now (hear, hear). The influence of girls was always strong on the men they met. They knew they were going out to face death and would carry with them a strong remembrance of the girls they had left behind. There was something wanting in man if he could not look up to womanhood. Of course they wanted to show their pride in their soldiers, but must remember that there was a right pride and a wrong pride. Their work commanded manners and behaviour. If a man went out to meet his death they felt they were on their honour that anything they had done should be something that would help him. The speaker also emphasised the need for temperance, and remarked that in Russia strong drink had been forbidden by the Government, and in France there were restrictions, but in England, she added, they were left to look after themselves. The drink bill in England last year amounted to £170,000,000, which averaged half a million a day. The taking of the temperance badge was doing a lot of good in various ways. Mrs. Hudson-Pile also spoke of the great need for prayer, there not being a time when it was needed more than at the present.

Mrs. James sang the new recruiting song, "Your King and country need you."

A vote of thanks was heartily accorded Mrs. Hudson-Pile, on the motion of Miss POYNTER, who was accorded a similar compliment, on the proposition of Mrs. YOUARD.

Miss Paxton, Mrs. Ed. Young, Miss Lambert, Miss Crookshank and Mrs. Monro took the names of those who were willing to be enrolled as members of the League at the close of the meeting. The National Anthem was sung before the company dispersed.