

# The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

## Notes and News.

### The Speaker's Conference.

Several changes have been made lately among the members of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform. Four resignations—those of the Marquis of Salisbury, Colonel Craig, Sir Robert Finlay, and Sir Frederick Banbury—have been followed by the appointments of Lord Wortley, Mr. Touche, and Mr. E. M. Archdale. The first two mentioned, Lord Wortley, well known to us as Mr. Stuart Wortley, and Mr. Touche, are both staunch Women's Suffragists. No date is yet announced for the conclusion of the labours of the Conference.

"A series of private inquiries among members of both Houses," states *The Weekly Dispatch*, "have elicited the fact that opposition to a reasonable form of Women's Suffrage has altogether disappeared, and we must expect important developments in the near future."

### The New Privy Councillors.

In the list of "Coalition Honours," two out of three of the newly appointed Privy Councillors are old and staunch friends of Women's Suffrage—Mr. Leif Jones and Mr. Gulland.

### Organising Our Woman-Power.

The importance of organising our woman-power for war work is now obvious to most people, though it does not seem to be sufficiently realised, even yet, by the Government.

*The Daily Mail* urges that "the chaos and confusion consequent on the indifferent and faulty organisation of the men are a significant and serious warning," and that "our valuable woman-power must be judiciously directed into the most urgent and beneficial channels. The dissipation of female labour must be strenuously avoided." As examples of the way in which square pegs are at present being put into round holes, the writer says:—

"Educated women holding high degrees are expending their efforts on scrubbing floors and washing dishes, when their qualifications could profitably be turned to account much more. Young girls fresh from elementary schools are being entrusted with highly important and intricate work. Strong domestics, born and bred to manual labour, are engaged on light duties in the factories, while delicately bred women are performing strenuous work on the land and in countless other directions,

for which they are quite unfitted, with disastrous results both to the health of the women and to the future employment of female labour.

"This careless and incongruous placing of women workers reveals an enormous leakage in woman-power which we cannot afford to continue. It must be stopped, and the new organisation of population-power must provide the means for doing this successfully.

"There are thousands of women," the writer concludes, "eager and anxious to work who would readily volunteer for service under a system that is just and efficient. The unsatisfactory and capricious method now in being of dealing with services which have been readily offered is the main thing which has held them back."

All of which is very true, but one main cause of the confusion is overlooked. So long as women are deliberately excluded from all the officers' posts in the new armies of labour, so long will the male mandarin of the Government department, sitting secure behind his red-tape entanglements, go the longest and most wasteful way to work. Nobody will call him to account; and he knows it. The organisation of women's work by women is the right way out of a chaos which would never have existed if women's knowledge and experience had been accepted when they were offered.

### Women and War Thrift.

The women's branch of the National War Savings Committee has begun an economy campaign specially intended to rouse women of all classes to a recognition of the vital importance of economy, and to a sense of their own responsibility in the matter. It is desired, by means of this campaign, to produce in the mass of women the feeling that it is as much a disgrace to them to buy luxuries, whose manufacture absorbs the labour of people who might be doing work of national importance, as it was, in the early days of the war to a man to fail to enlist without adequate excuse.

As a beginning of the campaign, a *questionnaire* has been addressed to peeresses, wives of Members of Parliament, and others, asking for their help in holding drawing-room meetings, addressing meetings, inducing members of their households to join War Savings Associations, and by personal example in economy of food, dress, coal, and in every possible way. This is an excellent move so far as promoting economy among the wealthier classes is concerned, but there has been far too much in the past of lectures to the poor by women obviously surrounded by luxuries quite outside the reach of their audience. The woman whose costume, even on high days and holidays, is a neat coat and skirt, and whose chief daily meal consists of a small helping of meat and vegetables, followed by stewed fruit, keenly resents being lectured on the duty of thrift by ladies attired in rich silks and furs, and glistening with jewels. Let halls be borrowed for lectures to middle-class and working-class people by those of the same walk in life, and let the wealthy meet in one another's drawing-rooms to discuss how they can best reduce their own unnecessary expenditure.

### An End to all Luxury.

Some have already cut down expenses drastically. In reply to the *questionnaire*, one peeress wrote that she and her husband are "cutting down indoors and out by putting an end to all luxury—i.e., personally doing without maid and valet, tobacco, spirits, sweets, chocolates, theatres, motoring, travelling, holidays, visiting, entertaining, shooting, horses,

and economising in the matter of clothing and evening dress." The writer continues:—

"The castle is being closed and only a few rooms in one corner occupied. We have moved into small rooms, dismissed all the staff except four loyal women, thus making drastic reductions possible in every direction. All fire-places have been re-arranged and fire-bricks and coal-savers put in. Out of doors no eligible man has been kept on the estate, and exemptions have not been asked for. The wages of workpeople have been raised to meet the cost of living. Our cottages are all given rent free, and large supplies of coal and wood in addition. Girls are employed in lieu of men in the gardens. Potatoes have been grown in the flower-beds and the lawns used for hay. The stock of deer in the park has been and is systematically reduced for food supply. Keepers have gone, and at the estate office the bailiff's clerical work is being done as war work by a lady."

But this, except in as far as it encourages by showing that the wealthier classes are really making sacrifices, is not very helpful to people who even before the war had few luxuries, and sometimes lacked necessities. Their problem is quite different, and they can only be helped by someone with inside knowledge of the conditions of their lives.

#### A Huge National Saving.

A request for the complete prohibition of the sale and consumption of alcohol during the war has been made in a letter to the Prime Minister by a conference of delegates representing the great majority of the foremen employed in the shipyards and engineering works on the lower reaches of the Clyde (Greenock and Port Glasgow). The letter protests against:

"Consumption and waste of grain, sugar, and coal in the manufacture of superfluous alcoholic liquor at a time when the country is confronted with a growing shortage of food and fuel and the likelihood of these shortages being increased in the near future.

"The employment of tonnage, railways, &c., for the transit of materials, and for the finished product at a time when tonnage is being gradually reduced by enemy submarines; when railway travelling is being made almost impossible; and when man-power is being lost to the nation by so many able-bodied men being employed on the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquor who could be embraced and embodied in the national mobilisation scheme."

#### A False Economy.

A letter to *The Daily Telegraph* calls attention to the shortsighted policy of the Government in not organising a supply of adequately trained women to replace men in clerical work. "Offices," says the writer, "are being depleted of their male staffs, and in a few months' time, when our military strength ought to reach its height, our commerce and industry will be in danger of collapse owing to the want of foresight and sympathy on the part of Government Departments." Yet an experimental course in quick clerical training for women, started last winter by a well-known municipal college in London, has been closed down, although it proved a great success, because the Board of Education would not allow a grant, and the students could not afford a fee that would make the course self-supporting. "And so a good work, and one of national importance, was smothered by a Government department." "In the same college some very successful munition training classes are held. Students are admitted absolutely free to these munition classes, which are advertised extensively, and every encouragement is given to their development. It has been said that munition work is more important because it is war work, but it is that very shortsighted attitude that is doing the mischief. The training of substituted clerical labour is war work, because every woman worker installed in an office may mean another soldier for the Allies; and the appalling muddle and inefficiency as the result of installing as clerical workers women who have not the least idea of the work ought to emphasise the foolhardiness of appointing women who have not had, at any rate, a little training at good hands. There is still time to save what undoubtedly promises to be a very serious situation for the nation. The problem is a dual one of facilitating the release of more men for active service without jeopardising our present commercial system, the paralysation of which will spell disaster not only to current organisation of production, but also to preparedness for the post-war commercial struggle."

#### Utilising the Educated Woman.

While without proper training women can prove but very inadequate substitutes for the men whom they replace, they have shown that, given sufficient opportunities for learning, they can carry on the work of an office very satisfactorily, and many employers have been astonished at the facility with which they have picked up their various tasks. In the higher branches of secretarial work, requiring resourcefulness and capacity for taking responsibility, women are being more and more employed. Many are acting as private secretaries to the heads of important firms, and in one Government controlled factory

a woman graduate of Birmingham University is engaged in some very important statistical work. It is to be hoped that greater use will soon be made of women of good education in Government Departments, which are still showing themselves lamentably conservative.

#### The Wastefulness of the Low Wage.

Another false economy is the payment of too low wages. This is illustrated by Mr. F. H. Lemont, in an article on Economising on the War-time Pay-roll, in this month's *System*. Writing of the small amount turned out daily in a certain cane-weaving factory, he says:—"The direct cause of this low production was the rate of pay of the girl operators. They had been receiving only ten shillings a week. The result was much loafing and idle chatter throughout the department. This discovery increased production in one factory over 300 per cent." As a result of the investigation, a new standard was established, the girls received a substantial increase in wages, and the output was nearly tripled.

#### Starvation Salaries for Teachers.

As we have frequently pointed out, our Government sets a very bad example in the under-payment of women, and many local authorities are also offenders in this respect. Speaking a few days ago at a meeting of the Berkshire County Council, Alderman C. A. Ferard protested that the starvation salaries paid to some of the teachers employed by the Council were a disgrace to the country. He knew of a teacher at an infant school who was paid only 11s. a week. Another speaker stated that of the 250 supplementary teachers in Berkshire, forty-five received 17s. 3d. a week, and others even less. We publish, on page 515, a story founded on fact, dealing with the inadequate payment of teachers on supply.

#### Crèches for Munition Workers' Babies.

In many districts crèches have been established for the care of babies whose mothers are employed on munition work. Most of these are being carried on by voluntary effort, but some have been established by municipal authorities. The need for crèches in some places is urgent, and it is also very desirable that nursery schools and play centres should be established for the young children who at present often run about the streets in the evening till their mothers return from work. On the score of expense, however, many local authorities are refusing to consider the organisation of such centres, although the Ministry of Munitions is prepared to undertake three-fourths of the initial expenditure, where the need is proved, and the Board of Education, who are co-operating in the scheme, are willing to pay a certain sum for each child attending. At Acton, where the first London Munitions crèche was opened, the mother is charged 10d. a day, and although this is much higher than the 4d. a day usually charged by crèches, the authorities say that even this sum does not cover the actual running expenses. For play-centres, the Council schools may be lent out of school hours by the local education authorities, and this plan has already been adopted in a number of places, the finance committee in some cases allowing for heating and lighting as well.

#### A Scheme for Public Health.

The L.C.C. scheme for the treatment of venereal diseases came into operation on January 1st, and will continue in force until the end of the year, unless it is decided otherwise. The L.C.C. are co-operating with the Councils of Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent, and the County Boroughs of Croydon, East Ham, and West Ham, for the utilisation of the facilities afforded by the London hospitals. These are to receive payments from the pooled contributions of all the authorities for the work of treatment, and the pathological examination by doctors. The L.C.C. is also supplying drugs to London practitioners, the cost of which for the first year is estimated at £20,000.

A committee of the Hammersmith Borough Council has submitted to the Home Secretary for approval draft by-laws dealing with the general conduct of persons in streets and premises.

The committee suggests that a man who, knowing the injury he is likely to inflict upon himself, his wife and children, and the community generally, consorts with prostitutes, deserves to be regarded as no less criminal than the keeper of a disorderly house and the prostitute; and if found in such company or on disorderly premises should be made liable to prosecution. It also suggests that the city and borough councils of London should have power to arrest and prosecute prostitutes found upon disorderly premises.

## N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

### WORK IN RUMANIA.

Miss Mary Henderson, Administrator of the London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, has just returned from Rumania, by way of Odessa, Petrograd, and Scandinavia, and has many interesting details to add to the accounts of the Units' adventures which have already appeared in *THE COMMON CAUSE*.

As related in a previous issue, the Unit arrived at Medjidia on September 30th, and the hospital was got ready in a remarkably short time. Dr. Inglis, Dr. Corbett, and Dr. Potter stayed in charge of the main hospital there; while a small number of the staff went on to Bul-Bul-Mic, with Dr. Chesney, Miss Rendel, and Miss Henderson. Both hospitals were a great success, and it was therefore bitterly disappointing to have to evacuate them so soon.

The Unit, it will be remembered, was attached to the First Serbian Division of the Russian Army, but it did not, Miss Henderson told me, have much opportunity of nursing Serbians owing to the Serbian Division going into reserve soon after the arrival of our hospital.

"The Division had been in action," she explained, "before we arrived and had been badly cut up, but at the time our hospital was ready there was a great influx of Russian and Rumanian wounded. About a fortnight later the Serbians were in action again, just at the time of the retreat, and on the last night some two hundred of them passed through our hands at Bul-Bul-Mic. The last few days the sound of the guns got nearer and nearer, and the order to evacuate came on October 10th. We went back to a village near Medjidia, where we stayed one night. The next day I had occasion to go on business to Constanza, one of the transport drivers, Miss Mackenzie Edwards, driving me in the staff car. I found the city practically deserted, and the enemy took it next day. On the return from Constanza in the afternoon we got into the midst of the retreating Rumanian army. The enemy must have been very near, for the soldiers were crouching low, as they went along, taking what cover they could. When we got back late in the afternoon to where we had left the hospital, we found that Dr. Chesney and the staff had gone on in horse carts, leaving the transport, with which I followed that night; but the weather was bad and the roads in a shocking state, and we got stuck in the mud a little way outside Medjidia. On the following day we were able to get on again, and eventually found Dr. Chesney and her staff camped in a small village. We stayed there a couple of hours, and were then told to proceed at once.

"Being in the 'run-about' (my own staff car) I went on with the transport and lost sight of Dr. Chesney and the hospital again. That afternoon we had to abandon one of the lorries and the kitchen car, as the Bulgars were so close that the shells from their guns got the range of the retreating army, and we could see them bursting quite a short distance off.

"That night we reached a village called Caramouret, which Dr. Inglis dubbed the 'Alice in Wonderland Village' because of the wonderful, but at the same time matter-of-fact, way in which people kept turning up there. Arriving in the dark, we found that Dr. Chesney and her staff had passed through it before us, while Dr. Inglis and her contingent were putting up there for the night. Dr. Inglis greeted me next morning quite as if nothing out of the way had happened, and after passing the night in the automobile I went on next morning with instructions to try to find Dr. Chesney and then go on to Galatz.

"So I went on with the transport in an attempt to pick up Hospital B. Towards the afternoon I found we had gone past the place where Dr. Chesney was supposed to be. So I struck across the country with Miss Ford and two of the transport

drivers, Miss Edwards and Miss Glubb, and all that afternoon we scoured round the country, and eventually came upon a detachment of the Serbian army. They were very good to us, and the officers found us a little peasant's cottage in which we passed the night, being, as a matter of fact, left behind by the army, which went on, having orders to proceed, as there was a rumour that Bulgar cavalry was in the neighbourhood.

"That night was one of the most anxious I have ever spent in my life, as I felt considerable trepidation and responsibility for the three girls who were with me—the prospect of their being caught by the Bulgars was not a pleasant one.

"Next morning we started at daybreak and passed through Babaday, where we were informed that the transport was in the neighbourhood. We got eventually to Tulcea, where we were most kindly treated by a little lady, a veritable good Samaritan, who seemed to spring from the ground. Her name I do not know, but we shall always remember her and her kindness. She obtained a supply of petrol for us, which was very difficult to get, and provided us with night attire, so that

for once we could take our things off and have a good night's rest.

"The Rumanian General in command of the district to whom I went provided us, next day, with a soldier, who sat with fixed bayonet in the car, and helped us to clear the road before us when we went to Isacia, as it was so thronged with soldiers and refugees as to be almost impassable.

"A great impression was made on my mind by the sight of the fleeing peasantry, who in their ox-carts loaded up with all their poor little possessions, many of them trudging barefoot through the mud, hurried along the road like a flock of frightened sheep. No nation which has not had war actually in its own country can fully realise the terrible-ness of war.

"We went across the Danube on the pontoon bridge, and after a further drive of about thirty miles reached Reni, and were most kindly received by the Russian authorities, who provided us with baths and food, and sent us on to Galatz by boat. There our troubles, for a time, were ended. We learnt that Dr. Corbett and her contingent from Medjidia had arrived safely, and that the transport was close by at Braila. On the following day Dr. Inglis came in, and Dr. Chesney's group arrived a few days later."

Some account of the evacuation of the hospital at Medjidia has already appeared in *THE COMMON CAUSE*. "It was evacuated on October 22nd, and all the wounded safely sent off," said Miss Henderson. "The staff worked all night packing up equipment, which was dispatched to the station in little horse-carts. There, in circumstances of extreme discomfort, the station being crowded with refugees and wounded, the equipment was successfully loaded and dispatched under the able guardianship of two of the staff, Miss Bowerman and Miss Brown, who surmounted difficulties in the transport of the valuable goods committed to their care which people at home would find it difficult to imagine.

"Whenever officials were particularly tiresome, they held over their heads the wrath of an imaginary General Popovitch, whose name they used with remarkable effect in hastening the loading of the equipment upon the waggon. On one occasion they actually wrote out telegrams to this mythical personage, making complaints of delay.

"During the retreat Dr. Inglis was able to establish a dressing station for a day or two at Hirsova on the Danube.

"Dr. Corbett and some twenty members of the Unit had escaped in a 'sanitary train,' a very poor substitute for our magnificently equipped Red Cross trains. On the journey they were able to treat the wounded who swarmed on to the train,



doing their best to alleviate the most terrible suffering with such dressings as they happened to have.

"Some of those who travelled thus from Cernavoda told me how extremely impressive was the slow movement of the train, which took very many hours to traverse a few miles through a landscape lit up by the flames of burning villages, with moving horses and soldiers silhouetted against the glare.

"From Cernavoda the noise of dropping bombs and sound of guns was constantly heard, and the memory must remain as something of a nightmare to those who went through that experience.

"When I left Rumania some of our staff were working at Braila and some at Ismail, but we have just heard that Dr. Chesney is now at Odessa with her group from Ismail, and we presume that Dr. Inglis must have retired from Braila, probably to Jassi, on the frontier of Rumania and Russia. Before I left I got a store and had the equipment arranged so that it could be moved at a few hours' notice. This work was excellently accomplished by Miss Little and Miss Lewis.

"I cannot say enough of the splendid behaviour of the whole Unit. From beginning to end of a week fraught with perilous possibilities they showed perfect pluck. Dr. Inglis herself set a most gallant example; she never showed the slightest consciousness of danger, and insisted on remaining until the last possible moment. Before we retreated almost every day we had German aeroplanes over the camps, but our girls showed the utmost disregard of danger, and upheld very well the tradition of British pluck.

"One day, at Bul-Bul-Mic, I happened to be near some of the orderlies who were lying on their backs so as to get a better view of the aeroplane, and I heard one say quite calmly: 'It looks exactly as if the bomb might fall into my mouth if he dropped it.' On another occasion one of our nurses had a piece of shrapnel through the sleeve of her coat.

"The courage of the Serbians has also made a most profound impression on me. They have fought and endured splendidly. Their first thought seemed always to be of their country. 'Serbia will be saved,' said a young officer to Dr. Inglis, 'but where will the Serbian nation be?' He had seen his division almost annihilated."

Miss Henderson is going out again soon, with some fresh equipment, and in the meantime is lecturing in different places on the Unit's experiences in Rumania.

### The St. Pancras School for Mothers.

"Public health is purchasable. Over 11,000 babies died in London last year; 497 babies died in St. Pancras last year. Half these deaths are preventable."

With these arresting sentences the first page of the Ninth Annual Report of the St. Pancras School for Mothers begins. This school is not only the parent of its kind, having been opened in 1907, but has a number of special features distinguishing it from the many hundreds of other schools which have been founded since 1907.

The school is carried on in a large, light building, surrounded by a garden, in the Hampstead Road near the Temperance Hospital, and has the many forms of work common to all schools, ante-natal and baby consultations, organised visiting, mothercraft competitions, dinners for nursing and expectant mothers, and classes in mothercraft, sewing, knitting, and cookery; but in addition to these it makes a special feature of its day nursery, of its dental clinic, and of its training course.

The day nursery is in no sense an ordinary crèche, as it does not set out to take in the children of working mothers, though crèches of that kind are badly needed now in St. Pancras for mothers doing war work. But it only has space for ten to fifteen children daily, and these are children under the special observation of the doctors, needing temporarily special care and watching. The doctors find the nursery a great help to their teaching, and think highly of its educational work, which is a unique feature, and also its primary aim, as no child is kept in the nursery whose mother is not receiving and profiting by the school teaching. The mother must bring her baby with a clean body and satisfactory clothing, she must bring it herself, and must make up the child's feeds for the day, under supervision if need be, before she can leave it to return to her home or to work. It is found that practical instruction in the moral and physical welfare of the child has infinitely more value if demonstrated for each mother on her own infant, and thus the nursery is a practical adjunct of the school, and an extension of its teaching.

Another special feature is the dental clinic on the premises for both mothers and tiny children. It is a sad fact that almost every mother attending the school has her mouth in a shocking state of sepsis and decay, and as this is so bad for her own health and for that of her unborn or suckling infant, no mother is allowed to attend the dinners or to enter for the competitions unless she has had her teeth inspected. In this way, hundreds of mothers have their teeth attended to every year, and many are provided with false teeth, though the prohibitive price is a great difficulty.

The third special piece of work is the course of training for voluntary and assistant-paid workers, which was undertaken at the desire of the Central Association for Infant Welfare, at Tavistock Square. Other schools give training also, longer and perhaps of a more strictly scientific character, but St. Pancras aims at a very intimate training, with teaching of a practical kind.

Students come for three months (at a fee of £9, which covers their dinners and teas five days a week), and the first month they are directly under the Superintendent, learning the general outlines of mothercraft, including the making of a set of model garments, and attending the doctors' consultations. The second month they spend in the nursery, learning practically how to care for delicate and ailing babies; and the third month they visit with the highly-trained visitor, and help in the general work of the school. In addition, they have two lectures a week from the doctors, lectures of a very specially intimate and helpful character, and at the end of their course they are awarded a certificate, if they can pass the examinations and are considered suitable for infant welfare work.

The next term for students begins on January 10th, but special arrangements can always be made for students who wish to enter later, or to attend half-time only, or for health workers who would like to hear the doctors' lectures only. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Alys Russell, at the St. Pancras School for Mothers, 1, Amphyll Square, N.W.

[Presents of old fireguards, to be given to the poorer mothers who cannot afford to buy them, would be a real boon, also a present of letter scales to be used in the Secretary's office.]

### Human Clubs for Human Beings.

By MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE.

Naturally with the first blast of the trumpets of war, everyone's thoughts were with the men. The men who were to defend us must be started on their path with good-luck wishes in their knapsacks and warm socks upon their feet; and have comfortable clubs provided with warmth, free newspapers and notepaper, and cheap food.

The women did that. They knitted and sewed, they collected money for Y.M.C.A. huts (incidentally I have been instrumental in putting up between thirty and forty myself), they scrubbed floors, cooked eggs by the tens of thousands, and sent Tommy off from home with a "homey" feeling in his heart to new clubs, which a few months later began to be erected by the Y.M.C.A. in France, Salonika, Egypt, Malta, Gallipoli, &c.

There are something like 2,000 of these Y.M.C.A. War-Huts to-day, into the first of which I poured 125,000 books, 130 pianos, over 1,000 billiard tables, within the first four months of the declaration of war. So much for the men.

Now our thoughts must go to our womenfolk.

The munition worker is still very badly catered for. She is all right in spots. There are food canteens and good hostels here and there, but there are not enough, and although the Y.W.C.A. has tried to combat the shortage, the Y.W.C.A. wants more and more for its ever-growing army of women, just as its brother society wants more and more for sailors and soldiers. The Y.W.C.A. wants very careful handling. It must keep a broad mind. It must make *Clubs for Women*, not preaching chapels for missionaries. It must teach through force of example, and uplift its club girls by gentle suasion, instead of preaching at them.

The whole country is topsyturvy to-day.

While the aristocracy is dressed in uniform and sweeping the floors of hospitals, or cooking "am and higgs" in canteens, the factory hand is wearing fur coats and jewellery, and spending spare cash and hours in cinema shows. Neither is exactly right; but each class is learning from the other, and the result of that will be satisfactory to both after the war.

These men's and women's clubs may become one of the greatest national assets of our country; the playground of propriety; the schoolroom of manners and thought. In the

meantime the need is so urgent, the only thing to do is to collect the money, get them put up, start them off at full pace, and trust to the influence of good gaining ascendancy week by week. It has done this in thousands of cases. Unsectarian, broad-minded clubs are the means of education and formation of character in both men and women. Even to teach them to appreciate a clean table, good sound, plain, cheap, well-cooked food, is something. To enjoy a meal without alcohol is more. All these things, though small in themselves, count for much in the end.

Human Clubs mould humanised humanity. They lead to a moral code of honour, and while the body is being stored with good food, the mind is being expanded by good thoughts.

These huts become the kaleidoscope of thought. They help weld the Empire for which we are now fighting together—so may they go on and multiply, and grow ever more prosperous.

### "The Common Cause" Hut Fund.

Nearly £400 has already been subscribed towards THE COMMON CAUSE Hut for women war workers, but we are anxious to raise

#### The remaining £100

as soon as possible, in order that the hut may be completed early in the year.

Our warmest thanks to the subscribers who have responded so generously to last week's appeal:—

Already acknowledged ...	£ 5 0	East Grinstead W.S.S., 1st in-E s.d.	
Mrs. Egerton ...	37 10 6	statement New Year's Gift,	
Mrs. Paynter ...	1 0 0	Result of Sale ...	10 7 9
Mrs. C. J. Oxenford ...	2 0 0	Miss R. Weld ...	5 0
Great Yarmouth W.S.S., from	10 0	Miss M. M. Gibson ...	5 0
Friends of the Cause ...	14 0	Mrs. M. E. Milbank ...	10 0
Miss Sylvia L. H. Drew ...	2 2 0	Mrs. Cerise Boyle ...	1 1 0
Miss Ursula Hodgson ...	5 0	Miss M. Bradley ...	5 0
M. E. K. ...	5 0	Mrs. F. E. Sandbach ...	10 0
Anon., by Lady Bunting ...	2 0 0	E. C. S. ...	4 0
Miss Alice Allott Dyke ...	5 0	Miss Colbeck ...	5 0
Mrs. Pickering ...	2 6	Miss M. M. Adamson ...	10 0
Miss A. M. D. Teacher ...	5 0 0	Miss J. D. Fellows ...	10 0
Miss K. C. Francis ...	10 0	The Hon. Miss Helen M. Allan-	
Miss B. A. Holme ...	1 0 0	son-Winn ...	1 1 0
Miss F. L. Marshall ...	5 0		
			£359 2 5

In addition to the above, the Manchester W.S.S. collection amounts to £40 os. 6d.

Correction.—Issue December 15th, "£2 2s., Mrs. Mein," should read "£2 2s. from the Kelson Women's Suffrage Society." Donation £3, published last week from "A. L. B.," should have been "Miss Leigh Browne, £3."

### Reviews.

THE TWO ROADS, International Government or Militarism, by H. E. Hyde, (Published by P. S. King & Sons, Ltd, Orchard House, Westminster. 1s. 3d. net) is dominated by the vision of a united Europe and by the fear of the Asiatic peril.

The author of this little book asserts dogmatically and optimistically that war can be eliminated from Europe, and holds that war cannot be abolished altogether. Pacifists would be met by angry protests if they claimed him for their own; with some reiteration, born of the fear of being misunderstood, Mr. Hyde repudiates those who "prate of the brotherhood of man." He does not believe in non-resistance, yet he thinks that an international government should be suggested now, at this moment, before two more years of war have utterly exhausted the Allies as well as their foes, and he elaborates the details of the machinery of such a government, dwelling on its main features: complete and absolute control of the armaments and munitions of Europe, with complete and absolute freedom for each nation in the settlement of national affairs. Mr. Hyde admits that it is not quite easy to draw the line between national and international affairs; he expects some trouble over tariff questions, and sweeps away immigration problems as an entirely national matter. On the whole, it seems, "the task is not insuperable, and modern diplomacy will discover a satisfactory solution of the problems that present themselves." Be it so.

Into the vital questions of what evidence there is that Europe is prepared to think of itself as an entity once more, Mr. Hyde does not venture. He feels that something must be done, and is all eager that England should do it. We must congratulate him upon the clearness with which he sees the way and upon the vigour of his belief that this new form of international government will cut the Gordian knot. Granted, the goodwill and the conviction of all the component elements of all the nations concerned (a very big premise) there is no reason to doubt that some such form of international government as he suggests is feasible, and, anyhow, there is much to be said for the author's freshness and for his resolute moral temper. He professes scorn for Utopian schemes, and thinks "the stern, keen competition of modern commercialism leaves no room for idealism, no matter how fine the ideal may be," and he says a few depreciating things about taking human nature as it is, yet his positive faith in the future of our poor Europe and in the mission of our own country belies his words, and remains a potent argument for his own wholesome belief in heartening ideals.

We must not go to his little book for precise thought on the relation between the individual and the nation, on civilisation, the forces of nature and other abstractions, yet many of his suggestions seem to show that his claim to be a practical man is not a self-delusion.

An interesting feature in the book is a reprint of an article from the *Olago Daily Times* of July 25th, 1914, proposing a three months' continuous training scheme in barracks for soldiers, in preference to the occasional service system that now obtains in New Zealand. The author advocates the same scheme for our future British Army and the future International Government, and supports his advocacy with sound and

sensible remarks on the disadvantages of the occasional service system. His fear of the Asiatic peril brings the conviction that Europe of the future must be efficiently armed to meet, and effectively to resist coloured races who, following the lead of Japan, may arrive at the adoption of the material civilisation of Europe without the adoption of European ideals from which the goodness of this civilisation grew.

The author has soaked himself in writings on war, and on this war. Professor Gilbert Murray, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Edward Carpenter, Prince Kropotkin, Lord Bryce, and our prominent statesmen are his authorities, and he has at one time been deeply impressed by Mr. Norman Angell's book, whose main fallacy he points out clearly as resting in the assumption that nations would fight for nothing except economic advantage. The little book makes no literary pretensions, and it would be absurd to criticise it on such grounds—however, its slipshod language occasionally leads to statements that obscure the author's meaning. On page 14, "There can be no other ultimate alternative to the continuance of the doctrine of National Force but Militarism," makes nonsense as it stands, so does the statement on page 134, "My belief is that a nation should have the right of fixing her own tariffs, providing that it cannot be proved that such tariff does not impose unreasonable hardship on any other Nation or State."

When all is done we are left with a vivid impression of the writer's keen temper and good will. If his suggestions are eclectic and his assertions dogmatic, they are all of them none the less worth making. It is a book for the greater public, a corrective to some newspaper nonsense of the extreme militarist and the extreme pacifist type, and as such it has a real value and should be welcomed with sympathetic respect. H. M. D.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

- ENQUIRE WITHIN. (Simpkin Marshall. 2s. 6d.)  
 WHERE RUNS THE RIVER? By Henrietta Leslie. (Dent. 6s.)  
 MEMORANDUM OF INDUSTRIAL SITUATION. (Harrison. 1s.)  
 TOWARDS A SANE FEMINISM. By Wilma Meickle. (Grant Richards. 3s. 6d.)  
 MARY ASTELL. By F. M. Smith. (University Press. 6s. 6d.)  
 WITH THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED. By Tatiana Alexansky. (Unwin. 2s. 6d.)  
 WOMEN AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. By A. M. R. (Unwin. 3d.)  
 THE IMPERIAL WAR. By A. M. de Beck. (Hurst & Blackett. 6s.)  
 PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION. By B. Russell. (Allen. 6s.)  
 POULTRY LORE FOR THE SMALL HOLDER. By B. H. Stanton. (St. Catherine Press. 1s.)  
 THE FLIGHT OF MARIETTE. By Gertrude E. M. Vaughan. (Chapman & Hall. 3s. 6d.)  
 MARRIAGE AS A CAREER. By Helen E. Crossman. (Longmans. 4d.)  
 YOU CALL IT CHANCE. By Geoffrey Mendip. (Arrowsmith. 6s.)  
 EDUCATION VALUE OF MONOGAMY. By Lettice Macmuin. (Longmans. 4d.)  
 THE RETREAT FROM SERBIA. By Olive M. Aldridge. (Minerva Publishing Co. 2s. 6d.)  
 LETTERS OF HOPE. By E. A. B. (Bookstall. 1s.)  
 BROTHERHOOD AND EDUCATION. By B. de Norman. (Theosophical Society. 2d.)  
 WAR, 1914. By L. N. Harrison. (Erskine Macdonald. 2s. 6d.)  
 THE LAYS OF A LABOURER. By Alfred Reeve. (Erskine Macdonald. 1s.)

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## THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY

### Non-Party

President and Chairman: THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH  
Vice-Chairman: THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR

### Current Work

The W.M.P. Resolution at the National Council of Women on the Need of Women on Public Bodies, was moved by Mrs. Deane Streetfield (in the unavoidable absence of the Duchess of Marlborough), seconded by the Lady Frances Balfour, and carried unanimously.

On December 15th, Miss Seymour Bennett, M.A., Chairman, Islington Advisory Committee, was nominated to fill a vacancy on Islington Borough Council caused by the retirement of Mrs. Fanny Marshall. A man was elected to fill Mrs. Marshall's seat. A division was taken, 12 voting for and 26 against the woman candidate. Great interest, and a certain amount of controversy has been caused in Islington by this action of the Borough Council.

Two members of the W.M.P. Chelsea Advisory Committee, Mrs. George Trevelyan and the Hon. Mrs. Eustace Hills, were offered as candidates to fill two vacancies on Chelsea Borough Council. Men were elected in each instance.

A Local Advisory Committee has been formed in Kensington. Chairman: Lady Frances Balfour.

January 31st. A Meeting at Mrs. Bond's (Hon. Sec. Lambeth Advisory Committee), 86, Alleyn Road, Dulwich. Speaker: Dr. Mary Scharlieb. Chair: Mrs. Pember Reeves (W.M.P. Executive Committee).

### Women's Municipal Party's Citizen Association Meetings

January 4th.—UPPER NORWOOD. Speaker: Mrs. Percy Abbott.  
January 16th.—ST. PANCRAS. Speaker: Miss E. Bright Ashford, B.A.  
January 22nd.—ISLINGTON. Speaker: Miss E. Bright Ashford, B.A.  
January 25th.—NORTH LAMBETH. Conference "On Women's Work in War Time and the Care of their Infants." Opened by Mrs. Burgwin.

Addresses will be given on the W.M.P. at meetings of working women in various parts of London during January.

### ENTRY FORM. MEMBERSHIP of the W.M.P.

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To be sent to the Secretary, The Women's Municipal Party, 7, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.

## Infant Life Saving

The *New York Medical Journal* has published "A Sanitary Study of Condensed Milk," by Dr. Wm. H. Park, Director, and Dr. M. C. Schroeder, Assistant Director of the New York Department of Health, and Dr. Paul Bartholow, of the Department of Therapeutics, Columbia University.

Among the conclusions reached are the following:—

"Sweetened condensed milk, when carefully prepared from whole milk, has special indications as an infant food. They may be thus expressed:—Many infants are unable to digest the fat of [fresh] cow's milk, even when two or three volumes of water are added. In such cases the half-digested curds of casein are vomited. The change in these circumstances to sweetened condensed milk allays the vomiting. These facts are well established clinically."

All interested in the important question of infant life saving should write to Nestlé's, 6, Eastcheap, London, for a copy of "Nestlé's Baby Book 1916" containing statistics of 2,550 children reared on Nestlé's Milk, and parents' reports on 510 of them.

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## The Imperial Conference.

The various peace notes and replies to peace notes issued by the belligerent and neutral Powers during the past fortnight have roused such deep feeling and excited so much controversy that a great epoch-marking event in our own history has been passed over almost in silence. Yet one of the biggest steps towards reconstruction after the war was taken when the new Government decided to issue, without loss of time, an invitation to the Dominions to send representatives to an Imperial Conference.

No doubt the immediate business of the impending Conference will be to deal with matters arising out of the war and its effective prosecution, involving some sort of stock-taking of the Commonwealth. But great decisions of either war or peace, involving tremendous issues, may have to be made as suddenly as in August, 1914. And it is evidently necessary that the Dominions, whose interests are bound up with our own, should take their share of responsibility.

We all remember with pride and thankfulness the spontaneous rally of the Dominions to the cause of freedom, justice, and the oppressed nations. Once again it might have been written of them:—

"You answer e'er your mother calls:  
You leave your ocean-girdled walls,  
And meet our foemen in the gate."

But the rally of the Dominions in 1914 was something more than a response to the call to defend the Empire; it was something that the world had not seen before, for it was the rally of spiritual forces round about an ideal. Over and over again it has been said that the British alone, apparently, of European nations, are "inaccessible to ideas" or despise "ideas." Matthew Arnold, fresh from the discovery of Ste.-Beuve, seems to have hailed the notion with applause, and made great play with it; and generations of critics have treasured the cliché as part of their equipment ever since. Yet our generation has seen between four and five millions of Britons rise and leave home, friends, and comfort and careers for an idea; and for an idea the Dominions have made, and are making, sacrifices on an unparalleled scale. And this immense visible uplifting power of an idea, compared with which greed, self-seeking and self-interest have been impotent, is the outward and visible sign of a great hope for all the world. The response of the Dominions has kindled a new spirit of life in us all; a new consciousness of what Democracy means and will mean for us.

But though the spirit works for unity of purpose, the methods by which the purpose is being carried out are undeveloped and defective. At present, says a writer in *The Round Table* for December: "The so-called Imperial Government has no real authority over a great part of the Empire for whose safety it is responsible, and also has to depend for the revenues necessary for Imperial defence upon taxes voted by the people of the British Isles alone, supplemented by contributions in money or in kind voted by peoples overseas whom it does not represent and whose Parliament it never meets. . . . The present system will work so long as the Dominions are willing to leave the final decision in Imperial and foreign policy to the British Government and to comply with its conditions themselves, and so long as the British people are able and willing to make themselves responsible for the defence of the whole Empire."

The British Government is not, in fact, directly responsible to the people of the Empire, nor are the peoples of the Dominions responsible to any central authority—there is not in reality, as in name, an "Imperial Parliament." The coming Conference is an emergency measure for lack of that Parliament of the Commonwealth which in some future day of our "keystone age" will finally link up the federated Dominions and enable us to reconcile autonomy with a united and self-

governing Empire. But all the same the Conference will be an event in many senses of the words—a milestone on the way to Democracy.

The women of Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and four States of Canada, will be represented, and have a voice not only in the affairs of their own country, but in the affairs of the Empire, and at a critical moment when far-reaching decisions will be made. The women of Great Britain, upon whom (as we have seen) a so-far heavier share of the war-burden falls, are not represented in their own Parliament. Only a few weeks ago Lord Claud Hamilton said to a deputation of Women's Suffragists who urged this very point, that he admitted the force of their argument, and if in future they (the Dominions) had a say in Imperial questions, then *British women might claim one, too*. "It is true," he went on to remark, "this had not yet occurred, and sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (*sic*)—but he thought that if it did occur, "a good deal of opposition to Women's Suffrage would be undermined." It is likely to occur in the very near future. And the opposition has been undermined in every direction, and is fast crumbling away at the touch of reality. Steadily the process has gone on in the last two years, and most rapidly and unexpectedly in the less thickly-populated countries, perhaps because here the value of the human being is more quickly recognised, and the worth of the woman to the State all the more readily acknowledged.

## "Sophie."

### A Story of War Service Supply.

By A. E. MENZIES.

Sophie Johnson tucked a suspiciously damp pocket handkerchief into her cuff and sped along the dusty road, with her head in the air. Life was getting hard, she thought, with a swelling heart; but her voice was as pleasant as ever when, five minutes later, she passed Nannie Wyld sitting in the sun by her cottage door.

"Afternoon, Missy," the old woman replied to her greeting, "and thank you kindly," as the girl dropped a bunch of violets into her lap before going up the flagged path to the next cottage.

Sophie lodged here. Stepping over the babies sprawling in the doorway, she went into her small bed-sitting room and made her usual afternoon cup of tea. After that some letters had to be written and posted, and then, following an impulse for which she could not account, she walked back to the outskirts of the little country town and passed the school which had been the scene of her labours for the last two years.

It seemed odd to think she would never again cross the old playground and hang up her hat and coat in the little green-walled "teachers' room" before wrestling with her own particular forty-two atoms of wriggling humanity; but a reduction of staff had been deemed necessary, certain classes were to be amalgamated (some of these classes would now contain fifty, some sixty children), and Sophie Johnson's services were no longer needed there.

Several mornings later the post brought two letters, one thin, the other bulky. She opened the thin one first.

It was from her mother, and both writing and matter betrayed "nerves." After speaking of incidents irrelevant to this story, the letter ended: "Things are getting worse and worse—your father is worried to death. This war is just killing small shops like ours, and it's a hard matter to get the few things we can't do without."

Sophie drank her tea and pushed aside the bread and margarine which formed her morning meal. Her little store of cash was too low to admit of more than bare necessities; every spare shilling was needed at home.

"Munitions," the reader may say, "why not give up teaching and go into a munition factory?" But this girl was not physically strong, and she dared not risk a breakdown. Her own work was hard, but she was accustomed to it; also instinct told her that with her training and natural love of teaching her best work could be done in that direction.

So, having lost her provincial appointment, she had applied for employment under the London County Council in order to live at home, and in that way bring a little grist to the mill. For her parents, who had taken a small shop in Fulham just before the war, were having a tremendously hard struggle.

Opening the other letter, she found it was a reply from the L.C.C., and putting her breakfast things outside the door (Mrs. Smith could not give her lodgers much "attendance"), Sophie sat down to study the sheaf of papers enclosed.

In Great Britain, drained, alas! of her young manhood by the war, there has come almost as a sudden revelation a new view of what used to be called "the population," and a quite new knowledge that the State must rely now as never before upon the strength of the women of the country; that if women need the "protection of the vote," the State, on the other hand, stands in imminent need of women's co-operation, of women's active participation in the work of conserving and building up the Commonwealth. "The growth of a sober sense of responsibility, interest in and knowledge of public questions, the breakdown of those barriers of creed and caste which make any true democracy impossible, and grasp of the meaning of the reign of law"—these things have been said to mark the stage of development when a society or an individual is ready to take up the task laid upon democracy; to which we would add that with the abolishing of creed and caste barriers, a more singularly foolish distinction should be swept away in the new State broad-based upon humanity—the unjustifiable discrimination by which one-half of the citizens of our country are still shut out from all responsibility in making decisions, while the responsibility of paying the price of the decision must fall even more heavily upon them, and their share of the burdens (unlike that of the unrepresented Dominions) is not restricted to voluntary contributions.

It seemed there was a shortage of teachers "on supply," and this was the only work they could offer; but the conditions were less advantageous than for permanent posts. The remuneration ranged round about six shillings per day, with no payment for holidays, or any school closure whatever, and no travelling expenses.

She had got so far when a tap came at her door, and Mabel, Mrs. Smith's eldest child, appeared.

"Tonny've cut 'is 'and," she announced blithely, "a nawful cut! Mother ses if you're in, Miss, do come an' 'ave a look at it," and without waiting for a reply the shock-head vanished.

Sophie was getting accustomed to this sort of appeal, and going into the stuffy little kitchen she bathed and bandaged the wounded finger, while the other children crowded round to watch.

"How did he do it?" she asked.

"Playin' with a bit o' tin, as far as I can make out," his mother replied; "come in just now with 'is 'and drippin', 'e did. They're always in mischief now their father ain't at 'ome," she added, giving the baby a vigorous shake as a relief to her feelings.

Sophie returned to her problem. Before filling up the form which had been sent her, she did some hard thinking. Would she be sure of a sufficiency for necessities if the work were intermittent, as it probably would be? And what about the little assistance she hoped to give her mother? What about the cost of holidays? Still—it was better than nothing.

"In the old days I should have thought it unjust to my fellow teachers to accept work under such conditions," she mused, "but now—dear me, I think I could eat a whole chicken!" and she laughed ruefully as she sat down to reply. There was no irrelevance in her conclusion.

A fortnight later Sophie Johnson was at work "on the supply," and her new school happened to be nearly four miles distant from her home in Fulham. Forty-eight children of about eleven and twelve years old formed her class.

When putting on her hat that afternoon the headmistress accosted her kindly.

"You're looking particularly tired," she said, "I hope you haven't far to go."

Sophie told her. "I shall take the 'bus," she added, "but I walk in the mornings."

Miss Burton looked at her dubiously. "When one's standing all day, it seems to me it would be wiser to ride," she remarked.

Sophie made no reply. She did not care to explain that the necessary 'bus fare for one daily journey was really more than she could afford.

The little teacher took a keen interest in her pupils. Giving herself unsparingly to her work, it was a joy to watch the

children's growing intelligence, and there were two especially bright girls whom she hoped would win scholarships.

At last came the examinations, and, finally, results. Miss Johnson's class had done particularly well, and she was rewarded for her term of hard, earnest work by both the promising pupils taking scholarships.

Again the headmistress called her aside. "You are to be congratulated, Miss Johnson," she said, "her bright face prettier than usual under her prematurely grey hair, it is really fine that both Nellie and Eva should have done so well. There is to be a holiday on Monday, to celebrate the double event."

Sophie was delighted. She knew the success was partly due to her own efforts, and this sweetened her daily work considerably. But it was a little discouraging on the next "pay day" after the holiday to find her salary six shillings less than usual, "supply" teachers receiving no payment for those days on which the school is closed.

A year passed and the summer holidays were in view, bringing another problem for Sophie Johnson. Owing to war conditions, the little shop at home was within an ace of putting up its shutters, and Sophie's attenuated salary utterly refused to stretch to holidays.

To make matters worse, about three weeks before the end of term the girl woke one morning with a head which refused to lift itself from the pillow. She tried to get up, but dressing was impossible, and she had to stay in bed for two days. The doctor's verdict was: "Thoroughly run down—you ought to get complete rest and change." This being impossible, she managed to return to her work after four days' absence. The loss of four days' salary was no negligible thing in Sophie's circumstances.

Summer holidays! What a delightful vision the words can conjure up! Yet, as the time approached Sophie spent some sleepless nights wondering how she would get through the weeks ahead. For a year, now, she had been "on supply," doing valuable (perhaps the most valuable) work for the State; nevertheless, holiday money was denied her.

What is not enough for two cannot be stretched into a sufficiency for three; so we will draw a veil over the struggles and privations of the next four weeks.

Lively chatter was going on in the teachers' room on the afternoon of the re-opening of school, and Miss Johnson's tongue was as fluent as anyone's.

"I am glad you had a good time," said the sympathetic head, "but you've not grown any fatter."

"One gets too much exercise for that," Sophie replied, with her merry laugh, and there was no insincerity in her answer to another questioner, "I had a lovely time, thank you." The short commons and real privations could not, after all, quench the joy of being at home.

So Sophie Johnson goes on with her daily work, and the conviction that it is her duty—"her bit"—brings a certain happiness in spite of unmanageably large classes, and straightened means.

But what of us who see clearly the drift of these Council "economies"? Lookers on sometimes see most of the game.

The children of the poor are being defrauded of their rightful inheritance, an individual education which will enable them to reach their full mental stature as thinking men and women, while life is made hard indeed for the elementary school teacher, and hardest of all for her unfortunate sister "on supply."

In effect, "economy" here spells criminal waste and crass stupidity. The teacher's noble work of building for the future is hard, and never over-paid; is it also to be made ineffective by gigantic classes, and doubly difficult owing to a lowered standard of home life?

What of us, the sheltered, "comfortable" men and women, if, seeing and realising all this, we fail even to lift our voices in protest?

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon. Secretaries: Miss Evelyn Atkinson, Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary), Miss Helen Wright. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Auerbach. Secretary: Miss Helen Wright. Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Date of Annual Council Meeting.

As it was found impossible to engage the Chelsea Town Hall for the afternoon of February 9th, the Council will meet on February 7th and 8th, and in the morning of the 9th, if necessary.

Secretaries of Societies are urged to send notice to Headquarters and to THE COMMON CAUSE of any meetings which they are arranging, in order that they may be supplied with any news of special interest that may be of use at the meeting.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table with columns for 'Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916', 'Received from December 18th to December 30th', 'SUBSCRIPTIONS', 'AFFILIATION FEES', and 'GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS'. Lists names and amounts from various societies and individuals.

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union. POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S. TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, not to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

Mrs. Elborough has written from Petrograd, where she arrived safely after an excellent journey, but had not yet met Miss Moberly, who has been at Kieff on business connected with the Zaleschiki Unit. She writes that the Zemstvo there are deeply grateful for the magnificent work that has already been accomplished by our Unit, and are very proud of it, as are also the military authorities. They both wish it to remain at Zaleschiki as an epidemic hospital till the spring, and they also wish to continue the "barak" at Klooste. This holds twenty small-pox beds, and is in full swing, with a Russian Medical Student and Sister-in-Charge and two of our nurses, while one of our doctors goes over constantly, thirty-five miles each way, in a tumble-down little open trap. The doctors have vaccinated many thousands of civilians and soldiers, including all the inhabitants of seventeen villages, and are still very busy. Small-pox has broken out, too, in Kazan, and is causing grave anxiety, as there is not even sufficient room for the scarlet fever cases.

Dr. Stepney writes: "One mother, a few days ago, fervently thanked God that we could admit her child with scarlet fever, as she had built her hopes on us. Yesterday we had a typical scene in Sister Egerton's Ward; six Jewish refugee children, completely convalescent and merry, were taken home by their respective mothers, who were nearly off their heads with joy, for to have survived an attack of scarlet fever is a great and unusual event in a child's life out here. If you could have seen them and heard their happy exclamations! All the little bundles of disinfected clothes spread out on the floor, all the garments getting hopelessly mixed—but the mothers too happy to care!—putting on a little vest here, a stocking there, stopping to kiss Sister's apron or stroke her face, blessing the children, catching them up half-dressed to kiss them again, fairly

singing over them with happiness. And when they were all trussed up in wraps and shawls till hardly anything was visible except six pairs of bright eyes, they were all brought to say good-bye to me, while the mothers kissed my hands again and again.

"Another poor woman, a Russian, brought us her youngest child one night last week. He was admitted at nine and died at eleven o'clock. She came and laid her head on my shoulder, and cried about it, and I tried every word of Russian I could think of to comfort her. The next day she came and brought us all the rest of her family—three boys of six, eight, and ten years—and it was touching to see her hand them over, all ill, one after the other, saying, half-crying and half-laughing: 'This is Vassili, this is Serge, and this is Nick,' till my arms were full of boys."

Table with columns for 'Already acknowledged', 'Mrs. Barton', 'Miss R. Widdows', 'Mrs. Morris', 'Mrs. R. Thompson', 'Mrs. Prendergast', 'Mrs. Michael Hill', 'Miss Edith Dart', 'Miss Mary Morrison', 'Miss F. L. Morse', 'Mrs. J. R. Wilson', 'Miss H. Fryer', 'Mrs. P. S. Waley', 'Miss L. Mahler', 'Miss Roma Hamilton', 'Mrs. Rathbone', 'Mrs. G. Vera Benson', 'Mrs. H. Clough', 'Mrs. Howard', 'Mrs. Charles E. Parker', 'Mrs. Theodore Williams', 'Mrs. Edward Browne', 'Mrs. R. Martin-Holland', 'Mrs. Gordon McArthur', 'Miss Helena Frank', 'Mrs. A. F. Pease', 'Miss E. L. Rathbone', 'Miss Mary L. Bruce', 'Mrs. Beaumont-Thomas', 'Miss Neva Beaumont'. Lists names and amounts.

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selbourne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith-street, London, S.W. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

THE ENGLISHWOMAN opens, this month, with a very interesting article on Women Voters in America, in the Presidential and Congressional Elections, by Mrs. Ida Husted Harper. It will be remembered that the Equal Suffrage States, with the exception of Oregon, all gave a majority for Wilson. In Illinois, the only State in which women's votes are counted separately (as women are only partially enfranchised) the women's votes divided up about the same as those of the men. Mrs. Harper argues, therefore, that "assuming that in other States the Illinois rule held good," women must bear their share of the responsibility for Wilson's election. At the same time, she points out, as men greatly outnumber women in all the Equal Suffrage States, it is not reasonable for the Republicans to put down the defeat of their candidate to the women's vote. As one of the factors which influenced large numbers of women to vote for Wilson, although he is not in favour of the Federal Amendment which suffragists so much desire, Mrs. Harper gives the advanced legislation obtained under President Wilson, and especially his Child Labour Bill "enough in itself to give him the votes of women." A protest is made, under "Problems of the Day" against "Peace with Dishonour." "We can bury our dead," says the writer, "but we could never bury our dishonour if we stooped now to compromise with an enemy who is still glorying in villainy."

Miss Mary C. D. Walters, in an article entitled "Waste," deals with the pitiful wastage of infant life, and urges better care of mothers. "Many," she says, "concern themselves more about the falling birth-rate than with the high infantile death-rate, and only few realise that with a high death-rate there must inevitably be a high damage rate also." Fewer still, perhaps, realise "that a woman's strength and vitality is wasted in producing a new life, destined from easily preventable causes to flicker out in a few weeks or months, and in suffering still-births and abortions, because mere motherhood, and not motherhood with a high ideal of fitness both for herself and her child, is all that is possible for a woman when her only recognised mission in life is bearing children—good, bad, or indifferent—cost her what it may in anguish and heartbreak." Miss Walters considers a better wage for girl workers, sufficient to maintain them in physical fitness, is essential, and also a system of State-Aided Day Nurseries, for women obliged to attempt the otherwise impossible task of earning a living and running a home.

THE NATIONAL REVIEW for January contains an article on the "Munitions Muddle" by one of the victims, who writes from the point of view of the loss of national efficiency, due to the official obscurantism, which obstinately refuses even now to take women into council, and jealously reserves every position of authority for one sex, so that men are found to be conducting a long correspondence on the subject of woman's working clothing, and armies of salaried clerks are said to be employed in carrying on lengthy disputes, when one ill-organised department finds another duplicating its orders.

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DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Further donations will be gratefully received either by Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock; at Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew-square, Edinburgh; by Miss Morrison, Hon. Treasurer, Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee for S.W.H., 202, Hope-street, Glasgow; or by the Joint Hon. Treasurers for the London Committee, the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves and Lady Cowdray, 66, Victoria-street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Table with columns for 'Forward as per list to Decem-ber 14th, 1916', 'Further donations received to December 21st', 'Per D. Connor, Esq., from Greenock Staff of Pilots', 'Per Miss E. M. Nettell: Anon., Shrewsbury (Mrs. Harley's Unit)', 'Miss R. Barton', 'Miss S. T. Widdows', 'Mrs. Morris', 'Mrs. R. Thompson', 'Mrs. Prendergast', 'Mrs. Michael Hill', 'Miss Edith Dart', 'Miss Mary Morrison', 'Miss F. L. Morse', 'Mrs. J. R. Wilson', 'Miss H. Fryer', 'Mrs. P. S. Waley', 'Miss L. Mahler', 'Miss Roma Hamilton', 'Mrs. Rathbone', 'Mrs. G. Vera Benson', 'Mrs. H. Clough', 'Mrs. Howard', 'Mrs. Charles E. Parker', 'Mrs. Theodore Williams', 'Mrs. Edward Browne', 'Mrs. R. Martin-Holland', 'Mrs. Gordon McArthur', 'Miss Helena Frank', 'Mrs. A. F. Pease', 'Miss E. L. Rathbone', 'Miss Mary L. Bruce', 'Mrs. Beaumont-Thomas', 'Miss Neva Beaumont'. Lists names and amounts.

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Table of donors and amounts for the Common Cause. Includes names like Miss Etta Shankland, Hector F. Macintosh, and various smaller contributions.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table listing named beds such as 'Lerwick' (6 months), 'Ascot' (12 months), and 'Stand Grammar School' (3 months).

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.).

Table listing London units and their respective donors and amounts, including Lerwick Emergency Helpers and Stand Grammar School.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Table of donors and amounts for the Common Cause, including Girls of St. Mary's College, Petrie, Mrs. Flinders, and various other individuals.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

'Egremont, Cumberland,' Bed, Royauont. The present occupant of the 'Egremont, Cumberland' Bed is a pale, nervous-looking man called Alfred Beguin.

On July 6th last, however, he was badly wounded in the right thigh. At nine o'clock on the evening of the 5th there was some activity in the German lines at...

During this attack Beguin fell, and, in spite of tremendous efforts, he was unable to raise himself. He lay there from five in the morning until nine that night, shells bursting all round him.

There is little or no glamour about actual present-day warfare: for a few exciting moments there are long hours of discomfort and boredom. Beguin told me how he had seen his 'camarades' die in agony in the trenches...

MADAM.—Will you allow me through your paper to thank all the friends who kindly helped me to make my little sale of lavender bags a success.

BEATRICE W. GRAVES.

The Challenge. The Illustrated Church of England Weekly. EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY. The wider recognition of Women's Contribution to the Affairs of Church and State is one of the vital problems constantly dealt with.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

PADDINGTON.—On Thursday, December 7th, a most successful meeting was held at the Knightsbridge Palace Hotel, under the auspices of the Paddington Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage...

EPSOM.—On December 7th, by kind permission of Mrs. Bethel, a Fair was held at the Gables, Epsom, the net result of which was £83, of which £50 was sent to the Hon. Mrs. Graves for the Scottish Women's Units in Russia.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Table of forthcoming meetings including Birmingham-Wycliffe Meeting, Birmingham-Sparkhill Co-operative Guild, and Worthing meeting.

'Common Cause' Fund.

Table of contributions to the 'Common Cause' fund, including Mrs. Warden Briggs, Mrs. Wm. Allen, and others.

Items of Interest.

The Willesden Council dust-removal contractor is advertising for women, as so many of their dustmen have enlisted or are doing munition work.

Miss M. S. Rundle has been appointed Secretary to the new College of Nursing. Trained as a nurse at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Miss Rundle took a course on hospital economics at Columbia University.

At the annual general meeting of the Bar on January 18th, Mr. Holford Knight will move: 'That the General Council do consider and report upon the desirability of making provision for the admission of duly qualified women to the profession.'

Lord Rhonda, having resigned his position as Chairman of the Sanatogen Company, his daughter, Lady Mackworth, has been elected to take his place. Lady Mackworth has had considerable business experience...

For the first time on record, says the 'Daily Telegraph,' a lady is acting as secretary to the Prime Minister of England, a position often held by very distinguished men, among them Lord Rowten, of model lodging-house fame...

Last week we published a story showing the hardship to the legal wife in cases where a soldier has made an allotment to another woman as the 'dependent.' The following letter puts the other side of the case:—

'Though I take this liberty as it leaves me at present I beg to ask if you will kindly be kind enough to let me know where my husband though he is not my legible husband as he is a wife though he says she is dead but I don't think he nos for sure but we are not married though I am getting my allotment reglar which is no fault of Mr. Loy George who would stop it if he could and Mr. McKenna but if you know where he is as he is belong to the Navy Royal Fling Corp for ever since he joined in January when he was sacked from his work for talking back at his bos which was a woman at the Laundry where he worked. I have not had any money from him since he joined though he told Mrs. Williams what lives on the ground floor that he was a preety ossifer for six shillings a week and lots of underclothings for the cold weather and I have three children whas is been the father of them though he says it was my fault. Hoping you will write to me as soon as you are quit well as it leaves me at present, I must now close hoping you are well.'

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FIVE or six ladies wanted at once, to co-operate in a scheme for food production, crops, poultry, goats, &c.; land (partly stocked) and house provided. Capital, £40 to £50 needed.—Apply Box 6,409, COMMON CAUSE Office.

FARMWORK for two ladies, sharing expenses (about £3 weekly each) in country house with ladies similarly occupied. One could be under-occupant. Farm opposite, London thirty miles.—Box 6,047, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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SEVERAL girls wanted at once to train in garden-ling, &c., for food production. Work guaranteed after training.—Apply Training Gardens, Stonehouse, Glos.

WANTED Immediately, useful maid; light work, good salary.—Box 6,390, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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WANTED—Lady Housemaid, for country house where lady servants kept.—Box 6,145, COMMON CAUSE Office.

POSITION WANTED.

FRENCH Swisswoman desires situation as companion, maid to lady; willing to undertake all duties in small town flat. Highest references from good families.—M. F., 52, Redcliffe-gardens, South Kensington.

FOR INFANT WELFARE.

The St. PANCRAS SCHOOL for MOTHERS 1, Amptill Square, Hampstead Road, N.W. Next Term begins January 10th. Holds Three Months' Courses of Intimate Training for Voluntary and Assistant-Paid Workers. Five Days a Week, Dinners and Teas Provided, £9 for the Course. Training is given in Sewing, Cooking, Mothercraft, Baby Weighing, Visiting, etc., etc. The Two Doctors give Weekly Lectures each, and the Superintendent gives Practical Demonstrations. Apply to Mrs. Alys Russell, Hon. Sec.

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