

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY.]

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

Notes and News.

The Dockers' Union and Women's Suffrage.

The following resolution has been sent through Mr. Ben Tillett to the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, to be forwarded to the Prime Minister:—

"This Executive Council of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside, and General Workers' Union pledges itself to support the women of the country in their efforts to obtain recognition as citizens, and calls upon the Government to include women as voters in any amendment or addition to the Registration Act."

Munition Workers' Wages.

As we explained last week, the orders recently issued by the Ministry of Munitions with regard to the remuneration of women working on munitions are regarded by societies representing women workers as highly unsatisfactory. A deputation of women trade unionists, accompanied by Miss Mary Macarthur and Miss Bondfield, was received by Dr. Addison last week with regard to this question. They drew attention to the promise made by the Minister of Munitions in July, 1915, that a minimum wage should be fixed, and that the services of women should not be utilised to get cheap labour. Women had waited with much patience for that promise to be fulfilled, and were still waiting. The new order, the deputation contended, did not fix a minimum for day workers. It fixed, instead, a maximum of 4½d., with an addition in certain cases where the work was dangerous. This was a return to the old system (now abandoned by all civilised countries) of fixing rates, as against the modern plan of minima. Prices were steadily rising, and to fix wages was to perpetuate sweating. The order, it was true, stated that persons working on higher rates were not to be adversely affected; but there was nothing to prevent an employer from dismissing such workers, and filling their places with workers at a lower rate. Again, the rate was not universal, and the worst paid trades were apparently not protected; electrical engineering, rubber works, chemical works, brick works, leather and miscellaneous metal goods, were not included. The order, too, was silent about guaranteed piece rates, and it was imperatively necessary that some additional order should be issued guaranteeing a minimum piece rate to the workers, and for Sunday overtime and night work. It was understood that the points raised by the deputation would receive favourable consideration.

A Short-Sighted Policy.

The question of women's wages is, in many trades, no less important to men than to women; but the majority of trade unions do not seem to have realised this. Is there, at the back of their minds, the idea that the women will be got rid of by Act of Parliament after the war? The surest way to prevent undercutting is to admit women to trade unions; but some trades still refuse to do so, the Grocers' Union giving as a reason, at their annual conference last week, that their membership would be an obstacle to the redemption of the pledges made to reinstate assistants serving in the war. Mr. J. N. Reading said that it was positively ludicrous at this time of day to talk about keeping women out of a trade union, and Mr. W. J. Stacey maintained that such an action "would be tantamount to committing suicide"; but by a large majority the resolution refusing to admit women was actually carried!

Something for Nothing.

"The ordinary sources of supply of women's clerical labour have been used up for some time," says a writer in *The Times* of August 3rd. "Girls living at home in London and the suburbs have been glad to earn a guinea a week; in addition to these, a number of well-to-do girls have come up to London with allowances from home to eke out their salaries. Now, however, it seems that this supply has also come to an end, and if there is in actual fact a real dearth of women clerks, the Government must either raise the general standard of wages very materially or provide hostels where their employees can live decently on what they earn. There are not many girls who care to spend at least 30s. a week on uncomfortable lodgings and unappetising meals in order to earn 25s., however keenly they may desire to be patriotic. The easier way is to remain at home in the country with plenty of fresh air and good food and time for golf and tennis, and appease conscience by putting in occasional work at the local hospital, war dépôt, or canteen. . . . It would seem that all those who want to work and can afford to are now fully employed, and the remainder are either unable to live on the pay they can command, or frankly do not want to work." It is curious that, while the demand for women clerks exceeds the supply, the Government should continue to offer such low rates of pay. The cost of living increases; women are so continually told that after the war their services will no longer be required, that they are beginning to look ahead. The Civil Service Commissioners, says the Secretary of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, hardly appear "to be aware that the best women in the Government service are leaving it every day."

Who Will be Ready When the Rush Comes?

The educated woman is in demand for V.A.D. work, and for munitions; but the demand for educated women for the land for the duration of the war (not only for holiday work) is likely to be enormous. By the end of September large numbers of men will be called up, and the situation is likely to be acute.

The time is just long enough—six weeks, or thereabouts, for training—before the rush will come. The training farms of the National Land Service Corps can deal with sixty or seventy pupils per week and guarantee situations afterwards on farms. Who will be ready?

Drink and National Efficiency.

"War has forced the drink problem into the forefront of national questions," says Dr. Kelynack, in his preface to a collection of valuable articles on this subject which he has recently edited.* "For long," he continues, "serious students of social subjects have insisted on the importance of recognising alcohol as a deranging and deteriorating factor in the life of the State, but it has been left to these days of unexampled stress and strain to demonstrate to men and women generally the seriousness of the menace existing from the widespread prevalence of alcoholism within our dominions. . . . Now the great adventure and experiment of war, with all its circumstances, conditions, and effects, has concentrated attention on the drink problem, and has already in great measure confirmed the conclusions of scientific workers."

The early chapters deal with the pathology and psychology of alcoholism; its effects on the individual and the race. In an article on "Alcoholism and National Efficiency," Dr. Robert Armstrong-Jones (Lecturer on mental diseases to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and consulting physician in mental diseases to the military forces in London), brings a severe indictment against the Government for its failure to take adequate measures for dealing with the drink evil, as it has been urged to do from the pulpit, in Parliament, and in the press. The question, Dr. Armstrong-Jones points out, has become an international one, to which other countries seem more alive than we—

"It is stated that there is fully six years' supply of home-made spirit in this country, and one and a-half years' supply of foreign spirit at the present moment, and if the spirit consumption is to be kept down there is no urgency for working the distilleries, at any rate during the war, and more especially as 73 per cent. of the barley used for distilling and brewing is imported; also as over 386,000 persons are being employed in the spirit business alone—of whom more than half are under the age of thirty-five, and 85,000 are unmarried—this industry could well be stopped or modified. It is natural to assume that many of these persons would find a more patriotic occupation elsewhere."

"Since the war began the question of drink has become one of international interest. Russia had foreseen that this must be so, and early in the war decreed the total prohibition of the national spirit, vodka, which has furnished her people with one means of safety for her military efficiency, her national resources, and home life. Not only has this radical prohibition in Russia been successful, but the further prohibition of all alcoholic liquors for all ranks of the services has been enacted. This action has considerably increased the savings bank deposits and has also greatly improved the discipline of the troops. The example of Russia has inspired France to prohibit absinthe, and these radical measures excited no opposition among the general public and very little among the trade, whilst the legal measures decreeing this prohibition passed both Houses of the Legislature as a wave of patriotism against pocket. General Joffre has, moreover, prohibited all liquor, except that issued officially, to all of his troops, because he considers that to diminish the moral and material strength of his army is a crime against national defence! In Austria the military authorities have forbidden the serving of troops or of individual soldiers with intoxicating liquors at railway stations, and early this year, 1915, orders were issued by the civil authorities that no more barley should be used for brewing. In Germany neither wine nor beer was permitted to be supplied to the troops during mobilisation at or near any railway station, whilst special orders as to drink in the field were also issued. In some of the provincial Governments of the German Empire the power to close all spirit shops was allowed, and only 40 per cent. of the average quantity of beer was permitted to be brewed, so as to preserve the barley for breadmaking. The Government of Italy has also joined the international campaign against spirits by altogether banning the sale of absinthe."

Yet so far, in this country, the only approach to prohibition or control has been a restriction in the hours of sale, and the control of the sale of liquor by an Order in Council in certain areas. "Inquiries," says Dr. Armstrong-Jones, "are now being made of the Medical Officers of Health for London, and their reports are entirely on the side of continuing restrictions for the sake of order in the streets, better homes, and the diminution of drunkenness; particularly noticeable has been the great improvement in the behaviour of soldiers and sailors themselves. In fact, nothing but good results have attended these compulsory restrictions, and it is earnestly hoped that the Defence of the Realm (Liquor Control) Regulations, 1916, will be the initiation of a similar permanent scheme throughout the land."

Far from the expenditure on intoxicating liquors having decreased since the beginning of the war, it has actually risen in this country. From August, 1913, to July, 1914, the total expenditure on drink, according to the table drawn up by Mr. George B. Wilson, was £152,913,000, as compared with £156,176,000 from August, 1914, to July, 1915. This increase is partly due to higher prices; but not altogether, for while the consumption of beer fell in the given period by 13·2 per cent.,

* *The Drink Problem of To-day.* Edited by T. N. Kelynack. (Methuen. 7s. 6d.)

that of spirits (the more expensive and harmful form of liquor) rose by 6·2 per cent.

Not only has the sale of intoxicants a bad effect in lowering the efficiency of the nation, but it is also a great waste of the country's financial resources and of its supply of food and labour. 73 per cent. of the barley used in distilling and brewing is imported, says Dr. Armstrong-Jones, thus adding to our indebtedness to foreign countries at a time when it is essential to keep this to the lowest possible level, in order to maintain the rate of exchange.

The following table shows the waste of foodstuffs in brewing and distilling:—

	Brewing.	Distilling.
Malt (bushels)	43,670,000	7,824,000
Unmalted grain (bushels)	79,000	9,700,000
Rice and maize (cwt.)	1,217,000	13,500
Sugar and equivalents (cwt.)	2,644,000	996,000
Hops (lbs.)	51,500,000	—

With regard to the waste of labour, Dr. Armstrong-Jones states that over 360,000 persons are being employed in the spirit business alone, of whom more than half are under the age of thirty-five, and 85,000 are unmarried,* and he maintains that the industry should either be stopped or modified, so that those employed in it might find more patriotic occupation elsewhere. In addition to those actually engaged in the manufacture and sale of drink, a large number are engaged in other capacities in connection with the trade, such as that of carter, a class of man who is urgently needed in connection with the transport of goods of national importance.

In the brewing trade 10,200 additional women have been taken on since July, 1914, and 2,500 in the distilling trade, while certain important industries, among them the woollen and worsted, hosiery, linen, cotton, and shirt-making trades report a shortage of female labour.

Some practical suggestions for counteracting the lure of alcohol are made by the Right Hon. Sir Thomas P. Whittaker, M.P., in his chapter on "Alcoholism and Legislation." One of these is disinterested management. "The trade," he says, "exists to sell as much drink as possible, and the whole of its organisation and arrangements have that object in view." He continues:—

"Clearly, it would be an enormous gain if the direct personal financial interest of the liquor trade were eliminated, and all pushing of the sale of drink and all inducements to the seller to make the laws were abolished. That can only be done by taking the trade out of the hands of those who now conduct it and placing it under the control of persons whose only object would be to promote the public well-being, and who would have no interest in pushing the sale or conniving at breaches of the law—that is to say, by placing it under disinterested management."

Another means suggested for reducing excessive drinking would be the provision of counter-attractions for social resort, where people can easily and cheaply meet their friends, hear the news, and spend their time.

Mrs. Scharlieb contributes a chapter on "Alcoholism in Relation to Women and Children," in which the terrible effects of maternal intemperance are clearly shown; but it is to be regretted that the grave effects upon the children of paternal intemperance were not included in the same chapter. This chapter might leave an impression on the mind of the reader that the sins of the father are of comparatively little consequence.

M. M.

Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies.

The above Committee was formed from a meeting of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies convened by the National Union on May 5th, 1916. The Societies present drew up a constitution which was amended and confirmed at the following meeting on June 14th, after having been submitted to the officers or committees of all the constituent societies. At the same meeting, Miss Eleanor Rathbone was elected as Chairman and Mrs. Gwynne-Vaughan as Hon. Secretary. The Constitution runs as follows:—

(1) "That there shall be a Consultative Committee, appointed in the first instance for the period of the war. The Committee to lapse at the end of the war, unless its continuance be determined on by the constituent bodies."

(2) "Societies organised on constitutional lines to work exclusively for Women's Suffrage within the British Empire, and having a membership of over one hundred, shall be invited to appoint representatives to the Consultative Committee."

(2a) "The Consultative Committee may, if it think fit, invite to a conference upon any particular issue representatives of Societies working for Women's Suffrage but not entitled to membership of the Consultative Committee."

* The book was published early in May.

(3) "Method of Appointing Representatives.—Societies shall be entitled to appoint representatives in the following proportions: Over 100 but under 1,000 members, one representative; over 1,000 but under 10,000 members, two representatives. One additional representative for each additional 10,000 members, or part of 10,000."

(4) "Objects.—The objects of the Consultative Committee shall be:—
(1) To collect and communicate to each other information of mutual interest respecting the activities of the constituent Societies, or the political situation generally.
(2) To consult together over questions of future policy or methods of action."

(5) "The Consultative Committee shall have no executive powers. It may, if it desires, recommend joint action to its constituent bodies, but such action, if decided on by them, must not be carried out by the Consultative Committee, though it may be by a Committee composed wholly or partly of the same members."

(6) "Sub-Committees.—The Consultative Committee may form Sub-Committees, with power to add to their numbers, for collecting information for consideration of the Consultative Committee."

(7) "Meetings shall be held every alternate month. Special meetings may be called in the interval by the Chairman and Hon. Secretary, or by request of any five members representing not less than three of the constituent Societies. At least one week's notice shall be given of every meeting whenever possible."

(8) "Each Society shall pay a fee of 7s. 6d. per annum for each representative to which it is entitled, to cover expenses of postage, &c."

(9) "The Consultative Committee shall, at its first meeting, elect for the year a Chairman and Hon. Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer."

(10) "That the proceedings of the Consultative Committee shall be confidential."

The seventeen Societies forming the Committee are:—

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Actresses' Franchise League.
Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.
United Suffragists.
New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.
Liberal Women's Suffrage Union.
Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.
Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage.
National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.
Jewish League for Women's Suffrage.
Friends' League for Women's Suffrage.
Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union.
London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage.
National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Registration and Electoral Reform.

A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

In reply to a request from fourteen Constitutional Societies (members of the Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies) to receive a deputation, the Prime Minister asked for a statement in writing of the case they wished to present. The statement was accordingly drawn up at a meeting of representatives of the Societies, on August 4th, and forwarded to Mr. Asquith at once.

In acknowledging the statement, the Prime Minister's Secretary writes that it has had "his serious consideration."

SIR,—While much regretting that you are unable to see us personally, we now, as suggested by your letter of the 1st inst., have the honour to submit the following statement of the principal points which we desired to lay before you.

We desire to make it plain that this issue is not of our raising, but it has been forced upon us by the declared intention of the Government to deal with questions of registration, possibly including electoral reform.

If these intentions are limited to ensuring that men who are already on the Parliamentary Register should not be disqualified by reason of absence on war service, we should not oppose such legislation.

But if the proposals made are such as to establish a new voting qualification, or by means of changes in the period of residence to add a number of new names to the register, then we feel that our own issue is inextricably involved, and that we cannot stand aside. Our reasons for holding this view are, briefly, as follows:—

1. Parliament does not lightly touch the thorny question of electoral reform, and if dealt with now a fresh reconsideration may be indefinitely postponed.

2. The inclusion of great numbers of new men voters intensifies the injustice and anomaly of the exclusion of all women.

3. The injustice of such exclusion—always great and for long keenly felt—will become more intolerable than ever after the war, when the problem of the readjustment of men's and women's labour has to be faced. It is impossible to ignore the fact that the entry of large numbers of women into skilled

occupations hitherto closed to them, and the discovery by employers of the great value of their labour, may possibly produce an apparent clashing of interests between the sexes, and that in the solution of the problems that will arise the aid of Parliament may be invoked. It is contrary to every principle of British justice, as well as of democratic government, that such an issue should be dealt with by a body upon which two of the three parties to the dispute—employers and the men workers—are fully represented, but over which the women workers have no control.

Upon this and other problems of reconstruction after the war, we claim the right of women to a direct influence upon Parliament.

If a new qualification is to be established based on services in the war then the claim of women to share in such a qualification cannot be ignored. The services they have rendered to the country have been so amply acknowledged both by the Ministers mainly responsible for the direct conduct of the war and by those responsible for the maintenance of the country's industry, that we need not labour this point. We cannot believe that the compliments that have been so paid to women have been empty words.

But there is another body of women who deserve, we think, even better of the country than the munition and industrial workers and field labourers, and they are the women who have given their husbands and sons ungrudgingly to its defence.

Our organisations remain unweakened, and our belief in our cause, inspired as it has always been by our desire for fuller service, has only deepened in intensity during this time of trial. In the settlement of the problems that lie in the future we claim our share, and we claim that women have proved themselves worthy of it.—We have, sir, the honour to be,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)—

MARY WHITTY, Actresses' Franchise League.
FLORENS ROCH, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
F. SHEWELL COOPER, Church League for Women's Suffrage.

MAUD SELBORNE, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

JANE E. STRICKLAND, The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

J. SPRING RICE, Irish Women's Suffrage Federation.
EVA McLAREN, Liberal Women's Forward Union.

HERBERT JACOBS, Men's League for Women's Suffrage.
EVELYN M. L. ATKINSON, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

ADELIN M. CHAPMAN, New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

ANNIE G. FERRIER, Scottish Churches League for Women's Suffrage.

FRANCES H. SIMSON, Scottish University Woman Suffrage Union.

BERTHA BREWSTER, United Suffragists.

OBITUARY.

Captain Charles Edward Coursolles Jones, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action on July 4th, was the elder son of Mrs. Charles Jones, of Jesmond Hill, Pangbourne. His whole family have ever been ardent supporters of Women's Suffrage, and his mother and sisters are well-known for their never-tiring work for the cause. He himself was a member of the London Society and always showed the greatest enthusiasm for the cause. He married in 1911 Margery Garrett, a niece of Mrs. Fawcett, and leaves two small sons. Mrs. Garrett Jones has worked for the London Society for some years.

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A New Standpoint.

A French essayist who has written a series of vivid little sketches of life in France in war time* says that though the men in the trenches, through mutual help, did for a time reach "complete forgetfulness of mine and thine," and fraternity ceased to be a dream and became a reality; this unity has been reached by the men only, and not by the women of France. "Frenchwomen, great ladies and women of the upper and middle classes, whose zeal has led them into the hospitals, have perhaps thought that they, in their domain, were sharing in the national unity, and following the example of the army. Yet what have these women done," asks M. Descaves, "in the way of sharing, I do not say necessities, but even their superfluities with the women of the people? . . . They have nursed the poor wounded as though they were their brothers, but they have recognised brothers only—not sisters!" They would be ladies still, rather than Frenchwomen, and so have missed a priceless opportunity. They give alms and patronage instead of fellowship, and keep at a distance from other women. Social cleavages have been deepened and widened when it would have been easy to throw a bridge across the gulf. So, at least, it seems to the author of these war-time vignettes, who complains that Frenchwomen of the leisured classes have not been doing their part as builders-up of the nation.

For us in Great Britain, reading this piece of thoughtful criticism of Frenchwomen by a Frenchman, the first thought is: What an unfamiliar standard this is by which M. Descaves is appraising his countrywomen! He says, in effect, "As between woman and woman, you are not performing your part, and yet the solidarity of women is vitally necessary for the good of us all. To fail in love toward your neighbour is to endanger the commonwealth, for only on love and understanding can we build securely." It is nothing less than a revolution in thought. For how long have the "duties of the home" been declared in England as in France to be the whole duty of woman; and if any woman wished to look beyond her own four walls, her activities should be restricted to "charity"—which begins at home and ends in patronage. It would not be wonderful if a discipline and training which positively inculcated segregation in the home and behind class barriers, should produce women "wrapped up in their own and parish concerns," purblind to the national aspects of their problems.

Taken in the same connection, it is interesting to note how an Englishman criticises Englishwomen, in an article on the Elements of Reconstruction in *The Times*. "The lamentable superficiality," he writes, "of feminine education in a community in which women take an unusually large share in political discussions, party conflicts, and the like," is noted as a weakness in the "ostensibly educated classes," who contribute thought and will to the State. The criticism is undeniably just. The efforts of more than one generation of workers, chiefly women, to give a less "superficial" education to the rising generation have hardly availed against the deeply-rooted, chiefly masculine, suspicion of a thorough education for girls, while to the women of the present generation an effective share in public life is still denied. Where there is no responsibility, public questions are apt to be treated as if they were academic. It is impossible, in fact, to learn to swim on dry land. And to expect grip and grasp of national problems from those who are practically forbidden to handle them, is to be blind to the past. Essentially, perhaps, both critics mean the same thing, though the Frenchman writes with a deeper spiritual insight. The new standard of citizenship is being applied to those who hitherto have not been acknowledged as citizens. Are we reaching a new standpoint?

* *La Maison Anxieuse*. Par Lucien Descaves. (Paris: Cres, f. 1, 75.)

The Next Step in Housekeeping.

I.—WHAT IS WRONG?

By MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Domestic service appears in many successive census returns as the largest industry of British women. Yet the heading covers probably less than half the total of women engaged in domestic industry. Hundreds of wives do all the work of their homes; hundreds of others superintend, direct, and take part in it. A whole army of spinsters, wage-earners, and others, prepare some or all of their daily meals and keep in order their own dwellings. Altogether, probably not less than half, and quite possibly as many as two-thirds, of all the women in Great Britain devote a part of their days to the occupation of house-keeping. Yet—or rather, perhaps, therefore—this vast industry is not, on the whole, carried on successfully. Employers have been bewailing for at least two generations the increasing difficulty of getting their business properly performed, while the better young women of the industrial class express their opinion by declining, in ever larger numbers, to enter the employment at all.

When in any calling, the general dissatisfaction is evidently greater than in most other callings, we naturally look for the cause in some condition or conditions peculiar to the occupation. Considering domestic life from this point of view, we at once discern three special features: (a) a somewhat close personal relation between employer and employed, carried, in many instances, as far as that community of residence now outgrown in most other callings; (b) a considerable complexity of duties, combined with a comparative laxity of definition, either as to the limits of those duties or as to periods of work; (c) a backward stage of industrial development, the trade being still carried on in private dwellings by isolated or few workers, without the advantages either of machinery on a large scale or of much division of labor.

In all these respects the domestic industry occupies a position left behind by most wage-earning employments. Until the middle of the eighteenth century, or later, apprentices, journeymen, and journeywomen lived contentedly in the families of their employers; nowadays "living-in" survives in but few trades, and where it does, the conditions are more frequently those of an institution than those of a private household. Residence under the roof of an employer has, in fact, died out of our social customs, and is no longer acceptable to either party. That servants prefer to live at home is evident from the comparative ease with which a non-resident situation can be filled. Nor is it really pleasant to a mistress to have living in her house a woman whose upbringing and outlook are entirely different from her own. How would any business man bear to have his carpenter, or his plumber, or even his trusted head clerk living in? That so many Englishwomen manage to get on reasonably well together in a relation so difficult and so exceptional is really a remarkable evidence of good sense and good temper. The strange thing is not that friction should sometimes occur, but that it should ever fail to occur.

It is the more remarkable because the requirements of employers have, during the last twenty or thirty years, become much more exacting. Our taste has grown more fastidious, our sanitation more laborious. More intelligence, more culture and adaptability are demanded from modern servants at the very time when the better members of the class from which service is recruited are steadily turning away from the occupation. Thus, while the demand is for a finer type of service, the supply is of a coarser.

Among educated women, on the other hand, there has been a great revival of interest in domestic principles and practice, so that those critics who attribute friction between mistress and maid to the mistress's ignorance of household details are beholding the present in terms of the past. Nowadays friction arises at least as frequently from her familiarity with them, which impels her to struggle vainly against the lower standards of her handmaid.

Upon the servant the discomfort of diverging standards presses no less heavily; she does not distinguish the clean from the half-washed tea-cup, nor the water which really boils from the water which nearly boils. Insistence upon such particularities seems to her idle fussiness, and passes over, leaving no trace behind. How, then, can she, in the consecrated phrase, give satisfaction, and how can she feel satisfaction amid the atmosphere of suppressed irritation which must seem to her so unjust and so unreasonable? Who can venture to say that she is wrong in abandoning such a position?

In a factory or a workshop, tasks and hours are defined with a precision impossible, under our present system, for domestic servants; and it is evident that the orderly, routine processes of manufacture, performed among companions, are more acceptable to most working women than the more various, but also more interrupted, duties of domestic service performed in less gregarious conditions and amid surroundings regarded as less cheerful. To complain or repine about this preference is useless. If the industry is to reach a satisfactory state, the terms of it must become such as the workers do not dislike. Otherwise the problem in its present form will come to an end owing to a total disappearance of workers.

Some people, indeed, think that in that direction lies the exit from the *impasse*, and that the true solution of the difficulty in getting good servants is to leave off trying, and to undertake one's own housework, applying to it all those simplifications and improvements of method which educated people, dealing unhampered with their own affairs, may be expected to devise. This is the thesis expounded by Lady Frazer in her instructive and amusing little volume, *First Aid to the Servantless*. She leaves any candid reader convinced that the servantless household is likely to be well served, and her easy, persuasive style glides over serious objections that rise to the surface when such a reader begins to think things over. To begin with, the remedy is unsuited to two large groups of educated women, (a) those who are earning their livelihood in some arduous profession, and cannot therefore spare time, thought, and strength to carry on another simultaneously; and (b) those who are bearing children. Evidently a domestic organisation resting solely on the shoulders of the servantless wife, must suffer interruption for a period of weeks every time that she becomes a mother. How is the gap to be filled? No ordinary servant could carry on a system demanding the nicest adjustment of means and the highest finish of execution, and a sufficiency of available spinster relatives cannot, in these days, be postulated. The probability is that the family will suffer great discomfort, and the mother great anxiety; many possessions will be lost, destroyed, or spoiled; the immaculate cleanness maintained by intelligent foresight and ceaseless attention will be reduced to dirt and disorder, and the mistress of the house, on returning to her accustomed round, will be faced by a labour of Hercules. Something of this kind does actually occur in thousands of working-class households every time a child is born, notwithstanding the fact that almost every working-class mother resumes her domestic toil dangerously soon.

The objection arising from the recurring absences of mothers might possibly be met, if servantless households became the rule, by the organisation of a body of highly-trained substitutes; but another and more insuperable one would still remain—that indicated in an earlier paragraph under (c). Even a whole population of educated, competent women, working each alone in her own home, would still be engaged in a primitive and undeveloped trade, lacking the advantages of combined industry, machinery on a large scale, and the economy of production that depends upon such developments. While other trades have passed from the dwelling-house to the factory, and from the isolated worker to the group, the domestic industry still remains in scattered homes, whence inventions do not spread from one to another, where better machinery can be adopted but slowly, and no general standard of competence can arise. If Mrs. A. finds out a better way of cooking porridge or of cleaning a window, it does not travel to Mrs. B., the public does not profit, and the improvement is not handed on to the next generation. Skill is acquired, passed on, or not passed on, to a few assistants, is forgotten, and has to be acquired afresh; nothing goes into a common fund, and permanent improvements can only come in from the outside world, with its open markets. The result is a vast, continuous stream of waste—waste of labour, waste of time, waste of money, waste in consumption, and an infinite, unnecessary reduplication of tools and processes.

Even if servants were as generally efficient as they are generally incapable, if the food and cooking in the average British household were mostly good, instead of being mostly indifferent, if the whole system were comfortable and convenient to every person concerned, it would still be the duty of good citizens to ask themselves whether they had any right to carry on their affairs in a manner so disproportionately extravagant.

(To be continued.)

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) Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London.

Suffrage Deputation to Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Bonar Law.

A deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was received on August 3rd at the Colonial Office by Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil. The deputation, which consisted of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Countess Brassey, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Annot Robinson, and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, desired to make clear the attitude of the N.U.W.S.S. towards any proposed alteration in the Franchise and Registration Laws.

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Annot Robinson, as representatives of women in industry, laid stress on the fact that these women were helping to earn the wealth of the country; that the old prejudice against women's suffrage amongst working men had completely disappeared; that in the dislocation of industry following the war there would, unfortunately, be a certain clashing of interests between the sexes, in which the one sex only would have the advantage of being able to use political pressure, and that North-country women are eagerly looking forward to the vote to help them in the work of reconstruction after the war.

Miss Rathbone pointed out that, if the Overseas Dominions were given a voice in the making of peace terms, the women of Australia and New Zealand would have representation, and the women of England would not. She also spoke of the widows of sailors and soldiers, who, having given their men, were now left as heads of households, but without any representation.

Mr. Bonar Law asked whether the proposal of Suffragists to stand aside if voters were merely replaced on the register would also apply if any alteration were introduced which would reduce the period of residence, say, to two or three months. Mrs. Fawcett pointed out that that raised quite another point. Such a change would add a large number of new voters to the register. She felt that it must be made clear that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had not given, and could not give, any undertaking to stand aside under those circumstances.

Lord Robert Cecil said he agreed with Mrs. Fawcett, such an alteration would mean a very large addition to the register, and would be a long step towards manhood suffrage. He himself would not assent to any alteration in the Franchise or in registration which substantially increased the number of voters unless it included some measure of enfranchisement for women.

LETTER TO THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT GREY, K.G., M.P.

MY LORD,—The question of a Registration Bill and of a possible extension of the basis of the franchise is being widely discussed in the Press and elsewhere, and it is clear that it must soon occupy the attention of the Cabinet.

We venture, therefore, to beg you to receive a small deputation from this Society, introduced by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, to lay before you some aspects of the Women's Suffrage question, which must inevitably be considered in connection with any alteration of the present franchise laws.

We are aware that your time is very fully occupied, but we nevertheless venture to approach you in the belief that you do not fail to recognise the great importance of this question.

We are addressing Lord Robert Cecil on the same subject, in the hope that an interview might be arranged with you both at any time in the course of next week which may be convenient to you.—Yours truly,

(Signed) VIOLET EUSTACE, Hon. Secretary, Parliamentary Sub-Committee. July 28th, 1916.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Lord Grey of Falldon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 28th.

Lord Grey regrets that the extreme pressure on his time renders it impossible for him to receive a deputation from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

His own personal view is that the time and attention of the Government should not be diverted from those things which are essential to the conduct of the war, and that if questions affecting the franchise, important as these are, have to be dealt with during the war, it should be by persons who are not directly responsible for the daily conduct of the war. He believes that if this precaution is not observed the safety and future existence of this country will be imperilled.

But whenever or however the question of extending the basis of the franchise is dealt with, Lord Grey will, as far as his personal influence can be used, contend that enfranchisement of women should be considered and included.—Yours truly, (Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND.

Foreign Office, August 1st, 1916.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table with columns for names and amounts in £ s. d. Includes sections for Subscriptions, Affiliation Fees, and General Service Fund Donations.

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union. CHEQUES should be crossed. 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.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

THIRTY-FIRST LIST. Table with columns for names and amounts in £ s. d. Lists donors like Lady Olivier, Mrs. James Green, etc.

The Hon. Treasurer gratefully acknowledges, among other sums, Miss Bolton's monthly donation; £10 from Miss Kempson, who was for some time Hon. Secretary to the Committee; £50 from Mrs. G. C. Thompson; and £5, per Miss M. A. Grant, which has been collected by some school children for Dr. King Atkinson's personal use among the refugees. Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, 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 and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

DONATIONS TO THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Owing to a reduction in the size of our paper this week, we are obliged to hold over the List of Donations to the Scottish Women's Hospitals, bringing the total up to £127,760 6s. 10d. The full list will appear next week, when THE COMMON CAUSE will again contain its usual number of pages, and we hope to publish some interesting news from the Units. The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further donations to help to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Some Magazines of the Month.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN contains this month an article on "The New Franchise," by Miss M. Lowndes, in which it is maintained that the enfranchisement of women will be the best guarantee that the claims of the men who have fought in this war will not be forgotten. "You, who all over the country will bear your lot so uncomplainingly (we know you!)—we shall not forget you. When men neglect to be grateful—and gratitude is of all public virtues the most ephemeral—we shall remember. The women's vote shall be your sure shield, if your own be too scattered through the length and breadth of the land to be effectual."

There is another consideration," continues Miss Lowndes, "related to this question of the fighting men: Britain may enfranchise them all if she will, but thousands from the ranks and from the fighting ships will never come home to vote. They end their national service in the fields of France and Flanders, in the East and upon the high seas, and bequeath to others the reaping of the rewards of victory. We have in trust from them the task for which they died; they have defended the country of their birth; they have upheld right and justice as they understood it, and to others it falls to ensure that the great and costly sacrifice shall serve high ends. This task is laid upon women as upon men: all must shoulder the vast responsibility. Where the men of the family return no more, the women are here to carry on their work and face their burdens, and upon their steadiness and faithfulness must largely depend the rapid recuperation of the country after the war is over."

"The country needs all her daughters in the hard struggle that is in front of her, and she will do well to endow them, as they reach maturity, with that freedom she would now so faint bestow on those who have died for her liberties. They will not abuse it."

THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION REVIEW (the Quarterly Report of the Women's Trade Union League) contains a valuable article on the "Wages of Women Mmunition Workers," which includes some of the awards given

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

North-Western Federation.

CARNFORTH W.S.S.—On July 20th, this Society held a Garden Party at Linden Hall, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Briggs. The weather was very fine and the party most successful, over 100 visitors being present. After tea, Miss Geraldine Cooke spoke on the situation of the Women's Suffrage movement at the present time and the relief work undertaken by the N.U. Her address gave great pleasure to her audience, many of whom expressed their appreciation and enlightenment from it. Several new members were enrolled. There was a stall for the sale of gifts brought by the visitors: £12 was realised, and goes to the funds of the Society. A public meeting was held in the evening of the following day in the Co-operative Hall, when Miss Cooke again spoke. Her subject was "The Needs of the Nation and the Responsibility of Women." The Rev. J. H. Hastings presided. He made a sympathetic speech, as did also the Rev. J. B. Judge and Mr. Dugdale. A collection of £4 10s. was made at the close of the meeting in aid of the Russian Refugee Fund.

The EALING AND ACTON Independent Branch of the L.S.W.S. organised a public meeting in the Town Hall, on Thursday, August 3rd, to consider the effect on the women's question of the proposed Registration Bill. The chair was taken by Professor Dr. Sumichrast. He told the audience how he had undertaken to head a deputation to the Ealing Member, but the latter had refused to receive it, as he did not consider the moment was opportune, and—he was too busy. Mrs. Corbett-Ashby gave an excellent and enlightening speech on "The Political Situation"; she also pointed out how the sorrows and work of the war had broken down old distinctions of class and poverty and wealth, and the hope that the united efforts of men and women in the future might build up a new and juster world, and concluded by proposing the following resolution: "The Ealing Suffragists urge that no alteration of the franchise for men shall be made, under the provisions of the proposed Registration Bill, unless women are included." The motion was carried unanimously.

by tribunals. Questions in Parliament on the subject of "Women in Munition Works" are recorded.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT has an article on "Midwifery as a Profession," which should be of special interest to women who are starting to earn their living rather late in life. "In these days," says the writer, "when so many women past their first youth are seeking a profession, midwifery has many advantages," for the rules of the Central Midwives' Board make no promise as to age, except that the candidate for admission to examination must be over twenty-one years of age.

For "The Common Cause."

Comparatively few Suffrage meetings are held nowadays, and opportunities for direct propaganda work are so much curtailed, that members of the Union are not brought as frequently in close touch with each other as heretofore. It is felt that

"The Common Cause" has a specially important part to play in war-time in keeping the members and Societies of the Union in touch with one another and headquarters.

We wish to acknowledge with cordial thanks the further sum of £13 12s. 6d., making £266 16s. 2d. out of the £500, for which we appeal; and the very kind wishes and practical suggestions we receive from friends all over Great Britain.

"I am instructed to send you the sum of £2 as a small response to your appeal. We hope that THE COMMON CAUSE will continue; it is always so interesting and helpful."

"I enclose cheque for £1 10s as a donation (part collection of annual meeting) to THE COMMON CAUSE FUND. We hope it is only a first instalment, and that we may be able to send a little more later on."

"Enclosed please find cheque for £1, with all good wishes."

"From —, for the upkeep of the dear COMMON CAUSE."

"I enclose cheque for £1 in support of THE COMMON CAUSE. I feel it would be a great blow to our cause if it ceased to exist."

"For the continuation of THE COMMON CAUSE, with best wishes for its future."

Table with columns for names and amounts in £ s. d. Lists donors like Anon., Bournemouth, Mrs. George Arbutnot, etc.

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The series of articles, specially written for THE COMMON CAUSE, by Miss Clementina Black, on Problems of Housekeeping, beginning with the number of August 11th, should find a large circle of interested readers.

THE WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL.

We regret that we omitted to state in our last issue that the meeting held to discuss the new orders with regard to wages of women munition workers was convened by the Women's Industrial Council, which has been collecting and sifting evidence bearing on women's economic position.

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