

The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

VOL. X., No. 522.]

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1919.

[PRICE 2D.
Registered as a Newspaper]

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The Women's Emancipation Bill	644
The Industrial Conference and its Report	644
Electricity. By Mrs. Oliver Strachey	645
Reconstruction in Ireland. II. Rural Housing. By Dora Mellone	646
New Work for Middle Class Women. By Isabel Basnett	647
Health and Hospitals. By Madge Mears	647
Correspondence	648
Reports, Notices, &c.	648

[The N.U.S.E.C. does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles or in correspondence.]

All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.]

Notes and News.

Supporters of the Women's Emancipation Bill.

Members who spoke in support of the Women's Emancipation Bill were: the Rt. Hon. W. Adamson (West Fife), Leader of the Labour Party, Mr. W. Lunn (Labour, Rothwell), Captain Watson (Co. Liberal, Stockton-on-Tees), Mr. George Thorne (Liberal, Wolverhampton), Captain Albert Smith (Labour, Nelson and Colne), Mr. Macmaster (Co. U., Chertsey), Mr. C. White (Lib., West Derbyshire), Sir R. Newman (Co. U., Exeter), Sir Alfred Yeo (Co. Lib., Poplar), Major Entwistle (Lib., Kingston-upon-Hull), Mr. W. Carter (Lab., Mansfield), Mr. Robert Young (Lab., Newton), Mr. R. J. Lynn (Co. U., Woodvale), Major Hills (Co. U., Durham), Captain Loseby (Co. N.D.P., Bradford East), Mr. T. Cope (Lab., Workington), and Captain Elliot (Co. U., Lanark). It will be seen that these supporters belong to every party. Of those who did not support it, not a single one could bring himself to oppose it outright. Major O'Neill (Co. U., Antrim) supported every part of it, but ended by saying that he would abstain from voting. Sir Ryland Adkins (Co. Lib., Middleton and Prestwich) said that if he had been successful in the ballot he had meant to bring in a Bill to remove the disabilities of women which would have been wider than that before the House, but with regard to the franchise, he felt bound to maintain the compromise of the Speaker's conference. Mr. W. Cooté (Co. U., Tyrone) made the interesting statement that he was pleased to say publicly that he did not regret his conversion to women's suffrage, but he thought this Bill premature. Commander Bellairs (Co. U., Maidstone), felt unable to support the Bill because it was not generous enough, and said he wanted a true emancipation Bill which would put women all along the line on a level with men, and side by side with them, and that the motto to which we should all subscribe to would be "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Lieutenant-Colonel Guinness (Co. U., Bury St. Edmunds), Mr. Hugh Edwards (Co. Lib., Neath), Mr. J. Campbell (Co. U., Kingston-on-Thames), were in difficulties about the franchise clause, and wanted to know what the Government were going to do about it. Sir J. D. Rees (Co. U., Nottingham) was in favour of every part of the Bill, but not in favour of dealing with any of it so soon after the General Election. Mr. D. Wilson (Co. U., Down West) was also opposed to the franchise clause.

The Government's Position.

Dr. Addison, though he said that in franchise matters he had set adrift suffrage before him as the only rational solution, felt

it quite impossible that there should be any further approach to the rational solution at present. He said "the Government cannot undertake to support the Bill on the understanding that we are committed to any franchise Bill this session." Whatever Dr. Addison hoped in the matter, it was quite plain that the House was determined to pass the second reading of the Bill. It seems strange that anybody should ever have maintained, as we believe some did, that the granting of the vote to women would not make any real difference to the attitude of Parliament on other questions connected with women!

More Humane Conditions.

Many speeches in support of the Women's Emancipation Bill referred to the work of women during the war in terms that have now grown pleasantly familiar to us. Several dwelt on the need for equal pay for equal work, but Mr. Adamson made a new and interesting point when he said "their entrance into industry has seen the establishment of many reforms which will make the work of men and women much pleasanter in the coming days than ever it has been in the past. Their entrance into industry has seen the establishment of canteens on a large scale, where good food, served under proper conditions, and at moderate prices, is to be obtained in our industrial centres. Their entrance into industry has also seen the establishment of welfare supervision. Rest centres have also been arranged for, and many other arrangements made for giving a human touch to our industrial relationship in the future. Wherever women have entered, the human element has played a much larger part, and I submit that Parliament, as the great welfare supervisor of the nation, should continue the process of removing the restraints and disabilities, and enabling the women in the country legally and politically to stand on an equal footing with the men."

Women as Magistrates.

The need for women as magistrates is being more and more widely recognised, and though all that Mr. Bonar Law could say when asked by Mr. Clough, on April 1st, whether the Government was going to consider the matter, was "I suppose it will have to be considered some day," the Government were brought face to face with it three days later in the debate on the Women's Emancipation Bill. Mr. Lunn, in seconding Mr. Adamson, referred to his experiences as Chairman of the Council upon the Bench of Magistrates in Leeds, and said there were many occasions on which he had seen the need for the presence of women there. The first clause of the Bill will, if it passes, provide for this need.

Miss Markham's Opponent.

Mr. W. Carter (Lab., Mansfield) made a pleasant little allusion to Miss Violet Markham in his speech for the Bill. He said: "I had the honour to be opposed at the General Election by a lady, a very gifted and intelligent lady, a woman that I had every confidence in and that I could have voted for if she were in the same class and in the same party as I was. It was not because we thought she lacked ability or intelligence that we opposed her. There are women in this country that can take up any position in the State with credit to themselves and to the country." Mr. Carter also said that women were requiring and wanting this measure and that in his constituency the women were more interested in national affairs than the men, and also more interested in local affairs. This state of things is very creditable, not only to the women of Mansfield, but to both the successful and the unsuccessful candidate for that constituency at the General Election.

Deputation to Mr. Shortt.

On the eve of the Women's Emancipation Bill, Mr. Shortt received in his room at the House of Commons a small deputation organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations. He had only consented to receive six members, and there were present two representatives from the above-mentioned organisations, and one each from the Women's Local Government Society, the Federation of University Women, the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, and the Women's Liberal Federation. Mrs. Strachey pointed out how the passing of such a Bill would save the Government an enormous amount of time and trouble later, since these measures have to come in time; how much simpler would it be were they all passed now. Dr. Marion Phillips spoke of the great backing this Bill was receiving from the working women all over the country, and Miss Young pointed out how the whole status and work of the Civil Service clerks were lowered by their not being eligible for the higher posts. Mr. Shortt received the deputation most sympathetically, and described himself as a supporter of the women's movement since 1888; at the same time he said that he was not in a position to pledge the Government to anything, but he undertook that a list of those Societies which had passed resolutions in favour of the Bill (and which was handed to him by the deputation) should be placed before the War Cabinet.

The Housing Bill and the Need for It.

The President of the Local Government Board gave some very grave statistics in moving the second reading of the Government Housing Bill on April 7th. He said that there were arrears amounting to about three hundred and fifty thousand working-class houses, which would have been built had it not been for the war. But there was a much more serious shortage even than that. Large numbers of houses were not fit habitations for families. In our villages were many cottages which were in a dilapidated and unsatisfactory condition, and overcrowded. The position was still worse in many cities. Information on the subject was incomplete, but a return provided by the local authorities in 1914, covering about a quarter of the houses of the working-class type, showed that there were seventy thousand quite unfit for habitation, and a further three hundred thousand which were seriously defective. About three millions of our people were living in what was described as an overcrowded condition, that was to say, more than two in a room. In the area covered by the London County Council a return showed seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand persons living in that condition. That was a big problem, apart from the provision of new houses.

A London Street.

Dr. Addison went on to give particulars of Essex Street, Shoreditch, which he described as "a typical slum street." He took, as an example, five houses next to each other, and said that the first was let in six tenements and had thirty-one persons living in it. There was one water-closet for the whole lot, and one water-tap in the back yard. The next house was let out in two tenements and had twenty-nine people, with the same accommodation. The next house had twenty-seven, the next thirty-eight, and the next twenty-six. In that street there were twenty-nine houses occupied by seven hundred and thirty-three people, and let out in one hundred and sixty-eight different lettings.

How to Spread Disease.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the social, moral, and physical effects of the continuance of conditions of this kind. From the report of the Medical Officer of Health for Finsbury it appears that of four hundred and thirty-eight persons suffering from consumption, in three hundred and fifty-two cases the patients had to share their bed or bedroom with other people. In the vast majority of cases not only were there one or more persons sleeping in the same bed as the patient, but there were other beds in the same room. In two instances, there were four other beds in the same room. Clearly it is futile to try and deal with the disease of tubercle while conditions like these obtain. The results of this overcrowding is reflected in our Poor Law expenditure. Between 1889 and 1913 the expenditure increased from £8,000,000 to £15,000,000. That increase was not due to any material increase in outdoor relief; it was due, in the main, to better provision for medical service, especially institutional service and indoor maintenance connected therewith. In the case of tubercle, under the Insurance Act we are able to know precisely what was spent during one particular period. Between

July, 1912, and March, 1919, there was spent £8,500,000 in treating tubercle alone. It is difficult to compute what these conditions have cost the country in terms of public expenditure, but these two items alone show that they cost many millions every year.

How Things Don't Work Now.

"At the present time," the President of the Local Government Board explained, "if a local authority closes a street, the only result is that people are sent into neighbouring houses to extend the slum area. The local authorities, of which there are eighteen hundred, can issue an order closing houses which are not fit for human habitation; but though they can do that, it is an extraordinary thing that there is no penalty on the landlord for letting after the closing order has been applied." Then, again, there is no power to make the owner bring the house up to a reasonable standard. The Bill proposes to make it the duty of a local authority, where a case appears, to undertake a survey and to provide a scheme for dealing with what rehousing is necessary. At the present time the local authority cannot be required to do this unless complaints are made and established, through the Local Government Board, from ratepayers, supported by recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health. "We now know that many areas ought certainly to be dealt with, and we propose, therefore, to make it the duty of the authority in these circumstances to prepare a scheme. It is also proposed that where an authority fails to prepare a scheme, or to carry it out, the Local Government Board may itself prepare a scheme and carry it out." Dr. Addison also dwelt on the necessity for improving transport facilities in London, so that workers may not have to choose between overcrowded and wretched dwellings near their work, or adding an intolerable amount of fatigue and expense to their labours by having to go long distances to them. Later on, Dr. Addison explained the proposals for new houses on open ground, and the financial part of the Bill. There was an interesting debate, which was continued on April 8th, when the second reading was passed without a division.

Women's Suffrage and South Africa.

On April 1st the Union Parliament of South Africa passed a Bill giving votes to women. The Bill, which was introduced by Mr. Wyndham—the sponsor of a former unsuccessful Bill in 1914—had the very narrow majority of forty-four votes to forty-two. The majority in the Union Parliament against Women's Suffrage has been steadily decreasing since 1912, when a Bill was defeated by seventy votes to thirty. Mr. Wyndham's first measure never reached a vote. The next effort was Mr. Rockey's motion in 1917, against which the majority was thirty-five; that against Mr. Sampson's, in February, 1918, was only fifteen. The Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union, which was founded in 1911, is a most active organisation. Not only has it laboured for the vote; it has also been largely instrumental in promoting such legislation as the Regulation of Wages Act, and the Factory Act, 1918, which ensures the State support of working women before, during, and eight weeks after confinement, and which guards against the sweating of women, children, and apprentices. English women rejoice over this victory, as they rejoiced over their own, knowing that South Africa would not long linger behind Great Britain in giving liberty to its women.

Widow's Pensions.

On Wednesday, April 9th, Mr. Tyson Wilson called attention to the question of pensions for widows, and moved the following resolution: "That, in the opinion of this House, pensions adequate for a healthy and useful life should be paid to all widows with children, or mothers whose family breadwinner has become incapacitated, such pensions to be provided by the State and administered by a Committee of the Municipal or County Council wholly unconnected with the Poor Law." In the short debate which followed, we are glad to see that nearly all the speakers supported Mr. Tyson Wilson's resolution. Major Astor, on behalf of the Government, announced that the Government was in favour of Mr. Tyson Wilson's resolution, but pointed out that it would be necessary to draw up a definite scheme on account of the many ways in which the resolution could be interpreted. He said, however, that the Government would examine the subject, and all the questions associated with it when they had gone into the subject of Poor Law Reform, which might be the next matter dealt with after Housing; and that any concrete proposals made by supporters of the motion would be considered carefully and sympathetically. He declared that the problem was one that in the opinion of the Government ought to be dealt with as soon as possible.

Wait and See.

Sir Robert Horne gave some further particulars about unemployment benefit on April 7th, in reply to a question from Colonel Yate. He said: "The original scheme for payment of unemployed donation provided that during the period of twenty-six weeks following on the cessation of hostilities, unemployed persons unable to find employment might obtain assistance to the extent of thirteen weekly payments. Many persons found no employment and took the donation every week in the first thirteen weeks. When almost thirteen weeks had elapsed and there was no appearance of any revival of trade, while unemployment was increasing, the Government decided to make payments at a reduced rate for thirteen additional weeks, but under the arrangement only twenty-six payments in all could be made within the year from November 21st, 1918—thirteen at the original rate, and thirteen at the reduced rate. In order to obtain a continuation of the donation, however, it is necessary for the applicant to present his or her case to the Local Advisory Committee, and satisfy them of the genuineness of the claim. The weekly rates of donation for civilian workers during the second period are 20s. for men, 15s. for women, and half these rates for boys and girls respectively, together with supplementary allowances in respect of dependent children under the age of fifteen." Sir Samuel Hoare asked what the Government proposed to do at the end of the second period of thirteen weeks; but to this, the Minister of Labour only replied "that is a question that had better be asked when we come to that period." Further questions from Members who think that the unemployment benefit is being abused by the workers, and from others who think that it is quite insufficient and administered in such a way as to cause unnecessary hardship to workers, met with very illuminating replies. Nobody is satisfied, and no doubt the Labour Department is having a difficult time over this question, but the fact is that everyone is dissatisfied that an unemployment benefit is necessary at all, and almost everyone feels that if things had been better organised and the Government had been a little more farsighted, it would at least not have been so necessary as it unfortunately is now. We all wait with anxiety for the end of the twenty-six weeks, to see what will be done then.

Women Engineers and Wages.

Last week an award was made by the Interim Court of Arbitration increasing the wages of women working for firms in the Engineering Employers' Federation by five shillings a week for those over eighteen and two-and-six for those under. The Ministry of Labour has now extended this increase to women employed by firms outside the Federation. This increase, which affects thousands of women, is very important.

The Demobilisation of Army Nurses.

The *Times* last Saturday had a leading article on the demobilisation of Army nurses, taking practically the same line as we have done on this question. It says: "We are clear that this treatment is hard, that it compares very unfavourably with that which the Government has granted to other war-workers—nurses, of course, do not receive unemployment donation—and that a check should be put at once on these official methods. The Chairman of the Council of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses has since written to the *Times* to corroborate from personal knowledge the fact that "the unfair and ungenerous manner in which nurses are being demobilised is, in many cases, causing serious distress." The letter goes on to say "in the Home of Rest for Nurses we can give one month's rest to about six hundred nurses in the course of a year. This, unfortunately, is quite inadequate to meet the present need, and it is distressing to have daily to refuse numbers of applicants through lack of further accommodation. Many of these applicants, demobilised at short notice, are practically friendless, and have nowhere to go, and can it be wondered at that many of them are asking whether this treatment is the measure of their country's gratitude. Throughout the war they have nobly endured continuous contact with unparalleled suffering. In many cases, as we know too well, a sense of duty, backed by will-power, alone kept them at their posts, and now the tension of war is over the inevitable reaction has come. Numbers of

these devoted women are cast adrift with nerves so shattered that they will be gravely handicapped in the future struggle for existence, and from the applications now being made to us we see how greatly this condition is being aggravated by the manner in which they are being demobilised."

Old Age Pensions.

The Government has just appointed a Committee "to consider and report upon what alterations shall be made as regards rates of pensions, or what qualifications shall be made in the existing statutory schemes of old age pensions." This Committee consists of sixteen members, of which one member, Miss M. Cecile Mattheson, is the only woman. Miss Cecile Mattheson is well-known to many readers of THE COMMON CAUSE as an experienced social worker, and as a writer on various aspects of social reform, and we welcome her appointment. At the same time, the constitution of this Committee appears to be the most glaring case we have come across in recent years of an unjust discrimination against the appointment of women members on a Government Committee. Apart from the fact that there are a far greater number of old women than old men in the country (the proportion at the time of the last census is as thirty-three to twenty-five) the problems that will come before this Committee are those on which women are peculiarly well qualified to judge. We hope that pressure will be brought to bear on the Government to rectify this most glaring of anomalies, and that we shall soon find many more women members appointed on this Committee.

Married Women's Income-Tax.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain has agreed to receive a deputation on the above question on Thursday, April 10th, as this issue appears. The deputation is formed of the Members of Parliament who recently signed a memorial urging the Government to remove the "penalty income-tax on marriage" in the next Budget. The Members will be accompanied by six or seven women representing the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the National Council of Women, the Women's Freedom League, the Women's International League, the National Federation of Women Workers, and the Catholic Women's League. Our gratitude is due to Lieut. Locker-Lampson, M.P., who has organised the deputation, and who has worked so hard for justice to married men and women in this respect.

Medical Inspection in Irish Schools.

The Attorney General for Ireland on April 2nd last accepted the unanimous demand of the Irish Members, and amended Clause I. of the Bill for the Medical Treatment of Children to render it compulsory. Organised women in Ireland drew a long breath of relief. For how long have Irishwomen worked for this reform? It was declared impracticable; it was said no public demand existed: the demand of organised women did not count. Now enfranchisement has come, and it is really in the power of women to "bring immediate and effective pressure" on M.P.s, and we are to have medical inspection of schools in Ireland. It is good, also, to find very unwonted unity among Irish M.P.s on these women's questions. If Irishwomen can induce Sir Edward Carson and Mr. Devlin to unite in pressing their demands, something has indeed been accomplished. A hearty word of thanks must be given to the two medical M.P.s who worked so hard to secure amendment of the Bill. Here, again, is an instance of united action, for Trinity College, Dublin, and Queen's University, Belfast, have not always seen eye to eye. The Ministry of Health Bill and the Bill for the Medical Treatment of Children, so amended, will be a real beginning of efficient health work in Ireland, but a beginning only. We shall have compulsory medical inspection of schools, but the treatment is not free, and apparently the inspectors will not have power to take cognisance of school buildings. Reports of the Inspectors under the National Board often contain such statements as "no sanitary accommodation in this school at all," "floors washed once a year." It is satisfactory to find a new era has begun in health legislation in Ireland. Up to the present all the Public Health Acts, except that for the notification of births, have been permissive. Action thus depended on the knowledge and good-will of the local authorities concerned.

THE WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL.

THE Labour Party's Women's Emancipation Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons on Friday last, April 4th. The purport of this Bill has already been explained by Mr. Arthur Henderson in our columns, and we reprint the full text of it this week. Even to some of those who have realised the change in the public attitude towards the political claims of women, the debate in the House of Commons came as a surprise. Member after Member rose to uphold women's rights, to express amazement at anyone who could be prejudiced enough to deny them, to complain of the Bill only because it did not go far enough. One clause did indeed prove controversial,—that which extends the franchise to women of twenty-one and upwards, but even this was not opposed on its merits. No faithful anti-suffragist rose to assert that all those disastrous results of the intervention in politics of an unbalanced sex which he had so confidently anticipated, had now come to pass, and would be doubled if more women were enfranchised. The terrible, if undefined danger to the State which would spring from a preponderance of women voters was hardly even mentioned. If several M.P.s were opposed to a clause giving votes to more women, it was, frankly, because the women who voted at the last election had done so well that it would be a thousand pities to disturb their handiwork for at least four years to come. It is a constitutional custom that an extension of the franchise should be followed as soon as possible by a general election. Nobody who was successful in the last general election wants another just yet, and there is some reason in the plea that this Parliament ought to be given a chance of tackling the reconstruction problem which it was elected to deal with before it goes out of existence. (For how long that chance should be extended is, of course, another question; not everyone perhaps would put the time at four years!) We, for our part, feel that no very satisfactory "reconstruction" can be carried out while the young women workers are denied representation in Parliament, and the Labour Party takes the same view; but it was hardly to be expected that the Government would look at things quite in this light, and the statement that it intends to oppose the franchise clause of the Bill in Committee was therefore hardly a surprise.

To the other clauses opening all official and professional appointments and the House of Lords to women, there was practically no opposition at all. It is true that a strong attempt was made to bring a charge of inconsistency against the Labour Party on the ground, that while they demand the opening of professions to women and even take an interest in the House of Lords, they are neglecting the industrial aspects of emancipation. The question why women are not freely admitted to all

trade unions was asked repeatedly and with considerable vehemence, by Members who have not all shown themselves very determined supporters of the rights of women, or of workers, in the past. Major Entwistle—a Liberal, not a Labour Member—answered that the entry of women into trade unions was not a matter for legislative enactment, or one on which the House of Commons could decide, and added that he had not heard of any members of the Labour Party who were opposed to the principle of the right of women to be admitted to the trade unions on the same terms as men. This was confirmed by Mr. Robert Young (till lately General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers), who said "Trade Unionists, I believe, who sit in this House—at any rate I shall speak for myself as a member of the engineering trade—have always advocated that women should be enrolled in men's societies." And again, "I believe that every woman should have the right to enter into that industry for which she has the qualifications." He coupled this, it is true, with the emphatic statement that women ought to have equal pay for equal work, as otherwise they were a danger to their fellow-workers, and he added that wives and mothers ought not to continue to be forced into the labour market against their will. But his speech, and those of other Labour Members, made it fairly clear that the Labour Party, which has always shown a proud consistency, realises the wide implications of the great measure it has brought forward, and is prepared to uphold the complete emancipation of women in every sphere of life.

Certainly there was no lack of vigour, or of obvious sincerity, in the speeches that were made by Labour men in support of the second reading. In spite of the facts that the National Industrial Conference was sitting at the time the debate took place, and necessarily diverted a certain number of trade-union parliamentarians, and that some of the truest friends of our Cause are no longer Members of the House, the Bill was well supported. Mr. Adamson made a strong and thoughtful speech showing a thorough grasp of the women's point of view, and of the logical bearings of the case. He was well seconded by Mr. Lunn. As one Labour Member after another rose to take up the argument, and was listened to with the respect that ability and practical earnestness command, it was impossible not to reflect that only a short time ago the class barriers of public life seemed impregnable; now they are broken down; few indeed would wish to set them up again or would deny that the State is stronger since it began to allow all its male citizens to serve it in all ways. It is fitting that those who succeeded in breaking down the class barrier should lead in the assault on the sex-barrier. Our country will not attain her full strength till both are broken down. The time perhaps is not far off.

The Industrial Conference and its Report.

While we are talking about revolution, and fearing it because of its association with strife and chaos, a great peaceful revolution is taking place amongst us almost without our noticing it. When the adjourned National Conference met to consider a unanimous report from a Provisional Committee of trade unionists and employers, the orderly, and, on the whole, harmonious proceedings seemed a natural thing, and it was only afterwards that one realised that the fact of the unanimous report was only less remarkable than the spirit in which it was presented and received. A resolution moved by Mr. Arthur Henderson stating that the Conference welcomed the report and agreed to submit it to the constituent organisations immediately that the Government had declared its readiness to proceed with the legislative and other steps necessary to carry it into effect, was carried with acclamation. The Prime Minister's letter, and Sir Robert Horne's speech seem to make it certain that the Government will do its part in the matter, and there is reason to hope that a great step forward towards industrial peace and towards the obtaining of justice for the working people of this country has thus been taken.

The report—as those who have studied it in its complete form, or in the summaries in the Daily Press, will remember—proposes to set up a National Industrial Council, whose object will be to secure the greatest possible measure of joint action between the representative organisations of employers and work-people, and to be the normal channel through which the opinion and experience of industry will be sought by the Government on all questions affecting industry as a whole. The Council will consist of four hundred members, half of whom will represent

employers' organisations, and half trade unions. The Council will itself appoint a Standing Committee of fifty members, half representing the employers, and half the trade unionists.

The setting up of this Council is in itself a great piece of work, but the Provisional Committee, which must have worked very hard in the few weeks it has had at its disposal, did not content itself with making the Council, and then referring everything to it for decision; it expressed its own views on the chief questions which have to be considered in relation to the industry of this country; it declared itself in favour of a normal forty-eight hours working week, and a legal minimum wage, to be determined within three months by a Commission and of the extension of Trade Boards for the less organised trades; it declared itself strongly in favour of negotiation between employers and work-people, and of a frank recognition of the representative organisations on both sides; it also gave some definite recommendations as to the prevention of unemployment, upholding the value of organised short time in periods of depression, urging the Government to regulate its own employment schemes in such a way as to stabilise employment; to press forward housing schemes, and to develop new industries; it also expressed opinions as to the maintenance of unemployed work-people, stating that the normal provision should be more adequate, and of wider application, and should be extended to those who are under-employed, and that unemployed persons (particularly young people) should have free opportunities of continuing their education. With regard to the employment of children, the Committee did not express itself very definitely; but held that "the age at which a child should enter employment

should be raised beyond the present limit." In the same way the Committee expressed the general opinion that there should be an immediate enquiry into sickness and infirmity benefits and old age pensions with a view to a more generous provision being made.

There was one other subject of special interest to women on which the Committee did not express a definite opinion, but considered that the time for careful investigation and enquiry had arrived. This was the question of the effect on the labour market of the employment of married women, and widows, "particularly those who have young children." It is stated in the report that "the Committee feel that the subject is so important that a special enquiry should immediately be instituted to investigate the whole matter, and thereafter submit a report."

The printed report ends by stating that "there has been apparent throughout the proceedings an earnest anxiety on the part of the representatives, both of employers and employed, to approach the subjects of their discussion in a spirit of mutual accommodation so as to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of outstanding difficulties. The Committee confidently believe that if effect is given to the recommendations now made, and if the same spirit that has characterised the deliberations of the Committee actuates the future consideration of other difficulties that exist or may arise, much will have been done to promote that spirit of mutual confidence which is a first essential to the effective and successful conduct of industry in the interests of employers and employed and the nation generally."

Appended to the report is a memorandum presented by the trade union representatives on the causes of unrest. It is of extraordinary interest and should be carefully studied by all those who really care to understand the inner meaning of that crisis which finds its outward expression in discomforts that too often make us cross and anxious, and divert our minds from a thoughtful consideration of what is really going on. The memorandum comments on the disappointment caused by the lack of any comprehensive policy on the part of the Government or the employers; it expresses the determination of the workers to have a share in industrial control, and their challenge to the whole of the present system. It deals also with some immediate causes of the present troubles; the high prices, the uniform opinion among the working-classes that profiteering has taken place during the war on an unprecedented scale, the discontent with the Government action in selling the national ship-yards and factories; the great, and as it seems unnecessary, unemployment; the reduction of wages since the termination of hostilities; the continued long hours; the horrible over-crowding and general bad housing conditions. It points out that even now a full recognition of trade unionism has not been obtained, and that the representative machinery for giving expression to industrial grievances is still inadequate. Lastly, it refers to the Government's suicidal policy of delaying remedial action for grievances, until the workers have decided to take matters into their own hands, and the consequent impulse given to drastic, even to dangerous, action.

The memorandum goes on to suggest remedies, and this portion of it is even more interesting. It states that a substantial beginning must be made by instituting public ownership of public services; that private profit should be eliminated from the manufacture of armaments, and that there should be a great extension of municipal ownership and co-operative control of those services which are primarily concerned with the supplying of local needs. It states that the extension of public ownership should be accompanied by the granting to organised workers of a greater control over their own work. It gives detailed recommendations as to the State control of prices, with an enquiry into profiteering; as to the national factories; as to employment, wages, and hours of labour. In effect, it demands from the Government a "comprehensive reconstruction on a democratic basis and a constructive policy leading towards economic democracy." It concludes: "The changes involved in this reconstruction must, of course, be gradual, but if unrest is to be prevented from assuming dangerous forms an adequate assurance must be given immediately to the workers that the whole problem is being taken courageously in hand. It is not enough merely to tinker with particular grievances or to endeavour to reconstruct the old system by slight adjustments to meet the new demands of labour. It is essential to question the whole basis on which our industry has been conducted in the past and to endeavour to find, in substitution for the motive of private gain some other motive which will serve better as the foundations of a democratic system. This motive can be no other than the motive of public service, which at present is seldom invoked

save when the workers threaten to stop the process of production by a strike. The motive of public service should be the dominant motive throughout the whole industrial system, and the problem in industry at the present day is that of bringing home to every person engaged in industry the feeling that he is the servant not of any particular class or person, but of the community as a whole. This cannot be done so long as industry continues to be conducted for private profit, and the widest possible extension of public ownership and democratic control of industry is, therefore, the first necessary condition of the removal of industrial unrest."

The memorandum is signed by Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Chairman, and Mr. G. D. H. Cole, the Secretary. It seems to us an epoch-making document because it puts into words the new conception which is revolutionising not only our industrial world, but all our lives. The war has brought home to the minds of millions of men and women what the Suffrage movement had already taught many women, the fact that we are all servants of the community and that this is both our birth-right and an obligation which we cannot, without dishonour, escape. Patriotism is not for war-time use only, it is a motive to which one can always appeal; but such an appeal cannot be made with success except to the free. The time has come for full freedom and in its development we have the best, nay, the only, hope for a public spirit which will penetrate every department of national life and make the new Britain we all desire.

Electricity.

All branches of engineering are interesting, but of them all electrical engineering is, perhaps, the most fascinating. For one thing, electricity is so much more mysterious than other forces, if, indeed, it be not a substance. Then it can be made to accomplish such marvellous things, and there seems no limit, save the limits of human imagination, to the wonders that can be accomplished by its means. Long-distance wireless telephones are as unexpected a product as the increased laying capacity of hens, and there is hardly any sphere of life into which electricity might not be introduced.

The politics of reconstruction evidently depend upon it in many ways, and the Government has recognised this. The Bill for the control of Roads and Transportation, now under consideration in the House of Commons, provides for the centralization and control by the Government of the main sources of electric supply.* Huge generating stations are to be set up within reach of the coal centres, and from these giant power stations electric power is to be sent flowing over the whole country. Railways are to be electrified, and factories supplied, and an immense economy of fuel and of cost is thus to be secured. All this is very good; but there is a further aspect of electric supply that should not be forgotten. Electricity can not only propel trains, but it can also cook dinners. It can not only drive machinery, but it can also heat irons, and cheap electricity ought to bring about the enfranchisement of the housewife. The Ministry of Ways and Transport, however wide its functions, will hardly attend to this, and yet it is a serious factor in the problem of electric control. Take, for instance, the hot water question. What a transformation there would be if every house could turn on municipally supplied hot water as it does cold! How different the health of women and children would be, and how much useless labour and useless cost would be saved! The Ministry of Transport will not think of this, and yet it needs attention.

One of the most obvious things about an electric power station is the amount of heat that is wasted. In Poplar, for example, the generating plant is cooled by the water from the canal, and the water is so heated by the process that children can be seen bathing in it until late in November. And nothing—beyond this incidental cleansing of Poplar's children—is done with the hot water. Surely an enlightened Government would notice this waste, and make use of it. Why, for instance, could not the houses in the neighbourhood of the power station be rebuilt, when they are rebuilt (and they should have been years ago), with hot water pipes? And why is no such scheme included in the housing plans?

Hot water is a curious subject, and ticklish to handle. But the best hot-water engineers are agreed that it can be sent for a radius of two miles, and experiments are even now being made in different parts of the country on this subject.

It seems obvious that the moment when the central Government is taking control of the generation of electricity and taking

* Since this was written it has been decided in Committee that the question of electricity shall be dealt with in a separate Bill.

it out of the hands of municipal authorities would be a suitable moment for putting into the hands of those same municipal authorities the generation of hot water for local supply. Existing power stations, which will presumably be scrapped under the new Bill, could very easily be converted into hot water stations, and the comfort to the housewife would be incalculable. There are a number of engineers and others interested in this possibility, and if the public opinion of ordinary women at home could only be mobilised, something might immediately be done. If not, it looks as if we should have our big power stations wasting heat, and our little power stations wasting machinery, and our housewives still carrying kettles from room to room and struggling in vain to keep their children clean.

One thing, however, is encouraging, there are already a few women electrical engineers, and a few women architects, and more are likely to spring up. Professions more obviously suitable to women can hardly be imagined. Neither profession is now closed to them. Courage, perseverance, and enterprise are still needed in this as in all novel occupations; but courage, perseverance, and enterprise are not lacking in the young women of this generation.

RAY STRACHEY.

Reconstruction in Ireland.

II.—RURAL HOUSING.

I stopped to speak to Mr. and Mrs. McFetridge as they stood at the cottage door. It was St. Patrick's Day, when the Saint "turns up the warm side of the stone," and potato planting begins all over Ireland. Mr. McFetridge had his spade and fork and barrow of manure, and remarked, "now, Miss, I'll go and prepare the ground for the potatoes in God's Holy name." The invocation, quite simply and sincerely uttered, is common on the lips of the older men, for the life of the country side depends on the success of the crops. South County Down exports the early potatoes, and thus the rent is paid, and bread and tea for breakfast, potatoes for dinner, and tea in the evening, form the regular meals, with occasional feasts of herrings when the boats have had a good haul, and bacon and cabbage on Sunday. Rationing of meat and cereals would not have been felt by the McFetridges!

Mrs. McFetridge went on with her handkerchief sprigging, but was quite willing to talk. "Yes, miss, the wee place is comfortable enough for himself and me. There's the kitchen and scullery and bedroom, and we pay two shillings a week for it. But it's hard for those with a family to live at all, houses are that scarce, so they are. The Maguires beyond the chapel, three childer and the father and mother, sleep in the bedroom, and two men lodgers in the kitchen. Them men gets good wages, twenty-nine shillings a week, a quare difference from the time when they hadn't the half of it. I seen on the paper that bachelors is to be taxed, but how can they get married with ne'er a house in the townland?" The words were true. Mr. Macpherson was impressed by the supply of houses, but the stoppage of emigration, due to the war and the establishment of a minimum wage for agricultural labourers increased the demand, while the supply remained stationary. Local authorities have, it is true, erected 50,000 cottages under the Labourers' Dwellings Acts, at rents varying from 2s. for the one-story two-roomed cottage, to 4s. 6d. for the house with three bedrooms, kitchen, and scullery. The cost is defrayed by loans, and the difference between what Mr. Macpherson calls the "reasonable" and the economic rent is made up by the rates. Under the new proposals, a Treasury grant will be available for this purpose. The cost of the land is a serious item. Mrs. McFetridge says, "Bedad, when Mr. Brown knew it was the District Council was wantin' the land, he ups and riz the price. 'I'll have none of them cottages on my lawn,' sez he. 'A lot of dirty weans runnin' over the place, the hins rootin', and washin' on the bushes, an' a hullabaloo in the evening, whin we wants till enjoy wersels in peace.'"

Then follows arbitration, a costly business, which the Government's new proposals should simplify. These should include provisions empowering the local authorities to build houses other than labourers' cottages. Mrs. McFetridge is emphatic on this. "D'ye see yon labourer's cottage on the hill? Sorra a labourer is in it indeed, but a man arnin' two pound five a week at the shipyard in Warrenpoint. He has his bike, and rides in and out to his 'country house.' He could pay eight shillings for a good-sized house if he could get it, but there he is, where poor Jim Fitzpatrick should be. Jim's cottage was condemned, but the landlord whitewashed it, and Jim wint back, and small blame to

him, for he could get no shelter."

"How are you off for water?" I asked. "Och, there's watter enough, but the women do be that wearied carryin' it that it's very little they use, in washin' clothes or flures, or anything but their faces, and the full of the kettle for their sup of tay." As for sanitary accommodation, it is generally nil, but Mrs. McFetridge would be too polite to mention it.

Want of cleanliness, in a great measure due to difficulties of water supply, and overcrowding, largely accounts for the fact that the tuberculosis rate has remained stationary in Ireland for over fifty years, while it has fallen more than one-half in Great Britain. Child welfare work is sorely handicapped under these conditions, and an efficient system of school medical inspection would reveal the amount of sickness among children in the most healthy districts, due to housing conditions. The recruiting figures, where one of every three was rejected, revealed the physical unfitness among the men, who must not be judged from the labourers who go every year to England or Scotland: they are the pick of their district. The sickly remain at home, or drift into the towns. No health legislation will be effective without a housing scheme which will include rural districts as well as urban areas.

DORA MELLONE.

New Work for Middle-Class Women.

Some years ago the difficulty experienced by the working-class mother in regard to the care of her house and family during the time of her confinement or illness struck the understanding imagination of some well known social workers, and a scheme was set on foot, in connection with a certain School for Mothers, for supplying working-class housewives, in time of difficulty, with women who understood how to run a house, who could cook, and had had some training in simple home nursing and the care of children. The scheme proved so successful and such a boon to the class of woman it was designed to help that it was taken up by other organisations; and the recently passed Maternity and Child Welfare Act recommends that local authorities should take up the idea, also stating that a grant for the training of Women Home Helps—as they were originally christened—would be available from the Local Government Board. It is hoped that within a few years there will be a supply of municipal Home Helps available in every town, and that the County Councils will also adopt the idea in the country districts. At present the Home Helps are supplied by voluntary organisations, the financial arrangements by which their services may be obtained varying; but for the purpose of this article, it is not necessary to go into the details of these.

The Home Help comes in early in the morning, looks after the children, cooks, does the washing, and keeps the house clean and tidy. In addition she gives the mother the attention she requires, apart from the skilled nursing, which in the case of a confinement is given by the midwife, and in illness by the nurse. The mother has everything taken off her hands, and is saved all worry and anxiety. She can stay in bed and get the rest she needs, instead of being forced by the cares of her household to get up far too soon—a fruitful source of future illness, and one of the causes of infant mortality.

Now, the middle-class mother in her own home and the bachelor woman, working on her own and living in a flat or its equivalent, are often as much in need of a Home Help as the working-class woman. There are thousands of cases yearly of not serious illness among middle-class mothers, employing, perhaps, one young servant, where a trained nurse is not wanted. What is wanted is a woman with a knowledge of sick nursing, cooking, housekeeping, and the needs of children. Such a woman would look after the sick person and do the work in regard to children and house which she has done in conjunction with the servant.

The services of a Home Help would doubtless also be highly valued at the time of the confinement of a mother in similar circumstances, when the midwife or nurse has only been engaged for a fortnight, in order to save expense. A Home Help could often be afforded when the nurse could not, and her employment would prevent the otherwise premature getting up of the mother. It is not only the working-class mother who gets up too soon after confinement or illness.

Then there is the professional woman, living alone in a flat, and doing all the domestic work herself, except, perhaps, for a charwoman on one day in the week. When illness comes, what is to happen? Serious illness, of course, involves special measures; but illness of a not serious nature, which, however,

necessitates the sick person being in bed for some time, may involve an awkward predicament. A trained nurse would cause complications, which make her employment impossible. She cannot be asked to cook and do the housework, and what the invalid wants is someone who will look after her, cook, and keep the flat clean during the time of her illness. Friends and relations are not always available—more especially not so nowadays, when everybody is working—and even the best of bosom friends or aunts cannot always cook, and nurse, and make themselves generally useful.

I throw out the suggestion that here is work which possibly the rather older middle-class women (even if it did not attract the younger), who are wondering what they can do now their war work is over, can take up. Those in particular who have done V.A.D. work and have gained some nursing experience, would surely find such work congenial. Any extra training required in the care of children, in invalid or ordinary cooking, could easily be obtained, the first at any Infant Welfare or Maternity Centre, and the second at any of the schools for Cookery, or County Council Cookery Classes which are held in so many places. There are few women now who have not some knowledge of housekeeping, unless they have remained deaf to one of the chief topics of conversation during the war!

With regard to the obtaining of such work, individual women who could prove they had the necessary qualifications could easily get work through their doctor. But the ideal should be an organisation working throughout the country in different centres on a co-operative basis, the Home Help receiving the full fee for her services, paying a small commission to the organisation. There would not be the competition with the trained nurse; the middle-class Home Help, like the working-class one, might also be a woman not wanting to work always, but who would be willing to be called upon at any time and to undertake the work if she were free. The minimum remuneration to be one pound a week and board and lodging or equivalent. Certain regulations would necessarily have to be laid down by the organisation to safeguard the Home Help from being expected to undertake cases of serious illness or night-work.

It is certain such a scheme of help would be welcome and succeed, and the present moment is the time to start it. The need is apparent, in view of the excessive sickness rate in the country, and there are many more or less qualified women free and on the look-out for work.

ISABEL BASNETT.

Health and Hospitals.

If the Ministry of Health is to justify itself, it must pay quite as much attention to the occasional needs of the normally healthy citizen as to the continual needs of a comparatively small class of abnormal weaklings. At present there is only one way of obtaining constant and unremitting care from one's grateful country regardless of cost, and that is to be born an idiot. But the useful, active, serviceable man or woman who does not happen to possess a large independent income is always more or less in the position of a lion tamer in a cage full of wild beasts; so long as he can keep his feet he is safe enough; but if he once goes down, the chances are that he will never get up again.

A good many people were decidedly startled to read that the casualties from influenza alone during three months' epidemic in this country more than equalled the casualties of three months' warfare. And these figures, of course, referred only to the death roll; no one has attempted to calculate the hours of lost employment, the sum of lost wages, the scores of homes plunged into debt or discomfort or poverty from the same cause. No doubt there have been, this winter, many contributory factors which lowered the general power of resistance to disease. Overcrowding is rampant, and not only in the slums—it may fairly be claimed that overcrowding takes place wherever two or more adults are forced to share a bedroom even when one of them is suffering from an infectious illness. Warm clothing and watertight boots have been unobtainable, except at quite fanciful prices; the war-time diet has proved a great deal more healthful in theory than in practice; and the present fuel ration is quite insufficient to keep the ordinary British home properly warm during a particularly cold and damp season. But it is very important for us to remember that these little trials and difficulties, which many of us are encountering for the first time in our lives, are just what thousands of women have to contend with perpetually, not only in war-time, but in the most prosperous years of peace.

When the disaster of illness falls upon a working-class home, it always falls most heavily upon the housewife; for she is, inevitably, either nurse of patient. And in addition to the

extra work and anxiety, any illness of more than a day or two's duration means expense, enforced economy (at the very time when a little extra comfort is desirable), and an accumulation of debts, including a doctor's bill, if the sufferer happens to be a woman or child unprovided for by the Insurance Act, which may take twelve months or more to clear off.

It is a mistake to imagine that any man or woman who cannot afford to employ a private nurse or enter a private nursing home has only got to apply at the nearest voluntary hospital to secure immediate admittance. A great many people, especially in country districts, live out of reach of any hospital whatsoever; and every hospital has already a long "waiting list," which means not only that their prospective patients have to endure weeks of delay, waste of time, and loss of wages before there is a bed vacant to receive them, but also that those patients who have safely passed the most dangerous point of their illness must be sent back at the earliest possible moment to their own unsuitable dwellings to make room for someone whose case is still more urgent. The bulk of the nursing in this country is still done by the average housewife in the light of her own imperfect knowledge; and, handicapped as she often is by her other duties, by her poverty, and by the appalling housing conditions under which she is forced to live, it must be acknowledged that she does it remarkably well. As for the old people, the feeble or partially crippled or bedridden people, if they cannot be cared for at home, there is no refuge for them but the workhouse.

It is the knowledge of these facts that makes so many of us declare that the voluntary hospital system, however excellent it may have been in the past, can no longer keep pace with the national needs. To say this is not to disparage for one moment the magnificent work done by the voluntary hospitals and their devoted workers; it is only desirable to extend the scope of their work. We all admit nowadays that the national health should be one of the first concerns of the State; is it not, then, an incredible thing that a hospital ward should be closed down, that necessary extensions should not be made, or that the nurses should be ill-paid and unsuitably housed simply and solely because the charitable public cannot be trusted to contribute enough pennies and sixpences to keep the hospital income at an adequate level?

It is high time for us all, as responsible citizens, to consider this question seriously and form an opinion upon it. Few people realise that local authorities already possess the power to build and equip municipal hospitals for general purposes if they desire to do so; and under the Ministry of Health their powers are certain to be extended and more firmly defined. At present our hospital accommodation is so shamefully inadequate that in almost every considerable town there is ample room for a municipal hospital and a voluntary hospital as well; and there is no reason why they should not work harmoniously together, the one confining itself chiefly to severe accident and operation cases, the other providing for those patients who are less urgently in need of help, but who yet require skilled nursing and attention, perhaps for several months, if they are to be fully restored to health again. Very probably this compromise will be adopted as a sort of half-way house between the present system and the complete nationalisation of the hospital services. For it must frankly be admitted that there will be a certain amount of opposition to nationalisation, even from those doctors and nurses who would, personally, stand to gain by it. At present a visiting surgeon gives his services to a voluntary hospital entirely without charge; and whilst in a big hospital with a medical school attached it may be worth his while to do this, because he can bring a class of students into the wards in order to give them the first practical acquaintance with their work, in smaller institutions his only reward is the satisfaction of doing his work under decent conditions and seeing his patients recover more quickly than they would do at home. In a State Hospital he would certainly expect, and quite rightly, to be paid; and yet the medical profession is not united in favor of State Hospitals, partly from simple professional prejudice, partly from a very natural terror of being "meddled with" by well-meaning officials whose knowledge of medical matters is rather painfully deficient. Personally I believe these fears to be unfounded; the doctors are the pivotal men of the whole scheme, and may make their own terms when the time comes. Meanwhile, one thing is certain: we shall continue to see an enormous amount of unnecessary suffering, and our C₃ population will only progress very slowly towards the A₁ standard, unless we either double or treble our present hospital accommodation—and that, under a purely charitable system, cannot be done—until every family is housed under conditions which make it possible to nurse a case of prolonged and severe illness adequately and comfortably at home.

MADGE MBARS.

Correspondence.

(Owing to Easter arrangements letters intended for publication next week should reach the Editor by first post on Saturday, April 12th.)

THE PROGRAMME OF THE N.U.S.C. AND "THE DEMOCRATISATION OF THE CHURCH."

MADAM,—In these days when reforms are in the air it is not easy to be clear which of the many are the most important, yet on one I am quite clear. Moral legislation is of primary import. The questions involved lie at the very root of society and I warmly endorse Mrs. Bethune Baker's letter of last week. Present laws are impossible and unjust, but that does not imply that no legislation will help. I do not despair as do some people of legislation in any form being helpful in this grave matter.

To turn to another question. I was glad to see the paragraph in this week's COMMON CAUSE on the momentous action taken by the Representative Church Council in voting for a National Assembly as its legislative body on which women should sit. Many readers of THE COMMON CAUSE quite possibly think the Church is so effete that they become a power for all that is right and good, if ordinary lay men and women take a share in its government and constitute the best they have to give to its teaching and its ministry. I hope women will realise that this is not a matter for theologians and ecclesiastics alone. The laity are the Church and it has been because this fact has been lost sight of that the Church has lost power. It is the devastating idea so alien to the teaching of Christ that the spiritual is a separate section of life to be guided and governed by the few that has reduced the Church to being the Church impotent here on earth.

E. PICTON-TURBERVILL.

"THE PAUPERISATION OF WIDOWS."

MADAM,—I cannot help thinking that the paragraph in THE COMMON CAUSE of March 21st, headed, *The Pauperisation of Widows* reflects more upon the peculiarities of magistrates than upon the disabilities of widows. If the woman's son was really fourteen, as she states, the Education Committee could not have forced him to return to school: fourteen is the school leaving age. If the magistrate had vaguely in his mind the new compulsory continuation classes, he might have been reminded (a) that the clause is not yet in force (b) that when it is it will presumably not prevent a lad from going to work, as the classes will only occupy a few hours in each week.

I have not consulted any authority on these knotty points of the law but I cannot help feeling certain that there is a mistake somewhere.

LETITIA FISHER.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—I have been in service for thirty-five years and therefore I feel that I and all others of long service have a right to a say with regard to all the changes that are to be made in our work. It is scarcely fair that a few women who have never been in service, and a few others who have, and who are not contented with the present arrangements should have the right to change things without asking those who have been for years in service, and know far more about it than those who are making the fuss. I feel that the women who are making the fuss are the lazy women who are quite willing to take high wages and plenty of freedom and are unwilling to fulfil their side of the bargain. It is impossible to work a house on the same system as one would serve in a shop or an office. In a shop one simply serves each customer, and when the time is up the shop or office is shut till next day. In a house the work must be done as it comes along. One mistress only is served, and she is, or ought to be, superior, both in position and education. A servant does not need to take the situation if she thinks the mistress is not fit to be served. I would rather be in service than serving in a shop at the beck and call of every Tom, Dick and Harry. A house cannot be worked on an eight-hours day. The point is that housework, &c., taking it as a general rule has to be spread over more than eight hours, but this does not entail more than eight hours of actual work a day in a household of four servants.

I have knocked about a great deal and I have met all sorts and conditions of servants. Bad servants make bad mistresses. Some servants make it very unpleasant for their fellow servants, without it being possible for the mistress to know. No decent servant likes to complain. I think that in certain cases larger wages might be given, and also more liberty to go out, and perhaps rather more freedom in arranging one's work as long as it does not cause inconvenience and one carries out satisfactorily what one has undertaken to do.

DOMESTIC SERVANT.

Reports, Notices, etc.

OBITUARY.

DR. NADINE IVANITZKY.

Among the victims of influenza is Dr. Nadine Ivanitzky, the distinguished sociologist. She was born at Kharkoff, took her degree at Geneva, and finally became a Doctor in Sociology in the University of Brussels. She then entered the Institut Solvay as assistant to that brilliant genius, Emile Waxweiler. When the war changed the scene of her work to London, she continued her researches and her book was ready for the Press when death claimed her, thus cutting short a life full of the greatest promise. Among those who attended the funeral were representatives of the Russian Embassy and of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretary:

MISS MARGARET JONES.

Secretaries:

MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS.

HUBBACK (Information and Parlia-

mentary).

Hon. Treasurer:

MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

It is very much hoped that all the affiliated societies will make a special effort to take part in the ballot for the three reforms which, together with those chosen by the Council, will be the points on which the Union is to concentrate this year. Ballot papers have to be in by April 16th when the count will take place.

Mr. Bonar Law did not consent to receive a deputation on the Women's Emancipation Bill which was to be organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations. An account of the small deputation which was received by Mr. Shortt is given in Notes and News.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES FEDERATION of Women's Suffrage Societies having been dissolved, the funds have been disposed of as follows in accordance with the decision of the last annual meeting of the Federation and the books inspected by the Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S.:

Subscriptions received from branch societies in 1918 were returned to those societies for their direct use. Donation received from Cambridge W.S. Association, and held in trust for work in its area, was returned to the Association. The sum of £75 os. 8d., the amount realised by sale of £75 War Loan Stock, was given to Headquarters for the promotion of N.U. work in the Eastern Counties. The following societies, being able to comply with the stipulations laid down by the said annual meeting, received a donation of £6 each: Norwich, Ipswich, Holt, Letchworth and District, and Hitchin, Stevenage and District. The balance, amounting to £4 2s. 10d., was presented to the N.U.W.S.S.

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND THEIR DEPENDENT CHILDREN. SUGGESTED SCHEME.

(1) Persons entitled to Pensions:

A pension shall be payable out of State funds to every widow except those excluded under Clauses 3 and 5 who has dependent upon her and in her care one or more legitimate children below the age at which full time school attendance ceases to be compulsory. In the event of her remarriage her proportion of the pension shall be forfeited, but that of the children shall continue.

(2) Amount of Pensions:

The rates of pensions under this Bill shall be those payable at a flat rate to the widows of the fallen under the Naval and Military War Pensions Act, viz:—

Widow and 1 child	20s. 5d. per week.
" " 2 children	25s. 5d. " "
" " 3 " "	29s. 7d. " "
" " 4 " "	33s. 9d. " "
" " 5 " "	37s. 11d. " "
" " 6 " "	42s. 1d. " "

increasing by 4s. 2d. per week for each child.
Second Possible Alternative.—The rate shall be: for a widow 12s. 6d. so long as she has one or more children below the age at which school attendance becomes compulsory; 7s. from the time her youngest child reaches school age until it attains school leaving age.

For the children of widows 6s. for the eldest child; 4s. for each subsequent child, with an additional payment of 1s. for each child between the ages of commencing school and ten; and 2s. for each child between the ages of ten and school-leaving age.

(3) Income Limit:

No woman shall benefit under this Act who has already from any source an income more than double the pension to which she would be entitled. If she has an income of less than this amount her pension shall be reduced by one-half the amount of her income.

(4) Administering Authority:

The authority for administering pensions under this Act shall be the Ministry of Health, acting through committees appointed by the Local Health Authorities. Provision shall be made for an adequate representative of women upon these local committees, and for the employment of women officials to carry out such inquiries and supervision as may be necessary under the Act.

(5) Conditions of Receiving Pensions:

If it is proved to the satisfaction of the Ministry that the children are being brought up in surroundings dangerous to their physical or moral well-being, or are being habitually ill-treated or neglected, the pension of the widow may be forfeited and the children removed to a suitable institution; or, as an alternative, the pension may be placed for administration in the hands of the Local Committee, and the woman and children subjected to supervision until she has satisfied the Ministry that the conditions complained of have been permanently removed, and that the well-being of the children is ensured.

The Ministry shall be empowered to make regulations for the carrying out of this provision, provided that it be ensured under such regulations that no woman shall be deprived of her pension or the care of her children, or subjected to special supervision under the above clause, until she has been given a full opportunity of replying to and clearing herself from the charge of misconduct which renders her liable to such forfeiture or supervision, either before a Court of Law or before a competent tribunal appointed by the Ministry.

THE WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL.

The following is the text of the Bill introduced by the Labour party which was read the second time on April —:—

WHEREAS by law certain restraints and disabilities are imposed upon women to which men are not liable; and whereas it is expedient that such restraints and disabilities shall be henceforth discontinued:

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from holding any civil or judicial office or place of profit or trust under His Majesty, his heirs or successors or under any authority or body, corporate or incorporate, deriving powers directly or indirectly from any Acts of Parliament, Order in Council, charter or franchise whatsoever.

2. Any special franchises conferred upon women by the Representation of the People Act, 1918, notwithstanding, a woman shall have and may exercise under that Act all such franchises as are therein conferred upon men which she would have been entitled to have and to exercise if she were a man, and in that Act, save where the context otherwise requires, the word "man" shall include "woman."

3. (1.) A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from sitting and voting in the House of Lords if a Peeress in her own right.

(2.) It shall be lawful for a woman being a Peeress of Scotland or Ireland in her own right, to vote at the elections of representative Peers of Scotland or Ireland in her own right, to vote at the elections of representative Peers of Scotland or Ireland respectively and to be an elected representative of the peerage of Scotland or Ireland as such to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

4. This Act may be cited as the Women's Emancipation Act, 1919.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

Sir George Newman received a deputation from the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child on Tuesday, April 1st, at the Board of Education. The deputation was introduced by the Hon. Secretary of the National Council, Miss Rosamond Smith, who explained that its formation was due to the great need for dealing with this problem, and that it hoped, among other things, to make the State a greater factor in the care of the illegitimate child, as well as to enhance the responsibility of fatherhood. While fully conscious of the benefits accruing to the unmarried mother and her child under the new Maternity and Child Welfare Act, the Council felt that certain measures were still greatly needed.

She was followed by Dr. Saleeby, who drew attention to the high rate of illegitimate infant mortality, and emphasised the benefit of keeping mother and child together. He pointed out the many tragedies arising from the fact that girls often have nowhere to go on leaving maternity wards, and asked that the Local Government Board might circularise Local Authorities, authorising them to make emergency arrangements for the accommodation of unmarried mothers and their babies, as well as to make immediate arrangements for the accommodation of the illegitimate children of married women, whose husbands often refuse to provide for them.

Mrs. Baker, of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, laid stress on the fact that the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, excellent though it was, was permissive only, and asked that a supplementary Act be passed, making it compulsory for Local Authorities to provide accommodation for unmarried mothers and their children. Often those areas were slowest in taking action where the greatest necessity arose, and she felt that many Local Authorities would heartily welcome such compulsion. The working women whom she represented were particularly anxious that the point of view of the mother as well as of the child should be considered; and that in order to restore the mother to good citizenship it was necessary that she should not be parted from her child.

Mrs. Barnes, Secretary of the Social Welfare Association for London, referred to the clause which made breast-feeding a *sine qua non* of the grant. While far from underrating the value of this, she would urge that some facilities be granted in the case of mothers having a medical certificate to prove its impossibility. In any case, a mother's care for the child was always important, even from a health point of view.

Dr. Willoughby, M.O.H. for Eastbourne, said that a hostel was about to be started in his locality, and that from a medical point of view it was essential that all Local Authorities should provide such accommodation.

Sir George Newman thanked the deputation for their statements, to which he had listened with sympathetic interest. The problem was social as well as medical. He appreciated the fact that the National Council was the first body to formulate definite proposals of this nature, and he was pleased to be able to inform them that some of their points would probably be dealt with shortly. As regards the question of a supplementary Act, making it compulsory for Local Authorities to provide accommodation for unmarried mothers and their children, he felt that this was not practicable at the moment, in view of many other equally urgent questions.

We understand that the National Council was much gratified by the sympathetic reception accorded them by the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WOMEN'S VILLAGE COUNCILS.

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will remember that the Women's Village Councils were started at Findon in Sussex in the autumn of 1917, and that their chief object was to enlist the interest of village women in public life by drawing them to take their share in village politics. It was felt that the first step in this direction was to engage the sympathies of the women in the Housing question, by bringing home to them the Government schemes for State-aided Housing, and by inviting their co-operation in a survey of cottages in their own villages with a view to finding out what were their chief defects, and what was the minimum number of new cottages which would be required.

The Federation of Women's Village Councils has just issued its first Annual Report, and Mrs. Hamilton, the founder of the first Council and the Organising Secretary of the whole movement, is to be congratulated upon her year's work. The movement is still in its infancy, but the work is done on such sound lines that there is no reason why W.V.Cs. should not spread rapidly throughout the country. The whole of our Parliamentary system evolved out of a little village meeting of men, and since women have now got their Parliamentary votes, it is natural enough that the village women should receive training for political life by holding their own little village Councils.

The Federation of the W.V.Cs. have now got an official address at 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1., where Mrs. Hamilton is very pleased to see people by appointment. The development of the work has gone steadily forward. There are now fifteen W.V.Cs., and at Warwick a Ward Council has been formed on the same lines as a W.V.C., and this example, it is hoped, will be followed in other towns. With a view to founding new W.V.Cs., two central organisations have been started, one for the County of Sussex, another for a group of Midland Counties.

The monthly meetings of the Councils have gone on at which addresses, followed by discussions, have been given. The subjects discussed have varied. "The house I would like" was a favourite subject, and the new Education Act was another. The latter subject is most important because there is a good deal of feeling amongst working-class people against the Continuation Schools, and the intelligent co-operation of the parents with the educational authorities is much to be desired.

Several "surveys" of cottages have been made, and at a Housing Exhibition held in Leeds, copies of these surveys were asked for and exhibited. Two Midland W.V.Cs. had great honour done to them. They were asked by their Rural District Councils to make official returns of the possible sites for new cottages in their villages and of the number of new cottages which were likely to be required. This was a very gratifying official recognition of the work of the W.V.Cs.

Many W.V.Cs. have taken up the work of feeding the school children in cases where the children live so far from the school that they are unable to get home for dinner. In a letter from the Director of National Kitchens at the Ministry of Food, reference is made to this valuable bit of work:—

"It is interesting to note that you have an organisation that would be extremely useful in a proposal to extend the National Kitchens movement for the feeding of school children."

Another economic bit of work done by many W.V.Cs. has been to get their members to fill in the forms issued by the Working Class Cost of Living Committee. The W.V.Cs. keep steadily in view their office as petitioners for the remedy of grievances; in fact, this side of the work of the W.V.Cs. often most attracts new members. It is most depressing to live in a village where public inconveniences badly need remedying, and to see nothing done, because the local authorities are either too lazy or too frightened to do their duty. For their foundation, the W.V.Cs. have never hesitated to write officially to public bodies, e.g. the Parish Council and the Rural District Council, drawing their attention to abuses. The latest bit of work of this kind was done by a Council which has



Dickins & Jones
"Always the best."

Smart FOOTWEAR



C.C.11. Fine Glace Buckle walking shoe, hand-sewn, leather heel.
42/-



C.C.12. Brown Suede Walking Shoe, Cuban heel, perfect fitting.
55/-



C.C.13. Glace Buckle Shoe for Theatre wear, Louis XV heel, hand-sewn, perfect fitting.
55/-

DICKINS & JONES LTD. REGENT ST., LONDON, W.1.
W. L. JONES, Managing Director.

If you cannot make a personal call, your requirements by post will be attended to with promptitude and care by expert assistants.

KATHLEEN CASTS KHAKI.

Kathleen in khaki walking up Piccadilly presented a rather forlorn spectacle.

"Isn't it good to think it's all over at last" was my greeting.

"Yes!" assented my cousin, a little listless. "It's all over at last. I've finished my war-work. Four years of real grind—out all day and most nights—driving anyone who wanted to be driven anywhere. But now I've really finished. I've just handed over the old 'bus and said good-bye to the Commandant of the Corps. In short, I've demobilized, and I don't mind telling you I'm feeling dead lonely."

"It certainly seems the moment to celebrate," I said. "Come and dine at the Ritz, and go and see Delysia afterwards. How does this plan appeal to you?"

"Not in these clothes if I know it," said Kathleen, "and I haven't another rag to my name. It's been khaki, khaki, all the way for me, and now I hate the sight, the feel, and the thought of it! I couldn't enjoy myself anywhere dressed like this. I can't tell you how smart I thought my uniform while the War was on. Now it seems only stupid and out of the picture. I've demobilized—and I'm going to DRESS."

"Then you'll have to be quick about it, or you'll be late for dinner."

"It's not going to take me long," declared my cousin, with a determination that I couldn't help feeling was the outcome of those long months of driving anyone anywhere.

"If you've nothing better to do, you can come and watch me begin operations. For here we are," she said, turning into the Great Corner Shop of Piccadilly. "If I can't find what I want at Swan and Edgar's, I shan't find it anywhere."

And Kathleen was right. I had to acknowledge it an hour or so later when we emerged—my cousin no longer in khaki, but clad in the latest French fashions from head to heels—beautiful furs, a Parisian hat, silken hose and shoes that exactly matched the tone of the delicate grey dress she now wore under a sumptuous musquash coat of the latest length.

Nor had her transformation ended there. Preceding her to her club went a trunk containing a dream of an evening dress and a cloak that aroused the envy and admiration of every other woman sitting in the stalls of the Pavilion that night—to say nothing of a bag full of feminine fripperies that Kathleen declared were indispensable to a well-dressed woman's wardrobe, but which I realized had been simply irresistible to my critical cousin on account of their novelty and chic.

But what struck me most of all was not the rapidity with which Kathleen cast khaki, but the ease with which the transformation was accomplished.

"I haven't an idea concerning the dress in my head," she confided to the sympathetic saleswoman who waited upon her. "You'll have to see me through."

And that is what that saleswoman did. What she didn't know about present-day fashions wasn't worth knowing.

Producing dozens of Models for my cousin to choose from, she sent forth S.O.S. messages all round the shop and as Kathleen decided upon those toilettes that proved most tempting, they were borne away by other attendants, who found just what was right in shoes, in stockings, gloves, and scarves to match—in short, everything requisite to render them complete.

We experienced no tedious tramping off to other departments. Everything appeared as if by magic until Kathleen's Peace trousseau was complete and everything she wanted had been fitted, packed, paid for, and dispatched with the minimum of trouble and the maximum of success.

"And what is more, it is all wonderfully cheap," confided Kathleen as she signed her name to the cheque that paid for the anything but exorbitant bill covering the cost of everything that she had brought from Swan and Edgar's.

petitioned for a lamp to be put at cross-roads which are very dangerous owing to motor traffic.

The recent Parish Council elections have testified to the value of the political training given by the W.V.C.s. A large proportion of the Councils put up members, and, in nearly every case, the candidates were returned. In one case a secretary of a W.V.C. came in head of the poll, in other cases, three and two members were returned. Stories come in about the surprise of the men at the keenness of the women at the elections, in some cases, the surprise turned to disgust, and the men demanded a poll. In one case when the poll was demanded, the women were able to rule the men out of order. To show the qualifications of village women to speak upon subjects, such as Housing, which are well within their province, I will quote from a letter written by a Secretary of a W.V.C.:

"It will interest you to hear that we were received with the utmost cordiality by the Chairman and members [of the R.D.C.], and our evidence was received with interest and respect. One or two Committees which should have met to conduct business delayed their meetings that they might remain to hear what the W.V.C. had to say! Our Rector was present in his capacity as Guardian, and he came to tell us afterwards that we had made a distinct impression on the Rural District Council, and he was quite proud of us. Our deputation consisted of only five. The two working women spoke admirably, though neither had ever spoken before, and it was no light ordeal for them to face fifty or sixty men, including large landowners."

The activities of the W.V.C.s. are continually increasing because they aim at keeping pace with the ever enlarging scope for women's work. Quite recently, for instance, a member of the Federation has been put on the Watching Committee for the Ministry of Health, and Mrs. Hamilton, who represents the W.V.C.s. on the National Housing and Town Planning Council, is to go with the deputation to Buckingham Palace.

The work is great and it will be much greater. The Federation has two pressing needs in which I will, in conclusion, press upon all readers of THE COMMON CAUSE. The first is money. This is urgently needed both for office expenses, and for organising. The second need is for helpers. Educated women are urgently wanted to help to found new W.V.C.s., and to offer their services as speakers for the monthly meetings. It is a great work to raise up to political life a set of women which has hitherto been submerged, and this work will surely commend itself to women who have fought so long and have at last attained to full political power. "Come over and help us."

N.U.S.E.C. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

(The following letter has just been received from Dr. Mary McNeill at Salonika):—

As I promised, I wish to tell you a little about some of the patients left with us. French and British Hospitals alike are now evacuating their patients and leaving Salonika, where the Greeks have now supreme command. The Allied G.H.Q. is, as you know, at Constantinople. Meanwhile we have received Serbs and Russians from French Hospitals evacuating; and while our arrangements for moving are under discussion we are glad to be occupied looking after many poor fellows in much need of nursing and care. We have cases of phthisis, of chronic bronchitis, of influenza and of malaria in addition to our orthopaedic cases. But it is so cheering for us all to see how well the great majority have improved since their admittance. And this is particularly so in regard to the Russian patients. Several of them will not recover, but they, even, have improved temporarily and they are so contented and so grateful. They had worked as prisoners for a time, of course, since the Russian debacle. I think you will be interested to know that during these years of warfare each of our Russians, at any rate, has clung to his little pocket testament, (with psalter) and the night Sisters tell me that after morning coffee each Russian read his "testament" for some time; and then they cross themselves and pray. One had always heard that the Russian is naturally devout, and one sees it is so in these simple souls; and it is all the sadder to reflect on the chaos prevalent in their land.

We have still amongst our patients some pathetic, dark-skinned Senegalese. One of mine is anxious to pay for all that he eats and can scarcely be induced to take nourishment without his francs being accepted in exchange.

Then we have a bright little Macedonian boy with us. He was run over by a lorry near our gates and was brought in the other day. One leg was badly smashed. He is a most plucky little boy, with a face much too old for his ten years. After he had come out of the anesthetic and when he saw his leg nicely bandaged he exclaimed with spirit: "Finish Johnny!" Then nodding towards me vigorously—"You ten eggs!" and to Sister: "You ten eggs!" "Compris?" with a most delightful smile. He is, of course, making rapid progress with his English.

One Serbian patient who came in with both legs amputated just below the knee, has a sad little story. When the war broke out he left his little home, and his wife and the Argentine to come to Salonika to volunteer in the Serbian Army. But in the Adriatic the boat in which he was sailing was captured by the Austrians and so he was taken to Trieste as a prisoner. Thence he was sent to the Russian front to work for the Austrians behind the trenches, and there his legs were frost-bitten so severely that amputation was necessary. So the poor man has lost both his legs and has not even fought for his country as he wished, but has laboured, so far as he has done anything, on behalf of the enemy.

Early in February our orthopaedic patients (120 in number) had an unforgettable day. Miss Dalzell had £10 sent to her by friends in Bridge of Weir in order that she might give a treat to her patients. (She assisted the masseuses in the Orthopaedic Department.) A picnic was proposed and arranged; and so one fine noon eight great British motor lorries came up from G.H.Q. and were soon filled by groups of happy patients. The patients were looked after by their masseuses and were on their very best behaviour, like little children out for a treat. There was only one unhappy note. A Senegalese patient suddenly seemed to be struck by the idea that he was going back to the trenches; and so he doubled himself up and cried: "Boli, boli!" (i.e. pain, pain!) in dolorous accents most of the day until in the late afternoon he saw the hospital again. Since then he has smiled happily and contentedly once more! The picnic party drove up Mount Hortic to a spot whence a lovely view of Lake Langaza is obtained. There the men got out and danced the Kola

(their national dance) to the music of a violin played by one of the patients. Then the masseuses took them for a little walk and on returning found that the nice British chauffeurs had made tea ready. The Tommies seemed to enjoy the little excursion as much as the patients; so for all concerned it was a joyous and happy afternoon.

We miss our French patients. We had a lot of nice bright fellows—all very chivalrous and very kind to their Serbian comrades. It was nice to see them so friendly and so anxious to learn each other's tongue. I enclose a copy of a letter I received just now from some of the last boys we sent by hospital ship to France, because I think you would like to read it. I am keeping the original with all its spry signatures!

I have had a long talk with Cardinal Bourne who has visited Salonika on his return from the Holy Land, via Constantinople, and he was interested in our hospital's work but he had not time to visit us.

We expect Dr. McLroy back soon from Belgrade, and are looking forward to hearing the tale of her journeyings and her doings since she left us.

Dr. Ward and she were accompanied by the faithful Dragoyle our "doctors' orderly," whose wife lived in the neighbourhood of Belgrade, but Dragoyle kept assuring us that one day in his wife's society would be quite enough and that he would then return to look after his "doctresses." Dr. McLroy particularly, he assures me, was just as a mother to him!

Anyhow, when she was packing she found a dirty knotted handkerchief full of his savings carefully hidden away amongst her stockings!

Copy of Letter from returning French patients to Dr. McNeill.

MADAME LA DOCTRESSE.—Nous sommes un groupe de soldats Français soignés à la Doctresse IV, qui arrivons en vue des Côtes de France; dans quelques heures nous allons débarquer et nous disperser par toutes la France. Avant de nous séparer nous tenons tous ensemble à vous remercier de nos soins éclairés autant que dévoués reçus de vous pendant notre séjour au Scottish Women's Hospital. Croyez bien Madame la Doctresse que nous n'oublierons jamais toutes les attentions de votre part dont nous avons été l'objet. De tout cela vous remercions de tout notre cœur, et vous prions, d'accepter les vifs sentiments de reconnaissance qui nous animent. Nous associons dans notre pensée Madame la Doctresse Ward, qui nous a soignés pendant votre absence.

Serait ce abuser de votre bonté en vous demandant être notre interprète auprès de Sister McLeod, et de Sister Coles, pour leur dire combien nous avons été touchés de leur dévouement de tous les instants; dites leur que nous conservons d'elles un souvenir ineffaçable. Soyez aussi notre interprète auprès de toutes les dames de l'Hôpital Ecossais, car toutes ont été remplies d'attentions pour les soldats que vous soignez. Jamais nous n'oublierons notre séjour au Scottish Women's Hospital, où tout le monde s'est efforcé de nous rendre la vie douce et gaie, et de nous être agréable; c'est pourquoi en quittant l'Hôpital malgré notre grande joie de partir en France, et la certitude de bientôt revoir nos familles, nous étions très attristés et très emus en disant Adieu à nos Sisters auxquelles nous nous étions beaucoup attachés.

Merci à vous, Madame la Doctresse, Merci à nos Sisters, Merci à toutes les Dames de l'Hôpital avec notre profonde reconnaissance et notre bon Souvenir. Un groupe de Soldats Français soignés à la baraque IV:—

(Signed) CHARLES DE LA BRANDIERE. EUGENE HOJANE.
JEAN LABORDE. LOUIS RUDOLPH.
PIERRE TILLIER. ADRIEN GILLY.
A. PERRETTE. EUGENE LAMIALE.
LOUIS BONNAFOUS. GILBERT SENSEVY.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Names of Beds.	Donors.
"St. Bridget" (Corsica, further donation, 1 year)	Per Miss Bird, Principal, St. Bride's School.
"Peelies" (further donation, 6 months)	Peelies W.S.S., per Mrs. Thorburn, Hon. Sec.
"Beauchamp" (further donation, 6 months)	Peelies W.S.S., per Mrs. Thorburn, Hon. Sec.
"Lanarkshire" (Sallanches)	Per Miss Livingston, Lanarkshire Branch Red Cross Society.
"Linthgow Academy" (further donation)	Per Jas. Beveridge, Esq., Headmaster.
"Girvan Girl Guides"	Per Miss M. C. Morrison.
"Employees, Motherwell and Edinburgh Districts Caledonian Railways (further donation)	Per Mrs. Moncrieff.
"Kilsyth and District" (2 beds) (further donation)	Collected by the Misses Erskine, Edinburgh.
"Churchill" (further donation)	Per Mrs. Helen Walters Crawford, Prestwick.
"Canaan Park College" (further donation)	Per Miss J. Dick, Principal.
"Scottish" (Salonica, further donation, 6 months)	Miss J. Duguid, Queen Road, Aberdeen.

WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

NORWICH.—Mrs. James Stuart, president of the Norwich W.S.S., has been invited by the Liberal Party to fill a vacancy in the Lakenham Ward for the Town Council. As there was no opposition, she was declared elected. Miss Mabel Clarkson is also a member of the Council.

CHINLEY.—Mrs. Preston, president of the Chinley W.S.S., has been elected to the Rural District Council of Chapel-en-le-Frith; and Mrs. Smith, a member of the Chinley W.S.S. Committee, to the Chinley Parish Council.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.—Mrs. Dykes, treasurer of the Warwick and Leamington W.S.S., is the first woman to be elected to the Warwick County Council; Miss S. Sergeant, chairman of the W.S.S. Committee, is one of the first two women to be elected to Leamington Town Council; and Mrs. Thornton, member of the W.S.S. Committee, has been returned as Guardian.

The Cambridge Borough War Pensions Committee have gone on strike owing to the Ministry of Pensions' refusal to confirm the appointment of a woman secretary, on the ground that a demobilised soldier should be given the job.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.S.E.C.)

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

Monthly meeting for members—Caxton Hill, S.W.1.—Speaker: Mrs. Cooper—Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work among Unskilled Workers"—Chair: Mr. Alexander Gossip (Gen. Secretary, Furnishing Trades Association) 5.30 p.m.

June 10.
Speaker: Miss Margaret Frosham, B.Sc.—Subject: "Women in Education"—Chair: Miss B. A. Clough. 5.30 p.m.

July 14.
Speaker: Miss Anne H. Tynan (Secretary, Society of Women Welders)—Subject: "Women in the Skilled Trades"—Chair: Mr. Button (Committee on Production) 5.30 p.m.
Non-members admitted by ticket (obtainable at door), 2s. 6d.

Coming Events.

WESTERN AND EASTERN STUDIO.

April 11.
2, Soarsdale Studios, W.8.
Speaker: Shri Jeshrajisinghji Sasodia.
Subject: "Symposium: Questions and Answers." 5 p.m.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

April 14.
1, Wimpole-street, W.1.
Speaker: Miss Christine Murrell, M.D. (Medical Officer to the North Marylebone School of Mothercraft).
Subject: "How to conduct an Infant Consultation." 5.30 p.m.

LABOUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

May 15, 16, and 17.
Caxton Hall, S.W.1.
Conference on the re-organisation of Local Government.
Speaker (First Address): Mr. Sidney Webb.
Chairman: Mr. J. R. Clynes.
Five sections: Housing, Medical, Educational, Unemployment, Constitutional.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION (LONDON BRANCH).

April 15.
St. Mary-Le-Bow Church, Cheapside.
Preacher: Rev. C. E. Raven (Dean of Emmanuel College, Cambridge)
Subject: "The Social Teaching of the War." 1 p.m.

Christ Church, Westminster.
Preacher: Rev. Austin Thompson (Vicar of St. Peter's, Easton Square). 1.15 p.m.

GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.

April 29.
11, Tavistock-square, W.C.1.
Speaker: Professor Parmelee.
Subject: "Recent Advances in the Psychology of Behaviour." 6.30 p.m.

OUR SUPPORTERS.

It is very important that our readers should support the advertisers and mention THE COMMON CAUSE whenever purchasing, ordering goods by post, or paying accounts. Many firms of the highest repute have used our columns, but they will only continue to do so if they know they are supported by our readers. We are confident that our readers do give such support, but it is necessary to make it known to the advertisers. The following is a list of some of THE COMMON CAUSE advertisers, past and present. Cut it out for reference:—

DRAPERS, ETC.	INSURANCE COMPANIES.
Messrs. Burberry.	National Mutual Life Association.
" Barnes (Hampstead).	Scottish Provident.
" Debenham & Freebody.	Scottish Widows.
" Derry & Toms.	Norwich Union.
" Dickins & Jones.	Sun Life of Canada.
" D. H. Evans.	Eagle Star & British Dominions.
" Elvery, Conduit Street (Waterproofs).	
" Gorringe.	GENERAL.
" Garrould.	Goldsmiths & Silversmiths.
" Peter Robinson.	Messrs. Goss (Chemists).
" Swan & Edgar.	" Hospital Contracts.
" Wicks, Piccadilly (Corsets).	" Cory Bros.
" Waring & Gillow.	" Nestlé's Milk.
" Friends of Armenia.	" Cadbury.
	" Red, White & Blue Coffee.

BRITISH WOMEN'S EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

Information and Advice, GRATIS, to Women and Girls of all Classes, Professional, Business, and Domestic. Escort provided for Children and others going to Friends or Situations. Teachers needed for Government Schools Overseas. "The Imperial Colonist," monthly, 2d., 2s. 6d. per annum, post free, gives practical information to intending Colonists.—Apply Miss LEFROY, Hon. Sec., The Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE
For Breakfast & after Dinner.

In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

THE COMMON CAUSE.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

BRITISH ISLES, 10s. 10d. ABROAD, 13s. PER ANNUM.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1 (Telephone: Museum 2702), and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than the first post on Wednesday. Advt. Representatives: West End, Miss F. L. Fuller; City, Mr. S. R. Le Mare.

ALL BRITISH.
VALKASA
THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.

An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN
FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.

1s. 9d., 5s., and 9s. of all Chemists.

James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd.
MANCHESTER.

PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

NUMBER OF WORDS.	ONCE.		THREE TIMES.		SIX TIMES.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADDRESSES BY WOMEN.

ST. BOTOLPH'S, Bishopsgate.—Every Thursday, at 1.15 p.m. Subject for Lent: "Christ's Demand for Mental Effort." Addresses by Miss Mary Morshead and Miss Maude Royden. On Good Friday the Three Hours' Service will be conducted by Miss Royden.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday, at the 6.30 p.m. service. Subject: "How and Why We Should Pray."

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED.—Resident Organising Worker to assist with Children's Hostel, Dinners, Play Club. Free board (veg.) and lodging offered.—W.F.L. Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8.

WOMEN'S WORK FOR GOD IN HIS CHURCH.—Varied Courses of Training and many opportunities for work offered to educated Young Women. Terms by arrangement. Apply The Head, Birmingham Diocesan Women Workers' Training Home, Loveday-street, Birmingham.

WORKING PARTNER (Lady or Gentleman), with moderate capital, wanted for Old-established Portrait and Photography Business. Studios in London main thoroughfares. Good connection.—For particulars apply Box 300, COMMON CAUSE Office, 62, Oxford-street, W.1.

EDUCATIONAL.

LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.

HUNTER STREET, BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C.1
FULL Courses of Study for Medical Degrees and Diplomas are arranged for women students. Post-Graduate appointments are available at the School and at the Hospitals connected with it. Scholarships and Bursaries are awarded annually. Students' Service Chambers are attached to the School. Special Courses for Post-Graduate students, Primary Fellowship students, and Dental students.—Information can be obtained from Miss L. M. Brooks, Warden and Secretary.—Louise B. Aldrich-Blake, M.S., M.D., Dean.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

DO YOU DESIRE TO KNOW something of "Personality by Food"? If so, write to Mr d'Arcy Denny, of 7, Prince's-street, Westminster, for a Free Booklet, mentioning THE COMMON CAUSE.

GARDENING, Etc.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN—Practical training; vegetable, fruit, and flower growing. Month or term. Healthy outdoor life; from 68 gns. per an. Summer term begins April 28th, 1919. Students prepared for R.H.S. examination. Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye Sussex.

MEDICAL, Etc.

ELECTROLYSIS for removal of superfluous hair, moles, etc. Face Massage and Electrical Hair Treatment. Lessons given and Certificates granted. Address Miss Theakston, 54, Devonshire-street, W. 1.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street, N.

MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist.
FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Yrs. Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man. Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door. CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

TWILIGHT SLEEP.—St. Faith's Nursing Home, Ealing, is devoting one House to Maternity Patients for the successful painless and safe Twilight Sleep Treatment. Long established, with wide and successful experience. References to doctors and former patients. The other House receives Rest-cure, Convalescent, and all non-infectious cases. Electrotherapy. Quiet. Telephone: 1485 Ealing.

PROFESSIONAL

INCOME TAX RECOVERY.—Claims made for return of tax paid in excess.—Apply Miss C. A. Moffett, B.A., 9, Somerset-road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

If you would like a sum of money, cash down, at a specified age, or a pension for life, and a comfortable old age, write for particulars to the Woman Assurance Expert, Miss Rochford, 39, King-street, Cheapside, E.C.2. (Agents wanted.)

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. Phone, Central 6049.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPEWRITERS.—4, Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM. Enquiries solicited. R. CROMBIEHOLME, General Manager

TYPEWRITING IN ALL BRANCHES: Authors' MSS., Circular Letters, and reliable work guaranteed.—Miss Neal, Walter House, 52, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.2. (Gerrard 1472.)

BLOUSES, FURS, LINGERIE, Etc.

PLEASE support The Women's Needlework Depot, 61-62, Chancery-lane, High Holborn, W.C. (second floor). Orders taken for blouses, pyjama suits and ladies' and children's underclothing.—For terms write to Miss M. L. Fox, at the above address.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed. Moderate prices.—H. NELISSEN, 62, Great Portland-street, W.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ATHENIC Scotch Woven UNDERWEAR.—Made in all sizes in finest Wool, Silk and Wool and Merino. Guaranteed unshrinkable.—Write makers for patterns and prices, Dept. 10, Athenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

ESTABLISHED 1879.—Mrs. J. G. Stainfield, Stainfield House, Guildford-road, Poplar, E. Ladies' and Gent's Warbrode purchased, to any amount for cash. Parcels sent and valued and monies forwarded. Bankers, London and County.

FINE Irish Hemstitched Huckaback TOWELS, with Damask Ends, size 23 by 37. Four Towels in a bundle for 8s. 6d. To-day's value, 11s. 6d. Postage 6d.—HUTTON'S, 159, Larne, Ireland.

Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS

Direct from the Makers. Special light weights for Ladies wear—all shades. Patterns and Prices on Application. S. A. NEWALL & SONS, Stornoway, Sco. and. State shade desired and whether for Gent's or Ladies' wear

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, and underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings. Specially good prices given.—Hélsène, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?

The large London Market enables **ROBINSON Bros.** of 5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's) W., & 123, Fenchurch St., E.C. To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVER PLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036. ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

TO LET.

CORNISH COAST.—Convenient Furnished Cottage to let till end June; 2 sitting rooms, 5 bedrooms (7 beds), bathroom (h. & c.); lovely views; good bathing; near Trevoze Head; rent 2½ guineas weekly.—Apply E. M. H., COMMON CAUSE Office.

HAMPSTEAD.—Furnished Flat, top floor (May to October); 3 bedrooms, 1 sitting room, good kitchen, bath with geyser; electric light; telephone; wide views; near Heath and Tube; 3½ guineas weekly; no linen.—Box 8,139, COMMON CAUSE Office.

NATIONAL HOMECRAFT CENTRE.—Unfurnished rooms with service; restaurant (reform diet).—Apply 6, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, N.W. 3.

SMALL HOUSE TO LET.—Dining and sitting room in one, 3 bedrooms (including servant's); near House of Commons; from May 4th for one month; 4 guineas weekly, including services excellent housekeeper.—Box 8,126, COMMON CAUSE Office.

TO LET, in Westminster, part of suite of furnished offices; present occupier only using the rooms by appointment; terms according to use and facilities.—Apply Box 8,127, COMMON CAUSE Office.

HOUSES, ROOMS, etc., WANTED.

BOARD, partial, wanted by lady; near Kensington Gardens; good bedroom; bath; moderate.—E. K., Box 8,137, COMMON CAUSE, 62, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED.—Self-contained Flat, or upper part: 1 sitting, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom; N.W. or W.C. district preferred.—Miss Maynard, 10, Belgrave-place, Marine Parade, Brighton.

WHERE TO LIVE.

BROOKLYN PRIVATE HOTEL.—Earl's-court-square, D.S.W. 5 (Warwick-rd. corner), finest centre all parts; 12 minutes' Piccadilly; quiet, separate tables; write or call for tariff; strictly inclusive terms; unequalled for comfort and attention; own private garage free. B. and B., 5s. Tel.: Western 344.

PRIVATE HOTEL FOR LADIES. Very quiet and refined.—13, St. George's-sq., Westminster. Bed-room, breakfast, bath, and attendances, from 4s. 6d.—Write, or wire, Miss Davies.

VEGETARIAN Guest House. —Lovely garden, orchards, own dairy; pony-trap; bath (h. & c.); Islip Station 1½ miles; from 35s.—The Manor House, Noke, Islip, Oxford.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

I enclose Donation of £ : s. d. to the Funds of the N.U.S.E.C.
and Subscription £ : s. d. for the Common Cause (Rates: 10/10 12 months,
5/5 6 months, 2/9 3 months.)

Name

(Mrs., Miss Esq., or other Title.)

Address

All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Evelyn House 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.