

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.] **Societies and Branches in the Union 561.** [NON-PARTY.]

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

Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage in British Columbia.

The cable received from Toronto last week by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to the effect that "Women's Suffrage had been carried" in British Columbia requires some modification. A Referendum has been taken on the question, but this does not mean that women have been actually enfranchised. As a matter of fact the complete results of the Referendum are not yet available. Twenty-nine out of thirty-nine constituencies have polled, giving a majority of 8,500 votes for Women's Suffrage; but the soldiers' votes, which are being taken in this country and in the trenches, have still to be counted, as well as those of the remaining ten constituencies. It is considered almost certain, however, that the results will be favourable.

Sir Herbert Tree on Women's Suffrage.

"I was especially struck with the part women are to play in the great international decisions of the future," says Sir Herbert Tree in an interview reported in *The Daily Chronicle*. "I had been against the Suffrage movement, save in certain of its more obviously just demands, before I went to the States. Now I am absolutely in favour of women having the vote. This because I feel that the women who create life would be averse to destroying it. . . . I think that women will swell the chorus of 'Let there be no more wars.' . . . And they have earned the right to be heard."

Nurses Demand Representation.

Since we went to press last week we learn that it is proposed to add to the Supply of Nurses Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for War, representatives of the Army Nursing Boards, and some of the large general hospitals. This tardy acknowledgment that the nursing profession has a right to be represented on the Committee does not, however, satisfy the organised nurses, and the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has passed a resolution asking that the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Trained Nurses may be accorded representation.

No Bonus for Women Railway Workers.

The agreement reached between the representatives of the railway companies, the Government and the two principal trade

unions of railway workers, by which the present war bonus of 5s. per week is raised to 10s., does not, apparently, apply to the companies' 10,000 women workers. We hope that this question will receive proper consideration at the conference which has been arranged between the National Union of Railwaymen and the General Management Committee to consider the whole subject of women employed on railways. We understand that women delegates are to attend the conference.

An Appeal to Citizens.

The National War Savings Committee is making a special appeal to all the members of every household to "help our soldiers and sailors" by avoiding and doing without comforts, luxuries, and everything else that is not essential to health and efficiency. Can we cut down our consumption of coal for the winter? Every bit of coal we save means increased power to help our Allies, and it means something more—it means lower prices for the goods we buy abroad. For the foreign exchanges are improved by every ton of our goods that we can export. Italy wants coal, for she has none of her own. France wants coal, for their mines and the Belgian coalfields have been seized by the invader. The less coal we burn the better for us all.

Tea Imports.

There has been a slight reduction effected in our national tea bill. In 1915 we appear to have consumed 360,000 lbs. weight less than in 1914. *The Economist* inclines to think that but for restrictions on the sale of alcoholic liquors, we should have had a yet lower bill for tea. As "the world's consumption continues to grow," we in Great Britain need have no scruples about cutting down our own consumption a good deal further in war time. The British tea-planters, over the seas, have earned larger profits than ever, and the world-market will take all their produce, even if we drink less. There is an increasing tendency all over the world towards curtailing the consumption of alcoholic liquor, and tea, as the cheapest substitute, is most likely to be adopted in its place.

Women in Danger Buildings.

A canteen worker in a munition factory writes that she has been much struck by the splendid way the girls are sticking to their work in the Danger Buildings. "Not only," she says, "is the work itself dangerous (though every precaution is, of course, taken), but the girls turn yellow, and then many of them get horrible rashes, and their faces swell up so that they are for a day or two quite blind, and most repulsive objects. Nevertheless, when they are cured, they go back, and run the risk of getting ill again, and, what any young girl must mind very much, of getting the horrible rash again. They suffer with internal pains, too, sometimes. Of course, some are only slightly affected, but most of them have to go through a real bad time. "I think people ought to know how splendid they are. Then they would forgive them when they are so noisy and tiresome (as they often are)."

Housing of Women Workers.

In addition to the dangers and discomforts of the factory, munition workers often suffer from lack of proper housing accommodation. On page 319 we give an account of the work that is being done by the Y.W.C.A. in providing hostels and canteens for women workers.

Women's Work after the War.

MEN AND WOMEN MUST STAND TOGETHER.

There is much scope to be found for thought in certain official pronouncements of the Home Office and Trades Congress this month. I choose two merely as suggestions as to the line of thought which Women Suffragists should pursue.

1. The White Paper of the Home Office states that "several sets of operatives were kept under close observation in order that their powers of application might be investigated. The men engaged in boring the powder chamber and in turning and finishing shells were found, almost without exception, to do their work with admirable persistence, and it was very seldom that they rested even for a minute. On the other hand, the women engaged in turning fuse bodies rested for times which in the aggregate amounted to an hour and a-half out of a twelve-hour day, and over an hour out of the ten-hour day. This was probably due, not to idleness, but to fatigue, and to the instinctive knowledge that short-rest pauses were necessary to prevent undue fatigue." The final deduction of the report is that women must work shorter hours than men.

2. The London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers proposed a resolution asking for "a revocation of the order licensing women to act as conductors on omnibuses or trams; that all such licences issued shall be for the war period only, and that on peace being declared all such licences shall automatically expire on the date for which such licence has been issued." This was passed by the Trade Congress without discussion.

The criticism that I suggest on these declarations is that both show a want of impartiality and a want of grasp of the problem of women's work, and both reveal a state of mind which is very dangerous to the fair settlement of this question at the end of the war. The "admirable persistence" of the men is contrasted with the exhausted inaction of the women for an hour a day, due to the necessity of preventing undue fatigue. Now, if this were a correct comparison, there would be no more to say. Men would be safe from the competition of women; but what notice has been taken here of the opinions of the heads of munition factories all over the country, and announced by the journalists sent on a semi-official mission by the Ministry of Munitions, that the women's output has been from two to two and a-half times that of men in these workshops?

When that announcement was published months ago, many of us foresaw the consequences that would follow. Women had been urged by the authorities to be patriotic, to think not of the conditions of their work, but of the needs of the soldiers at the front. Accordingly, they exerted themselves to the utmost of their powers, and their output naturally exceeded the men's. The men knew from years of experience that such an output could not be kept up, without a terrible sacrifice of working power in the future, and they would not attempt such speeding up. Is it any wonder that they are able to work more hours a day without rests when they work at half the stress? And is it not very likely that the suggestion of fewer hours for a working day for women is an attempt to keep the output level?

The White Paper speaks of the lighter types of work being kept for women, "as it is a waste of muscle to appropriate these to men, or even to youths," quite regardless of the fact that some strong athletic women can do without effort what many delicate youths could only do at risk of their lives.

Again, in whose interest is it that "sedentary gauging operations should evidently be confined to women and girls?" Nature, I suppose, built women to sit everlastingly on seats, and men to improve their muscular power by movement!

The report seems to regard the ideal workers as machines—those labelled men doing this work, and those labelled women doing that, and all forced to take their rest times compulsorily and equally, and "the rest pauses at other times checked as far as possible."

Now, turn to the Trade Congress resolution, passed "without discussion." No one is asking that a woman who has taken a man's place should not give up that place to the man if he is fortunate enough to come back to it at the close of the war. Everyone agrees that it is his. But how many men, unfortunately, will never come back, and how many will not return to the same work, and in these cases why should women be turned out? We read with grim amusement that the old arguments were advanced that the work was bad for women's health and "morals," and we could almost apologise to the next cheery bus conductor we pay our fare to for the insult thus put upon her. The important thing, however, is for us to

read these quotations in the light of our knowledge of the crisis that is coming on us at the end of the war.

Women Suffragists demand equality in the industrial and political world, knowing well that it is in the interests of women and men alike. We do not wish for any reduction in the rate of wages in any trade nor an addition to the hours of labour. We wish to level up, not down. We know that what we aim at is for the general good of all the workers.

There will be two alternatives before the men at the close of the war. They will be wise enough to recognise facts, always a difficult thing to human beings, and admit that the women have won their right to a place in the labour market, and also have proved themselves good comrades and fellow workers with the men. In this case equality and co-operation is not only the most generous aim to pursue, but the only wise one. Otherwise the second alternative will be forced on the workers, and that is that an unacknowledged but real alliance will be made between the employers and the women workers, and the men will be gradually ousted. There will almost necessarily be a shortage of capital when peace comes, interest will go up, and the tendency will be for wages to go down. Women will be forced to stay in the labour market somehow. There will be fewer men to support them, and there will be more dependents—children, old people, and invalid soldiers—for them to provide for.

Employers know now what they were too slow to see before, that women can do any work they give them. If men and women workers do not stand together, if artificial restrictions are put on women's work, then the employers will be in a position where they can play off one set against the other to the detriment of both, and buy women's work at a cheaper rate than men's, because they are not free to bargain as the men are. No one will be benefited; all workers will suffer from a general reduction of the standard.

Is it too late for Women Suffragists to appeal to the men to look at the question from a broad standpoint, and to ask them first to help us to get at once the political equality we need to enable us to fight this industrial battle at the end of the war, and then to join hands with us in our efforts to better the conditions of women's labour, and so raise the standard of conditions all round to a more human level than it is to-day?

MARGARET ROPER.

Municipal Work for Women.

Have you realised how much women are wanted in municipal life? Perhaps you have, but still you may not know how very particularly women are needed now. A brief glance at a report, just issued,* shows how and why, in London at any rate, there is an urgent need for watchfulness.

The period of co-options has apparently developed an extraordinarily "jealous sense of self-preservation in the male borough councillor," till it has become a triumph of detective work to present a woman candidate for co-option to any metropolitan borough council before the selection of the official candidate. Sometimes (as in Lambeth) the council refuses to receive a deputation or even to consider the co-option of a woman! Lambeth urged that, as women in the past had been rejected at the polls, it was clearly against the wishes of the ratepayers that any woman should be on the council. Plausible enough! But why did that same council, five minutes afterwards, co-opt a man member for the very ward in which he had been rejected by a big majority at the last election?

Sometimes (as in Camberwell) the Councillors are so flurried at the thought of a woman being present at their deliberations that they scramble to fill a vacancy on the board while the deputation is actually waiting to be received!

And the number of women who are able to serve at present is only 22 out of a total of 1,380. Not 2 per cent. The pre-war standard has been maintained. In one case a man was co-opted in the place of a resigning woman, but it is true that the same borough council later co-opted a woman to fill a councillorship left vacant by her brother.

Yet there is plenty of work for women on municipal councils. We all know that we cannot afford to lose our children at the present terrific rate, which rivals the mortality of the battlefield. We all know that bad, cheap scavenging costs us thousands of our best lives, when our country needs them all. We are all ready to be convinced by Mrs. Pember Reeves that "maternity centres and clinics should be at least as numerous and accessible to the poorer districts as are public-houses.

* By the Women's Municipal Party, 7, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.

There are as many mothers and children who need help as there are men who need drink."

The Women's Municipal Party is trying to rouse municipal bodies to a sense of their plain duty. But associations of women ratepayers also need to be formed, and isolated women want education in the importance and meaning of the municipal franchise. "What is wanted," says Lady Frances Balfour, "is free and open election, and not the engineered system of the political wire-puller." All women ratepayers need to be roused to be made aware of "economies" effected at a big cost of life, and to see to it that prospective women candidates for the Council have an effective backing.

A Workroom Girls' Charter.

Employers in the dressmaking, ladies' tailoring, and millinery trades are beginning to realise that if they are to secure a satisfactory supply of labour they will have to modify some of their practices and pay better wages. Even before the war these trades were not getting their full share of intelligent girls leaving school, and when employers asked the Juvenile Advisory Committee the reasons for this, they were told that young people were not being recommended to go into them because the prospects were not sufficiently attractive, many workroom hands being out of work for half their time. The war has greatly increased the dearth of learners. It has taught, too, that there are many more ways in which women can be employed than was previously thought possible. Foreseeing, therefore, that their difficulties are likely to grow greater rather than less, the dressmakers and ladies' tailors recently appointed a Committee to inquire into the whole question, and a report has now been presented containing a number of suggestions.

In many dressmaking establishments the wages of learners begin at 2s. to 4s. They are often employed for a considerable portion of their time running errands, and do not get proper opportunities for learning their business thoroughly. A very important recommendation is that young employees between fourteen and sixteen years of age shall be allowed to attend a trade school in employers' time, and that such attendance should be made a condition of engagement by employers. It is also recommended that an Advisory Committee shall be formed of employers, employed, and London County Council education representatives to supervise methods of training; but there may be some difficulty in getting representatives of the workroom employees because, for some strange reason, they have no trade union.

The most important part of the proposed changes is the recommendation to do away with slack time. A member of the Sub-Committee states that seasonal trade is largely responsible for the policy of many of the smaller houses, and a few of the big firms telling workroom girls to "stand down," sometimes for many weeks at a time. "If work in the dressmaking trades is to become a career, as distinct from casual labour, this condition is the first to be done away with.

"To avoid slack time employers are recommended to use their workrooms for making and remodelling stock garments as much as possible between seasons. In many cases workers can be transferred to the bazaar and fancy departments during the Christmas trade period. The Committee have heard of workers being lent to the wholesale by the retail during slack periods.

"The customers of some of the smaller firms must accept a certain amount of responsibility for the bad conditions which prevail in these houses. Ladies will persist in ordering a number of dresses at certain times, and do not spread their orders as much as they might. They also are very often inconsiderate in demanding that a dress shall be made in a day. The head of a small firm building up goodwill is afraid to refuse, and workgirls who come in at 8.30 in the morning, and whose ordinary time of leaving is 7.0, and who are tired enough at that hour, are kept on until late at night to finish a gown that might have been ordered at proper notice. We are recommending a 48-hour working week. In many houses this will mean a reduction of ten hours' work. We also recommend the abolition of overtime as far as possible, payment for all Bank Holidays, and no stoppage of pay for girl learners receiving 8s. a week or under, when working three-quarter time."

It is also necessary to insist on sufficient time being allowed off for meals. A correspondent who has worked in a dressmaking establishment states that sometimes only half-an-hour is allowed for lunch, and the worker has to rush out to her meal and back, often going without food, because she cannot get

served in time. For tea a quarter to half-an-hour is usually allowed, but sometimes only ten minutes.

There are already laws to provide against overcrowding, but, says our correspondent:

"It is quite the usual thing for a dressmaker to hide her workers in cupboards and to send her apprentices out for a walk during a visit from the Health Inspector. One instance where a cupboard was hidden behind a door, three girls were packed in there, one apprentice was sent out to buy some sweets, and the other was told to sit at the manager's desk and to pretend she was a clerk. The unsuspecting inspector thought the arrangements and conditions very good. The lavatory accommodation of the workers leaves much to be desired."

The recommendations of the Committee cannot, of course, be forced on employers; but it is hoped that they will be widely adopted. Miss Durham, of the Board of Trade, has welcomed the scheme as a "Workroom Girls' Charter."

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT SOCIETY, LTD.

For a long time past, women whose work lies in the direction of Victoria Street have felt the need of better provision for meals suited to the tastes and purses of professional and business women workers, and also, and above all, for more restful surroundings in which to spend their luncheon intervals. Considerable interest, therefore, has been aroused by the proposal that a Women's Co-operative Restaurant Society, Ltd., should be founded, and that this Society (registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893) should start a Restaurant Club for women office workers, members of committees, and others in the Victoria Street and Tothill Street neighbourhoods. The Club will be opened as soon as a sufficient number of women have signed the legal form of membership of the Society.

The annual subscription is at present fixed at 10s. Every member, according to statute, must have one share in the Society. One transferable share of 10s. will therefore be issued to each member admitted, which will entitle her to the full use of the restaurant for one year from the date of its opening, payment for which will be in lieu of the first annual subscription. In addition, the sum of 1s. must be paid for a copy of the Rules, which every member is by statute bound to receive.

All meals will be provided at cost price, which will be less in proportion to the degree of co-operation achieved by the members. Committee of Management consists of Miss E. M. L. Atkinson, Miss C. E. Collet, Miss Evelyn Fox, Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Miss M. Hodge, Miss C. N. Wadge, Miss Ruth Young.

Miss Trotman, of 34, Victoria Street, who is Honorary Secretary, will be glad to give further particulars as to privileges of membership, &c.

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For nearly two years we have been able to come through unprosperous times without making a public appeal for financial aid. Working expenses have been reduced to a minimum by careful management, and thousands of faithful friends—both readers and writers—have helped to maintain the circulation of the paper. But unforeseen difficulties have arisen, among them the serious one of the paper crisis.

The whole cost of production has risen enormously at a time when, we feel, every effort should be made.

"Now that the whole franchise question has been reopened in Parliament the information contained each week in THE COMMON CAUSE is indispensable to all members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies," writes a subscriber to THE COMMON CAUSE FUND.

It is also, we think, of the first importance that THE COMMON CAUSE should EXTEND AND INCREASE its usefulness NOW. All the new work being done by women is helping to break down the mysterious sex-taboo under which numerous kinds of work (including practically all well-paid work) was laid during the nineteenth century. Now is the time of experience and experiments.

THE NATION IS LEARNING WHERE ITS STRENGTH LIES.

We want THE COMMON CAUSE to watch and record the results for future guidance, to note every bit of successful work done in a new field. Women and girls are anxiously looking out for something to do for their country. We want THE COMMON CAUSE to give them the information they need. And because the cost of collecting first-hand information has to be met out of very scanty resources, we need money to make this possible. Our records should be very valuable for future use.

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"carry on" THE COMMON CAUSE.

Thanks to the generosity of our readers we have now £401 8s. 6d. towards the amount which we need.

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This week we acknowledge with grateful thanks the following amounts and the kind letters sent with them:—

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"I send you a subscription towards THE COMMON CAUSE FUND. I think it would be a great pity were the paper to come to an end."

Will not Secretaries of Societies, now that the autumn session is about to begin, make an effort to get their members to subscribe regularly to the paper?

One Secretary has already issued such an appeal. She urges all members in the name of her Committee to "follow closely events connected with woman's work and woman's suffrage," and says: "I personally find I can only do this by reading THE COMMON CAUSE . . . the only paper that keeps us promptly informed of every fluctuation in woman's interests; all information being lucidly given in concise form."

I know in war-time we have to consider every penny we spend, but if four members would club together to take the paper, it would be

A FARTHING A WEEK WELL LAID OUT.

When the dry beginning is past, there is increasing enjoyment in the regular study of any subject, and the question of the women of England in this passing of the old order is of vital interest and importance.

Donations should be sent to THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. All cheques and postal orders should be crossed Williams Deacon's Bank, and all Treasury notes should be sent in registered envelopes.

GLASGOW MAGISTRATES DECLARE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The following resolution has been signed by a number of Glasgow magistrates, and forwarded to the members of the Government:—

"That we, the undersigned Glasgow magistrates, call upon the Coalition Government to yield to the universal desire of the nation that women shall be enfranchised on the same terms as men."

"We submit with all respect that Governments have not, so far, shown a sufficient understanding of the tragic problems underlying the women's demand for direct representation in Parliament. And unless the principle of equality of voting rights for women is established on the Statute before the next general election, so that women may help in the reconstruction of conditions, we shall hold the Government responsible for the sustained misery in the homes of working women in our great industrial centres, a misery which magistrates, by virtue of their office, are in a position to appreciate and understand."

(Signed) Hamilton Brown, magistrate; John Cowan Drummond, magistrate; Henry Macnaughton, magistrate; Thos. H. Hutchison, magistrate; William Nicol, magistrate; Wm. Davidson, magistrate; John Muir, magistrate; Jas. Stewart, magistrate; E. Rosslyn Mitchell, magistrate; David Mason, police judge; R. Mitchell, magistrate; Jas. Barrie, J.P., police magistrate; Wm. Maclure, magistrate; J. D. Morton, magistrate; Thos. J. Irwin, magistrate; James Stewart, magistrate.

FROM THE PRESS.

"The essence of liberty is responsibility. A citizen is entitled to liberty, not in order that he may do as he pleases, but in order that he may use that liberty in the service of the community as a whole; not because he is a privileged being, but because he cannot help to improve the conditions of communal life if he is the servant of the will of others, and does not bring his own unfettered judgment and activity into the common pool. It is this idea of liberty which distinguishes a commonwealth from other States. In an autocratic State the emphasis is laid on the duty of implicit obedience to authority, generally reinforced by divine right, with results which we see in Germany to-day."—*The Round Table*, September, 1916.

"If the male munition worker is to have a vote for his service, what of the female munition worker?" asks Mr. T. Cox Meech, in *The Sheffield Independent*. "The bold course would be to adopt adult Suffrage. This would solve many problems and save a lot of arguments on fine distinctions. According to some rumours, there are members of the Cabinet who will not hear of adult Suffrage, and the Lobby gossips are busy sorting out presumed Suffragists and anti-Suffragists in the Government. If the women are left out we shall soon discover which of the Ministers are responsible. Looking at the matter in the strictly calculating and businesslike spirit, apart from the merits of the question, the Government are likely to have a much more strenuous time of it if they yield to the anti-Suffragists. Women's work in the war has changed the attitude of many people on this question, and unless the vote is to be restricted severely to fighting men only it is difficult to see how a fair case is going to be made out for including any more new voters without extending the vote also to women."

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES TO AID THE WORK OF FIGHTING VENEREAL DISEASE.

The extent to which the importance of providing facilities for the treatment of disease is being realised, was shown by the discussion which took place at the National Conference of Friendly Societies, held last week in Liverpool, as regards the effects of the misconduct clause of the National Insurance Act, which forbids the payment of sickness benefit to persons suffering from venereal disease contracted through their own misconduct. Dr. Otto May, Honorary Secretary of the National Society for Combating Venereal Diseases, addressed the delegates, and pointed out that in the final report of the Royal Commission it was stated that this rule was likely to debar people from seeking efficient treatment. The rule, therefore, was contrary to the interests both of public health and economy, and the National Society were very anxious that friendly societies, trade unions, and others should be willing to give their sickness benefit to those cases. He did not think there was the slightest ground for believing that they would encourage immorality by taking the step. On the financial side, he asked them to think of the amount that would be saved in after years. Let them consider the complications that must arise in after years because of the neglect of treatment. By furthering the treatment of these diseases at an early stage friendly societies would be promoting their own interests and performing a work of incalculable benefit to the national welfare. A resolution was passed in favour of amending the National Insurance Act by adding to Section 14: "No rule shall deprive an insured person of sickness or disablement benefit in respect of any period of incapacity due to venereal disease."

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A TRIBUTE TO THE WORK AT ROYAUMONT.

A striking tribute has been paid to our work for the French soldiers, and, in particular, to the excellence of our Hospital at Royaumont. This tribute took the form of a visit from no less a person than the President of the French Republic. We give the account of the visit as sent to us by letter.

Toward the end of last week Miss Ivens received an informal intimation that Monsieur Poincaré proposed to pay a visit to the Hospital on the following Wednesday to see the wounded, and to thank the Staff for the work done at Royaumont for the relief of the French soldiers injured in the war.

Some of our many friends, both English and French, were invited; a little treat was arranged for the patients, and the band of the nearest regiment invited to play in the cloisters.

Though the day, when it came, was cold, showery, and ungenial, our neighbours from the surrounding villages thronged the roads and flocked into the grounds to see the approach of their President coming to honour their dear 'Dames Eccossaises' with a visit.

At the approach of the President's motor we all gathered in the Hall to receive him, and we were delighted to find him accompanied by Madame Poincaré. Miss Ivens received them and presented Miss Loudon and those of our guests who were nearest. Without delay the round of the Hospital was begun, and Monsieur Poincaré shook hands with every man as he passed, always addressing a few words to him as well. Madame Poincaré followed him, and while speaking kindly and sympathetically, gave each man a packet of cigarettes and sweets.

As the party entered the wards it was met by the doctor and her staff. Miss Ivens presented them to the President, and they afterwards joined in the tour of the ward, pointing out any men who were specially interesting for one reason or another. The route was through the Millicent Fawcett Ward

into the cloisters, where the President was greeted by the Marseillaise, played by the military band, followed by 'God Save the King'; 'Queen Mary,' 'Canada,' 'Jeanne d'Arc,' 'Marguerite d'Ecosse,' 'Blanche de Castille,' 'London,' and 'Elsie Inglis' were all visited in turn, the Senegalese in the latter rousing much interest as usual. No Frenchman seems to be able to understand how we can manage not only to keep them in order, but to teach them good manners. 'Canada' was also much admired. It is a lovely ward, and was looking its best; indeed, the speckless condition of all the wards was a matter of general comment. In 'Canada' one of the men presented the President with a sketch of Royaumont.

It was growing late before all the wards had been visited, so Monsieur and Madame Poincaré left very shortly after tea in the Abbey, where we were very kindly invited by Monsieur Guoin."

LIST OF GUESTS.

Monsieur the President of the French Republic and Madame Poincaré; General Dubail, Governor (Military) of Paris, and Staff; Monsieur Justin Godard, Sous-Secrétaire de l'Etat du Service de Santé; General Sieur, Médecin Inspecteur de Service de Santé du Gouvernement Militaire de Paris; Vice Admiral Touchard, délégué régional du Camp retranché de Paris; Vicomte D'Haricourt, Croix Rouge Française; Dr. Cousergue, Médecin Chef de la Gare Regulatrice de Creil; Chef D'Escadron Bricquet Commandant d'Etapes de Creil; Monsieur le Capitaine Dhont and Officers from Boran; Lord Esher from British Headquarters and Lady Esher; General Yarde-Buller and Colonel Clive, and Colonel Cavendish, from the French Headquarters.

The London Units.

A wire has been received from Odessa, stating that the Field Hospital in Russia is on its way to the front. Dr. Inglis says that a base hospital is wanted.



This group represents Mrs. Laurie, the Hon. Treasurer of the now well-known "Scottish Women's Hospitals," seated, with her office staff, on the steps of the "Red House," Greenock, in which, by the generous permission of Captain Laurie, R.A.M.C., the headquarters of the financial department has been established for over two years. Seated by Mrs. Laurie is seen Miss S. E. S. Mair, President of the Scottish

Women's Hospitals. Thanks to Captain and Mrs. Laurie the extensive financial department is carried on free of office and other expenses. Some idea of the work may be gathered from the fact that over £130,000 has passed through the hands of the Hon. Treasurer. The recent departure of four New Units to assist the reconstructed Serbian army has involved very great expense, and funds are urgently required to carry on all the splendid work.

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Half a million women and girls are now doing men's work. A great social problem has arisen through the crowding of girls and women into industrial and commercial life. Emergency conditions prevail everywhere. Many of the girls live in crowded lodgings, often several in a room.

The night workers often occupy by day the beds which the day workers use by night. Good and cheap food and healthy recreation are generally missing. The hours are long, the pay in many cases quite inadequate. To meet these alarming conditions, the

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Of the Young Women's Christian Association

is providing rest and recreation rooms, hostels, and canteens, in all parts of the country. With the £25,000 already subscribed, accommodation has been provided in sixty different centres.

The work is urgent; at one hostel, besides the forty girls who sleep there, thirty-five have to sleep in another house and use the hostel for meals and recreation only.

£25,000 already subscribed—Building and Accommodation have been provided in many industrial districts, but
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Observer.—"The Souvenir edition of 'Women of the Empire in War Time,' published by the Dominion of Canada News Company, at General Buildings, Aldwych, will help the public to realise the extent and value of the work that women are doing in the war. All the funds they have organised, all the associations they have formed, all the assistance that they are giving in various spheres of labour are the subject of this edition. The articles are all illustrated, and most of them are written by distinguished ladies who are prominently associated with the organisations concerned. The Editor, Mr. A. M. de Beck, has been so impressed, in the course of compiling the souvenir, by the enterprise and enthusiasm displayed by the women of all classes in the war that he proposes to establish a new sixpenny weekly journal, entitled 'Women of the Empire,' to be devoted to the cause of womankind."

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On the Same Terms.

The approach of the Autumn Session quickens interest in the course of action the House of Commons may elect to pursue when faced with the question which, strangely enough in the Mother of Parliaments, seems the greatest bugbear with which the elected House can be asked to deal, the question of Registration and Franchise. At the prospect of having to decide who shall or shall not elect them, our rulers and governors falter and turn pale; they will shelter behind any excuse which will enable them to put off the evil day. "The slothful man saith: 'there is a lion without';" and, having persuaded himself that the lion will bite if he goes near it, he fears to put his nose outside the gates.

But at long last something has got to be done; the old Register is in an advanced stage of decomposition, and either the Government Bill for a new Register must be passed, or Parliament must make up its mind to some alternative. Either it can give the vote for service qualifications, or it can adopt some large and comprehensive measure in the hope of finally settling a contentious question. The position of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, in the midst of these perplexities of our legislators, is perfectly clear and definite. It has resolved to raise no objection to the Government Bill for a new Register as it stands at present; it has decided that any extension of the basis of the franchise would necessarily raise the whole question, and that such an extension should certainly include women. And the claim to inclusion is the claim that has always been put forward; the National Union demands the vote for women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men. It has never sought to decide on what foundation the franchise shall be built up; it has simply demanded equality for the sexes. Hence, if service to the State is to confer the right to a voice in its councils, women who serve the State should be included in the measure which confers the privilege. If, on the other hand, Parliament should prefer "a wide and democratic basis," again the claims of women are grounded on the same argument; they are part of this great democracy, and for that reason they demand their full share in democratic citizenship. This claim, which is at the root of the whole Suffrage movement, and which is the only really logical ground for the demand for the vote, is not that which, in the past, has most appealed to supporters of the movement in the House of Commons. The idea that a woman is, after all, a human being, is slow in filtering into the male brain. Some have desired to give her the vote if she had property, others if she worked for her subsistence; some preferred that she should only approach the polling booth as a spinster or a widow; others considered that the married state should entitle her to make that pilgrimage. For these reasons Suffragists have given support to many Bills which did not embody the terms of the constitution of their society; but let us hope that that time is passed, and that these last years, during which so many old conventions have been torn up, and so many shams have come to naught, have opened men's eyes to the true value of the woman as an individual, and to her right to claim full citizenship on the same terms as the man.

It is to be hoped, then, that those with whom the decision rests will face the problem with courage, realising that to procrastinate further is but to store up trouble. That surely is the lesson of the difficult place in which they find themselves to-day. Broken pledges, pledges deferred to a more convenient season, have, like chickens, come home to roost; they will continue to disturb the chicken-house unless they are rightly dealt with once and for all. Is it really true that this is not the time to deal with the question, or is it but another attempt to defer it to that season which never comes? If Parliament can find time for dealing with the votes of men, surely it is no unfair trespass on their time to ask that they should undertake to settle the whole

franchise question, thus assuring peace at home on at least one burning question when the conclusion of peace abroad shall threaten the revival of unrest in so many of the internal affairs of this country. What prouder boast could be made by nations fighting for freedom and progress than that the war has not hindered that progress, and has broadened the flow of liberty? Our fellow citizens over seas, as critically interested as ourselves in the result of the world-struggle, have yet found time to take up this matter. Canada, pouring out men and munitions with no

niggardly hand, at the same moment, in one province after another, enfranchises her women, considering that also as a question of deep importance. She has even followed her sons to the battlefield to obtain their opinion; the soldiers of British Columbia have been asked to record their votes on Women's Suffrage in the trenches, an event of unique interest, which has received too little attention, but of which the moral is clear. It is never the wrong time for clear thinking and just action.

V. E.

The Strike of the Mothers.

The present writer was asked some years ago to address a boys' club on the Suffrage, and was careful, so far as possible, to suit the address to the type of the audience. In question time, however, a thoughtful-looking lad of about seventeen asked whether, if women became interested in public affairs, they would not cease to become wives, or, if they did marry, fail to have children? This aspect of the birthrate, namely, the physiological effect upon women of increased mental stimulation, received the passing consideration of the National Birth-Rate Commission, which has recently published the results of its investigations in a volume entitled "The Declining Birth-rate: Its Causes and Effects" (Chapman & Hall). The Commission consisted of thirty-three men and nine women, chiefly members of the medical profession or leaders of religious denominations, and included among them such well-known Suffragists as the late Sir John Gorst, Lord and Lady Willoughby de Broke, Dr. Scharlieb, Lady Barrett (Dr. Florence Willey), and Mrs. General Booth. Among the witnesses examined were the Bishop of Southwark, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Major Greenwood (Lister Institute), Dr. Saleeby, Dr. Amand Routh, the Principal of an American University, a representative of the London County Council Housing Committee, some women social workers, and many others.

The book containing the results of this investigation is of vital interest to all women, especially to Suffragists, and still more especially at the time of this national crisis.

It would be impossible in this article to do more than give a very brief summary of the more important conclusions arrived at, and further to indicate some of the by-ways of absorbing interest which the Commission had not time to do more than glance at in passing, but which are worthy of very careful exploration by those who have the future welfare of the nation after this war closely at heart. Many will be the arguments, investigations, and schemes for the reconstruction of all that concerns the material and external safety and progress of the country and its people; but the actual regeneration of the nation itself, the vital spiritual, mental, and physical stuff of which it is composed, will mainly be in the hands of its women. What, therefore, can be of more supreme importance to women, especially when now we dare to regard them as prospective voters and moulders of the nation's destiny, than to consider profoundly this question of the birthrate in all its aspects?

The Commission opened its investigations with an inquiry into the neo-Malthusian propaganda which recommends universal early marriage together with voluntary limitation of families, the motive being mainly an economic one; its adherents believe that limitation of population is the only cure for poverty.

This contention is based on two main facts as follows:—
1. About two and a half millions of the workers in this country are in receipt—in normal times—of a weekly wage on which it is an absolute impossibility for them to support a family of more than three children in a state of physical efficiency, and that exclusive of all amusements, recreation, and holidays.

2. A certain amount of unemployment, and a vast amount of sweating and under-payment are chronic conditions due to the number of surplus workers always clamouring to obtain a possibility of the barest livelihood on any terms.

It is, however, evident to the most superficial thinker that other methods than the deliberate reduction of the population could remedy these evils; and, moreover, that any such so-called remedy as decrease of the population would only be temporary at the best, as it would inevitably result in decrease of production and, therefore, of national wealth; so that the ultimate conclusion of the neo-Malthusian remedies would be an ever-increasing limitation of births until finally the nation would cease to exist.

There is, of course, a limit to the number of people the earth can support, and Dean Inge estimates that if the normal birthrate were entirely unrestricted the population of the globe would reach 27,000 millions in 120 years, or about ten times the number the earth can be made to feed. In any case, arguing only on a wheat basis, it is probable that the natural increase of the population proceeds faster than the

artificial improvement of the earth's productivity. It might be a suggestion to future generations that instead of devoting their genius and labour to the manufacture of engines for mutual destruction they should lay the whole fertile area of Europe under intensive culture, and at the same time apply the science of eugenics to the production of a perfect human race.

The Quality of the Race.

In regard to this question of the quality of children born, the two great wasters of human vitality, alcohol and venereal disease, loom ominously to the fore.

For information about the latter of these two great race-poisons by which the race is literally damaged before it is conceived, all women should read the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. Nor ought we to be satisfied with the immense forward step taken by the Local Medical Government Board, since the issue of this Report, in providing better facilities for diagnosis and treatment of the infected. The real remedy for this frightful evil lies in the abolition of the double standard, in knowledge and education, and in higher moral ideals for all. So only can we really safeguard against the life-long suffering and misery, the childlessness, the terrible toll of ante-natal death, and all the nameless loss and wrong caused by this enemy which, above all others, those who strive for the emancipation of women are out to fight.

But more general, if less dread, causes are helping to contribute to the decline of the birthrate. It has been suggested that there is some evidence to show that nations are subject to an alternate rise and ebb of fertility; and that this law of periodicity is associated with the standard of quality, so that it is during the period of a people's greatest fertility, when the birthrate is highest, that great men and men of genius are most liberally born. Then the race energy of the nation declines, both as to quantity and quality.

And this theory brings us back to the question at the head of this paper. It has also been suggested that the over-education of young people produces a nervous strain in adolescent years which lessens the power of the adults to bear children; and especially in the case of girls and women it is frequently stated that higher education and public interests and "careers" weaken their capacity for motherhood.

Very careful investigation made by Mrs. Sidgwick and others in England and America, however, seems to prove that this cause is more apparent than real. A University education—a career—tends certainly to make a girl marry later in life, to make her more careful in the selection of a partner, less eager to get married at any cost; and after marriage her wider interests, activities, and claims tend to weaken the old idea that a woman's sole duty is to produce children as fast as she can. She has probably studied the laws of hygiene and eugenics, too, in the course of her education; while not improbably her husband is more enlightened and considerate than husbands were wont to be, and realises that exhaustion on the part of his wife will mean delicate children. It is, again, a choice of quantity or quality; "public-spirited mothers make public-spirited sons," but fewer of them.

Physiologically, however, the highly-educated woman has as great a capacity for motherhood as the agricultural labourer's daughter, and probably more so than the over-worked woman from the shop or the factory.

Population Recruited Most from the Poorest Classes.

There is, nevertheless, no question as to the fact that the birthrate has shown a marked and steady decline during the last thirty years in Europe, the United States, and Australia; alike where women vote and where they do not, where they are independent, as in America, and where they live the secluded life of the hausfrau; always more marked in the urban district than in the rural, and always—and this is the really sinister aspect of the whole matter—in inverse ratio to the social position of the parents. The higher deathrate of the slum population, notwith-

standing, the civilised nations of the world are being recruited from the bottom. Damaged by heredity and environment, of inferior mentality and physique, the poorest classes—who have nothing to lose—with the recklessness of despair are reproducing themselves at a rate out of all proportion to the other classes of the community.

And this fact is the crowning evidence to show that the restriction of the birthrate is deliberate. Various people, chiefly celibate men, declare that this voluntary lessening of families is due to the increasing worldliness and selfishness of women; but the investigation of the Commission, two-thirds of which were men, did not lead them to this conclusion. In some cases, of course, it may be so; in some cases also it is the husbands who fear that the increasing cost of a large family will interfere with their golfing and hunting; but the real, the serious causes at work are economic. There is an interesting article in last month's *Jus Suffragii*, by Fru Ella Anker, speaking of the "mother-strike" against "over-breeding" in Norway. She writes: "Women say, How dare you complain of us? We have, indeed, done our duty. But what have you done with our babies?" She points out that in Germany, where social organisation is so excellent, 14.7 per cent. infants die under one year of age; in England, 9.5 per cent. are lost under one year; or, including the loss of infants before birth, 19 per cent. Even in Norway, where women vote, the rate is 8 per cent. In the garden village of Bournville it is about 4 per cent., thus proving the importance of conditions. Thoughtful mothers refuse to bear children into inimical environment, where they will only die of poverty or grow up damaged. The mother in industry is face to face with the same economic difficulty in another form: every baby she has means loss of wages, coupled with extra expense afterwards. Every new little mouth makes so much less for the others that are already there.

The Need for Better Conditions.

Respectable working parents know that they cannot hope to bring up decently more than two to four children, according to their circumstances. The skilled artisan already pays a sixth or even a quarter of his income in rent; the birth of another baby may mean notice to quit from his landlord, with the almost sure certainty of not being able to find another house unless he will pay more rent or move into a worse neighbourhood. In any case, under the most favourable conditions, he cannot sleep more than four children with any degree of decency unless they are all of one sex.

The heavily handicapped professional classes are driven by the same economic pressure to limit their families. The Birth-rate Commission is so impressed by this fact that it recommends State aid to secure a good start in life for children of parents whose income is under £120 a year. (This would include many of our teachers, clergy, civil servants, and not a few doctors and lecturers, classes from whom we might look for some of the best brains of the nation.)

Separate Income-tax for husband and wife, and substantial remission of tax for each child on parents whose income is below £700, and far better facilities for education and training at cheaper rates are also urgently needed. And, above all, better housing conditions.

The utter insanity and stupidity of a nation permitting its children to be housed under conditions which ensure their becoming diseased and demoralised is too amazing for expression. No wonder humane parents prefer to starve and deny their natural desire for offspring. A simplifying of the standards of life would, of course, do a great deal to ease this economic pressure. Parents are rarely content to bring up their children to live useful and happy lives in their own position, but strain every nerve to procure for them "better advantages" than they had themselves. Thus, they often, at great cost to themselves, force their children into positions where they are ill at ease, and for which they are not really fitted.

The various methods adopted to reduce the birthrate, and their psychological and physiological effects were most carefully investigated by the Commission, and various opinions were given by the medical experts consulted. The attitude of the different Churches towards this question was also examined, and many deep problems touched upon to which no satisfactory answers could be found.

It was impossible but that an inquiry occupying only two years, opening up much new ground and handicapped by the present world unrest, should in many ways be tentative and inconclusive, but the valuable information collected and the stimulus given to consideration of this supremely important subject, entitle the members of the Commission to the sincere thanks of all thoughtful people.

CAROL RING.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
 President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, L.L.D.
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We are very glad to congratulate the following Societies upon the increase in their membership, shown by the affiliation fees paid this year. In these difficult times it is particularly gratifying to know that so many of our Societies have not only kept a steady front, but have actually been able to increase: Bridge of Weir, Cupar, Dornoch, Hawick, John o' Groats, Largs, Sunderland, Penrith, Ackworth, Bingley, Bradford, Congleton, Farnworth, Llandudno, Seaforth, Bridgenorth, Pershore, Nuneaton, Stafford, Cambridge, Essex (North and East), Hunstanton, Norwich, Brecon, Weston-super-Mare, Yeovil, Barnstaple, Sidmouth, Tiverton, Torquay, Reigate and Redhill, Ramsgate, Kensington (South), Mussoorie.

The Suffrage Diary and Handbook for 1917 will shortly be on sale. There will be a limited number of leather copies provided with bookmark and elastic band at 2s. each. The price of linen diaries will be 1s. net.

Several good suggestions for improvements have been received, and although it has been impossible to adopt all, the Diary for 1917 will be even more useful than the earlier editions. Societies are urged to send in order in advance as soon as possible.

Now that officials of societies are thinking of their autumn work, we would like to draw their attention to the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" leaflet, which was issued in August. Its distribution is an excellent way of keeping both Friends and members in touch with Suffrage, and we would urge its use upon those societies which are carrying out the Women Citizens Associations' work. All Societies are entitled to ten free copies, after which the price is 2s. 6d. per hundred copies.

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Miss A. M. Ridley	10 0	

The Treasurer gratefully acknowledges £12 from the Southampton Suffrage Society, the proceeds of a Jumble Sale held in the garden of Mrs. Alys Russell's house, at Warsash, near Southampton, and £11 5s., the proceeds of a Jumble Sale held by the Horsted Keynes and Danehill Branch of the Central Sussex Society.

A donation of one guinea has been received from the Bath Society in lieu of a Jumble Sale, which they were unable to organise. It will be a great help if other Societies can raise money for our General Service Fund in this way.

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

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

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

News from our Russian Units this week emphasises the need of additional hospital equipment, and tells of shortage of drugs. From a large village on the Volga we hear of insufficient drugs for confinement cases; from Galicia we hear that supplementary equipment is required. Will readers of THE COMMON CAUSE help us to procure large extra supplies by sending donations?

Everywhere there is much disease, and our hospitals are more than welcome. At Kazan, we are told, scarlet fever "begins in August and continues throughout the winter," and this week's news tells of the admission of cases to our children's hospital; Jewish, Polish, and Russian refugee children. They

are a mixed party—one savage little thing from some wild region whose manners convey the impression that she has lived with camels and learnt their ways, others very lovable and affectionate, some seriously ill, some getting over their worst illness and playing with toys.

The supply of scarlet fever patients is likely to continue steadily, for families around Kazan seem to be large. "If you look at all surprised when a mother introduces her tenth or twelfth," says Dr. Stepney, "she says resignedly, 'God has given them to me.'" Cases of dysentery are also brought to the children's hospital. One, "a little boy with a shock of yellow hair and a freckled face, that gave him the appearance of a sunflower, grew very hungry when the worst of his dysentery was over, and pathetically offered us a five kopek piece that he had treasured under his pillow—to buy him some white bread, as perhaps we were too poor to afford it! I was glad," concludes Dr. Stepney, "when we could put him on full diet."—Other letters bring touches of local colouring. Nurse Percival [in the Tchistopol district] writes from the heart of Russia: "Time is unknown here. Our wrist watches are a constant amusement. I told one woman to come to work at 7.0. She turned up at 4.0, and slept on the floor till I wanted her."

From Galicia there is no more news since last week. It is contemplated holding sales for the Russian fund, at which articles will be sold that are suitable as gifts for other charities. Members of the N.U. who are organising work parties and are willing to contribute articles to these sales should communicate with the Secretary, Russian Units, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. Gifts will be most welcome.

THIRTY-FIFTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Already acknowledged	8,712 19 9
Hyde W.S.S.	4 5 0
Miss Emily D. Gibb	10 6
Miss M. L. Mathieson	1 10 0
Miss W. B. Crisp	2 6
Mrs. Norman Maclehoise (2nd donation)	10 6
Miss Christian Wickham	5 0 0
Mr. Charles F. Higham (2nd donation)	2 2 0
Mrs. Nierenstein	1 0 0
Miss Mary E. Brailford (2nd donation)	2 0 0
Dr. Marlon S. Linton	10 0 0
	£8,740 0 3

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. Cheques and postal orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

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

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Forward as per list of September 14th	151,824 11 6d
Further donations received to September 21st, 1916	
Misses E. B. and M. Ramsay	2 0 0
*Bishopshire Horticultural Society, Kinross-shire, per A. Mitchell, Esq.	3 10 0
Anon.	10 0 0
Misses E. and K. MacLuckie	4 4 0
Miss E. A. Lee	1 0 0
Miss Beveridge (Serbia)	2 0 0
*Per Mrs. Blackstone, Hon. Sec. Bath W.S.S.: Mrs. Hignett (2s), Miss Blyth (10s), Miss Adamson (5s), Mrs. Blackstone (15s)	6 10 0
*Per Mrs. Woodall: Proctor Garrett, Esq.	10 0 0
Miss Ballment	1 0 0
*Miss J. Hossack	5 0 0
A Friend (France)	1 0 0
*H. W.	3 0 0
James H. Warrack	25 0 0
Miss Dorothy Martin	5 0
*Per Miss Bury: Lumphinans Public-House Society	10 0 0
*Per Miss Bury: Employees Strathern Works, Abernethy (Towards naming bed in Dr. Inglis's Unit)	1 4 6
*Mr. Armstrong	1 0 0
*Per Mrs. Cross, Hon. Sec. Bristol W.S.S.: Mrs. Dulien (Serbia)	5 0 0
*Mr. and Mrs. Jefford (Serbia) Collected by Miss Frances Salvesen, per Mrs. Salvesen (Serbia)	1 15 0
*Per Miss Mackay, Hon. Sec. Balmore W.S.S.: Proceeds of Fancy Fair	65 0 0
*Mrs. Hay	2 0 0
*Misses Robertson (Royaumont and Serbia)	2 4 6
*Mrs. MacCallum	1 0 0
T. Rooke Corbett	5 0 0
Miss Nussey	5 0 0
*Anon., to name "St. Michel" Bed (in the name of Mary S. Taylor) (Royaumont)	25 0 0
*Worcester W.S.S., per Miss Williams, Hon. Treas., for 2nd 6 months of "Worcester" Bed (Corsica), *Miss Nash (2l), Mrs. Bottomley (10s), Mrs. Besley (10s), Mrs. S. L. Barnitt (10s), Mrs. Cadbury (5s), Rev. Mr. Duncan and Mrs. Duncan (10s), Mrs. Duncan	
(Senior) (2l), Miss Downing (10s), Miss Hamilton (2l), Mrs. Harrison (5s), Mrs. E. Moore (2s 2s), *Mrs. Carlton Rea (2l), Miss Randall (5s), Mrs. Sandham (2l), Mr. and Mrs. Sampson (5s), G. B. Wetherall, Esq. (5s), Sums under 5s. (£1 0s. 6d.), Kossova Day Collection (£10 12s.), Sale of Garden Produce (10s. 6d.), Proceeds from Sale of Ring (2l)	25 0 0
*Per Miss MacIntyre, Hon. Treas., Dundee W.S.S.: *Employees Messrs. Spalding & Valentine, Ltd., Pitliph Works, Loches (£4 4s. 3d.), *Employees Messrs. Spalding & Valentine, Ltd., Pitliph Works, Dundee (£1 17s. 7d.), further donation (£2 1s. 9d.), *Employees Messrs. T. L. Miller & Co., Hillside Works (£2 15s. 3d.) (£10 18s. 10d.), being result of Mrs. Sime's work in Dundee, the Misses Farquharson (£2), Mrs. Clarke, proceeds of Sale of Work (£13), Pupils of Tay Street Public School (£1 4s. 6d.), *Pupils of Higher Grade School, Newport, Fife (£1 6s.), William Mackenzie, Esq. (£10), Mrs. Luke (10s.), H. D. K., Perth (2l), Anon. (£1), Mrs. Kennedy (2s 5s.)—£35 5s. 6d. Total, £46 4s. 4d., less expenses, £6 4s.	40 0 4
(For Royaumont, £1 10s. for Dr. Inglis, X-ray apparatus, £29 1s. 6d., balance General Fund)	
Per K. Macpherson, Esq.: Foyers and Miss McHaffie, Nurses' Home, Foyers, Proceeds of Sale of Work (£20 11s. 3d.); per lantern lecture by Miss Bury (£2 13s. 9d.)	53 5 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: per Sale of Flowers (£5 6s. 0d.), less expenses 6s. 0d., for 2nd bed (further)	5 0 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Greenock Girl Guides' Waste Paper Scheme (£3 12s.), Two Small Girl Guides (proceeds of play), (3s. 6d.), of which 2s. 4s. to complete 2nd bed, £3 18s. 6d. for 3rd bed	4 1 6

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Per Miss A. M. Hanmer: Miss R. C. Hanmer	1 0 0
*Per Miss A. F. Beauchamp: Part collection in Tweedsmuir Church; per Rev. W. S. Crockett, further for "Tweeddale," "Neidpath," and "Pebbles" Beds	3 0 0
*Per Miss I. Duff, Hon. Treas. Lenzie W.S.S.	2 0 0
"Irish Lace Scarf"	7 10 0
	Total
	£132,202 14 10d

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	Donor.
"September" (Royaumont) 6 months	Per Miss A. M. Williamson, of 37, Lyon Road, Edinburgh.
"St. Michel" (Royaumont) (In name of Mary S. Taylor) 6 months	Anon.
"Worcester" (Corsica), 2nd 6 months	Per Miss Williams, Hon. Treas. Worcester W.S.S., 19, Droitchew Road Worcester.

The donation of £41, acknowledged in previous list per Miss Lawder, Co-Treasurer of Girtton and Newnham Colleges War Fund, included £18 additional for the "Girtton Birmingham" Bed.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treas., begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Mrs. Laurie would again bring before the notice of the many friends of the Hospitals the urgent need for further assistance. The demands upon our resources are very great at the present moment.

The severe fighting on the Serbian frontier will entail our New Units being kept up to their full strength, and the additional beds added to the Girtton and Newnham Unit and the Abbaye de Royaumont mean much larger staffs and equipment. Motor-cars, ambulances, and lorries are also urgently needed.

LONDON UNITS.

Subscriptions already acknowledged	£ s. d.	Mrs. Hinde	£ s. d.
14,591 15 4		Mrs. Vera Holme	4 0 0
20 0 0		H. Inglis, Esq.	5 0 0
1,000 0 0		Mrs. Ivory	25 0 0
1 0 0		H. Sefton Jones, Esq.	1 0 0
1 1 0		Mrs. Lovatt	1 0 0
5 0 0		Miss J. Mackie	20 0 0
10 0 0		Mrs. Minthead	2 2 0
5 0 0		Miss A. Pariss	2 2 0
25 0 0		Miss Vicary	2 2 0
3 3 0		Per Miss White (Pupils of Eversley, Folkestone)	2 10 0
13 9		Mrs. Wilkie	50 0 0
10 0		Miss A. L. Wood	15 0
2 2 0			
			£15,780 5 1

The London Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals urgently needs subscriptions for the maintenance of the two Field Hospitals and motor transport section which have lately been sent to Russia. Contributions should be sent to the Joint Treasurers: The Lady Cowdray, and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 58, Victoria Street, London.

Equipment for these Hospitals, also urgently needed, should be sent to the same address. The Equipment Secretary asks specially for cotton and flannel day shirts, pillow cases, pyjamas, hospital suits, and operation stockings.

Office tables and chairs are also needed for the new offices of the London Hospital Committee, to be opened at 66, Victoria Street, S.W.

FEDERATED HOUSEKEEPING.

MADAM,—May I reply briefly to some points in the letters about Federated Housekeeping, published last week?

It seems to me not only unnecessary, but actually undesirable, to purchase the freehold of any existing houses. Except in the matter of concreting store-rooms, the fittings required for the Centre might easily be removable. The ultimately satisfactory home for a Federation would be a group of houses planned and built on purpose for it; but built after experience had defined the precise needs, not before. Therefore, federationists had better not be tied to their present homes by even a very long-lease. The legal position of the managers will be exactly like that of anybody else employed by any association of persons; secretaries of companies, matrons of hospitals, editors of papers, may serve as instances.

Federated housekeeping will certainly fail if the federated households have not enough intelligence to manage their own affairs; but I see no reason for supposing that committees elected by fifty of eighty householders would be less competent than the average members of a Borough Council elected by five thousand or so.

The lady who thinks that federated households will resemble boarding-houses fills me with despair. Was I really so obscure when I tried so hard to be lucid? Families will, if they please, live in federated houses exactly as they do now. No person belonging to the federation will come uninvited into any other person's house; all meals can be brought to the house, and there eaten by the members of the family, alone, who need never set foot inside the common dining-room. Any "average middle-class woman" who felt that she would be "utterly miserable" if she did not "buy and cook little dishes exactly as she wanted them done," would be just as free to make herself happy in that way as she is now. The only change in the family circle will be the setting free of wives and mothers to give to husbands and children the time and attention now spent upon food and servants.

For the hard case of the remote country house I have no cut-and-dried solution, but help may, perhaps, lie in a development of motor services. In parts of America children are collected from villages and conveyed to school centres; some reformers look for the bringing of fruit, milk, and vegetables to depôts in the same way, and the wheels that fetch the produce might conceivably bring meals (packed in heat-retaining boxes), and even daily servants to the lonely household.—Yours, &c.,

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 N. Aberystwyth.—Miss Miles Thomas, Somerville, South Terrace, Aberystwyth.
 H. Bangor.—Hon. Sec., pro tem.: Mrs. M. A. Hughes, 5, Victoria Park, Bangor; or Miss Lampert, Hafordlon, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.
 Branches: Holyhead; Llanfairfechan.
 N. Bargoed.—Miss Parry Jones, 44, Park Road, Bargoed.
 N. Brecon and District.—Miss Garlick, Pontarhonddu, Brecon.
 N. Bridgend.—Mrs. Sloman, Penrhys, 10, Quarrella Road, Bridgend, Glam.
 N. Cardiff and District.—Miss Morris, 132, Queen Street, Cardiff.
 Branch: Penarth.
 N. Carmarthen.—Miss B. A. Holme, Kal-ora, Myrddin Kerr, 38, Sidney Street, Carmarthen.
 H. Carnarvon.—Mrs. E. P. Evans, Roman Villa, Carnarvon; and Miss Ryle Davies, Cartref, Segontium Road South, Carnarvon.
 Branch: Pen-y-groes.
 N. Chepstow.—Miss Edith Smith, 28A, High Street, Chepstow.
 H. Colwyn Bay.—Miss Edith Bates, Brooklands, Old Colwyn.
 H. Cricketh.—Mrs. Walter Jones, Emu, Cricketh.
 H. Holyhead.—see under Bangor.
 N. Kidwelly and Ferryside.—Miss E. M. Meredith, "Brynhyrd," Kidwelly, S. Wales.
 N. Lampeter.—Miss Minnie C. Davies, Velindre House, Lampeter.
 H. Llandudno.—Miss Wright, Preswylfa, Abbey Road, Llandudno.
 N. Llanelly.—Miss Smith, 9, Mha Street, Llanelly.
 H. Llanfairfechan.—see under Bangor.
 N. Llangollen.—Mrs. B. Stewart, Oaklands, Llangollen.
 H. Llanonethelwy.—Mrs. Francis Lewis, Balkan Hill, Aberdovey.
 N. Merthyr and District.—Mrs. W. T. Williams, 1, Lewis Terrace, Heolgerig, Merthyr Tydfil.
 N. Neath, Briton Ferry and District.—Mrs. Tanner, 22, Rugby Avenue, Neath.
 N. Newport, Mon.—Miss Acomb, Ty-gwyn, Clytha Park, Newport, Mon.
 N. Penarth.—see under Cardiff.
 H. Pen-y-groes.—see under Carnarvon.
 H. Penmaenmawr.—Miss A. M. Harker, Glan Afon, Penmaenmawr, and Mrs. Phillip Williams, Cynlas, Penmaenmawr.
 N. Pontypool and District.—Miss Gwladys M. Bailey, The Grove, Pontnewynydd, near Pontypool, and Miss Muriel Moseley, Ty-gwyn, Pontnewynydd.
 N. Port Talbot.—Miss A. M. Hamilton, 9, Yhs Street, Port Talbot.
 H. Rhyl.—Miss Moody, Penlath Street, Pwllheli.
 H. Pwllheli.—see under Rhyl.
 H. Rhyll and District.—Mrs. E. Williams, Portland Studio, High Street, Rhyl.
 N. Swansea.—Mrs. Sarah Jenkins, 30, Bryn-y-mor Crescent, Swansea.
 N. Ystrad Rhondda.—Miss Ridley, The Schools, Blaen Rhondda.

Items of Interest.

The Claims of the Woman Worker.
 The attention of the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE has often been drawn to the question of women's wages. The fairy-tale which for so long obtained belief, that women were being well paid and generally having a prosperous time, has now been destroyed by the facts that are beginning to be known as to the average wages of women munition workers. Wages are not so high as has been generally supposed, and it is also unfortunately true that in addition to the reduced rations which the girls have to put up with, owing to the increased cost of food, there is a deplorable lack of proper accommodation for the women and girl workers during their luncheon hour. Last winter we knew of girls who had to eat the food brought with them from their lodgings or homes whilst they wandered about the lanes around the factories in which they were employed. This happened in all localities. Since then, however, the Young Women's Christian Association has done much to remedy this state of affairs. But there are still many factories where there is no adequate accommodation for the girls to have their meals in comfort, or for taking the rest they so badly need after working for long hours at high pressure. Only those who have actually worked in a munition factory know the difference that a well equipped canteen and rest-room can make in preserving the health and welfare of these women, who were doing their country's work so ungrudgingly and with such cheerful courage.

Again, notwithstanding the departure of so many business men, the commercial and financial stability of this country have been maintained by the ready help of the women who have taken their places—and this in a manner which, I think, has received all too little recognition. The girls who have gone into the offices and shops, and who man our 'buses and check our railway tickets, are perhaps not doing such arduous work as the munition workers, but to many of them the work is new, the hours are often long, and the pay, except in a few instances, is not so good as the men received. With small salary wherewith to meet increased prices, these girls have perforce to frequent the cheaper restaurants, which are consequently over-crowded, and they have no place except the streets where they can go to spend the rest of their luncheon hour. This is bad enough in summer, but how much worse it will be in the cold, rough, and possibly snowy weather in the coming winter! The Y.W.C.A. aims at providing restaurants where the girls may obtain good, nourishing meals, and rest-rooms where tired minds and bodies may be refreshed amid quiet surroundings.

For this great war-time work, funds are urgently needed. Among the countless claims on our help, surely this one should take a high place. We are "out" to help the potential mothers of the race. Of what use will be the tremendous sacrifices of the war, if to a depleted stock of men is added an anaemic and war-worn race of women? Their claim is of national importance, and it should make a powerful appeal to our patriotism, as well as to our humanity. £500 will provide a rest-room and canteen complete; £20 will provide and furnish a cubicle; £5 will furnish a cubicle; £1 will provide a bed. All donations may be sent to Lord Sydenham or to myself at 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W. E. PICTON-TURBEVILLE.

Training for the Land.

At a meeting last week of the Pembrokeshire War Agricultural Committee, an interesting experiment was reported demonstrating the ability of women to take the place of men on farms during the war. In July a local farmer placed four acres at the disposal of the women of the locality on condition that the work, from the mowing to the gathering in was done exclusively by them. The challenge was promptly accepted, and the hay was harvested in excellent condition.

The South Yorkshire Women's War Agricultural Committee reports a valuable training scheme, intended primarily for girls who have had a good education, and hope to fill positions of responsibility on farms, which has been started at Bawtry, in South Yorkshire by Mrs. Hubert Peake, Hon. Sec. of the Committee. She has arranged at her own expense a short training course, with headquarters at Plumtre Farm, Bawtry. There, in addition to housing, a fortnight's preparation and practice in ordinary

farm and field work is given free under the principal, Mrs. S. de Wilton. Instruction is given in milking, stock tending, stable cleaning, grooming and handling horses; in field labour, in planting, hoeing, and weeding, the gathering and storing of crops, and in the use of implements. There is a stipulation that at the end of the course each volunteer shall proceed to the post selected for her, and carry out her undertaking.

It is anticipated that at the beginning of the New Year there is likely to be a great demand for women who have received some training in agricultural work, and the Women's Land Service Corps, 50, Upper Baker Street, W., are anxious to hear from educated women who are willing to train.

The Professional and Business Women's League has been founded to help women who work at a profession or business, should they be so unfortunate as to fall seriously ill. The League steps in where the Insurance Act leaves off, and aims at providing treatment in a private ward in a large general hospital for members who are considered suitable for treatment, and who are unable to pay the cost of a nursing home and the necessary medical or surgical fees. One bed has been secured already, and negotiations are proceeding by which other beds may be put at the disposal of members. All donations and subscriptions can be sent to the Secretary, Miss Mildred Ransom, 195 and 197, Edgware Road, London, W., who will furnish all information as to conditions of membership.

At the annual conference of the Municipal Tramways Association last week, Mr. Peter Fisher, in his presidential address, stated that there are now 8,600 women employed on tramways—8,433 conductors and 176 drivers. The splendid manner in which women had taken up this work and the facility with which they had adapted themselves to the new employment had earned for them the approbation alike of the tramway authorities and of travellers.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow has started a scheme whereby women will relieve the military of the duty of handing over pensions to wounded soldiers and sailors. They will visit the men's homes weekly to pay over the Government allowances.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- OCTOBER 2.**
 Bingly.—Members' meeting—Speaker: Miss G. Cooke, on "The Present Position of the Suffrage Question" 4.15
 Birmingham.—Bradford Street Mothers' Meeting—Motherhood—Mrs. Atlee 3.0
 Birmingham.—Erdington Baptist Church—Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 3.0
 Camberwell.—Lantern Lecture, Women's Meeting, Oakley Place Chapel, Old Kent Road, S.E.—Speaker: Miss Morris, on "Women's Service in War-Time" 3.0
 Worcester.—In the Vaulted Hall, the Deapery, a meeting for members and friends—Speaker: Miss Maud Royden—Subject: "Women's Service—The Next Steps" 3.0
OCTOBER 3.
 Birmingham.—Sparkbrook Women's Liberal Association—Mrs. Knight 7.30
 Cambridge.—Members' meeting, 20, Green Street—Speaker: Miss E. Falliser, "Women on the New Parliamentary Register"—Chairman: Mrs. Heitland 3.0
 Doncaster.—Members' meeting—Speaker: Miss G. Cooke, on "The Present Position of the Suffrage Question" 5.30
OCTOBER 4.
 Accrington.—Meeting at the Town Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Conway, M.A.—Chair: Mrs. Belsey
 Bristol.—Re-opening of Patriotic Club, Newfoundland Road—Speaker: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 3.0
 Fulham.—Annual Meeting, 20, Talgarth Road, West Kensington—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram, on "The Suffrage Question at the Present Time" 5.0
 Lambeth.—Afternoon Rally at Alfred House, 10, Lambeth Walk—Subject: "Child Welfare"—Speaker: Dr. Jessie White—Chair: Miss Phillips Anderson 3.0
 Leeds.—Girls' High School—Members' meeting—Speaker: Miss G. Cooke, on "The Work of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia" 4.30

- OCTOBER 5.**
 Carlisle.—Mrs. Chance at Home—Speaker: Miss G. Cooke, on the "Work of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia" 5.0
OCTOBER 11.
 Manchester.—A meeting for members and friends will be held at the Minor Hall, Y.M.C.A., Peter Street. Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher will give an address on "The Political Position of Women's Suffrage"—Chair: Mrs. Waterhouse 5.30

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30	19	46	76
40	23	63	120

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- POSITIONS VACANT.**
 ENERGETIC GIRL WANTED to run small house, with some outside help. Gentlewoman preferred.—Box 6,103, COMMON CAUSE Office.
 LADY Cook required, October; age 30; farmer's St. Albans.
 LADY NURSE—College or other training. One healthy boy, nineteen months. East London. Opportunity social work. £24-£30.—A., 41, Ottavabldgs., Poplar, E.
 LADY wanted (Yorkshire) to help mother with four children (ages 10 to 2), two elder at school; no special training needed, but used to children.—Box 6,110, COMMON CAUSE Office.
 WANTED, Secretary for newly formed National Council for Adult Suffrage (Votes for all men and women); shorthand and typing essential.—Apply by letter, stating salary, to Offices of above Society, 27, Chancery-lane, E.C.

- POSITIONS WANTED.**
 HAUFFEUSE, experienced, seeks post, London; 35s.-40s.—Box 6,092, COMMON CAUSE Office.
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 GENTLEMAN seeks post as lady-cook or house-keeper-companion. First-class certificate; no rough work; no cards.—Frederica, Box 6,100, COMMON CAUSE Office.
 (Continued on page 320.)

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

Continued from page 319.]

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TO HERB GROWERS.—1,500 fine young chamomile plants (*Athemis nobilis*) for sale at 2s. 6d. a hundred, or 3s. 6d. a dozen. Carriage extra.—Lady Chance, Orchards, Godalming.

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