

*N. U. Federation
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Central Counties*

National Union of Women's Suffrage
Societies.

**CENTRAL COUNTIES
FEDERATION.**

ANNUAL REPORT,

January, 1914—May, 1915.

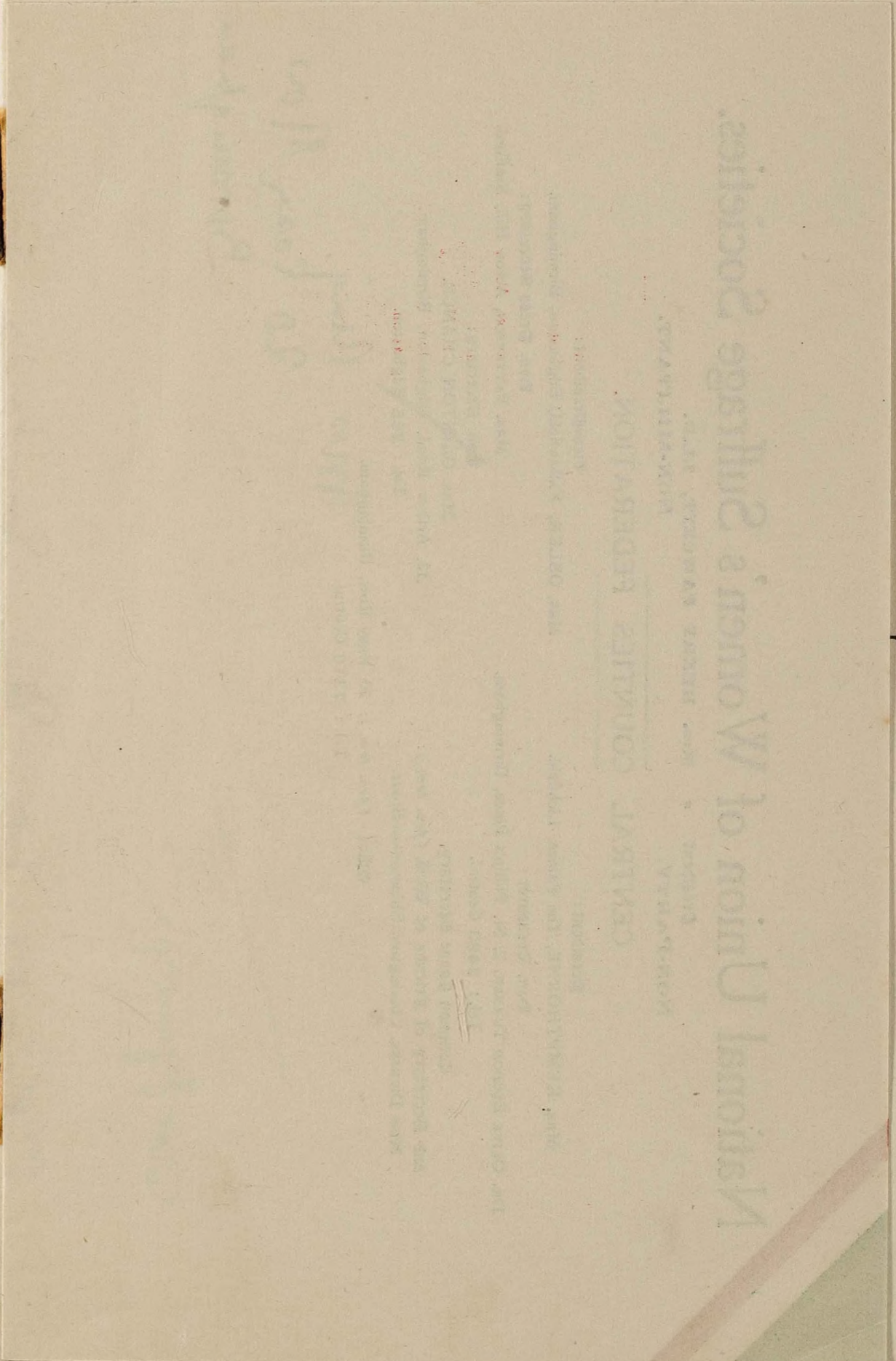
P PAMPHLET

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FEDERATION, IN BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 30th, 1915.

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National Union of Women's Suffrage



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National Union of Women's Suffrage

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President = Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
NON-PARTY. NON-MILITANT.

CENTRAL COUNTIES FEDERATION.

President: Mrs. KEMPTHORNE, The Palace, Lichfield.
 Vice-President: Mrs. OSLER, Fallowfield, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 Hon. Treasurer: Hon. Press Secretary: Mrs. PATTERSON, Acton Hill, Stafford.
 DR. OLIVE ELGOOD TURNER, 2, St. Philip's Place, Birmingham.
 Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CLYNTON CHANCE,
 and Secretary of Friends of W.S. (pro. tem.): 12, Arthur Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 Miss Dickens, Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour. Tel.: 385 Edgbaston.

Office: (pro. tem.): 20, Easy Row, Birmingham.
 Tel.: 7310 Central.

*Mrs. King
20 Easy Row
Birmingham*

With the late Hon. Secretaries

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**CENTRAL COUNTIES
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ANNUAL REPORT,

January, 1914—May, 1915.

**REFERENCE
ONLY**

FAWCETT COLLECTION

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FEDERATION, IN BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 30th, 1915.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

CENTRAL COUNTIES FEDERATION.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- President*—Mrs. KEMPTHORNE, The Palace, Lichfield.
Vice-President—Mrs. OSLER, Fallowfield, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Hon. Press Secretary—Mrs. PATTERSON, Acton Hill, Stafford.
Hon. "Common Cause" Secretary, and Secretary of Friends of W.S. (pro. tem.)—Miss DICKINS, Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour.
Hon Treasurer—Dr. OLIVE ELGOOD TURNER, 2, St. Philip's Place, Birmingham. Tel.: 3493 Central.
Secretary—Mrs. RING, 20, Easy Row, Birmingham. Tel.: 7310 Central.

SOCIETIES & REPRESENTATIVES.

- Birmingham*—Mrs. HARRISON BARROW.
 Mrs. CROSSKEY.
 Mrs. HUGHES.
 Mrs. REID.
Coventry—Miss LEONARD.
Dudley—Mrs. COLE.
Lichfield—
Nuneaton—
Olton—Mrs. BENNETT.
Rugby—Miss WALDING.
Shipston-on-Stour—Miss L. DICKINS.
Solihull and District—Mrs. ALLPORT.
Stafford—Miss MACKENZIE.
Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle—Miss CURWEN.
Stratford-on-Avon—Mrs. LOWE.
Sutton Coldfield—Mrs. GOUGH.
Walsall—Miss LOWRY.
Warwick and Leamington—Mrs. HILL.
Wednesbury—Mrs. BRADSWORTH.
West Bromwich—Mrs. LANGLEY BROWNE.
Wolverhampton—Mrs. TAYLOR.

Members, 2,634. Friends, 6,983.

Money received:—By Individual Societies £1,010 0s. 2½d
 By Federation £108 13s. 0d.

RULES.

1. That the name of the Federation shall be the CENTRAL COUNTIES FEDERATION.

2. AREA.—That the area of the Federation shall include the counties of Warwickshire, Staffordshire (with the exception of the Burton-on-Trent division), and the constituencies of Dudley, N. Worcestershire, and those parts of E. Worcestershire which lie in the area of Greater Birmingham.

3. OBJECTS.—That the objects of the Federation shall be:—

- (a) To promote the formation of new Societies in its area.
- (b) To perfect existing organisation in its area.
- (c) To arrange joint meetings, and generally to secure co-operation amongst the Societies in its area.

4. COMMITTEE.

- (a) That the Committee shall consist of a member or members of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., and of representatives of all Women's Suffrage Societies contained within the Federation area and affiliated to the N.U.W.S.S.
- (b) That Societies shall be entitled to send representatives in the following proportions:—
 One representative from each Society having less than 200 members.
 Two representatives from each Society having from 200—500 members.
 Three representatives from each Society having over 500 members.
- (c) That the Federation representatives be elected for the year by their Society, proxies being allowed, the name of the proxy being sent, when possible, to the Hon. Sec. of the Federation beforehand.
- (d) That the honorary officers of the Federation be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary or Secretaries, to be elected annually at the Federation Council, all officers to be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.
- (e) That every member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. who belongs to any Society within the Federation, shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Federation Committee.
- (f) That Committee Meetings be held on the last Thursday of every alternate month.

5. FINANCE.

- (a) That each Society in the Federation pay an affiliation fee of 1s. in the £ (reckoned on its Annual Income in subscriptions in its last Annual Report), with a minimum of 12s 6d. and a maximum of £5. Fees to be due in June.
- (b) That subscriptions be payable upon joining the Federation, or within six months of doing so.
- (c) That the accounts of the Federation shall be audited annually by an auditor approved by the Committee.
- (d) That the expenses of an Organiser be paid by the Society, for which she is working, but that her fares be paid out of the funds of the Federation.

6. MEMBERS.—Any person wishing to join the N.U.W.S.S., and not being within reach of a Branch, may be enrolled as a Federation member, with a minimum annual subscription of 1s.

7. GENERAL.—That all correspondence be sent to Secretaries of Societies.

8. That in any town where a Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies exists, no scheme of work shall be undertaken by the Federation officers without the previous approval of the Local Committee, unless by special mandate of the N.U. Executive.

9. That no Society within the Federation area shall undertake work in unbroken ground within the Federation without immediately notifying the Secretary of the Federation.

ANNUAL MEETING.

1. The Financial Year shall end on May 31st each year, and the Annual Meeting of the Federation Council shall be held in different towns by invitation.

- (a) To receive and adopt, if approved, the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year.
- (b) To elect the officers of the Federation.
- (c) To appoint three delegates, of whom the Secretary of the Federation shall *ex-officio* be one, to attend the Provincial Council.
- (d) To transact other business, of which 21 days' notice has been given to the Secretary of the Federation, and 14 days' notice by her to the Secretaries of Societies. Business for which urgency has been voted may also be considered.

2. Six weeks' notice of the date of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to Secretaries of Societies.

3. The Annual Meeting shall be attended by:—

Voters:—

- (a) The Officers and Executive Committee for the time being.
- (b) One representative for 20—50 members, two representatives for 50—100 members, and one representative for each additional completed 100. No Society to have more than 6 delegates, proxies being allowed.

Non-Voters:—

Members of any Society in the Federation, provided that these do not vote nor speak, and that they sit in the places allotted to them.

4. Special Meetings of the Council may be called by the Executive Committee, and shall be called at any time, at the request of five Societies in the Federation.

5. Such request shall reach the Secretary of the Federation 14 days before the meeting, and 7 days' notice of the meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each Society within the Federation, and such request and notice shall indicate the business for which the Special Meeting is desired and called respectively. No other business shall be taken at a Special Meeting unless urgency is voted.

6. No resolution shall be put on the final Agenda of the Annual Meeting which has not been proposed and seconded by the representatives of two separate Societies, or by the officers of the Executive.

7. No alteration shall be made in the Rules, except at an Annual Meeting, or at a special Council Meeting, of which due notice has been given.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The First Annual Meeting of the Central Counties' Federation was held on Wednesday, June 30th, 1915, in Queen's College, Birmingham. The following Societies were represented:—Birmingham, Olton, Rugby, Solihull, Stafford, Stratford, and West Bromwich; and a large number of members and friends were present. An apology was received from Shipston and from thirteen Presidents or Vice-Presidents. A Business Meeting was held at 4 p.m., when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were read and approved and the officers re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. Chance, whose resignation had been received. A suggestion was made by the Committee of the Birmingham Society that the Federation might be glad to avail themselves of the services of Mrs. Ring, half of whose time might be given to Federation work and half to Birmingham Society work. This suggestion was cordially received and referred to the Executive Committee for consideration. Miss Higginson recommended Societies to consider the advisability of allowing urgency resolutions at Council Meetings other than those proposed by the Executive, as she considered important matters were sometimes hurriedly dealt with, which should have been sent to the Societies for consideration before the Council Meeting. She also urged Societies to engage a Lecturer on War Cookery during the autumn months.

At five o'clock Mrs. Fawcett spoke to the meeting on "The Position and Future Work of the National Union," explained the decisions of the recent Council Meeting, and outlined the kinds of work in which all members of the National Union could unite. Mrs. Kempthorne presided.

Miss Matheson proposed and Rev. A. Cohen seconded a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Kempthorne.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The Central Counties' Federation dates from January, 1914. It originated then from the division of the late West Midland Federation, and is composed of Staffordshire (with the exception of the Burton-on-Trent division), Warwickshire, and the constituencies of Dudley, N. Worcestershire, and those parts of S. Worcestershire which lie in the area of Greater Birmingham.

Miss Watson was appointed Head Organiser, and plans of work were at once made for the new Federation. Unfortunately, owing to the sudden illness of Miss Watson in the beginning of February, these had for the most part to be abandoned.

An appeal for funds which she had initiated was, however, successfully carried out.

During the early months of 1914, in addition to Miss Watson's short stay, the Federation secured the services of Miss Thurstan, Mrs. Townley, and Miss Preston. Miss Thurstan worked from the beginning of January until the Council Meeting in February. She visited Langley Green, Oldbury, Halesowen, Wolverhampton, Solihull, Small Heath, Wednesbury, Sutton Coldfield, and Leamington, and spoke at one of Miss Kirby's meetings in Edgbaston on women's work, and to a large meeting for Nurses in the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.

Mrs. Townley, who worked for the Federation during January and February, gave her time to Trades Union work exclusively. She addressed meetings of the National Union of Railwaymen at Wolverhampton and Walsall, of the Trades Council and the Miners' Council at Walsall, of the Toolmakers, and of the Railwaymen at Wednesbury, of the Trades Council at Tipton. The resolution demanding a Government measure was passed at each of these meetings, unanimously at all except two. She also called on several Secretaries of other Trade Union, two of whom arranged to attend the Albert Hall Demonstration.

Miss Preston came to the Federation in the end of February and stayed until the end of May. During the first month she worked mainly in the N. Worcestershire constituency, but

also in E. Worcestershire, Handsworth, and Aston Manor constituencies, mainly in connection with Trade Unions, Brotherhoods, Sisterhoods, P.S.A. meetings, etc. During April she worked for the Birmingham Society, and in April and May for the Federation in starting a branch Society at Bilston, where a meeting was held at which 14 members and 22 Friends were gained. She also spent some time at Sutton Coldfield and at Solihull.

At the end of the first half-year, January—June, 1914, a return was made for Headquarters which showed that the Societies in the Federation had held 93 meetings, and that 58 political and other associations, after an address by a Suffragist, had passed resolutions (in nearly every case the resolution put was that demanding a Government measure). These figures, however, leave out of account all meetings called by bodies other than the Suffrage Societies but addressed by our Suffrage speakers and where no resolution was put or where it was lost, and therefore a large number of meetings of educational value are not included.

In July Mrs. Streeter was appointed Head Organiser, and plans were again made for work throughout the Federation, including the appointment of Miss Shakespeare as Organising Secretary for a group of Societies which required special attention. The plans had to be abandoned on the outbreak of war.

Since August, 1914, the Federation has not carried on any direct Suffrage propaganda, nor has it employed an Organiser, as no Society found scope for such help in the Relief work undertaken. The Federation, however, at the suggestion of the West Bromwich Society, has already raised £50 for a "Central Counties" bed in the Scottish Hospital, and is now collecting donations towards a second £50.

It has been a pleasure to learn that one of the Serbian Units was stopped at Malta on its way out and asked by the Governor to stay for a fortnight and nurse our own men wounded in the fighting at the Dardanelles, and to learn how splendidly they did their work there.

A return of work done in the Federation between August and December 31st was compiled for the Press Department and showed the following results for those five months, the figures given referring solely to work undertaken by Societies as such (except where otherwise stated), and does not include any of the work our members have done as private individuals.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE N.U. SERVING ON LOCAL DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

Birmingham, 29; Coventry, 3; Rugby, 4; Nuneaton, 5; Shipston, 1; Solihull, 2; Stafford, 1; Stoke-on-Trent, 5; Stratford-on-Avon, 4; Walsall, 2; Warwick and Leamington, 5; Wednesbury, 1; West Bromwich, 10; Wolverhampton, 7. Total, 79.

NUMBER OF WORKROOMS ESTABLISHED.

Birmingham, 2.

OTHER METHODS OF GIVING EMPLOYMENT.

Wolverhampton—paying for the making of maternity outfits; four women were employed.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER WORKERS REGISTERED.

Birmingham, 319; Rugby, 12 (only a preliminary register).

MATERNITY WORK.

The Birmingham Society interviewed the authorities, who said "they had the matter in hand"; and ran a Dinner Room for nursing and expectant mothers, with free medical advice, medicine, maternity bags, etc.

The Rugby Society opened a "School for Mothers" in November in a poor part of the city. Thirty mothers and babies attended.

A scheme was started by our Stoke Society, in co-operation with all other women's societies. Six maternity centres for the feeding of mothers were started. The Society also co-operated in a scheme to force on the organisation of Maternity Centres in the Five Towns and Newcastle.

The Coventry Society worked with other women's organisations for the establishment of a Municipal "Centre."

Solihull and Wolverhampton made maternity outfits.

NO WORK IN CAMPS has been done in the Federation.

PATROL WORK.

In Warwick and Leamington the Patrol work was initiated and officered by the W.S.S.

In Birmingham the W.S.S. co-operated with the National Union of Women Workers.

FRUIT PRESERVING.

The Birmingham Society—for Maternity Centres.

The Rugby Society circulated the recipes of the Horticultural Society.

BELGIAN REFUGEE WORK.

The Warwick and Leamington Society opened a Fund and collection of garments at the office and worked in connection with the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and the Church League for Women's Suffrage.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS SERVING IN RED CROSS AND HOSPITAL WORK.

Birmingham, number uncertain. Rugby: The Commandant, Quartermaster, and "many" nurses, in charge of a School Sanatorium full of wounded Belgian soldiers, were members of the W.S.S. Shipston, 4; Solihull, about 15; Stoke, 3; Coventry, 3; West Bromwich, 8.

AMOUNTS COLLECTED.

Prince of Wales' Fund.—West Bromwich, £6 8s.; Wednesbury, £2 2s.

Queen's Work for Women Fund.—Rugby, £2 2s. 6d.; Nuneaton, £2; Warwick and Leamington, £6 18s.; Wolverhampton, £12 7s. 6d.

Other Funds.—Coventry, for Tipperary Club, £30. Birmingham: Women's Workroom, £260; Maternity Dinners, £90. Solihull: Relief work, £10. Walsall: Hospital at Dovercourt, 10s. a month. Warwick and Leamington, in conjunction with other holders of W.S. office: Belgian Relief Fund, £15 16s. 2d. West Bromwich: Gifts of furniture and provisions for refugees; shirts, socks and mittens for soldiers; and clothes for soldiers' dependents. Wolverhampton: Towards salary of lady worker at Himley Camp, £2. Wednesbury: For Women's Red Cross Needlework Committee, £1 1s.

PRESS WORK.

Federation Hon. Press Secretary—Mrs. PATTERSON, Acton Hill, Stafford.

LOCAL PRESS SECRETARIES.

Birmingham.—Mrs. RING, 20, Easy Row, Birmingham.

Coventry.—Miss Wilks, Hon. Sec., 76, Holyhead Road, Coventry.

Crick and Rugby.—Mrs. Roberts, Hon. Press Sec., Crick Rectory, Rugby.

Lichfield.—No Society.

Nuneaton.—No Hon. Secs. at present.

Olton.—Miss A. B. ROBINSON, Hon. Press Sec., Fairview, St. Bernard's Road, Olton.

Rugby.—See Crick.

Shipston-on-Stour.—Miss L. DICKINS, Hon. Sec., Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour.

Solihull and District.—Mrs. HASTINGS, Hon. Press Sec., St. Elens, Solihull.

Stafford.—Mrs. PATTERSON, Hon. Press Sec., Acton Hill, Stafford.

Stoke-on-Trent and District.—Miss K. BATHWELL, Hon. Press Sec., Mount Pleasant, Newcastle, Staffs.

Stour.—No Society.

Stratford-on-Avon.—Mrs. CAMERON STUART, Hon. Sec., The Firs, Stratford-on-Avon.

Sutton Coldfield.—Mrs. GOUGH, Hon. Press Sec., Brook Farm, Little Sutton, Sutton Coldfield.

Walsall.—Miss LOWRY, Hon. Sec., 74, Lysways Street, Walsall.

Warwick and Leamington.—Miss D. HARRIS, Hon. Press Sec. (unofficial), 16, Gaviston Road, Leamington.

Wednesbury.—Miss G. WESTBY, Organiser, 20, Market Place, Wednesbury.

West Bromwich.—Mrs. LANGLEY BROWN, Hon. Sec., Moor House, West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton.—Miss PEARSON, Hon. Press Sec., Wodin, Tettenthal Road, Wolverhampton.

Total number of Papers in area, 101.

Our existence as the "Central Counties" unfortunately begins with the loss of the able directorship of Mrs. Harley as Federation Press Secretary.

The first few months of the year showed a steady improvement in the Press work, and Editors displayed a general willingness to insert Suffrage copy. Reports of local meetings and correspondence were welcomed, and in some cases articles and Headquarters news.

The outbreak of Militancy in one or two districts unfortunately checked progress in some of the Societies, and in certain cases the Press was inclined to confuse the tactics of the two organisations. They, however, published letters of protest and explanation when sent by the Societies.

Later, when war was declared, there was for a time a cessation of Suffrage news, but the fine handling of the situation by the Executive of the N.U., with their effective schemes for the relief of distress, etc., and the prompt and splendid response of the Societies to their appeal, soon changed matters, and Editors willingly gave accounts of relief work in its many branches.

The work women were doing on Citizens' Committees, in connection with Belgian Refugees, and later in equipping and sending Military Hospitals to the Front, was generously recognised; though in a few cases that much of this was the work of Suffragists was ungenerously ignored.

The tone of the Press is, however, I think, generally encouraging, and I believe that with judicious local handling it should assist materially in sustaining and deepening Suffrage tendencies amongst its readers.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking those who have so kindly co-operated with me in the Press Work of the Federation, especially those who have sent cuttings as well as reports. I know that, however interesting the work may be, it is both tedious and exacting, but to gain the powerful influence of the Press is surely worth every effort in our power.

JANE WALDRON PATTERSON,
Federation Hon. Press Secretary.

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES.

Birmingham.—The Hon. Sec. reports: "Our Press is notoriously bad on Suffrage, but there have been good results in that direction since relief work has been undertaken by the

Society, under the Citizens' Committee. The *Gazette and Dispatch* are more favourable than the *Post and Mail*. The *Post* is improving, and publishes many of Mrs. Osler's capital letters."

Crick and Rugby.—The Hon. Press Sec. reports: "Both the Rugby papers have a fair record this year. *The Advertiser* publishes no leaders, or comments on any subject, but it has published occasional letters dealing with Suffrage questions, and it always gives excellent reports of local meetings. *The Observer* began well but turned against us at the time of the District Council Election, when our President was a candidate. Remonstrance on the part of the Secretary and the Press Secretary, however, has brought about a renewal of response to Suffrage copy, and sympathetic references to the work of Suffragists have appeared since the outbreak of the war."

Coventry.—No report.

Dudley.—No press work, through unavoidable causes.

Lichfield.—No report.

Nuneaton.—The President reports that "The Editors of the three local papers have not fulfilled their promises to Mrs. Harley to insert paragraphs from the *Weekly Notes*."

Olton.—Hon. Sec. reports: "The *Birmingham News* inserts any Suffrage matter sent. The burning of the Tennis Pavilion paralysed Suffrage work for a time. Letters of repudiation with militancy were published in the local press, which is friendly."

Shipton-on-Stour.—Hon. Sec. reports: "That both the *Evesham Journal* and *Evesham Standard* give occasional reports of Suffrage work. The former published a correspondence between the Hon. Sec. and an Anti, and will sometimes publish articles on the Women's Suffrage Movement."

Solihull and District.—The Hon. Sec., Mrs. Alport, reports that the *Birmingham News*, which she says "has not been very friendly to us" published a letter from her dissociating the Society from the Militants, who were active in Birmingham at the time.

Stafford.—The three local papers have excellent records this year, especially the *Advertiser*, which publishes some Suffrage news almost every week.

Stoke-on-Trent and District.—The Hon. Sec., Miss M. Barke, reports that the *Staffordshire Sentinel* refuses to put in any but local news. Its Editor told Mrs. Harley that "he put in all the Suffrage news he could get."

Stone.—No Society. The *Staffordshire Chronicle* regarded as the local paper.

Stratford-on-Avon.—The Federation Press Secretary has received no report from this Society, but learns from headquarters that the *Stratford-on-Avon Herald* has inserted practically nothing.

Sutton Coldfield.—No press cuttings sent in but the Hon. Press Sec., Mrs. Brook, reported an excellent scheme being worked for cottage meetings.

Walsall.—The President reports that both the *Advertiser* and *Observer* inserted the Society's offer to the Mayor to cooperate in relief work; they also showed much indignation against Militancy.

Warwick and Leamington.—The Hon. Sec. sends excellent cuttings, and reports a good response by the local papers in inserting Suffrage news. These included a report of the Annual General Council Meeting, 1914, correspondence with an Anti, and appeal, etc., in connection with the Belgian Refugees.

Wednesbury.—The Organiser reports that good accounts are given by the three local papers, of general work done by the Society, and on Relief Committee work.

West Bromwich.—The Hon. Sec. reports that "the only newspapers we attempt to do anything with here are the *Free Press* (U.), and the *Midland Chronicle* (Ind.). Neither is unfriendly, and both report our meetings fairly well, but it is very difficult to get any Suffrage news, except what is quite local in interest, into the columns of either. Letters from the Hon. Sec. are always willingly inserted.

Wolverhampton.—The Hon. Sec. reports a very general improvement in the local press before the war, and has sent in many excellent cuttings.

FRIENDS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Report of "Friends" in the Central Counties' Federation, exclusive of Birmingham.

The "Friends" scheme is worked with varying success by Coventry, Dudley, Lapworth, Nuneaton, Olton, Rugby, Shipston-on-Stour, Stafford, Stoke, Stratford-on-Avon, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Warwick and Leamington, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and Wolverhampton. According to the replies I have received from Secretaries in 1914 and 1915 the total number of Friends in the Federation is 2,170; Wolverhampton leading the way with 600, followed by Coventry with 420, and Walsall bringing up the rear with 18.

In Rugby, Warwick and Leamington, and Shipston the Friends have been systematically visited. In these places and also in Coventry, Dudley, Solihull and Stoke they are given notices of all meetings. At Coventry, West Bromwich and Rugby the Quarterly Leaflet has been on sale at meetings; Wolverhampton has sold it regularly; Shipston (having only 25 Friends) has sold or given it regularly to each one. Rugby expresses great regret at its discontinuance.

The Wolverhampton Friends held a Jumble Sale in February in aid of the Queen's Work for Women Fund. Some of the Rugby Friends have been very useful in taking round literature. At Stratford a few small meetings with talks on social subjects have been held in the Secretary's house. At Sutton Coldfield 12 Friends subscribed pennies for one of their number to become a member and represent them.

I have the cards of ten Friends who are not connected with any Society. So long as it was published I sent them all the Quarterly Leaflet.

LILIAN DICKINS.

The number of "Friends" in Birmingham is 4,640.

BIRMINGHAM.

President: Mrs. A. C. OSLER, Fallowfield, Norfolk Rd., Edgbaston.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. J. K. REID, Chad Road, Edgbaston.

Secretary: Mrs. RING. *Office*: 20, Easy Row.

Assist. Secretary: Miss K. WALFORD.

Hon. Secretary "Friends of Women's Suffrage": Miss KIRBY,
43, Frederick Road, Edgbaston.

Federation Representatives: Mrs. REID, Mrs. HARRISON BARROW,
Mrs. HUGHES, Mrs. CROSSKEY.

Membership, 955. Friends, 4,640. Money received:—£351 10s. 5d.
(Ordinary Fund); £376 4s. 0d. (Special Fund for Work-
room and Maternity Dinners).

Birmingham, like all other National Union Societies, has, since August last, abandoned political work for work connected with war relief, and especially relief for women and children. The Society has increased in numbers to 955, more than a third of whom have devoted themselves assiduously to relief work, thirty serving as officers of the various Committees organised by the City.

Before the war a suffrage campaign among Men's Trades Unions was conducted, and Birmingham sent more delegates than any other Society to the Mass Meeting in the Albert Hall on Feb. 14th, 1914. A most useful piece of work was the holding of a suffrage stall in the Trades Exhibition of that year; it awakened much interest and discussion in the visitors, and almost resolved itself into a permanent suffrage meeting with an ever changing audience during the ten weeks the Exhibition lasted.

The Friends of Women's Suffrage belonging to the Birmingham Society and its Branch Society, Bournville, number officially 4,640; but the work undertaken during the war has won a great number of previously indifferent or hostile people to be warm friends and advocates of our Cause.

The Society in Birmingham, besides supplying helpers for many other organisations engaged in relief work, held during the winter of 1914-1915 two workrooms for women thrown out of work owing to the war (one of which was organised by the Bournville Branch, in co-operation with the Women's Co-operative Guild), and also conducted a Dinner Room for Nursing and Expectant Mothers in one of the poorest parts of the City, where free medical advice and medicine could be obtained, if

needed, in addition to the penny dinners. Assistance was given from the office to the work organised among women and girls by the League of Honour; and members of our Society also took an active part in the Women's Patrol Movement, and the Girls' Club, inaugurated by that body. Much of the work described above is being steadily continued, some of it has been suspended, as the need declined, and the efforts of the Society are being turned in the direction of the study of War, its Causes and Effects, a vast and complex subject, but one which those who are willing to undertake the responsibility of the vote should endeavour to understand in all its bearings. When the times are again normal we hope to share more fully in the corporate life of our Central Counties Federation, for we greatly value the mutual help and co-operation amongst neighbouring Societies which the Federation makes possible.

COVENTRY.

President: Mrs. S. BRIGHT.

Hon. Sec. and Federation Representative: Miss LEONARD,
Haw Thorns, Stoke Green, Coventry.

Membership, 200. Friends, 600. Money received:—Subscriptions
not collected in war-time.

The Coventry Society has been very much handicapped by the loss of its organiser, Miss Rogers, in May, 1914. When war broke out, the Society offered its services to the Lord Mayor, but the offer was not accepted. Individual members are serving, but not officially from the Society. In November the Society joined other organisations in maternity work, and a Centre has recently been started on one day a week, with the Suffrage Society's late Secretary as Organiser, and is proving a success. In February the Society initiated a Tipperary Club, which has proved a success also. Three rooms are open from 12.30 every day, and there are 300 members on the books. The Suffrage Society's Secretary is also Secretary of this Club.

DUDLEY.

Dudley has no work to report since the outbreak of war. The Society is in abeyance at present owing to the resignation of officers, but the Federation hope to reinstate it as early as possible.

LICHFIELD.

The Lichfield Society has been in abeyance since the outbreak of war. The Federation Committee hopes to assist the remaining members to rebuild the Society as soon as it is advisable to start suffrage propaganda again.

NUNEATON.

Correspondence to— Mrs. MATHER, The Garden Gate, The Long Shoot, Nuneaton.

Arrangements had been made in Nuneaton for a special effort during the winter of 1914-15, but these had to be cancelled owing to the war. The "Friends" Secretary has left the town, and the membership has been somewhat reduced; but those that remain hope to revive the Society when the war is over.

OLTON.

President: Miss SMYTH, Hulver, Olton.

Hon. Press Secretary: Miss AMY ROBINSON, Fairview, Olton.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BENNETT, Trimpey, Olton.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. S. SMITH, Kingston House, Warwick Road Olton.

Federation Representative: Mrs. HUSBAND.

Membership, 45. Friends, 30. Money received, £3 10s. 0d

The Annual Meeting for 1914 was held Friday, Feb. 27th, in the Kineton Road Schoolroom. The Rev. Newman Hall took the chair, and Miss Matheson gave an interesting address on "Woman and Labour."

There have been five Committee Meetings only during the year commencing January 1914 and ending March 1915, and two Drawing-Room Meetings. The first Drawing-Room Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 13th, when Mrs. Bracey (Birmingham Guardian) spoke to us on the subject of "Children under the Poor Law."

Second Drawing-Room Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 25th, when Miss Jackson, our late President, gave a lecture on "Woman's Work in War Time."

RUGBY.

President: Mrs. STEEL, Brookside, Rugby.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss LEESON, 14, Pennington Street, Rugby

Hon. Secretary: Miss WALDING, The Limes, Rugby.

Hon. Press Secretary: Mrs. ROBERTS, Crick Rectory.

Hon. Friends of W.S.S. Secretary: Mrs. SYMONDS, 15, Bilton Rd.

Hon. Literature Secretary: Miss R. SIZE, Tyntesfield, Rugby.

Membership, 127. Friends, 120. Money received, £16 14s. 9d.

On May 25th our President, Mrs. Steel, represented the Housewives' Committee at the Urban District Council Election for the Rugby Central Ward, but was defeated by Mr. Newman by 504 to 188 votes. This was the first time a woman has contested a Rugby Urban Council Election, and scares of "Suffragette" (with much opposition from the Conservative Club) were sedulously spread!

On July 24th an Informal Garden Meeting was held at Bilton Rise, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Merttens. Mr. Merttens spoke on the "Duty of Women to prepare themselves for the vote," and Miss Size also spoke. A resolution was passed, cordially supporting The Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and copies forwarded to the Bishop of London and John Baird, M.P.

On the outbreak of war the Rugby W.S.S. at once announced their intention of giving up political for relief work, and offered their services and use of the office to the Urban District Council. The Chairman (we have no Mayor in Rugby) replied with polite thanks, and no work being allotted to our Society we set to work to open a "School for Mothers" in New Bilton (a poor suburb of Rugby) on the lines of the already existing Rugby Mothers and Babies Welcome. We have now more than 30 Mothers and Babies on our books, a Doctor and Health Visitor in attendance, Cookery and Needlework Classes, and regular visiting by lady helpers. We also

sell good second-hand clothing, and special babies food and materials at cost price.

We have had Dr. Lane Clayton from Whitehall to inspect, who has pronounced the school satisfactory, and has promised a grant from the Local Government Board. A large number of our members have been employed in Relief Work, on the S. and S. Wives' Committee, and on the local Red Cross Work, nursing wounded Belgian and English soldiers at the School Sanatorium. On Dec. 15th a General Members' Meeting was held at The Limes, when Mrs. Roberts, our Press Secretary, gave an account of the Relief Work undertaken by the National Union since August. An appeal was made for the Scottish Hospital Fund, and subsequently £5 and £8 have been collected for the French and Serbian "Central Counties Federation" Beds.

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR.

President: The Lady WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE, Compton Verney, Warwick.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss C. HARCOURT, Water Lane, Shipston-on-Stour.

Hon. Secretary: Miss LILIAN DICKINS, Cherington, Shipston-on-Stour.

Membership, 30. Friends, 25. Money received, £2 18s. 0d.

The first general meeting of the Society was held in the Hostel on October the 23rd, Miss Ryder in the chair. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Dorell, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Raikes, Miss Burbidge, Miss Taylor, Miss Masterson, and the Secretary. The Treasurer was kept away by illness. The retiring members of the Committee (the Secretary, Miss Burbidge, and Miss Causton), were re-elected, and Mrs. Pick and Mrs. Parsons were elected to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Miss Jones, and the retirement of Mrs. Charter. The Society's first annual report and balance sheet were read and adopted, the latter showing a welcome balance of 19s. 3d.

On December 17th a social gathering for members and Friends was held in the Hostel. Short papers were read by three members: on "Women's Suffrage and Sex Antagonism," by Miss Taylor; on "What the State does for the Child, and

what it might do," by Miss Harcourt; and on "The State and the Child," by Miss Dickins.

Early in the Spring the Committee began to make arrangements for a public meeting, but owing to the anti-suffragists engaging the Hostel on the only day our speakers could come we were obliged to postpone it until after Easter. This, however, did us little, if any, harm. We had a very good meeting on the 6th of May in the Picture House, the speakers being the Rev. Ingham Brooke and Mrs. Osler—both excellent.

On the 10th of July some of the members and Friends spent a pleasant evening in the orchard at Wistaria House (by the kind invitation of Miss Ryder and Miss Legge). Papers were read by Miss Harwood and Miss Violet Causton.

At the June Committee Meeting it was agreed that the Secretary should write to the Liberal Association, asking the Suffrage views of the prospective candidate for S. Worcestershire. This was done, and an answer received to the effect that Mr. Pierce Ellis was of opinion that "any adult of either sex who paid rates and direct taxes should be entitled to a vote."

The Society numbers 30 members and 25 "Friends"—not such a large increase as we could wish; but many who still hang back from joining are now ready to admit the justice of our cause, especially since the anti-suffrage meeting in March revealed the weakness of anti-suffrage arguments. We have had three house-to-house distributions of leaflets, in which a growing interest has been shown. The number of *Common Causes* taken in the Society is small, but most of them do duty for more than one member. Thirteen members see the *English-woman* regularly. All the "Friends" have had the Quarterly Leaflet.

The thanks of the Society are due to Miss Ryder for allowing the Committee meetings to be held in her house, and for saving much postage by kindly undertaking the delivery of notices.

The Society has been represented at six Federation Committee Meetings during the year (October 1914—October 1915).

Since the outbreak of the war the Society, as such, has done nothing. It is too small and scattered for anything very effective to have been done, and it was felt that members could be more useful in their individual capacity, working at whatever there was to do in their respective parishes.

SOLIHULL AND DISTRICT.

President: Mrs. ALFRED BIRD, Tudor Grange, Solihull.

Chairman: Mrs. E. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. MAURICE DAVIS, Berry Hall, Solihull.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. ALLPORT, One Oak, Solihull.

Hon. Press and Literature Secretary: Mrs. HASTINGS, St. Elmo, Solihull.

Hon. Sec. of Friends of Women's Suffrage: Mrs. WATTS, Livorno, Solihull.

KNOWLE AND DORRIDGE BRANCH.

Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BERNARD TAYLOR, The Old Farm, Bentley Heath.

LAPWORTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

Chairman: Mrs. WALE, The Pound House, Lapworth.

Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary: Miss N. G. PARR, Lapworth Court, Hockley Heath.

Members, 188. Friends, 274. Money received, £54 0s. 2d.

The Solihull and District Branch has fairly maintained its membership strength, which now stands at 188. We have to record a gratifying increase of interest in the Friends of Women's Suffrage Movement—some 200 additional names being added to our list.

Our financial position remains satisfactory, and we have been able to make contributions in many directions, the principal of which are: £5 10s. 6d. to the Mandate Fund; £7 to Birmingham Central Relief; and two Maternity Bags of some £5 value to the Birmingham Centre, as well as gifts of clothing in response to Mrs. Ring's appeal.

Our most interesting meetings have been the following:—A Public Debate at Solihull Public Hall, on January 12, 1914, at which Miss Helen Fraser upheld the Resolution "That women should have the vote as it is or may be given to men." This was opposed on behalf of the Anti-Suffragists by Mrs.

Gladstone Solomon. The debate caused widespread interest and was extremely successful from all points of view.

A Drawing-Room Meeting (Mrs. English, Knowle), at which Miss Irene Cox gave an address on "Women and Girls in Factories and Workshops, and how to help them." Miss Violetta Thurstan in the chair.

A Meeting at the Church House, Solihull, for Friends of Women's Suffrage, when Miss Kirby gave an address and Mrs. Maurice Davis and friends kindly provided a musical entertainment.

A Sale of Work (Mrs. Wale, Lapworth), which realised £8, divided between the Central Counties Federation and the Solihull and District Society.

Our Annual Meeting, held at Sutton Lodge (Mrs. H. Wright's), was very successful. The chair was taken by Dr. Kirby of Edgbaston, and the Rev. G. D. Rosenthal gave a brilliant address. A White Elephant Sale followed, which produced £7 for our funds.

Several meetings of special interest which we had arranged for the Autumn were abandoned owing to the National crisis.

The militant activity early in 1914 was the subject of some discussion and we wrote letters to the press and to influential people dissociating our Society with any but constitutional methods.

Since the outbreak of war, we in common with the other branches of the National Union, have devoted our organisation to Relief Work, perhaps the most interesting manifestation was the meeting held in Public Hall, Solihull, in December, with the object of raising £10 to equip a Field Hospital Bed under the Red Cross. Mrs. Julian Osler presided, and Miss Muriel Matters delivered a charming address on "Women's Work in War Time." The desired amount was readily realised. Our Branch has given some support to the Women's Volunteer Reserve Movement with what promises to be good effect. Mrs. Alfred Bird held a Drawing-Room Meeting at Tudor Grange; Mrs. Porter presided, and Miss Margesson explained the aims and objects of the Reserve. A Committee was formed, which has enrolled numerous recruits. Though the W.V.R. is essentially non-political we feel it merits our influence and sanction as a new departure of feminist usefulness and activity.

STAFFORD.

Chairman: Miss McCREA, Kelvin, Lichfield Road, Stafford.

Hon. Secretary: Miss MACKENZIE, 23, Tipping Street, Stafford.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. MOTT, Brocton, Stafford.

Hon. Press Secretary and Federation Representative:

Mrs. PATTERSON, Acton Hall, Stafford.

Hon. Organising Secretary: Miss KING, 84, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford.

Membership, 79. Friends, 54. Money received, £7 2s. 0d.

During the period January 1914 to May 1915 two annual meetings and twelve committee meetings have been held.

Prior to the declaration of war arrangements were in progress for a public meeting and a dramatic entertainment to be held in the autumn, but these were cancelled.

In the summer the Federation offered to send an organiser for a week, and this offer was accepted. Mrs. Streeter spent a week in Stafford and addressed meetings of the National Union of Railwaymen, and of the Friends. A village meeting was also held at Gnosall, and was addressed by Mrs. Streeter.

On the outbreak of war the National Union suspended all political work, and societies were requested to devote their organisation to relief work. The members of the Stafford Society were notified of this, but owing to the dislocation of trade in Stafford being much less than was anticipated, no occasion has arisen for calling on the members in this connection.

In December an appeal was issued on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service, and as a result £8 was forwarded to the Federation towards the cost of endowing a "Central Counties Bed" in one of the hospital units.

Mrs. Patterson again acted as delegate at the Annual Council Meeting in February, and it was found possible to arrange for a proxy to be found for the second delegate, which the Society is entitled to send. The proxy was Miss Mary Sheepshanks, the Headquarters Secretary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

The Society is forwarding copies of the Board of Trade form of registration for war service to certain members, asking them to pass them on if they do not use them themselves.

A Study Circle on the causes which led to the war is also in course of formation.

STOKE-ON-TRENT AND NEWCASTLE.

President: Mrs. DUNNE, Rectory, Newcastle.

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. DAWES, Denbigh House, Longton, Staffs.

Mrs. CECIL WEDGWOOD, The Woodhouse, Cheadle, Staffs.

Miss ALLEN, Woodhead Hall, Cheadle, Staffs.

Miss POWELL, Grosvenor Gardens, Newcastle, Staffs.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss M. CURWEN, 5, Rostrevor Terrace, Harts-hill, Stoke.

Miss K. BAKEWELL, Mount Pleasant, Newcastle, Staffs.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss JENKINSON, 2, Belgrave Road, Newcastle, Staffs.

Membership, 161. Friends, 56. Money received, £16 11s. 11d.

Up till August 4th, 1914, the Society continued its usual work. Seven meetings were held of which three were cottage meetings, two were at the invitation of the National Union of Railwaymen, one was an out-of-door meeting held on Barlaston Green, and one a meeting for "Friends," addressed by Miss Dutton, of Newcastle. In April, members organised an entertainment in Hanley, which raised the small sum of 22s. 6d. Our President very kindly gave a garden party in July, which was well attended. Mrs. Streeter was the speaker. A collection amounting to £1 19s. 9d. was taken.

In accordance with the resolution of the Executive of the N.U.W.S.S., our Society offered its services to the Mayors of Stoke and Newcastle. In August some of our members helped the Hanley Charity Organisation Society with the registration work in connection with the National Relief Fund. In October a public meeting, at which Mrs. Rackham was to have been the speaker, and Mrs. Kempthorne the chairman, was indefinitely postponed.

In October a members' meeting was held to decide what form of relief work the Society should undertake. As a result of this and other meetings, a joint Committee of all Women's Societies in the district was formed to administer a scheme by which cheap dinners might be provided for expectant and nursing mothers. The Mayor of Stoke promised that expenses of this scheme where cases of distress were due to the war, should be defrayed out of the Local Relief Fund.

In November the Stoke Secretary, Miss Barke, was called upon to do Red Cross work at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, her place being taken temporarily by Miss Curwen.

In December our Society was represented on a deputation to the Health Committee of Stoke Borough, the object of the deputation being to induce the Municipality to adopt a scheme for a Maternity Centre in this district.

In answer to an appeal to our members for comforts for the men of Major Wedgwood's Battalion of the North Staffords, a parcel was dispatched to Mrs. Wedgwood, containing

40 scarves
37 belts
64 pairs of socks
33 pairs of mittens
8 helmets
3 shirts
3 pairs of bedsocks
2 pairs of cuffs.

During the year the Society has subscribed £3 3s. to the Active Service League of the N.U.W.S.S., and £2 2s. to the "Cheap Dinners for Mothers" scheme.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

President: Mrs. LOWE, Ettington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Vice-Presidents: Lady WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE, Compton Verney, Warwickshire.

Mrs. ARBUTHNOT, Comyn House, Leamington.

Miss RATHBONE.

Mrs. HASTINGS, Daylesford Lodge, Stratford-on-Avon.

Miss SMITH, Rhine Hall, Stratford-on-Avon.

Mrs. CAMERON STUART, The Firs, Stratford-on-Avon.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CAMERON STUART.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. CHAMBERS, The Ferry House, Stratford-on-Avon.

Membership, 40. Friends, 64. Money received, £15 17s. 1d.

April 1914.—Three new members and six friends joined. At Easter the Secretary attended the General Meetings, which were organised in connection with the Teachers' Conference held at Lowestoft and helped at the meeting held by Mrs. Fawcett in Norwich, April 13th, 1914.

The Secretary was invited by Miss Collum to attend the Women's Kingdom held at The Olympia. A debate was arranged to be held at Leamington in June but fell through, owing to the illness of the Hostess.

May 1st.—A meeting of Friends was held in the School-room at The Firs, at which twenty-six people were present. The Secretary provided light refreshment and addressed the Friends on the aims and work of the Society.

June.—Very little work was done this month, but a good many signatures were obtained by the Secretary against militancy—over eighty signatures were obtained in Stratford.

July.—The most interesting event of the Summer was the International Women's Congress in London from July 6th to 14th. The Secretary undertook to escort a party of representatives (foreigners) round Stratford and Shotton, and the Delegates enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

August.—At the outbreak of the war the National Union decided to suspend propaganda work and agreed that the best course would be to use the staff and organising capacity of the Union in initiating plans of work to mitigate the suffering which the war would entail. The Executive Committee suggested that every Society should at once through their Secretary offer its services to the Mayor in the district. This was done at Stratford-on-Avon.

A meeting was held in the garden of The Firs for members of the Conference of Teachers of English. Short addresses were given by prominent members of the N.U.W.S.S. Literature was circulated and 24 new friends joined, chiefly American and Canadian. As a result of this meeting, the Secretary received a pressing invitation to attend the International Congress which is to be held in America, June 1915.

SUTTON COLDFIELD.

President: Miss PATTISON, Holme Lacy, Bracebridge Road, Four Oaks.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. G. R. GOUGH, Brook Farm, Sutton Coldfield.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. GENT, Hillside, Coleshill Street, Sutton Coldfield.

Friends of Women's Suffrage Secretary: Miss JONES, The Blabs, Sutton Coldfield.

Membership, 120. Friends, 63. Money received, £23 16s. 5½d.

With great sorrow we have to announce in the Report for 1914 the death of our much-esteemed and beloved President, Miss Earl, which took place on April 24th. We all feel that we have lost a sincere friend and helper in the work she had so much at heart, and that we must loyally carry on the work of the Society to the best of our ability. That is the tribute to her memory she would have most appreciated.

The Annual Meeting for 1914 was held on January 29th, when Miss Earl was elected President for the ensuing year and Mrs. Brooks, Hon. Sec. (*pro tem.*).

Owing to the resignation of Miss Kirkpatrick as Hon. Treasurer, Miss Earl kindly consented to take up the work (*pro tem.*). We have to thank Miss Kirkpatrick, now Mrs. Marshall, for her able and willing work as Treasurer of the Society, and wish her every happiness in her new home in India.

At the close of the Annual Meeting a Public Meeting was held in the Town Hall, with Mrs. Harley in the chair, and Mr. Cameron Grant as speaker. Many Friends Cards were signed and £2 collected.

February 25th, 1914.—Cottage Meeting at 45, Duke St., lent by Mrs. Nicholls. Six guests attended and much enjoyed an address by Mrs. Burman, of the Church League. All signed "Friends Cards" and promised to support the cause.

March 26th.—Cottage Meeting at the residence of Miss Jones, The Blabbs, Sutton Coldfield. Nine guests attended, signed Friends Cards and paid one penny to subscribe for one of their number to join the Society and represent them. Miss Jones was elected and has since been elected to the Committee. The Suffrage chat was given by Mrs. Brooks.

April 29th.—A Jumble Sale was held at Maney Institute by kind permission of Mrs. Lowe. The proceeds amounted to £9 13s. 10½d.

May 20th.—Cottage Meeting held at Vilette, Coleshill Street, by kind invitation of Mrs. Bloore. Mrs. Burman gave an interesting address. Eight friends signed and one member enrolled.

June 10th.—A Drawing-Room Meeting was held by kind invitation of Miss Pattison at Holme Lacy, Bracebridge Road. Speakers, Mrs. Kempthorne, Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Ring. The meeting was well attended and the collection and sale of literature amounted to £3 10s. 0d.

Seven Committee Meetings were held from January 20th to May 18th.

Annual Meeting for 1915 held May 3rd at Homewood, Sutton Coldfield. Speaker, Mrs. Osler. Subject, "The Principles on which Peace should be based."

A well-attended meeting when officers for ensuing year were elected. A collection of £3 13s. made towards the "Lucie Earl" Bed in the N.U. Serbian Hospital.

WALSALL.

President: Miss LOWRY, The Elms, Walsall

Secretary (pro tem.): Miss LOWRY, The Elms, Walsall.

Press Secretary: Miss EVA LOWRY, The Elms, Walsall.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss DAWSON, 70, Persehouse Street, Walsall.

Membership, 39. Friends, 18. Money received, £3 11s. 6d.

During the early months of 1914 a course of lectures was given by Birmingham and local ladies, on "Conditions of Child-life among the Poor in Walsall," under the auspices of this Society.

Since August, 1914, all the members contributed to a monthly subscription of 10s. to the Suffrage Hospital at Dovercourt. They have now, however, transferred this subscription to the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund in order to combine with the rest of the Federation. Most of the members have also volunteered to do either maternity or patrol work when required. Some have now offered to do Registration work.

WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. DYKES, 12, Milverton Crescent, Leamington.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. ALFRED HILL, 20, Northumberland Road, Leamington.

Membership, 161. Friends, 100. Money received, £53 7s. 10d., exclusive of Relief and Franchise Club receipts.

With the presentation of this report this Society completes the eleventh year of its activities, and the first of its joint occupation of the Suffrage office at 35, Warwick Street.

This year's chief feature has been the diversion of our energies from political and propagandist into purely philanthropic channels since the beginning of the war.

The Franchise Club meetings have been replaced by sewing parties in connection with the Belgian and other Relief Funds, and by meetings held jointly with the other Societies.

Help has been given to the funds of the Belgian Relief, Queen Mary's Work for Women (Central and Local), and to the Scottish Women's Suffrage Hospital units for France and Servia.

Our members have taken part in the committee and active work in connection with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the Red Cross Society, Belgian Relief, and Work for Women Funds, and with Women Patrols.

A successful White Elephant Sale was held at the Salisbury Hall on Feb. 12th, 1914, followed by the acting of "How the Vote was Won." Miss Amy Millar coached the actors, and Miss Dormer Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Thornton worked indefatigably to promote the play's success.

The Franchise Club met on Feb. 5th, Feb. 12th, March 5th, April 2nd, June 14th and July 2nd. The speakers were Mrs. Hodson (Biology), Miss Ahrons (Modern Education of Girls), Mr. Haynes (South Africa), Miss Jackson (Women's Disabilities under Law and Custom), Mrs. Streeter (Our Path of Progress).

Other events to record are:—

March 12th.—Jumble Sale. Address, Mrs. Dykes.

March 19th.—Annual Meeting. Address, Miss Rogers.

July 2nd.—Village Meeting at Harbury. Address, Mrs. Streeter. Chair, Rev. C. W. Weston. This was the first Suffrage meeting ever held in Harbury. Its success was largely owing to the efforts of the Misses Dunn.

November 6th.—Joint Meeting, held by the kindness of Mrs. Spencer, at 31, Warwick Street. Speakers, Mrs. Ring (Birmingham), and Dr. Alice Hutchison, of the Scottish W.S. Hospital unit in France.

In June the Society took part in the Lightning Campaign organised by the Societies in the National Union, which resulted in a gratifying increase of membership.

At the beginning of April (1915) the registration of Women for War Service was begun at our Office in connection with the local Labour Exchange.

WEDNESBURY.

President and Federation Representative: Mrs. BRADSWORTH, 64, Holyhead Road, Handsworth.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. H. B. NASH, Kingsley, Hollies Drive, Wednesbury.

Hon. Secretary: Miss WESTLEY, 20, Market Place, Wednesbury. Membership, 41. Friends, 102. Money received, £2 2s. 8d.

January, 1914.—Debate at a Church Club, by invitation. Mrs. Carol Ring.

February, 1914.—Miss Thurstan. Lantern Lecture on "History of Nursing."

July, 1914.—Speaker, Mr. Arthur (West Bromwich). (General Propaganda Address).

October, 1914.—Speaker, Mr. H. Brockhouse (West Bromwich): "Women's Work in Peace and War."

WAR SERVICE.

(1) Help was given in August at Town Hall in clerical work. This was acknowledged and appreciated in Committee and in the Press, from Mayor's Parlour.

(2) Garment Renovation Party. Garments sent to local Committees, consisting of prominent anti-suffragists.

(3) Several members are working on Infant Welfare Scheme, organised by an Anti-Suffragist.

(4) Hon. Sec. is on the local Red Cross Committee, and on Relief Committee convened in August by Mayor.

PRESS NOTICES Paragraph in local Directory.

Reports of meetings and each separate undertaking under the heading War Service.

NEW MEMBERS admitted during the period January 1914—May 1915, seven. No resignations. Three removals from district.

WEST BROMWICH.

President: Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.

Vice-Presidents: The VISCOUNTESS LEWISHAM.

Councillor J. E. COX, J.P.

A. D. MATHEWS, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Committee: Mrs. LEWIS.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. BYE, Charlemont Cottage.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. H. LANGLEY BROWNE, Moor House.

Hon. Financial Secretary: Mrs. PEARCE.

Hon. Literature Secretary: Miss G. CHAPMAN.

Federation Representatives: Mrs. LANGLEY BROWNE and Mrs. PEARCE.

Membership, 211. Friends, 175. Money received, £28 6s. 0d.

During the year six Public Meetings have been held. At one of these, on the occasion of a visit of the President, Miss Maude Royden, a collection of £6 8s. 0d. for the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund, was taken, and at two others, collections amounting to £1 3s. 0d. and £1 0s. 0d. were made in aid of the Serbian Hospitals organised by the Scottish Women's Federation.

The Federation Committee Meetings and the National Union Meetings have been regularly attended by representatives and delegates of the Branch, and the Society has been fairly well held together, but owing to other demands on the time of the Officials and Committee in connection with work for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the British Red Cross, and the care of Belgian Refugees in a local home, very little propaganda work has been possible since the outbreak of war.

Members and Friends, unable to take part in more strenuous activities, have made considerable contributions of garments for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and large quantities of socks, mittens and cigarettes have been collected and despatched to the men in training for military service, and at the Front.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

President: Mrs. MAJOR, The Bhylls, Wolverhampton.

Acting Vice-President: Mrs. HIGHFIELD-JONES, Ash Hill, Compton.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. MAY, 36, Tettenhall Road

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. F. D. TAYLOR, 107, Waterloo Road.

Federation Representative: Miss PEARSON, Woden, Tettenhall Rd.

Membership, 237. Friends, 662. Money received, £54 7s. 5d.

We have held seventeen meetings during the year, May 1914 to May 1915.

Ten of these have been Committee Meetings, when war broke out.

We offered our services to the Mayor, and our Hon. Sec. was put on one of the Relief Committees, and also on the Women's Employment Committee. There have been few schemes which have not had one or more of the members of our Society on their Committees. One of our members opened a Belgian Hostel in her individual capacity. Another organised the Mayoress's Club for wives of soldiers, also as an individual, and not as one of our members.

This Society has contributed £12 7s. 6d. to Queen Mary's Fund for unemployed women.

This was raised by our "Friends of Women's Suffrage," by means of a Jumble Sale and donations. We have sent £6 to the Scottish Hospital Fund. We have made garments for the Belgian Refugees. We have made six maternity outfits and handed them over to the Baby Clinic, which was opened Tuesday, April 27th. We have distributed the War Circular. A number of our members were active workers in connection with the Prince of Wales' Fund.

In June, 1914, we started an Active Service League. A meeting was held April 26th, to enlist their help in distributing the War Circular.

In June we were on the point of starting a new Society at Bilston, but from various causes, the Society has not yet been formed.

We are inviting representatives to sit on our Committee during the coming year.

Mrs. Jones Fairmount, Bilston Road, Willenhall, will look after the members and collect their subscriptions.

BILSTON.

Correspondence to: Mrs. JONES, Fairmount, Bilston Road, Willenhall.

A meeting was held in Town Hall in May, at which Mrs. Kempthorpe (of the Palace, Lichfield), presided. Mrs. Osler, of Birmingham, was the speaker. There was a good attendance and it was decided afterwards to form a Bilston Branch of the Society. Miss Preston had arranged an "Amalgamated Meeting of Trade Unionists in Bilston District," to be held on Sunday, July 12th, in the Temperance Hall, but in spite of distributing 800 tickets amongst trade unionist lodges, and 200 from door to door, the meeting was so poor that it was abandoned. Afterwards a meeting of ladies from surrounding districts was called. The following places were represented:—Wednesbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Mrs. Streeter was present and laid before them a scheme of work for the Autumn and Winter, which met with the hearty approval of all present.

The war, however, has put a stop to it all, at any rate for the time, and it has been decided to let the members in Bilston be included in the Wolverhampton Branch, most, if not all of them, agreeing.

CENTRAL COUNTIES FEDERATION STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

FEBRUARY, 1914, TO MAY 31ST, 1915.

<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.
To Balance from West Midland Federation	31	18	2	By Organisers' Expenses, Hon. Treasurer's and Hon. Secretary's Petty Cash and Stamps (List 5)	36	2	11
" Federated Societies' Fees (List 1)	17	9	3	" Speakers' Fees and Expenses (List 5)	4	14	5
" Subscriptions and Donations (List 2)	108	13	0	" Printing and Stationery (List 5)	3	3	0
" Miscellaneous (List 3)	36	14	6	" Sundries (List 5)	0	16	0
" Donations for Scottish Women's Hospitals	65	3	0	" Donations to Scottish Women's Hospital	65	3	0
				" Lloyds Bank Limited, Deposit a/c	130	8	6
				" Lloyds Bank Limited, Current a/c	19	10	1
					£259	17	11

O. ELGOOD TURNER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

I have compared this Statement with the Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, and have found same correct.

34, Harborne Road, Edgbaston.
June 21st, 1915.

H. BEATRICE GRIFFITHS, *Accountant, Auditor.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The first financial year of the Central Counties' Federation has extended over rather more than the twelve calendar months. During this time the total amount of money obtained has been £259 17s. 11d. This includes the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Affiliation Fees from the Federated Societies	17	9	3
Subscriptions	56	2	6
Donations	52	10	6
Special Donations raised from the Federated Societies for the purpose of endowing beds in the Scottish Women's Hospital Units	65	3	0

To this latter sum must be added £15, which was sent independently by two members of the Birmingham Society, and which has been included by the Treasurer at Headquarters into the Central Counties' donation.

This makes a total of £80 3s. 0d., and has enabled us to endow a "Central Counties' Federation" Bed for one year; a second bed for six months, and leaves £5 towards a further £25 which we hope to raise shortly, which will enable us to extend the period of the second bed to one year.

It may also be mentioned that Stafford has independently endowed a bed for one year.

From Headquarters we have received a grant of £25, given for the purpose of helping the Coventry Society towards a paid Organiser. This has not yet been called for.

The payments made have been:—£36 2s. 11d. for Secretary's, Organiser's, and Treasurer's expenses; £4 14s. 5d. for speakers' fees and expenses; £3 3s. 0d. for printing and stationery; 16s. 0d. for sundries.

The Balance which I received from Mrs. Dymond, the Treasurer of the West Midland Federation, was £31 18s. 2d.

The Balance I have now in hand is £149 18s. 7d., £130 of which has been placed on deposit.

The accounts have been audited and found correct by Miss H. B. Griffiths.

OLIVE ELGOOD TURNER.

List 1.

FEDERATED SOCIETIES' AFFILIATION FEES.

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham	5	0	0
Coventry (2 years)	2	10	0
Dudley	0	12	6
Nuneaton	0	12	6
Olton	0	12	6
Rugby	0	13	9
Shipston-on-Stour	0	12	6
Solihull	0	12	6
Stafford	0	12	6
Stoke-on-Trent	0	17	0
Stratford-on-Avon	0	12	6
Sutton Coldfield	0	12	6
Walsall	0	12	6
Warwick and Leamington	0	12	6
Wednesbury	0	12	6
West Bromwich	0	18	6
Wolverhampton	0	12	6
	£17	9	3

List 2.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

	Subscriptions.			Donations.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Allbright, Miss	2	0	0			
Atkinson, Mrs.	1	1	0			
Bartleet, Miss				2	0	0
Bradsworth, Mrs.				1	1	0
Bird, Mrs. Geoffrey				0	10	0
Cadbury, Mrs. George	5	0	0			
Carter, Mrs. Eric...	1	10	0			
Carrs, Mrs.				0	5	0
Chance, Mrs. Clinton	5	0	0			
Chance, Mrs. F. E.				3	3	0
Chamberlain, Mrs. John	1	1	0			
Dowson, Mrs. Aubrey	1	0	0	0	4	6
Evershed, Mrs.				1	0	0
Gibbins, Mrs. R. C.	5	0	0			
Goodwin, Mrs.				1	0	0
Graham, Mrs.				1	0	0
Greenwood, Mrs.	0	2	6			
Harding, Mrs. J. A.				5	0	0
Higginson, Miss	5	0	0			
Huxley, Mrs.	1	0	0			
Carried forward	£27	14	6	£15	3	6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	27	14	6	15	3	6
Kempthorne, Mrs.	2	2	0			
King, Mrs. Wilson				5	0	0
Kirby, Miss	1	0	0	5	0	0
Lane, Mrs. C. A.				1	0	0
Langley-Browne, Dr. and Mrs.	5	0	0			
Lloyd, Miss Julia	1	0	0			
Lowndes, Miss	0	10	0			
McCrea, Miss S. N.				1	1	0
Martineau, Miss Clara				3	3	0
Martineau, Miss Jane S.				1	1	0
Naish, Miss	1	0	0			
Olton Society				0	10	6
Osler, Mrs. A. C.	5	0	0			
Patterson, Mrs.	1	1	0	2	0	0
Pearce, Mrs.	0	5	0			
Priestley, John, Esq.	1	0	0			
Pugh, Miss				5	0	0
Reid, Mrs. J. S.	1	0	0			
Rubery, Miss				1	0	0
Solihull Society (ear-marked from Mandate Fund Collection)				5	10	6
Southall, Miss G. S.	0	10	0			
Tangye, Mrs. William	3	0	0			
Turner, Dr. Olive Elgood	1	0	0			
Wright, Mrs.				2	10	0
Wright, Miss Noël				2	10	0
Wilson, Mrs. H. L.	5	0	0			
	56	2	6	52	10	6
Amount of Subscriptions				56	2	6
Total	£108	13	0			

List 3.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	£	s.	d.
Donation from Sale of Work at Lapworth	4	0	0
Unused balance of Organiser's Salary returned, Mrs. Townley	0	15	1
From Societies for Organisers' Expenses—			
Birmingham, for Miss Preston	4	8	4
Ditto, ditto	1	12	2
Evesham, for Mrs. Rackham (per Mrs. Dymond) ...	0	6	9
Coventry, for Mrs. Rackham	0	1	6
From Bank of England for unused Cheques	0	2	2
From N.U. for expenses of Organiser at Coventry ...	25	0	0
Interest on Deposit Account	0	8	6
	<u>£36</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>

List 4.DONATIONS FROM SOCIETIES TOWARDS ENDOWING
CENTRAL COUNTIES' FEDERATION BEDS IN THE
SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

	£	s.	d.
Rugby—1st donation	5	0	0
2nd donation	8	0	0
Shipston-on-Stour	0	15	0
West Bromwich—1st donation	3	0	0
2nd donation	1	0	0
Stafford	8	0	0
Nuneaton—1st donation	0	13	0
2nd donation	2	10	0
Wolverhampton—1st donation	5	0	0
Mrs. F. D. Taylor	0	10	0
Mrs. Oliver	0	10	0
Birmingham	23	0	0
Dr. Mary Sturge	5	0	0
Stratford-on-Avon	2	0	0
Wednesbury	0	5	0
	<u>£65</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>

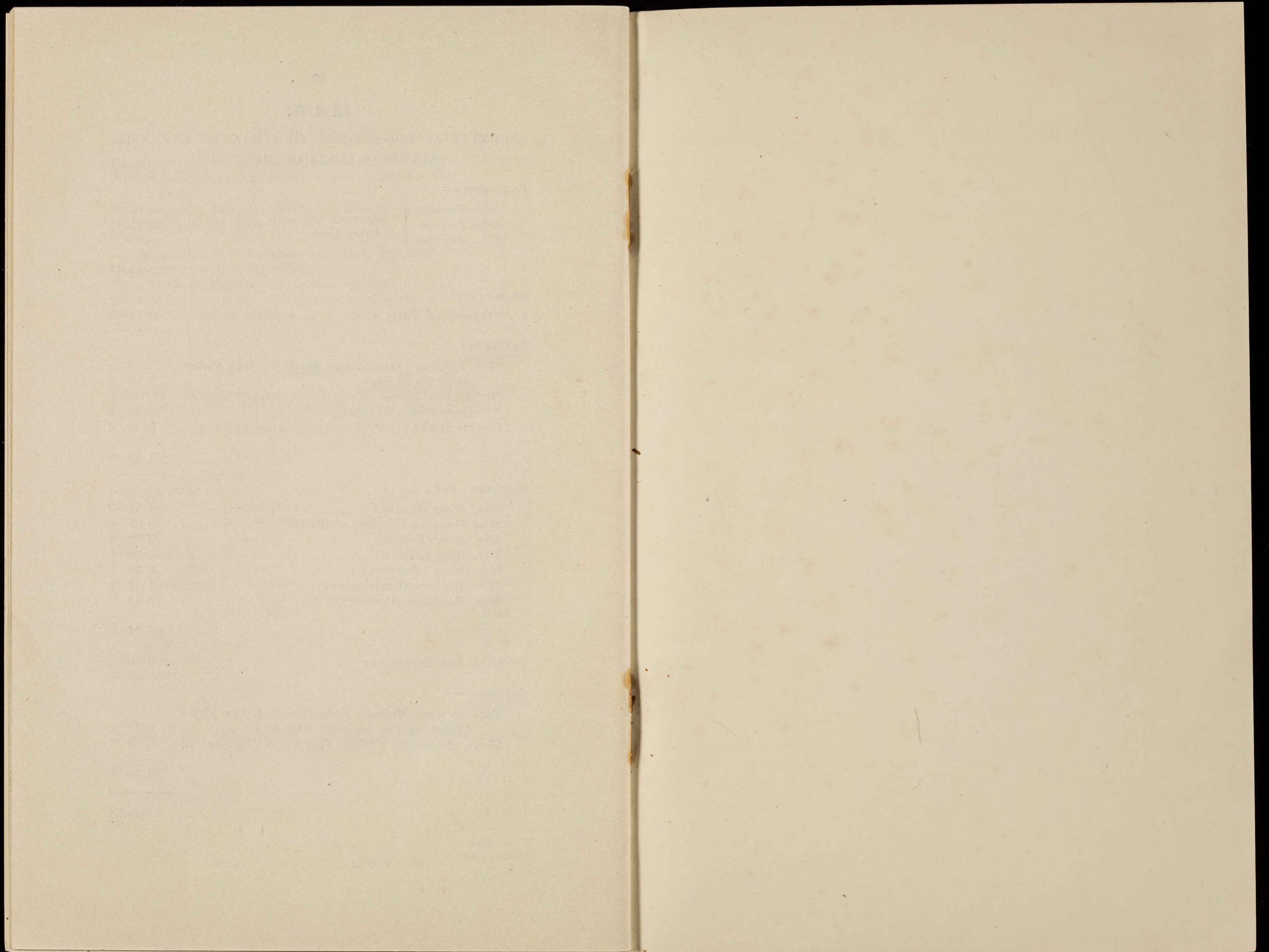
Donations sent independently to Hospital Funds, not included in above:—

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham—			
Mrs. A. C. Osler	10	0	0
Miss Higginson	5	0	0
Stafford	50	0	0
	<u>£65</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Total £130 3s. 0d.

List 5.SECRETARIES' ORGANISERS' AND SPEAKERS' EXPENSES,
INCLUDING COSTS OF MEETINGS.

	£	s.	d.
ORGANISERS—			
Mrs. Townley } Expenses and	4	0	0
Miss Preston } Petty Cash	17	13	11
Mrs. Streeter }	8	5	0
	<u>£29</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>
SECRETARY—			
Stamps and Petty Cash	4	11	0
TREASURER—			
Mrs. Dymond (Treasurer of West Midland Federation) for Stamps	0	8	4
Dr. Elgood Turner (Treasurer Central Counties' Federation) for Stamps	0	18	0
Cheque Books	0	6	8
	<u>£1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>
SPEAKERS' FEES—			
Mrs. Ring (Dudley)	0	11	9
Miss Thurstan (for hire of Slides)	0	7	6
Mrs. Ring (Bilston)	0	12	4
Mrs. Ring (Bilston)	0	12	6
Mrs. Ring (Warwick)	0	10	6
Miss Matters (Leamington)	1	1	0
Mrs. Rackham (Coventry)	0	18	10
	<u>£4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>5</u>
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	3	3	0
SURDRIES—			
Paid to West Midland Federation half Coventry's Affiliation Fee for year 1913-1914	0	12	6
Share of Queen's College Federation Meeting	0	3	6
	<u>£0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>



PAMPHLET