

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.]

VOL. VIII., No. 386.]

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1916.

[PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.]

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Women's Suffrage in America	259
Wages of Women Munition Workers. I.—The Elusive £1	259
Smoothing the Path of Substitution	260
By No Malignity Impelled	262
The Next Step in Housekeeping. IV.—The Organisation of Household Service. By Miss Clementina Black	263
Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., and the Women's Movement . .	264
The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units	265
N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals	266

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

Notes and News.

The Coming Conference.

Selection is being made of the personnel of the conference which, on the suggestion of Mr. Walter Long, is to meet on September 26th to consider the whole question of registration and electoral reform. Among a number of names being mentioned of members likely to be associated with the proceedings are those of Sir George Younger, Mr. Dickinson, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Thomas Wiles, Sir John Simon, Sir Ryland Adkins, Sir John Bethell, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. Gilbert, Colonel Campion, Mr. Neill, Mr. Pringle, and Mr. Joynson Hicks. Commerce is not to be directly represented, though some of the members, it is said, are eminent in the commercial world. There is to be direct representation of Labour and the Women's Suffrage movement.

Questions which Must be Answered Now.

The quarterly report just issued by the Management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions urges the importance of coming to some understanding with regard to women's position in trades opened to them since the war.

"The woman," says the report, "is in the factory, she is working the machine, she is welding and brazing, and she is doing these things in a manner which at present wins commendation from her employer and the factory inspector. She is doing these things at rates which are lower than men's rates. Is she to continue on this work? If so, is she to continue at lower rates? Or will the trade unions take the matter in hand and help her to organise? These are questions that should be answered now."

"Criticism of the Government's delay in formulating proposals loses point," it says, "in face of labour's similar inactivity. No general or reasonably clear understanding has been reached in respect of women's trade organisation; yet women will be the most important factor in the after-war problem of employment and wages. . . . She will inevitably lower the general average of men's wages unless very definite steps are taken to develop within her the spirit and power of resistance."

Evading the problem, the writer insists, will not solve it, and the wisest thing the trade unions can do will be to set aside a portion of their time and money for this purpose.

Justice for women, lest men suffer through her—to which we would add, lest not only male wage-earners, but the whole body politic, suffer with her.

£20,000,000 Saved by Women.

It is curious how difficult, nay, how impossible, it appears to be to Englishmen to remember that Englishwomen exist. Yet they do exist, for economists have preached to them. On women (rather than on men) economy has been urged from every pulpit and platform. The much-lectured sex has heard, without complaint, that economy must be exercised, in the name of National Service, on their clothes and food, and that of their children. They heard, and, what was more, they practised what others preached. They saved; and this is how the *Economist* reports on the aggregate:—

"By its sensible use of margarine the nation may thus be said to have saved in one year more than £20,000,000 on its butter bill. Moreover, this large sum has been saved entirely at the expense of the oversea farmer (since it is from him that the butter would have had to be procured), and may be said to be the working man's (*sic*) handsome contribution towards the reduction of imports, and the consequent correction of that adverse trade balance which has caused our Government so much anxious thought. Nor should it be forgotten that there is plenty of scope for further well-doing in this direction. Our 1915 consumption of imported butter (3,808,000 cwts.) was worth at the ports £26,700,000. Had its place been taken by margarine, the value would have been only £10,600,000—a further saving of £16,000,000. Thus the middle and upper classes, who are at present using imported butter, have it well within their power to make almost as handsome a contribution as the *working man* has done towards the limitations of imports, and the consequent balancing of the nation's accounts with oversea countries. They have only to order, in place of imported butter, a superior brand of margarine and the thing will be done."

The Battle of Margarine.

Which is to say that the women—the housewives of Great Britain—having risen to the occasion and saved the nation £20,000,000, the *Economist* walks up to the "working man" and pats him enthusiastically on the back! Why? The working man would most certainly refer him to "the missus." And it is, moreover, among the upper and middle classes, who are now invited to begin to follow the example, that the example has been set. Wherever the income has been reduced, and still more, wherever the conscience of the educated woman has asserted itself, margarine has replaced butter. Tenderly the prejudice of the "man of the house" has been conciliated; the grumbling in the kitchen (where butter lingers still in some houses) met with considerate patience. The Battle of Margarine was fought and won by the women of Great Britain; is it too much to ask that their existence should be remembered? But for them, after all, lectures on economy would be delivered to empty chairs.

Further Economies—Not yet on the Placards.

Why should not the men of Great Britain take the opportunity of saving another £20,000,000—on spirits? America is prosecuting a vigorous anti-alcohol campaign in the interests of

efficiency, and our own need of efficiency, just now, is infinitely greater. An arrangement, according to *The Times*, is at last being made for limiting the amount of grain that may be used in distilling. After protracted negotiations, the producers, says *The Times*, have obtained a settlement favourable to their interests, distilleries being included which may have been unproductive in certain recent years. In Scotland 70 per cent. of the last five years' average production of pot-still spirits or malt whisky is to be allowed, while the arrangement in Ireland is "practically a 30 per cent. reduction on last year's output." The settlement does not include the large grain distilleries at present working almost exclusively on spirit for war purposes. The restriction in the production of malt whisky will not, it is pointed out, limit the supplies in the near future, nor should it cause any change of price, as the Immature Spirits Bill provided that whisky must be kept in bond three years before it can be put on the market for consumption, so that the new average-production scheme cannot affect the position before three years' time! Here is a fine field for men's economies!

"Meat on Sundays Only, Except for Father."

A memorandum on food prices, issued by the Women's Co-operative Guild, shows that in many families which formerly had meat all round once a day the women are now feeding themselves and their children mainly on bread and margarine, meat and bacon being reserved for the bread-winner. It is a case, as one poor woman put it, of "Meat on Sundays only, except for Father." In some cases increased wages just about balance the rise in the cost of necessaries, while in others, where the father and several sons and daughters are engaged on munition work at good wages, the household is undoubtedly better off than ever before. But where there is a large family of children below wage-earning age the increase in the father's wages must be very substantial in order to maintain a pre-war standard. In many trades, however, wages have either not been raised at all, or not in proportion to the rise in prices. Among these, says the memorandum, are Lancashire textile-workers, municipal workers, postmen and other government employees, shop assistants, railway workers, printers, and workers in many of the building and fancy trades.

The Struggle of the Soldier's Wife.

Then there is the large class of soldiers' wives, which is now increasing very rapidly, and is being drawn from classes where the allowance is a serious reduction in income. At the beginning of the war soldiers' wives belonging to the "Round about £1 a week" class were better off than they had ever been before, with £1 or more separation allowance and "no man to keep" out of it, but it is doubtful whether with prices as high as they are now even the poorer class of soldier's wife is any better off, while many have had to make the most drastic reduction in their standard of living, and are at their wits end to make both ends meet. We hear a good deal about the drunken and extravagant soldiers' wives, but very little about the large, silent majority, who are making such plucky efforts to "carry on" while their men are at the Front. "It should be remembered," the report points out, "that increased expenditure, often concentrated in special areas, is what is seen and known, while reduced consumption is hidden, and the classes affected are more scattered as a rule, and unable to make themselves heard."

The Effect of High Prices on Maternity and Child Life.

Even where the father's wages have been very substantially increased the woman and children do not always benefit, because the man, in many cases, is working so hard that he needs extra care and expenditure to keep him in health. Nourishing and appetising food has to be cooked, and a good deal is spent on tonics, too, with a view to keeping up the worker's strength. Extra is frequently paid for men's clothes; and particularly for underclothes—which are now very expensive—because it is found that the men being tired and run down with working long days are more liable to take cold. Where the mother economises is, first, on herself, secondly, when she has reduced her own consumption to the barest minimum, on the children, and, lastly, on the bread-winner. "From the national standpoint," says the Co-operative Guild's Report, "attention should be especially directed to the effect of high prices on maternity and child life. Any deficiency of food falls first on the mother, by her own act, whether she is bearing children or not."

Government Measures Against High Prices.

The Women's Co-operative Guild urges that the Government

should take measures to check the rise of food prices. It suggests that all taxes on food should be removed; that the State should take over the importation and home supplies of meat, wheat, milk, and coal; and that it should also regulate distribution in order to secure a sufficiency of necessaries for the workers. Similar representations have also been made by other bodies, including the Executive Committee of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, which has written to the President of the Board of Trade urging the necessity of securing a reduction in the cost of living, especially as Government influence has been exerted to induce workers not to press for an increase of wages.

Public Indignation Growing.

There are signs that feeling is growing among the working classes upon the present price of foodstuffs. As *The Westminster Gazette* puts it: "The Government apparently finds no difficulty in buying meat for the Army at 6d. a lb., or thereabouts, and the local authorities get it for 8d. or 9d., but the prices charged to the public are at least double, and sometimes more than double." "There are explanations of all these things," says *The Westminster Gazette*, "but the public, which sees that the Government can buy cheaply for the millions for whom it is directly responsible, naturally wants to know why it cannot do something to protect the ordinary consumer from those who raise prices against him."

In Liverpool a big demonstration was lately held, under the auspices of the Trades Council, Transport Workers' Federation, National Union of Railway Men, Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and the Liverpool Labour Representation Committee, and a strong resolution passed against the Government's inaction. In Manchester a conference, representative of women's organisations as well as men's, is to be held on September 16th. As the question of food prices is one that affects every household so closely, the leaders of the women are making a special effort to secure good representation. The two Women's Trade Councils and the Women's Co-operative Guilds are represented on the Organising Workers' Joint Committee, and each trade union of women is invited to send delegates.

Steps Already Taken.

The London Gazette on August 20th issued new and most important regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act to meet some of the evils of dear food. They include:

- * Power to stop all withholding of goods from the market to the prejudice of the national interests—all 'corners' are barred.
- * Power to enter premises and to inspect books to prevent any goods reaching the enemy.
- * Power to prevent any stock of goods being held in excess of the normal requirements of the trade of the owner."

Women Film Censors.

We are glad to report that after long discussion a central and independent censorship will be set up under control of the Home Office. Women are to be on the Censorship Board. The film trade is ready to welcome the new arrangement, by which, as we have previously pointed out, they cease to be burdened by the double censorship of the trade and the licensing authorities, and the risks of local rejection. We hope that the splendid possibilities of the Cinema will be better realised. It should not be necessary, of course, to adapt every cinema exhibition to the minds of small children; and perhaps some films, such, for instance, as the "Battle of the Somme" series, ought not to be seen by children at all. Children's picture palaces would probably be quite profitable enough as separate ventures, if little ones were not admitted to exhibitions unsuited for them.

The Mission in the Churches.

"Trouble and division threaten already," says *The Times*, "with regard to the part which women are to play in it, and the ordinary man is struck by the paltry character of the arguments put forward alike by the objectors in protesting and by the Bishops in yielding to the protest." Have clergy and laity alike forgotten how the whole future of Christianity, as Renan says, once hung upon the lips of a woman. For, in the dim dawn, it was a woman, alone, out of the whole world who received the tidings of the Resurrection; it was Mary Magdalene who saw Christ, face to face, after the darkness and the anguish.

Women's Suffrage in America.

The first conference of the National Woman's Party (U.S.A.) was held at Colorado Springs, on August 10th, 11th, and 12th, to decide the policy which they will pursue during the election; but at time of going to press no report of their decision has been received.

The Washington Post considers that Mr. Hughes has "stolen a march" on President Wilson by coming out for the Federal Amendment, and *The Washington Star* holds that his attitude will "align a majority of the women voters in Suffrage States in his behalf and put to work for him thousands of women in the country who are advocating Suffrage throughout the nation." "Woman Suffrage must come," says *The New York Tribune*, "and it will come, sooner or later, for every State in the land. Women need the ballot; they want it; they are entitled to whatever help it gives in meeting the difficulties of life. It is silly to argue, as do some of the anti-Suffragists, that a defeat of the movement in any State means anything but a temporary set-back to be followed by a renewal of the fight from the beginning. Mr. Hughes wisely recognises all this, and proposes, not the submission, but ratification, of the Federal Amendment, to end the long and wasteful fight. His is a strong and logical advocacy of the women's cause. They could gain no more powerful recruit."

Some of Mr. Wilson's supporters have been urging him to reconsider his decision on the Suffrage question. A group of Democratic Congressmen from the equal Suffrage States approached him on the subject, and urged him to relax his opposition to the Federal Suffrage amendment, and a very forcible telegram was sent to him, says *The Suffragist*, from one of his warmest supporters, Mr. Richard Lloyd Jones, editor of the *Wisconsin State Journal*. The telegram read:—

"Equal suffrage is coming by federal amendment. This

amendment will come in a few years in spite of you. Delay or default will do you no good. You can force it through Congress now if you want to. Such a demand will result to your lasting credit and insure your re-election. It is up to you. Your only weakness has been your failure to see fundamental Federal democracy. The Women's Party is working on right political principles. You should put yourself in a position to deserve the support of voting women. You need it, and it is a Democratic's duty."

* * * * *

In Canada a Dominion Franchise Board is being formed, with representatives from each province, to work for the full enfranchisement of all Canadian women. It will be remembered that women have already won the vote in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. Every women's organisation in Canada has, we understand, been asked to appoint two representatives on the Board, so that all organisations may unite to bring the full enfranchisement of women before the Dominion Government at its first session.

* * * * *

A congress of Mexican women has been summoned by General Salvador Alvarado, Governor of Sanora, to meet at Yucatan on September 15th. At the first congress of Mexican women, held in Yucatan last January, and attended by some seven hundred women, a resolution was passed in favour of Women's Suffrage.

* * * * *

In South America, too, progress is being made in the direction of enfranchising women. A congressional committee in Uruguay is preparing a report to be submitted to Congress, recommending that women shall be given full rights of citizenship.

Wages of Women Munition Workers.

I.—The Elusive £1.

The debate which took place in Parliament after the very interesting account of the work of the Ministry of Munitions given by the new Minister, Mr. Montagu, shows that the conditions of women's employment are still, in many cases, far from satisfactory, though great improvements have been made. Wages tend to be too low, and hours too long.

Many people seem to be under the comfortable impression that all women engaged on munition work are being paid at least £1 a week, while some are actually rolling in wealth; and this is what the Ministry of Munitions seem to expect us to believe, both Mr. Lloyd George and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, Dr. Addison, showing themselves singularly sensitive to criticism. Dr. Addison denied with some heat that any women are being sweated, and Mr. Lloyd George declared indignantly that the pledge which he gave with regard to women's wages has been kept. "Women have never earned such pay," he exclaimed. "And to talk as if women were only getting 20s. a week! There are places where they are earning not merely 30s. to 35s., but are earning up to £3 and £4 a week.* Women have never earned so much." Several critics showed, however, that the pledge has not been completely carried out as regards the whole body of munition workers. As Mr. Barnes put it, "the Ministry say the rate is £1; but they do not always pay it."

It was not fair, Mr. Lloyd George complained, to make charges in the House of Commons, and to send articles to newspapers arraigning the conduct of the Ministry of Munitions when not a single case was brought to their notice that was not redressed. To bring individual cases to the notice of the Ministry is, however, a hopelessly slow way of getting redress for whole classes of workers, and the pressure of public opinion needs to be brought to bear upon employers who are still taking unfair advantage of women's labour. As Mr. Pringle, member for North-West Lanark, pointed out, criticism of present conditions strengthens the hands of the Ministry if they really want

* Miss Quail, Organising Secretary of the Manchester, Salford, and District Women's Trades Union Council, states that her own investigations in Manchester had not revealed any cases of women in engineering works earning £2 a week, while, generally, women were not getting more than 4s. a week, including war bonus, more than they earned before the war.

to make further improvements, and should be welcomed by them instead of deprecated. After all, he said, both Mr. Lloyd George and Dr. Addison had admitted that in this matter of women's employment, they were heartily desirous of improving conditions. "The Parliamentary Secretary to the Department has admitted that there are many cases where they have to deal with recalcitrant employers. Surely it must be an aid to them, in dealing with these recalcitrant employers, to be able to point to the criticism which is taking place in this House as a lever for obtaining further improvement."

Suggestions as to further steps that need to be taken for safeguarding women workers do not mean any lack of appreciation of the "Welfare Work" organised by the Ministry of Munitions, of which Mr. Lloyd George is justly proud, nor of the excellent arrangements for the benefit of workers made by many employers. The present article aims only at showing what remains to be done in order to put the women workers in munition factories on a really satisfactory footing.

The following are some of the facts brought out in the course of discussion in Parliament and in the Press, which show that the £1 a week is somewhat elusive.

The Full £1 a Week Provided for Under Order L2 is not always Paid.

Where women are employed on an eight-hour shift they are, in some districts, being paid only a portion of the £1 guaranteed under Order L2, while the men are being paid at their full rate.

Mr. Barnes gave as an example the Manchester district, where, he stated, the Order is being carried out "in a spirit of meanness":—

"The work in Manchester, generally speaking, is fifty-three hours. There are variations ranging from forty-seven to fifty-three. . . . What did the Ministry of Munitions do in regard to the question of the minimum wage for women? The men in the engineering trade, if they work forty-eight hours in a forty-eight-hours establishment, and especially if they work forty-seven hours in a forty-seven hours per week establishment, get the standard rate of wages of the district in just exactly the same way as the man who works fifty-three hours. The Ministry of Munitions do not adopt that principle. They have adopted it with the engineers, of course, because the engineers would not work for less. But what do they do with the women? They give the women of 48-53 £1.

"The Ministry of Munitions are proposing to-day to set up a standard of £1. They say their rate is £1, but they do not pay it. You are introducing at this moment the forty-eight hours per week in the National Munitions Factory in Manchester. You are making three shifts instead of two. Where these women are only working forty-eight hours a week, and where they are practically working short time as a result of the changes brought in by the Ministry of Munitions, their wages are reduced from the rate of fifty-three hours to that of forty-eight."

Dr. Addison replied that he thought Mr. Barnes was not quite correct, but Mr. Barnes stated that he had this information from one of the duly-accredited officers of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, whose men are working alongside these women, and are getting their standard rate of wages, while the women are getting less.

Failing to get any satisfaction on this point, Mr. W. Thorne and Mr. Barnes returned to the charge on another occasion, at question time, when the following dialogue took place.

MR. BARNES: Has the right hon. Gentleman inquired into the case which I mentioned last week, of the National Munitions Factory? Does the right hon. Gentleman admit that what I said was right, or will he make inquiry?

DR. ADDISON: We are making inquiry.

MR. THORNE: Where the women and girls are employed 48 hours a week, will the right hon. Gentleman recommend that they be paid the minimum of £1 a week?

DR. ADDISON: So far as Circular L2 is concerned, the regulations should be complied with, and if my hon. friend has any case to bring forward where they have not been complied with it will be dealt with at once.

MR. BARNES: If the men get a full week's pay for 48 hours a week, and the girls work 48 hours a week and do not get a full week's pay, will the right hon. Gentleman see that they are paid £1 a week?

DR. ADDISON: If that is being done.

MR. BARNES: If it is being done, will the right hon. Gentleman see that the girls get a full week's pay?

DR. ADDISON: They will have a full week's pay in the district where 48 hours are a full week's work.

MR. PRINGLE: If the men work 48 hours for a full week's pay, will the girls working there get the minimum of £1 a week?

DR. ADDISON: We cannot say whether that number of hours is worked in different districts.

MR. PRINGLE: In a district where the men get a full week's pay for a 48 hours week, will the right hon. Gentleman see that the girls get it?

DR. ADDISON: Certainly, if that is a week's work.

Mr. Pringle gave notice that he would call attention to this matter again.

The Hours are often too Long.

It comes, then, to this, that women either work for too long hours, to the detriment of their health and eventual lessening of their output; or they are liable to be paid, even for work hitherto done by men, below the £1 a week standard.

Again, with regard to working hours, Dr. Addison stated that women are not employed on twelve-hour shifts; the shift "never was longer than a ten-and-a-half-hour working shift," and that the Labour Committee of the Ministry of Munitions recommended that, so far as possible, the work of women should be conducted on the eight-hour shift.

In spite of this recommendation, however, Miss Anderson (H.M. Chief Woman Factory Inspector) states, in her last report, that the eight-hour shift, with its "many advantages for women and girls, is still less common than the twelve-hour shift"; and this statement still holds good. It is true that the twelve-hour shift includes time off for meals, reducing it to a ten-and-a-half hours actual working shift; but twelve hours spent in a factory is far too long, even when comfortable rest-

rooms are provided, especially when, as is so often the case, the workers have a long and tiring journey night and morning.

The Standard £1 is in Some Cases Bringing Down Rates Previously Paid.

In consequence of a standard rate being fixed instead of a minimum, employers who had offered a higher rate have now withdrawn their offer, says *The New Statesman*. The attention of the Ministry of Munitions was drawn to this by the Federation of Women Workers, and in deference to their representations, Dr. Addison stated, an instruction has been drawn up by the Department pointing to paragraph (8),* and informing employers that where a woman has been receiving a higher rate of pay than that mentioned in the circular it will be a contravention of the Order to reduce it. This instruction does not, however, wholly remove the fear that the £1 will prove, as Mr. Anderson maintains, practically a maximum wage, the employers making some slight alteration in the work as an excuse for lowering existing rates, where these are now over the standard fixed by the Ministry of Munitions. M. M.

(To be continued.)

Smoothing the Path of Substitution.

Miss Violet Markham gives, in *The Westminster Gazette* of August 21st, some interesting particulars of the work of the Central Advisory Committee on Women's War Employment, of which she is a member. The Committee was appointed to advise the Home Office and the Board of Trade on questions arising out of the substitution of women for men in industry.

"It is only," Miss Markham explains, "when some estimate of the probable demand is forthcoming that the Board of Trade, through their national system of Labour Exchanges, is in a position efficiently to organise the supply. Similarly the Home Office is no less concerned in knowing beforehand what trades and manufacturers are calling for women workers!"

Substitution, Miss Markham maintains, must be studied trade by trade and locality by locality if it is to be successful. The Advisory Committee has, therefore, established local committees to deal with the problems either of supply or of welfare in districts where the need has arisen. These are composed of members chosen for their knowledge and experience of questions connected with women's employment. No stereotyped plan is followed, as conditions vary so much in different districts. "In a locality where, after inquiry and consultation with the manufacturers (an essential preliminary), there is a proved shortage of women's labour, it will be the business of the local committee to assist the Labour Exchange in organising the supply of women, either by undertaking a personal canvass or otherwise arranging for some strong local appeal. The main part in all this is that the supply of labour is organised in strict relation to the demand, and not, so to speak, in the air."

Various problems connected with the welfare of workers also occupy the attention of local committees, especially questions of transit and housing, which have become very urgent questions in congested urban centres. "Working-class girls," says Miss Markham, "show considerable reluctance as regards migration, and it is, of course, desirable, when satisfactory transit arrangements can be made, to draw workers from the immediate locality rather than from a distance. When there is no chance but to introduce new workers many points arise which call for personal care and interest. The provision of suitable lodging accommodation is essential. . . . Women members of local committees are rendering valuable services in making registers of suitable lodgings. In one town over 600 lodgings have been visited and investigated. . . . The provision of hostels, clubs, and other means of recreation may be a real necessity in some districts."

This is a big piece of work, and, if well carried out, should make substitution go much more smoothly. In some districts a very rough and unruly class of girl has been imported—probably because girls from superior working-class families will not leave their own homes without some guarantee that they will be able to live under decent conditions. These girls have made factory discipline difficult, and rendered the task of canteen and hostel organising hard. If the selection of workers from outside the district is left to competent women, who are also responsible for arrangements for their housing and general welfare—and if adequate wages are offered—it is possible to obtain a satisfactory class of worker.

* (8) The foregoing rates shall not operate to prejudice the position of any person who has better terms and conditions, nor prevent employers from recognising special ability or responsibility."

From the Press.

Public Opinion says that women must vote at the next General Election:—

"What are you to do with the women?" asked the Prime Minister last week.

The nation seems to have given as an overwhelming answer: "Give them the vote and let them vote at the next election." That is to-day the very concrete possibility which has forced its way into the political field. Fifty years ago Lord Derby spoke of the Franchise Bill of that day as "a leap in the dark." This will presumably be called "The leap in the light."

Here are Lord Derby's words uttered in the House of Lords on August 6th, 1867. They fit verbatim the situation to-day:—

"No doubt we are making a great experiment and taking a leap in the dark, but I have the greatest confidence in the sound sense of my countrymen, and I entertain a strong hope that the extended franchise which we are now conferring upon them will be the means of placing the institutions of this country on a firmer basis and that the passing of this measure will tend to increase the loyalty and contentment of a great portion of Her Majesty's subjects."

To-day the general feeling seems to be that there must be no election during the war. But that after the war an election must take place which shall give a mandate for a Policy of Reconstruction, and that women must have a voice in that mandate.

To make that possible the franchise must be given at once. If the task were left to the Parliament elected after the War it would mean that women could not exercise the vote till four or five years after the War. That position is regarded as impossible. An almost immediate extension of the franchise to women is regarded as urgent, and that would mean that they would exercise their vote for the first time at the first General Election after the War.

The writer of "A Westminster Diary" in *The Saturday Westminster Gazette* says:—

"I have little space left to touch on the important movement that is growing in political circles for the reform of the franchise. During the recess conferences will take place at the Local Government Board on the question, and if all the groups concerned can agree on a measure the Government will take it up. The little group of Liberal Suffragists which follow Sir John Simon has now considerable support for its demand of a simple and effective suffrage, which means nothing less than adult suffrage, including votes for women."

"In most conservative circles there is, of course, determined opposition. To push a long step forward in spite of the cry of votes for sailors and soldiers, whether abroad or at home, which seems to lead nearly as far. I have not much faith that the conference will come to an agreement, but it will enlighten the Government on the various currents of opinion that exist, and their strength. It will then be up to the Cabinet to settle the question, for they cannot divest themselves of responsibility in the matter."

In an article on "The Tangle of the Franchise" *The Nation* maintains that whenever the next General Election is held, "women cannot, without a grave injustice, be excluded."

"We cannot go out of our way to invite the opinion of the foreman in the munitions factory and pass over the women who work beside him. We cannot settle conscription without consulting the mothers; we cannot decide for or against the new Protection without the voice of women, who are in our social economy the typical consumers as men are the producers. Above all, as Mr. Asquith has himself urged, we cannot even begin to shape our measures of industrial re-settlement without giving to the women, whose interests are at stake, the protection of the vote."

The "Common Cause" Fund.

"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.

We acknowledge with cordial thanks the further sum of £33s. 6d., making £307 5s. 6d. out of the £500 for which we are appealing in order to carry on THE COMMON CAUSE.

Already acknowledged	£ 304 2 0	Mrs. Saint	£ 1 1 0
Mrs. Hopkins	2 6		
Dunstable and Houghton			
Regis W.S.S.	2 0 0		307 5 6

Correspondence.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

MADAM,—Students of political history will not fail to be struck by the latest example of the truth of the adage that "history repeats itself," in the speeches of Lords Cromer and Parmoor, in the House of Lords, on the discussion on the Bill for Prolonging the Life of this Parliament. In 1832, when the Reform Bill was being fought, the fear of noble lords was that the lower orders, being in a majority in the country, would swamp the thinner ranks of power and privilege, and all would be lost. To-day their successors in the House of Lords fear that women being in a majority in the country, will cause havoc should they be privileged to vote for a man to represent not alone or only their views but the views, desires, and aspirations of all that section of the community, men and women alike, that joins in his election.

What is the genesis of this fear of an encroachment of women into the sacred domains railed in with such previous care by man? That they may meddle with foreign policy? Has diplomacy proved such a success in the past that to enlarge our Parliamentary outlook by broadening the franchise can be urged as a reason for logically opposing any change? The old diplomacy has miserably failed, and a change in the franchise will not hurt it. Will the material safety of the nation be jeopardised by permitting women to be more than merely vocal in government? Without the influence of women, how many fewer divisions, not to speak of individuals, would have been raised to defeat and to destroy what women all the world over feel more bitterly than any man—Prussianism and all it stands for.

That women have not been in closer connection with commerce and all it connotes is no fault of theirs, but solely of man, who, until this war crisis fell upon him, was satisfied to spend a man to do the work a woman does better, and thus by so much he withdrew a unit for work which cried out for him. Look where one liked there was the spectacle of men performing work we now know—all England now knows—they were wasted in doing, which women can do better. Nature never works in this manner. Why should mankind?

What is left is the question of social government, with which is intimately associated education. What man is there who dared claim that women have no right to take an even—ay, a leading—part in this great work. Even Lords Cromer and Parmoor and others of like mind might accord this. Then, what is left?

That the question of working out the practical details connected with enfranchisement is a tricky and difficult one no one dared or will deny, but it is not one-half as difficult, nor a tenth part as full of pitfalls, as that of the enfranchisement of men on the new basis that has been laid down by the war. Yet this must be settled, consequently the question of the enfranchisement of women offering fewer difficulties will be settled on a common register.—Yours, &c.,

ARTHUR HAYWOOD, Lieut.-Colonel.

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"By no Malignity Impelled"

Quite lately many of our readers have, no doubt, read and enjoyed an admirable series of articles in a London daily paper, on the education of the growing boy, the difficulties in the way of training his alert intelligence, and making him understand the meaning of his work, and its bearing on big national ends. The writer sees a vision of better things to come. In the future we shall not waste and mar the boy in the making. For him, school, workshop, and factory must be turned into the Kindergarten of the Commonwealth; for him the fairyland of science should be opened up; he should be shown the why and wherefore of the wonderful mechanism of which he is to be a part. He must understand; for latent in the boy is the whole future of Great Britain. He is really worth some pains.

Thus far we have, after all, sound and illuminating common-sense. For the boy, the masculine thinker is able to put forth his powers. What has he to say then about the girl? On her, too, the future rests. Oh, the girl?—Well, nothing much. She can do the routine work; somebody must do it; the drudgery which destroys and blunts the boy's bright faculties can quite well be done by her. Low education, of course, and low pay, or she will step out of her place in the Economy of the Sentimentalist. For that, after all, is the right name for it. One-half the nation is a negligible quantity! But just at this point the Sentimentalist—who nine times out of ten is an Anti-suffragist—interrupts briskly, and insists on playing you "Home, Sweet Home," with variations. Out come all the old platitudes about woman, while you are wondering whether low education and scanty pay are a good preparation for making home "sweet," but you will get no answer out of him. All through his rhapsody—for that is your sentimentalist's way—he keeps a sharp, discerning eye to his own profit. He is not usually candid enough to admit it; but now and then, if pressed hard, he lets out the truth. Sometimes he is more outspoken.

When that Arch-Anti-Suffragist, the German Emperor, starts up bellowing that the whole duty of woman is "Children, Cooking, and Church," he speaks bluntly no doubt, but he knows, and we know, what he means: "Cannon-fodder, Comfort (Mine, of course), and Control of their Consciences. Confound it! The parson's a man, ain't he? The women shall listen to him, if they don't listen to me!"

Put his thoughts out plainly like this; and our friend, the Anti-Suffragist, though he blinks, shrinks, and still mutters "Home, Sweet Home," probably "feels" that it is not so far out; at bottom he wants nothing better himself for the woman's part in the State. To ask a fellow-creature, at his stage of culture, to be capable of disinterested and far-sighted thinking on behalf of women and children—what a tragical absurdity! To ask of men, who, even if they have the best will in the world to do justice and seek wisdom, have been found hitherto to be so busy that they have no time to spare for women's affairs, is almost as tragical absurd. Just now in the stress and strain of the greatest crisis we, or the world, have known—these few elect are asked to do a great deal of very hard thinking over problems which affect women very closely and deeply—and the whole future of the race. What will come of it? Probably the educational reformer alluded to, with his glowing schemes, affords a fair sample of what we may expect; unless and until we are allowed to take up our share of the national burden of hard thinking. With infinite difficulty the "weary Titan" will drag less than half of the nation (the male half) a few steps forward, the other half will be left behind—and he will be puzzled because, after all his pains, his affairs are very much awry. They are ever likely to be. The dead loss of the women, who must spend all their energies in rolling away the great stone that keeps them entombed until the day of resurrection, is a double and treble loss to the men of the race.

Where examples of lapses in the male legislator's reasoning processes are so common, it seems almost uncharitable to select. But one example must suffice. What happened in 1902? Signal service had been rendered by women for thirty years on the old School Board. In that year, Mr. Balfour being Prime Minister, the School Boards were done away with, and the County and Borough Councils (on which women could not be elected) substituted as the education authority. At a stroke women were cut off from the work which they had done so admirably well. "No," laughed a prominent woman, an ex-member of the School Board, "I don't myself believe that they did it on purpose. I think they simply forgot about us!" It took twelve years to get the muddle set right upon the Statute Book.

"By no malignity impelled,
But all unconscious—"

the male legislator at Westminster forgot, and will certainly forget again, the interests of women and children entrusted to

The Next Step in Housekeeping.

IV.—THE ORGANISATION OF HOUSEHOLD SERVICE.

By MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK.

The servants of a household federation would be organised in two groups: a small group residing at the centre, and a group, probably larger, residing in homes of their own elsewhere.

THE RESIDENT SERVANTS.—The quarters for the servants will be planned and managed on the same principles of self-government and consideration for individual tastes as the rest of the scheme. Each servant will have her own small bed-sitting-room, in which she will be free to do exactly as she pleases, subject only to the few restrictions necessary in the interest of her neighbours. She will be able to have any meal brought her there instead of taking it in the common dining-room if she prefers; and will have the right to ask any guest to a meal in the dining-room, paying, of course, for her visitor. The common dining-room will be furnished and supplied in the same manner as the residents' dining-room; and the common sitting-room will be furnished with particular attention to comfort, but with no ornaments, the servants being left to supply their own room with such objects of decoration as they may choose.

There will also be a wash-house with a good supply of hot water and washing appliances in which any of them who please may do their personal laundry work. Nobody will be obliged, however, to use the wash-house; each will decide for herself whether she will wash her clothes or send them out to be washed. These various rooms in the servants' hostel (for such in effect these quarters will be) will be kept clean not by the women who inhabit them—unless, indeed, any one of them should express a desire to do her own cleaning—but by the non-resident staff, under the orders of the manageress. Very few and elementary rules will be imposed, a good tone being secured rather by very careful selection of the first servants engaged than by external regulations. On the whole, the resident servants will not, probably, be young. Their wages will be rightly higher than those ruling in ordinary private service, so that they may consider their position advantageous and desire to retain it. They will have, in effect, homes of their own, with attendance, board, uniforms, and the washing of house-linen. These conditions, combined with a fixed period of duty and a complete command of their other hours, will, I venture to prophesy, prove acceptable to the superior women who now decline service altogether. The duties of these servants will be clearly defined; they will spend part of their day at the centre, either in kitchen-work or table-waiting, and part in certain of the dwelling-houses, where they will do housemaids' work.

THE COOK, who may or may not be resident, will be a very important member of the staff. She, or he, will be a highly-skilled expert, on a very different level from the "plain cook" of ordinary family life, and will have to be well paid. Even so, her wage will not equal that of a cook each to every one of the households.

THE OUTSIDE SERVANTS.—The heavy work of the federated homes will probably provide whole-time employment for one or, perhaps, two men, who will clean all doorsteps and outside brasses, clean windows (with a proper safety-seat), clean boots and shoes (with a proper labour-and-leather-saving machine), and work the communal vacuum cleaner, an instrument much more

powerful than ordinary buyers can afford, which will visit each house in rotation.

Further, there will be a staff of women servants, some of whom may be wanted to help in the serving of meals, but who will be mainly employed in house service at private residences for absolutely fixed periods of work and at rates of pay fixed in each case, but varying, probably, from servant to servant, according to experience and competence. Since there will be no more meals to cook and no more dishes to wash, since steps and doorplates, boots and windows, will be cleaned by men, since the vacuum-cleaner will keep the houses much freer than at present from dust, the hours of necessary work will be much shortened, and some ladies may probably be disposed to do such work as remains for themselves, or to do the ordinary daily work and have a woman once a week for the "turning out" of the rooms. Thus there will be openings for women who desire to work only on certain days in the week, or only in the mornings, as well as for full-time workers.

Servants will get Better Training.

All the servants will be engaged by, and responsible to, the manageress. Their wages will be paid at the Centre, and complaints of their work or conduct will be made not to the servants themselves but to the manageress. Under such a system the possibility of training servants will be much increased for four reasons: (a) Their work will be more specialised and less interrupted; (b) they will be all under the command of one highly-skilled superior, who will be able to establish a common standard—the more easily if mistresses are wise enough to encourage regular visits of inspection from the manageress; (c) they will enjoy more independence and more equal human intercourse, without a reasonable share of which both men and women remain apathetic and mechanical, and therefore insusceptible to good training; (d) there will be opportunity for improvements to become common property.

Arrangements for the Children.

I have now dealt with all the ordinary details of domestic life that would clearly be more economically and efficiently administered by a co-operative than by an individual management, but I have said nothing about children. All these changes might be made, leaving the lives of the community's children practically unaltered. Each house might still have its nursery and its resident nurse, the meals coming in to order from the Centre. Elder children might, at the choice of their parents, either accompany the latter to the common dining-room or sit with them—or without them—at a family dining-table under the parental roof. Or, on the other hand, if the community desired the establishment of a general children's dining-room or of a room where children could be left in charge of a trained nurse—such additions could easily be made so long as the Residents' Committee remained the central authority. But if, in some moment of discontent—or beguiled by a promise of superior cheapness, the community were to put itself into the hands of some energetic trader, a real danger would at once arise of interference with the free choice of the householders. It might suit such a gentleman to feed all children over five years old in his dining-room; difficulties would then instantly arise

over the provision of children's meals, *à domicile*; the dinners would become poor, or would take to arriving late or cold, or charges for supplying them would be greatly raised.

Better Food, and Greater Freedom.

A community under the thumb of an outsider deriving profits would be in danger of seeing its family privacy thrown into the melting-pot for the enlargement of somebody else's dividends. But while they remained masters of their own communal life the members of a federation might enjoy in common all the conveniences that have been enumerated—and, indeed, many others that might easily be added—without finding themselves involved in any increase of intercourse with their neighbours beyond, indeed, in some cases, common service upon the Managing Committee. Even if there were no diminution of expense—and there unquestionably would be—the change of system would be worth while. Everybody would be much better fed, and therefore, it is to be presumed, both healthier and happier; noise, worry, and work would be saved in every house; women would experience an extraordinary lightening of mental burdens; and, finally, domestic service in private families would for the first time, become an industry of a modern pattern, conducted upon intelligent business principles and so ordered as to be open to steady advance in economy of methods and development of machinery.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., and the Women's Movement.

Liverpool had the opportunity last month of hearing the remarkable lady who for so long has led the constitutional agitation for Women's Suffrage—Mrs. Henry Fawcett—and the reception given to her was evidence of the enthusiasm she has aroused in her followers by her wise guidance of a movement that is making steady progress. As one who can look back to the days when Professor Fawcett was Postmaster-General, I was much interested in Mrs. Fawcett's address.

I recall, as an undergraduate, how much I was impressed by seeing Professor Fawcett, after the sad accident by which he lost his sight, skating on the ice, and carrying on all his usual avocation, having made the resolve that he would not allow that accident to spoil his life. I do not know if Mrs. Fawcett caught her enthusiasm from him, or if it was inherent in herself, but certainly she is worthy of all praise for the steady determination and perseverance with which she has championed the Women's Cause through good and evil report until it has neared the goal of State recognition.

Mrs. Fawcett said she had learnt patience from the story of Joan of Arc. It had taken the Roman Curia five hundred years to discover that she was a saint, whereas it did not take the soldier who witnessed her death five minutes to come to that opinion; but then, she said, he was up against the real thing, and they were away in Rome.

It has needed a great deal of patience and a great deal of judgment to steer this movement safely through the difficult times it has encountered in recent years, and Mrs. Fawcett has never failed in this respect, or lacked the courtesy and firmness needed to deal with critical situations.

It was pointed out during the meeting that this terrible war has brought some good along with its many ills. One good has been the many fresh openings it has made for women, and most efficiently have they discharged these new and unaccustomed duties. Think of the great demand made upon women doctors since the war began. They have organised a medical unit for Russia, where a few women had to attend to six hundred surgical cases every day. We know of the great work that Miss Ivens, of our own city, is doing in France, and in London one hospital is entirely staffed by medical women.

When, however, we congratulate ourselves on what has been accomplished, we should not forget how hard was the fight which the early pioneers of women's education had to endure. In Edinburgh Dr. Jex Blake and the lady students of medicine were insulted in the streets by University men until some gallant Irish students formed a bodyguard to protect them. In Cambridge I well remember going up to vote for the admission of women to degrees, and how the undergraduates armed themselves with flour and rotten eggs, which, however, as fate would have it, contrary to intention, fell upon the graduates opposing the reform, owing to the fact that they had in voting to pass through a window in the Senate house nearer the railings than those who advocated the reform. Though supported by resident graduates, this reform has always been outvoted by the innate conservatism of large numbers of country graduates, who come

Of course, there will be troubles and drawbacks; the millennium will not arrive with the advent of federated housekeeping; and in the best of human schemes there is always a *per contra* account. The ultimate question is whether the final statement shows or does not show a balance on the right side. Some manageress will domineer; some committee members will be verbose or stupid, or over-bearing; some residents will keep their servants beyond the agreed time, and be aggrieved when they receive a bill for odd quarters of an hour. Occasionally a cook will be found to drink or a housemaid to pilfer. But the cook's drunkenness or the housemaid's dishonesty will no longer create domestic convulsions; the staff at the Centre will be capable of supplying meals for a day or two, even without a head cook; and a prudent manageress will have a margin for emergencies among her workers. The illness of a wife, especially if she is also a mother, will still, to some extent, disorganise her household, but she will not, as she now often does, lie in her bed wondering whether her husband and children are getting their proper meals or whether the buying of supplies is being altogether mismanaged. The secure provision of meals and the existence of an outside supervision over the work of house servants will go far towards mitigating the horrors of such crises. Quite decidedly there will be a balance—and not a small one—on the right side of the comfort account.

up to vote, and so it comes about that women still receive a certificate from the University stating what place they have attained in the examination, but not a degree.

So it happened, one fine morning in Cambridge, that the lists of the mathematical Tripos came out with this surprising announcement:—"Above the senior wrangler:—Miss Philippa Fawcett."

In other words, the daughter of Mrs. Fawcett had, by the irony of these unprogressive rules, attained a position in Cambridge which no "mere man" could by any possibility achieve.

We must be thankful, also, that the war put an end to the sex-war to which the nation was slowly drifting, owing to the tactics of the militant section of Suffragists.

It was all through this critical time that the leadership of Mrs. Fawcett, and of such colleagues as Mrs. Stewart Brown and Miss Eleanor Rathbone, of Liverpool, was of special value to the nation. While steadfast in loyalty to the cause of Women's Suffrage, they never failed to dissociate their advocacy from all threats and violence. We cannot but be profoundly grateful to Mrs. Fawcett that, while firm in her demands, she never failed in courtesy, and has throughout led the movement in a constitutional way.

Towards the end of the meeting a new note was struck. Possibly the franchise might not be given to them as women, after all, but on a new basis—that of service—to men and women alike, in recognition of services rendered to the State. There is much to be said for such a franchise. Why should not five years' good service rendered to the State in a professional or other capacity be considered just as valid as a property qualification? It is the services rendered by women on Boards of Guardians, Town Councils, Education Committees, &c., which, more than any other reason, are convincing men that it is an act of injustice to withhold from them any longer the Parliamentary vote.

The services rendered by women at the present time, whether as ammunition workers, nurses, doctors, teachers, or voluntary workers in connection with the war, are simply incalculable. Without them the war could not be carried on or victory won. How, then, could a demand for their enfranchisement after the war be resisted? Every man who recognises what they have achieved must perforce say to them: If you ask for the franchise you shall have it, but what we need even more than your votes is your continued co-operation with men in every good work, so as to render this England of ours more worthy of all the blood and treasure that has been spent on her behalf.

When Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, came to St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, in tears on behalf of her son, he bade her dry her tears, and said, "It is impossible that the son of so many prayers should perish."

We may well bid the women of England be of good cheer. It is impossible that their child, the cause of Women's Suffrage, to which they have devoted so many prayers and labours, should perish.

AMICUS.

Reviews.

KEIGWIN'S REBELLION. By Ray and Oliver Strachey. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

Mr. and Mrs. Strachey are to be warmly congratulated upon an excellent and equable volume, shedding much welcome light upon the early history of the Presidency of Bombay. The art of the historical monograph is not too well understood in England, and it is only of recent years, and thanks largely to the modern learning now encouraged in our Universities, that we have begun to rival our friends, the French, in the quality of the special studies upon historical topics which are put out by our publishers. Keigwin's Rebellion is a good specimen of the way in which an historical monograph should be composed. It is succinct, written with judgment and tact, and based upon a careful and diligent exploration of the available material.

Not many schoolboys know who Keigwin was, and a man might grow grey in pedagogy and yet confess to the same shameful ignorance. It might, however, be surmised by the enterprising examinee that Keigwin was a Cornishman, and in fact he was a captain from Penzance, who had served under Rupert, and appears to have been a man of considerable resource, energy, and fighting quality. His rebellion, which belongs to 1682, was of a curious sort, for it was a rising directed not against King Charles II., but against the rule of the East India Company in the island of Bombay. And it is in this fact that the interest of Mr. and Mrs. Strachey's narrative consists. It enables us to enter into the life of these early English communities in Western India, to appreciate their difficulties and problems, and to apprehend their mistakes. There can be very little question that the Company's government in Bombay required all the correction which Keigwin's Rebellion so effectually secured for it.

And we think that Mr. and Mrs. Strachey have gone a good way to establish their point, that the larger errors of public policy committed by the Company were due to the wrongful direction of the Director in Leadenhall Street, and in particular to the niggardly economies of that capable old tyrant, Sir Josiah Child. In any case, the rebellion italicised the danger of allowing the military defences of the British factories to be neglected at a time when the Mogul Empire was entering upon its decline, and since it was both launched and ended without bloodshed, Captain Keigwin and his friends may receive the congratulations of history.

H. A. L. FISHER.

LIFE SAVING IN WAR TIME. By Mabel Palmer, M.A., with an introduction by the Rt. Hon. Arthur Acland. (C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., Henrietta Street, London, W.C. Price 1s. net.)

This is probably the most useful book of its kind which has ever been offered to the public. It sets out the facts of the terrible waste of infant life now going on in our own country, and shows in what localities and through what means the most successful efforts to reduce this waste have been adopted; moreover, it gives precise and definite instructions how to proceed to set up similar life-saving agencies in those localities where little or nothing has as yet been done. The proportion of these is very large. "Out of 880,000 babies born in England and Wales each year only about 60,000 are as yet under supervision at centres. This gives some measure of the enormous gap that yet remains to be filled up" (page 83). In some considerable proportion of these no special advice and help are needed, and Mr. Acland, in his introduction, reckons that roughly these amount to one-third of the whole, leaving 600,000 babies whose mothers need advice and help; of these, only 60,000 are being attended to, or one-tenth of the whole. Thus, while one baby is getting help nine babies are getting no help of this kind. *We have got to multiply what is being done by ten*" (page xiii.). This book was written and published in May, 1916. The number of deaths in the war up to that date, twenty-one months from August 4th, 1914, was 130,000—a great and tragic loss; but the loss through the waste of infant life numerically immensely higher. We lose each year before birth about 132,000 babies; and after birth, in the first year of life, about 88,000, making a total of 220,000 per annum. We can measure the numbers but we cannot measure the value of these lost lives; we can never know how much the whole nation has lost in genius, service, and aptitude.

The encouraging fact is brought out how very much can be done by proper care to save these lives. The decline in the infantile death-rate did not begin until the twentieth century. In the ten years from 1891 to 1900, infant mortality was 153 per thousand, but from that date an improvement set in: New Zealand's infant death-roll is only 57 per thousand. This fine result is not due to climate but to intelligence, indefatigable effort, and certainly, in part, to the women's vote. But there is no reason why England should not have in time as low a death-rate. There are localities, such as Hornsey and Hertfordshire, which already nearly rival New Zealand. What can be done there can be done in other places. The time has gone by when it is possible to attribute an abnormal infant death-rate solely to maternal ignorance. The Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases proves that another factor has to be reckoned with. Those who are fighting against excessive infant mortality have to arouse in men, far more than has hitherto been done, a sense of their responsibility in this matter.

A VISION AND OTHER VERSES. By Eva Fuller-Maitland. (Chiswick Press. 1s.) Six short poems on the war and its revelations.

The war is like the Judgment Day,
All shams, all pretenses torn away;
And swift her searching hours reveal
Hearts good as gold, souls true as steel. . . .
And now we feel that all around
Have angels walked the well-known ground,
Not winged and strange, beyond our ken,
But in the form of common men. . . .
Unrecognised because so near.

The proceeds of the little book are to be given to the Star and Garter Hospital.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON. MISS OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic. Telegraphic Address—Voloceless, London.

Contributions to the General Fund.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged since		Mrs. H. D. G. Culross	2 6
November 1st, 1915	2,382 11 6	Dunstable and Houghton Regis	
Received from August 21st to		W.S.S.	2 0 0
August 26th, 1916:—		Miss A. Towley Millers	5 0
		Miss Ellen Sutton	10 0
		Miss A. M. A. A. Rogers	2 0 0
		E.M.R. and F.M.R.	1 0 0
		Miss Cave and Miss Grove	
		(money found)	5 0
		Mr. J. H. Medlyn	2 6
		Mrs. Macnamara	1 1 0
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		Dunstable and Houghton Regis	
		W.S.S., for Scottish Women's	2 0 0
		Hospital	
			2,447 1 0

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 Unit.

MOTHERS AND BABIES AT SOUIDA.

Miss Hutchison, who is in charge of the Convalescent Home at Souida, which has been established by the N.U.W.S.S. in connection with the Maternity Hospital at Petrograd, gives, in a letter just received, the following attractive account of her work:—

"We have two little wooden houses, detached but adjacent, with a field between them, which is a delightful playground for the children. We are outside the village on the edge of a wide stretch of common, and surrounded by woods in the near distance, and we are within half-an-hour's walk of a tiny river, where it is quite safe to take the bigger children to bathe. We have, of course, a wealth of flowers, the most picturesque hedges I have ever seen; they are such a joy to us. I wish some of you could see the place, and the little houses, and the children—it is all so pretty. We have been more than fortunate in the things that have been given to us by the kind folk of Petrograd. Best of all, we have received, from various sources, a splendid collection of toys. Dolls that go to sleep and are able to move their arms and legs, dogs of equal agility and withal the power to bark, cradles, a perambulator, a kitchen stove, beautifully equipped, in which are made sand puddings innumerable, and on which is boiled the water for the tea, of which we Olympians are invited to partake. This is served in the daintiest of tea-sets. We have three sandheaps, which are a never-ending source of delight. Sunday is our special festival, for then parents often come down from Petrograd. One or two mothers are always with us, coming with their babies to convalesce, after leaving our hospital in Petrograd.

"Our first notable 'character' was Peter, a youth of two, whose mother is our cook. Two months ago he was one of the most rickety, whining, listless children I have ever known. I do not know whether he had ever seen toys before or not, he certainly did not know how to play with them. But fresh air, sleep in a cot put out in a garden in the sun, and suitable food (it required much patience to induce his parent to refrain from the surreptitious gifts of cold potatoes between meals which her motherly affection dictated) have made a new child of him. A seal was put to his mother's wavering belief in my knowledge of children by my bringing him a bottle of medicine from the hospital one day when I had been to Petrograd. The previous evening one of the other children had

needed some simple domestic medicine, and cook asked, eagerly, if Peter was to have some. Her disappointment at the negative reply was unconcealed, and I asked our doctor to agree to the pious fraud of taking him a harmless compound. For the next fortnight Peter's mother, with unerring regularity, administered half-a-teaspoonful of cranberry juice in a tablespoon of water, but quiet meals; but we hope that before the end of the summer her faith will include remedies other than medicine.

"Another dear little person is Pania, a wee girl of three, and one of the most bewitching mortals I have ever known! Her bump of acquisition is very well developed, especially of other people's possessions in their absence! She is very observant, and if she sees a favourite doll or cat, or rabbit or other beloved object placed for safety in the owner's cot she makes a mental note of the fact, abstracts it at the first opportunity, and announces, with quiet satisfaction: 'This is mine.' It is a favourite and often-heard remark not confined to herself, and the children have had to receive their first lesson in unselfishness and anti-monopoly by being taught to add 'paca,' which means 'for the time being.'"

The "Home" at Souida is also used by members of our own personnel when requiring a little rest and peace after a rush of work in one of our hospitals.

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

On Sunday, August 27th, despite the heavy rain, a large crowd assembled in Waterloo Place to see the departure of the Transport Column under the Hon. Evelina Haverfield, which is attached to Dr. Inglis' Russian Unit. The cars, comprising ambulances, lorries, and travelling kitchen, made a brave show—and the chauffeurs looked very smart in their khaki with tartan facings. The limited space available for the assembling gave plenty of opportunity for a display of clever driving, and all the chauffeurs proved their ability.

The two Field Hospitals, under Dr. Elsie Inglis, joined the Transport Column at the port from which all sail for Russia, on Wednesday, August 30th.

The following is a full list of the personnel:—

- DR. INGLIS' UNIT.
Doctors.—Dr. Elsie Inglis, Dr. Chesney, Dr. Corbett, Dr. Potter, Dr. Laird (to follow).
Administrator.—Miss Henderson.
Dispenser and Sanitary Inspector.—Miss Pleister.
Matron.—Miss Fox.
Assistant Matron.—Miss Vizard.
Nurses.—Mrs. Cliver, Miss McElhone, Miss F. Jenkins, Miss S. Jenkins, Miss Henderson, Miss Mundie, Miss Gilchrist, Miss Ulph, Miss Edwards, Miss Atkinson, Miss Wilcox, Miss Walker-Brown, Miss Kinnaird, Miss Bangham, Miss Jackson.
X-Ray Assistant.—Miss Rendell.
Cooks.—Miss Ford, Mrs. Milne.
Clerk.—Miss Witherspoon.
Orderlies.—Miss Moir, Miss Grant, Miss Sedgwick, Miss Johnson, Miss Bowmer, Miss Turner, Miss Little, Miss McKenzie, Miss Murphy, Miss Kent, Miss Fawcett, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Currie, Miss Fitzroy, Miss Broad, Miss Brown.
Landresses.—Miss Broadbent, Miss Clack.

- HON. EVELINA HAVERFIELD'S TRANSPORT COLUMN.
Commandant.—Hon. Evelina Haverfield.
Clerk.—Miss Robinson.
Cooks.—Miss Suche, Miss Hamner.
Chauffeurs.—Miss Maguire, Miss Reaney, Miss Livesay, Miss Bell, Miss Holme, Miss Donnithorpe, Miss Cunningham, Miss Plimsole, Miss Onslow, Miss Faithful, Miss Monfries, Miss Hedges, Miss Mackenzie, Miss Edwards, Miss Birkbeck, Miss C. Murphy, Miss Glubb, Miss Hodges, Miss Carlyon, Miss Clibborn, Miss Gartlan, Miss Walker, Miss Ellis, Miss McDougall.

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes entries like 'Brought forward 128,498 18 7' and 'Robert Mitchell, Esq., Helensburgh 3 0 0'.

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes entries like '*Per Mrs. Ramsay and Dr. Mabel Ramsay, North Hill, Plymouth, for further three months of "Plymouth," "Devon," and "Cornwall," Beds (Royaumont) 39 0 0' and '*Per Mrs. Tabor, Hon. Sec., Leeds W.S.S.; E. O. Dodge, Esq. (Ed); Mrs. Tabor (10s.) 1 10 0'.

Table with 2 columns: Bed Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes entries like '*Crombie Munition Workers" (6 months, 4th Serbian) 1 10 0' and '*Vive la France" (further 6 months, Salonika) 1 10 0'.

Items of Interest.

Russia is not going to decide the problems of "what must be done after the war," by removing women from the posts they now occupy, Professor Miliukov recently told a Cambridge audience. Russia is going to provide everybody with more work, and will keep women in their posts, and preserve their salaries. Women's work during the war, women's rights after the war, will be considered by all parties in Russia. That was the new position of women—war in war-time.

"Now that women are claiming a new right to the franchise on the strength of their war services," says the Manchester Guardian, "it may be recalled that Hungarian women were on the point of receiving the Parliamentary franchise three years ago, provided they trained themselves to play a part in national defence. In 1913, when Count Lukacs was Prime Minister, he drafted a bill compelling all women eligible for the vote to undergo a course of training as nurses if the franchise were extended to their sex. The bill was designed to work with as little irksomeness as possible, and women who through domestic or other circumstances might find it hard to undergo the training were to be freely granted exemption; but it was sufficiently far-reaching to ensure an ample supply of nurses in war-time. However, the Lukacs Ministry fell from office before submitting the measure to Parliament, and so nothing came of it."

Women on the Land. At Camberley Tribunal a farmer, applying for exemption for his son, said he had not attempted to employ women as he thought they would be useless. General Dalrymple retorted that in Yorkshire women were entirely running the farms, and they were "game" and fit to do so in Surrey, if given the chance.

A correspondent of the Daily Chronicle suggests that the smallness of the wages offered by farmers will make it very difficult to get the 400,000 women who are being asked for work upon the land. "In the course of a recent tour in parts of Berkshire and Oxfordshire," he writes, "I found a curious coincidence in the number of hours worked and the wages paid, which struck me as not being accidental, viz., 9s. for about forty hours. The women work very hard at general field work, and as carters, and are evidently chiefly impelled to accept this low wage by the urgent necessity of augmenting the family income, owing to the high war prices.

Substantial help is being given in fruit-picking by university women, and others, who have made up holiday parties for this purpose, but while some appear to be engaged on very fair terms, there are complaints from others of great discomfort and wages at even less than the usual local rate before the war. In some cases the workers have not earned enough to cover their actual living expenses, exclusive of fares. For many holiday workers this is, no doubt, a matter of little or no concern; but all women undertaking war work should make it a point of honour not to act as blacklegs, and bring down the rate of pay for those who have to earn a living. Before a party is sent to any district particulars should be obtained of local rates and conditions, and a definite arrangement made with the employer as to wages and housing. Where the housing is provided and the wages paid are only sufficient to cover cost of food the employer should pay fares, and even then the worker will be out of pocket if the job involves much wear and tear of clothing.

In France, harvest work has already made a good start. "How the women do work!" writes a correspondent of The Times. "Their energy seems endless. . . . There is no doubt about it—these French peasant women possess remarkable courage. I watched them cutting grass in a field which was well within the firing zone, and I saw two 'crumps' come down in the field if nothing had happened. The other day when I was up at the gun I passed by a woman in a field tiring up a cow's leg. I asked what was the matter. She replied: 'O, ce n'est pas grave, Monsieur, ce n'est qu'un éclat d'obus.' ('It is nothing, sir, but a shell splinter.') Apparently a shell had fallen in the field in which the cow was grazing and wounded it slightly; yet the woman did not seem to think it was anything peculiar that it should be hit by a bit of shell."

Why Government Offices Lose their Best Workers.

Many useful workers are being lost to Government Offices because of the small rate of remuneration that is offered. In Whitehall there is such a shortage of clerks that quite inexperienced girls are being engaged, and the age restriction (under 40) has been relaxed. The wages offered for routine work are fair enough for a beginner, with no special qualifications, but there is little prospect of promotion, and the result is that as soon as workers have gained a little experience and become really useful they leave for better paid posts in the City. It is the same with shorthand typists. A girl who has just left a training school may be glad enough to earn £1 or 25s., but the 30s. which is all that is offered to a Government typist after a period of satisfactory service is not enough to retain a really competent woman, who can earn £2 or £3 elsewhere. Government officials are complaining bitterly of the dearth of suitable applicants. The only way to obtain them is to offer better pay and better prospects. The Civil Service cannot expect an unlimited supply of labour subsidized by parents and guardians.

Another reason why a greater number of well-educated women are not coming forward is that they do not care to apply for work through a Labour Exchange, as they are now required to do. The Exchanges were not intended for women of the class the Government need, and it is ridiculous to expect them to apply in such a way. The experience which many women have met with when they have applied in this way has been most discouraging, and they have gone away feeling convinced that the particulars they have given will be consigned to oblivion, and that their application will never come before the right quarters at all. A large number of posts are being filled simply by private introduction, with little or no regard for qualifications. Why cannot the Civil Service Commissioners engage applicants direct, arranging for them to be interviewed by experienced women, competent to judge of their capacities?

The Coddled Postwoman. The Outlook (organ of the Leeds branch of the Postmen's Federation) makes bitter complaint of the way in which the postwoman is being "coddled," while an unfair burden is laid upon the man. "Our contention is," says the writer, "that as she is supposed to be replacing a man released for active service it is only reasonable to expect her exactly to fill his place; of course, with an adequate reward for her services. We see no reason why she should have the lightest duties and best hours specially reserved for her." In other walks of life, he points out—the Leeds tramway, for example—women are doing the same work as the men they replace. "If the present female staff is too frail to undertake a truly postman's duty they should be replaced by others who are more fit, and what is more to the point, would work, because it provided an income and not for 'swank.' But, and perhaps 'here's the rub!' they ought to be properly paid for their services." Unfortunately, it seems to be against the Government's principles to pay women a fair wage.

A Suggested Economy. In reply to a deputation representative of Scottish religious organisations, urging total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor in Scotland during the war, Mr. Tennant said that the Government was faced with the question of compensation, and also with the possibility of trouble from the working classes, who might show such resentment at the prohibition of spirits, that the output of munitions would be retarded, instead of increased. The movement for prohibition in Scotland was a strong one, but these considerations must be borne in mind. He was depressed, he admitted, that the steps and restrictions already taken had not had the efficacious result that was hoped for.

In the United States there is an enormously strong anti-alcohol movement, which is beginning to sweep the country. The movement for workmen's compensation, according to Mr. Hendrich, in an article in Harper's Magazine, has accelerated the campaign, for alcohol plays an important part in causing accidents, and employers object to paying for preventable casualties; but there is more behind the campaign than at first appears—industry in the United States, in its search for mental and physical efficiency, has decided to abolish alcohol.

Southport.

The united Suffrage meeting announced in last week's COMMON CAUSE was held in the North Marine Park, on Saturday, August 26th. The chair being taken by our President, Miss Rigby, as Miss Ryley, unfortunately, found herself unable to preside, and good speeches were given by Mrs. Crumblehulme, Mr. Price Heywood, and Miss Grundy, to the following resolution, which was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting, organised by representatives of the local branches of the Women's Suffrage Societies, notes with satisfaction the Prime Minister's admission that the women's claim to the Parliamentary vote is now not only a reasonable but an unanswerable claim." Suffrage literature was sold, and cards of membership circulated. The balance of collection taken, after expenses are paid, will be handed over to Suffragist Hospitals. A copy of the resolution was sent to the Premier.

SEPTEMBER 27. Cheltenham—Public Meeting in the small Victoria Hall—Speaker, Miss Annie Cooke, on "Prospects of Women's Suffrage" 8.0

ALL BRITISH. VALKASA THE TONIC NERVE FOOD. An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE. 1s., 3s., and 5s. 6d. of all Chemists. James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER. DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE. RED WHITE & BLUE For Breakfast & after Dinner. In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY? The large London Market enables ROBINSON BROS. of 5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple St.), W. & 127, Fenchurch St. E.C. To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036. ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

Table with 4 columns: WORDS, ONCE, THREE TIMES, SIX TIMES. Includes rows for 10, 20, 30, and 40 words.

POSITIONS WANTED. LADY COOK-HOUSEKEEPER, with daughter, fourteen, desires appointment immediately; town or suburbs; excellent references; thoroughly experienced.—Box 6,045, COMMON CAUSE OFFICE. LADY wishes to do war gardening, where other ladies are working (not trained, but had some experience).—Write Box 6,044, COMMON CAUSE OFFICE. MRS. DIXON-DAVIES recommends excellent lady cook-housekeeper for small quiet household (lady servants only); occasional help, rough work, country or suburbs preferred; £36.—Witheridge, Beaconsfield. PART TIME POST required by Diplômee of National Health Society; good shorthand typist; social and secretarial work; experienced.—Box 6,046, COMMON CAUSE OFFICE. YOUNG LADY (rector's daughter) would like to hear of an opening where either her knowledge of cooking (expert cake and sweet maker), or of kennel management, would be useful. She would join another living alone in flat, and undertake cooking for both, in return for board and lodging.—Box 6,043, COMMON CAUSE OFFICE.

POSITIONS VACANT.

DOMESTIC HELP.—Gentlewoman wanted; September; 3 in family.—Mrs. Shaxby, Wynnstow, Llanishen, near Cardiff.

CAN ANY LADY RECOMMEND thoroughly trustworthy Nurse, for St. John's Wood, London (lady preferred); do own nursery; one baby.—Write Mrs. Perceval-Clark, 4, Rushall-park, Tunbridge Wells.

TWO LADIES require cook-housekeeper; country; every convenience.—Box 6,033, COMMON CAUSE Office.

TWO LADIES require speaker for village meetings; afternoon; various subjects; expenses and small fee.—Box 6,032, COMMON CAUSE Office.

WANTED, lady as servant for 1 lady; country cottage; some knowledge cooking essential; vegetarian would suit; help for roughest work; fullest particulars, references, salary.—Miss Wilson, The Hatch, Padworth Common, Beenham.

POULTRY FARMING.

GENTLEWOMEN interested in Poultry Farming can receive short course at up-to-date Poultry Farm in Surrey; comfortable board-residence in modern cottage; reduction two sharing room; vacancy, first week September; inclusive terms.—Write, Box 6,011, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS, Made in the Dauntless Hall Workroom. Artistic Dress Fabrics in Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. On Sale at the Alston Studio, 8, New Bond-st., W., where lessons in Spinning and Weaving are given. Demonstrations every Tuesday, 11.30 to 1.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S., Chemist, coaches women students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

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