

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Notes and News	565
The Last Stage of the Representation of the People Bill	567
The Work of Miss Ethel Sargant	567
Women in the Engineering Trade	568
The Aims of Labour	569
New Occupations for Women: Bacteriology	570
The Prospects of Women Shop Assistants	571
"Sing, Rejoice, and Give Thanks"	572
The Future of the National Union	573
The Girl on the Way	574

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

Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage the Law of the Land.

The Representation of the People Bill has become the Representation of the People Act, and Women's Suffrage is the law of the land!

We publish this week a leading article by our President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, who, since 1866, has devoted her life to this reform. Her name is as indissolubly bound up with it as Cobden's with the repeal of the Corn Laws, and Mazzini's with the freedom of Italy. Several generations of women have looked up to her leadership and trusted in her wisdom. Our joy in this triumph of our cause is deepened by the knowledge that she is still our leader, and that we have her guidance in the fresh efforts which lie before us.

Side by side with Mrs. Fawcett's article we are glad to be able to publish one by our Honorary Parliamentary Secretary, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, whose untiring labours have done so much to secure the victory that has now come to us.

At the time of the Council we hope to publish a special number, which will contain reference to some of those who have worked for the Cause in the past, and messages from some who are with us now. It would take some thousands of numbers of this paper to begin to record the gratitude which we who are now enfranchised feel to those who have won our freedom for us, and helped us to win it for ourselves. Many of them have worked in remote parts of the country, where the very name of Woman Suffrage would not have been known but for them; many have toiled silently in offices at wearisome routine work, the results of which they could hardly hope to see; many have done the jobs they most hated, and even the jobs for which they felt themselves most incapable, because there was no one else to do them; many have, in one way or another, given up their lives to the Cause. No real record is possible. But, incomplete as it must needs be, we still hope that our Council number will be of special interest to our readers, and that they may like to keep it as a memento of the end of one stage in the great struggle for freedom.

Women Voters and the Choice of Candidates.

Now that women really have in their hands the political power, the want of which has hitherto so cramped their efforts, they must not delay to take up their full political responsibilities. All the parties are making preparations for the coming General Elections, and, in particular, choosing the candidates. Women's Societies throughout the country should make a point of seeing the party agents, and, where necessary, going on deputations to the party Executive to lay

before them what they consider necessary in a candidate. Many women's societies have on their programmes reforms for which without the vote it was hopeless to think of securing legislation. The responsibility now rests with them to bring before all the parties the need of selecting only those candidates satisfactory to the women as well as the men electors. Where an unsatisfactory candidate may have been already selected, his withdrawal should be urged, and the substitution for him of a satisfactory man.

The New Session.

The King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on Tuesday was confined to the need for prosecuting the war with all the vigour that the nation possesses, "until a recognition is offered of the only principles on which an honourable peace can be concluded." It is likely, however, that time will be found during the new Session for the introduction of several measures of special interest to women. There is a definite promise that the Education Bill shall be reintroduced as soon as possible, and it is not unlikely that before the Session ends the proposal to establish a Ministry of Health will be discussed. There are also hopes that Lord Buckmaster's Bill to enable women to become solicitors may be taken shortly.

Opposition to the Education Bill.

The Lancashire cotton industry is organising opposition to some of the clauses in the new Education Bill, especially to the proposal to make part-time attendance at school compulsory until the age of eighteen; but it is not likely that Mr. Fisher will give way on this point. He has the support of the large majority of people who are interested in education, and the general public are rapidly becoming more and more alive to the need for giving a more thorough training to children of all classes. Speaking at a meeting in Huddersfield last Saturday, Mr. Fisher alluded to the fact that in the Huddersfield mills there have been no "half-timers" for many years, yet he could see no signs of ruin and decay as a consequence, and he was informed that the rate of wages in the town compared favourably with the rate in some neighbouring towns where the half-time custom still survived.

As to the contention that the proposed system of continuation classes would impose a great burden upon British industry, Mr. Fisher pointed out that the country which had been our most formidable rival in commerce, had had a system of continuation education in the daytime for eight hours a week for young people between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, superadded to the burden of conscription. He had not heard of a single instance in which a manufacturer who had established a day continuation school in connection with his works had regretted it.

Women and the Legal Profession.

A Memorial, widely signed by members of Parliament, has been sent to the Government, urging that time shall be given next Session to the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which has a large measure of support both in the House and in the country. There are also signs that the demand for the admission of women to the Bar is to be pressed, and will find growing support. Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., University Extension Lecturer, and a well-known speaker on social questions, has applied to the Benchers of the Middle Temple for admission as a student of the Inn, and Mr. Holford Knight, who has been pressing for some years for the admission of women to the Bar, has consented to act as her sponsor,

together with Mr. Wells Thatcher. He considers that the prejudice against admitting women to the legal profession is weakening, and that the days have gone by when a body of lawyers can successfully prevent reasonable changes on which the nation insists.

The Overstaffing of Government Offices.

It will be remembered that the Women's Interests' Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies organised a memorial protesting against the exclusion of women from the Committee formed to consider the question of overstaffing of Government offices. This was signed by representatives of a number of important women's organisations, and was followed by a further protest signed by Miss Violet Markham, the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Miss Elizabeth Haldane, Mrs. W. L. Courtney, Miss Penrose, Miss Clough, Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Mary Macarthur, Mrs. Creighton, Miss Susan Lawrence, Miss Clementina Black, Mrs. Arnold Glover, and Miss Stephen, which was sent to Mr. Bonar Law on February 5th. In his reply, acknowledging the receipt of the memorial, Mr. Bonar Law called attention to his answer in the House of Commons, on February 5th, to a question with regard to the Committee.

Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck asked whether he had yet decided to remedy the injustice that, whereas the majority of persons employed in Government Departments are of the female sex, no woman has been appointed to sit on the Committee to enquire into the numbers and organisation of the clerical staffs employed in these Departments.

To this, Mr. Bonar Law replied that Miss Hermia Durham, C.B.E., Chief Woman Officer, Employment Department, Ministry of Labour, had been appointed a member of the Committee.

The appointment of a single woman official (who is already a member of several other important committees) is, however, scarcely enough. Of the four men appointed to the Committee, two are Civil Servants, one is a banker, and one is chief goods manager to the Great Central Railway. The Committee would be greatly strengthened by the addition of a representative of one of the organisations of business women, who thoroughly understands the clerical work of an office from the woman clerk's point of view.

A Commission of Women.

We are glad to learn that a commission of six representative women is to be appointed to go out to France to make a thorough enquiry into the allegations that have been made against members of the W.A.A.C. The appointment of this commission was announced on Monday by Mr. G. R. Roberts, Minister of Labour, at the opening of a recruiting exhibition at Messrs. Harrods in connection with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Women's Land Army.

After speaking of the fine response that women had made to the appeal for National Service, and announcing that there was an immediate demand for more recruits, Mr. Roberts stated that while in the Provinces last week, he had met with a recrudescence of those malicious rumours which have been circulated respecting the conduct of some women in the W.A.A.C. These rumours, said Mr. Roberts, had from time to time reached him, but he had never heeded them, because he had thought them unworthy of notice. But he had found that a number of people were believing them, in spite of official repudiation made after most exhausting enquiries, and so he had authorised the appointment of six thoroughly representative women to go out and make an independent report, in order to reassure the public further.

It is to be hoped that this enquiry will not only put an end once for all to these malicious rumours, but will bring to light the mean-spirited people responsible for starting them. The names of the commissioners are not, at time of going to press, definitely known, but it is stated that Miss Violet Markham and Miss Picton-Turberville will be among them.

A New Chief Area Controller for the W.A.A.C.

Mrs. Chalmers Watson has resigned her position as Chief Controller of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, in order to nurse her son, and Mrs. Burleigh Leach, C.B.E., has been appointed to take her place. Mrs. Leach has been Controller of Inspection of the W.A.A.C. since its formation, when the cookery section of the Women's Legion, with which she was formerly working, was absorbed in the new organisation. In August, 1915, Mrs. Leach organised the sending of women cooks to the men's camps in England, and there were many prophecies that such a scheme was bound to fail; but it proved a complete success.

THE CHURCH AND ARMY MORALS.

We referred last week to the Archbishop of Canterbury's complete vindication of the morals of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. He declared that the moral standard of the thousands of women who were going out to France to work with the Army was extremely high, and that he was lost in admiration at the way in which the rules for members of the W.A.A.C. had been planned, and the way in which effect had been given to those rules. The allegations that had been made against the Corps were utterly untrue, and most discreditable to those who made them.

The moral standard of our men in the Army was, the Archbishop said, also high, compared with that of most other armies in the world. But where large numbers of men were concentrated far away from their own homes, it was obvious that dangers were great, and precautions of a special and definite kind were supremely important. He referred to the excellent rules and arrangements made by the American authorities for their troops—these being based on experiences which we did not ourselves possess at the start—and went on to say that he was in communication with the highest authorities of the War Office with regard to some of the facts to which attention had been widely called, as creating scandal and difficulty in some parts of the Army quarters in France.

At a further meeting of the Convocation, the Bishop of London called attention to the statement of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, referred to in our last issue, with reference to the provision of facilities for immorality provided for British soldiers in France, and demanded a public and complete denial of the charge, which has not hitherto been met. On the motion of the Bishop of London the following resolution was passed:—

"(i.) That this House thinks it both deplorable and preventable that our troops on arrival at certain of the London stations should be subjected to such molestation in the interests of vice as is now the case, and desires to press with all urgency upon the London County Council and the police the necessity, in conjunction with the military authorities, for cleansing the issues and purlieus of the London stations.

"(ii.) That the attention of the authorities of the Army be called to the statement printed by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and largely circulated with regard to scandals connected with licensed houses in France, especially at Cayeux and at Havre, and that if such scandals are proved to exist they be asked to take drastic steps to prevent their recurrence."

A DEMAND FOR "PURITY PATROLS."

In the Lower House of the Convocation the Dean of Lincoln presented a report on the moral dangers officially allowed to confront our soldiers. He protested against a system in operation in at least one base camp abroad where a leave-card given to soldiers put in bounds at certain hours a street well known to be the site of houses of ill-fame. That was a disgrace to someone; but they had not been able to discover who was responsible.

Canon Burroughs said that he had spent a week at the base-camp in question, and seen the special camp for diseased soldiers near it. As compared with what occurred in this place in France, he quoted what he had seen in Alexandria, where the Army chaplains went to the houses of vice each night to endeavour to persuade soldiers not to give way to the temptations offered. He suggested the formation of purity patrols, on the same lines as the organised air-raid patrols, and an increased number of policemen to combat the evil.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

The fund for our third COMMON CAUSE HUT, which is being awaited by members of the W.A.A.C. stationed on Salisbury Plain, now amounts to over £430; but we still need another £270 to cover the cost of building and equipment.

We gratefully acknowledge the following sums:—

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged	270 19 1	A. M. B.	10 0
Mrs. PAYNTER	2 0 0	Miss F. Graham	5 0
Mrs. W. T. LAYTON	1 0 0	Miss E. M. Nalsh	1 0 0
Miss L. V. HAUGHTON	1 1 0	Mrs. Owen	5 0
Mrs. TURNBULL	10 0	Mrs. Griffiths	1 0 0
Lady Lawson Tancred	1 0 0	Mrs. T. R. Hill	10 0
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Lady Crofton	10 0		
Mrs. Alfred Illingworth	50 0 0		
Miss C. Newton	2 6		
			£431 17 7

Further donations will be welcomed by the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

The Last Stage of the Passage of the Representation of the People Bill.

On Wednesday, February 6th, 1918, the two Houses of Parliament met to consider the parts of the Reform Bill on which they were not yet agreed, and it was expected that these would be rapidly dealt with, and that the Session would end the same night. First, the House of Lords took up the Bill. The Commons had for a second time disagreed with their proposals to reinsert a form of Proportional Representation, and to remove the Alternative Vote. They decided, after a very short debate, to reinsert a third even more tentative and experimental form of P.R., and once more to remove the Alternative Vote.

At 4 p.m. they adjourned till 6.30, and the Bill, with its new additions, passed back to the Commons, whither it was followed by the Peers, who betook themselves to their gallery, and by a few anxious women in theirs.

Then began one of the most unexpected scenes in the whole long history of the Bill. The members, present in unusual numbers, seemed to be in a somewhat reckless mood, like schoolboys at the very end of a term. They listened to Sir George Cave's smooth announcement of what the Lords had done, and to his statement that the Government now meant to support them and bring the contest to an immediate end, with obvious impatience, and it was evident that something was in the air. It soon became clear what that something was. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, speaking from behind the Treasury bench, delivered an impassioned speech against the action of the Government. In the plainest and the strongest terms he denounced the action of the Lords, and attacked Proportional Representation on grounds of conscience, morality, integrity, and history, and brought to bear against a very harmless proposal the great guns of rhetoric and passion. He appealed directly and most recklessly to the Party spirit in the House, challenged the Commons not to submit to the Lords, and with phrases calculated to reawaken many an ancient bitterness, he sought to wreck the Representation of the People Bill at its latest hour. From all parts of the House cheers and counter-cheers greeted his periods, and members, crowding in, seemed pleasantly excited by the atmosphere of strife. He was followed at once by Mr. Balfour and Mr. Asquith, both of whom gave, with no gentle hand, the rebuke he so clearly deserved. But the House was not easily to be calmed, and there was more to follow. An amendment was immediately proposed to reinsert once more into the Bill the Alternative Vote, in the same tentative fashion that Proportional Representation now stood. In reasonable and moderate speeches Sir Willoughby Dickinson and Mr. Arthur Henderson showed that it would be quite fair and right, if the Commons accepted a form of P.R. from the Lords, for the Lords also to accept a similar form of Alternative Vote from the Commons. This proposal also was greeted with loudly expressed approval, and it looked as if it would certainly be adopted.

Then the Government intervened again, and Mr. Bonar Law appealed to the House to run no more risks, to finish with it now, and to agree with the Lords without further delay. Unfortunately, the question of the Alternative Vote had, for some obscure reason, become a Liberal question. The feeling in the House grew more uproarious, and the behaviour more excited than before. The few bold spirits who continued the debate did so amid a storm of cries, and the buzz of excited conversation made every word inaudible.

In spite of all the excitement, however, when the division came, the Government had a clear and safe majority. The Alternative Vote was rejected, agreement with the Lords was reached in a few moments, and the Bill was through.

The last stage thus left no trace upon the Bill, which stands as their Lordships passed it; it shows in a very striking way the dangers from which the Bill has escaped.

For nine months it has been proceeding through Parliament, and for fifty full Parliamentary days it has been discussed in the House of Commons. During all that time it has never, until this latest stage, encountered the full blast of party antagonism, of wrecking criticism, and of sheer ill-temper. It has passed through its dangers and vicissitudes with the general goodwill of all parties, and it has lived because of the spirit of give and take, of compromise, and of toleration, upon which it was built up.

At any earlier stage an episode such as this last might well have proved the ruin of the Bill. Passions, once roused, would have continued to rise; unforgivable things would have been said, and hasty decisions would have been taken. It is no doubt because of this that the members felt free on their very last sitting to indulge the wickedness that had been so long and so fortunately suppressed. They had been good so long; the Session was all but over, the Bill all but passed—now that it is safely over, we need not grudge them their dangerous sport.

When the Commons had finished with the Bill, it passed back to the Upper House, and the ceremony of the giving of the Royal Assent began. The Suffragists who followed it back from the House of Commons were now no longer anxious. They entered Westminster Hall, they sat upon the red benches, and the Lord Chancellor in his robes came in. Then the Speaker of the House of Commons, escorted by Black Rod, and followed by the Commons, journeyed from the one House to the other; and then, standing at the Bar, they listened to the Proclamation by which His Majesty gave power to the Lord Chancellor to affix to Acts of Parliament the Royal Assent. With gorgeous red robes, with magnificent bowing and the lifting of great wide hats, the ceremony proceeded, while below the Bar there stood waiting the friends of the great Reform Bill.

The Speaker, watching the completion of the work of his Conference; Sir George Cave, thankful, no doubt, that the stormy passage was behind him; and our own friends: Lord Lytton, who has shared our hopes; Sir John Simon, who had come by aeroplane from France only the day before; Sir Willoughby Dickinson, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Mr. Gulland—they, and a few others, stood waiting for the enfranchisement of women.

"The Coal Mines Control Agreement (Confirmation) Act," so read the clerk at the table. "Le roi le veult," and the Coal Mines Act was the law of the land. "The Midwives (Ireland) Act." "Le roi le veult." "The National Health Insurance Act." "The Bishoprics of Bradford and Coventry Act," and so on in a long procession, until it seemed that it would never come.

"The Representation of the People Act": there it was at last, the greatest Reform Bill, turning into law before our eyes. "Le roi le veult." It was done; and it can never be undone!

RAY STRACHEY.

The Work of Miss Ethel Sargant.

(REPRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION OF "THE CAMBRIDGE MAGAZINE.")

Ethel Sargant was the daughter of Henry Sargant, of Lincoln's Inn, and his wife, Emma Beale, a lady belonging to a Birmingham family. Born in London in 1863, she was educated under Miss Buss at the North London Collegiate School in its pioneer days, and afterwards at Girton College, where she took the two Parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos in 1884 and 1885. After leaving Cambridge, she made some beginning at the scientific work which was later to become her absorbing interest, but her real initiation into research dates from a later period (1892-3), which she spent at the Jodrell Laboratory, Kew, working under the direction of Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S. From 1893 until the end of her life, her botanical research was all carried out at home, a great part of it being accomplished in a delightful little laboratory, opened in 1897, which was built in the grounds of her mother's house—Quarry Hill, Reigate. In this laboratory she not only worked herself, but for a number of years a research assistant was also continuously employed, while other botanists occasionally spent briefer periods there. All her life she maintained the heretical view that research—unless its nature rendered it impossible—was best carried out at home, and not in any institution, because she believed this to be the way "to learn independence—which is the essence of research." This is not the place to consider her work in detail, but it may be said that it was distinguished by originality and breadth of view, combined with extreme thoroughness. Ethel Sargant's intellect was not of the rapid, facile order; it was the slow antithesis of the "examination mind." She brooded very over her theories, delighting, in her own words, to "chew the cud of an hypothesis."

Except for one course at London University in 1907, Ethel Sargant did little lecturing. She regarded teaching as a dangerous occupation for the investigator: in her own words—"In most cases teaching seems to me fatal to research." But she was occasionally induced to address the local natural history society on what she called "the more entertaining botanical fictions."

As illustrating her aspirations on behalf of the women's colleges, whose future she had much at heart, and also as expressing an attitude of mind which, with her, was fundamental, one or two passages may be quoted here from a paper called "The Inheritance of a University," which she contributed to the *Girton Review* (Lent Term, 1901):—

"Among the stream of undergraduates passing through a University, one here and there feels the impulse to pursue knowledge for its own sake. No matter whether his tastes lead him to nice points of classical scholarship or to the investigation of nature. His true life lies in obedience to this impulse. . . . Now as always the majority value Pegasus as a draught horse, or at best look on him as a well-bred racer. But in the University he is known to be of immortal breed. . . ."

"The great inheritance, then, of the Universities is the tradition of learning for learning's sake, and in this inheritance women have been allowed a share. It was claimed for us by our founders when they established Women's Colleges at Cambridge and Oxford. We have reaped the first-fruits of their wisdom. Sooner or later an account will be required of us. It is not enough that our graduates can point with pride to their achievements in the Finals. These may satisfy their college, but the University asks how many women trained in her schools are adding to the sum of knowledge. For the torch of research is handed on as the Fiery Cross once was in the Highlands."

After the death of an invalid sister and of her mother, to both of whom she had been devoted to a degree to which only the richest natures can rise, Ethel Sargant was able to fulfil a wish of many years' standing, in making a home in the neighbourhood of her College. In 1912 she took possession of the Old Rectory, Girton—a Georgian house of a period which had always made a special appeal to her, and which became in a most singular way an expression of her personality; it was difficult to believe that she had not been born and nurtured there. Country life was an unending joy to her, and she took to farming *con amore*. One of the objects nearest to her heart—especially during this last year—was the provision of an adequate supply of milk for the children of the village.

Soon after Ethel Sargant settled at Girton, an access of scientific recognition came to her. She had already been the first woman member of the Council of the Linnean Society, on which she served from 1906 to 1910. She was President of Section K (Botany) of the British Association at the Birmingham Meeting in 1913, being the first woman to hold this office. In the same year she was made Honorary Fellow of Girton College, and, a little later, a member of the Council of this foundation. She succeeded Mrs. Sidgwick in 1913 as President of the Federation of University Women—a position which she still held at the time of her death. She was closely associated with the Register of university women for war work, initiated by the F.U.W., of which she wrote an account in *The Cambridge Magazine* (Vol. V., p. 10, October 16th, 1915). This Register was ultimately handed over to the Board of Trade at the request of that body. In order to work at the Register, Ethel Sargant spent the winter of 1915-16 in London, although her health was at that time very precarious, and those who knew her best tried to dissuade her from the venture, on the ground that the strain would be more than she could stand. But she regarded the Register as the most useful piece of war-work which it was in her power to do, and—in her own words—"I was prepared, if necessary, to risk wrecking my health for the rest of my life in order to carry it out." When she returned to Girton it was evident that her vitality had been lowered by a lengthy spell of exacting work under those town conditions which had always been inimical to her, and that a long rest was necessary. But by the autumn of 1917 she seemed stronger, and she began again to take up her scientific work. This apparent recovery was, alas! delusive, for while staying at Sidmouth—a place to which she was often drawn by family associations—she was seized with serious illness, and died on January 16th, 1918.

It has been impossible here to do more than indicate the bare outlines of Ethel Sargant's life: her rare quality as a hostess and as a correspondent, her inimitable humour, the latent poetical faculty which was stirred into life by the war, the intensity and vividness of her enjoyment of the daily details of existence—all these and many other facets of a catholic individuality must be left untouched. She was a woman of whom it may be said without hyperbole that to love her was a liberal education.

A. A.

Women in the Engineering Trades.*

I.—THE WORK.

It is difficult, and it would, indeed, be futile, to attempt any adequate review of this most interesting book without embarking upon a discussion of the critical problems raised by the employment of women in industry which are so clearly set forth and so plainly emphasised in this volume. The discussion of these problems must necessarily pass beyond the limits of a short review, and I propose to take this book as the text for a short series of articles dealing with the salient points that it brings to light.

The engineering industry offers the most striking and picturesque example of the new industrial position of women, and presents in a lurid light the immense difficulties that it creates. The story of the development of the work of women in these trades, which was increasing slowly before the war, and which has leapt into such prominence since August, 1914, is set forth in this memorandum with that wealth of detail and evidence that is to be expected from the Fabian Research Department.

The first impression gathered from the book is the immense multiplicity of the engineering processes now carried on by women. Not only are there the great divisions of shell and fuse, cartridge and gun-making, and engine-making, of shipbuilding, and of aeroplane construction, but within these divisions there are the workers in wood, steel, iron, brass, copper, aluminium, and other metals; and, again, cutting across these distinctions, the skilled, semi-skilled, and the unskilled, the repetition workers, the toolsetters, the examiners, the labourers and charge hands, with an infinite variety of gradations and adjustments; and, to make confusion worse confounded, the incessant alteration of processes due to the introduction of new machinery and the standardisation of parts. Into practically all of these various jobs women are finding their way.

From the first cutting of the piece of bar, drilling and ripping the planks, roughing and turning the bodies, rough boring, finished boring, opening the mouth, shaping and screwing the nose, recessing and screwing and undercutting the base, waiving and grooving, turning, fitting, and pressing the copper bands, turning and riveting the base plates," in the making of shells, to "point-grinding, fluet-cleaning, hardening, sand-blasting, and truing" in fuse-making, and to rivetting, drilling, brazing, welding, polishing, doping, varnishing, assembling, and erecting aeroplanes, women are extensively engaged. But even the list of operations does not exhaust the variety of the processes. In almost every factory now employed on Government work, different adaptations of machinery and method are taking place, and labour-saving and skill-saving devices are introduced at different rates and with different degrees of success.

In spite of this complexity of work, some general conclusions yet emerge of which, of course, the most well known is the success with which, so far as the work is concerned, women have been employed. The bulk of the evidence of this book goes to show that the quickness, the patience, and the lightness of touch of the ordinary woman worker makes her well suited for a great number of engineering processes. The introduction of women has been, in fact, so successful from this point of view that it has seemed to take away from the engineering trades much of the standing and prestige that have hitherto enveloped them. Women with no previous training have seemed to rush in and accomplish after three weeks what a tradesman took three years to learn, and on all sides it is said by employers that the myth of the skilled tradesman has been exploded by the advent of women. This contention, of course, is grossly exaggerated, and the simplification of the processes which has made it possible for women in three weeks to do highly skilled work is in itself as grave a danger to the position of the skilled engineers as is the introduction of the cheap competition of women. But, with all allowances for change of process, the fact remains that women have proved overwhelmingly that they do possess a mechanical aptitude and a machine sense that is capable of being highly developed, and the sex differentiation which kept women out of the world of machinery is as obsolete as that which kept them out of the world of politics.

It is doubtful whether the evidence collected in this book,

* "Women in the Engineering Trades: A Problem, a Solution, and some Criticisms, being a report based on an enquiry by a Joint Committee of the Fabian Research Department and the Fabian Women's Group." By Barbara Drake. (Trade Union Series No. 3. Fabian Research Department, 25, Tothill Street, 1917.)

or, indeed, any evidence which is at present available, can establish the upper limits of a woman skilled in engineering. It is widely said that, while women are better than men on repetition work, they are less competent for the fully-skilled processes, and there is a well-marked tendency, both on the part of employers and of the fully-skilled men themselves, to allot to women as their proper sphere the semi-skilled and automatic parts of the work, while to men are left, on the one hand, the heavy and cumbersome parts, and on the other hand the fully-skilled and responsible processes. Whether this rough division is permanent, it is impossible to say. The extraordinary conditions in which women have come into the trades, and the chaotic fashion in which they acquire their training, prevent anything but a rough estimate of their powers of development, or of the suitability of engineering trades to their strength and capacity. But, at any rate, it is clear that for good or for evil, as skilled or as semi-skilled, the invasion of women into the world of machinery will never be turned back.

RAY STRACHEY.

The Aims of Labour.

"The Aims of Labour,"* with the two memoranda on War Aims and Reconstruction reprinted in the appendix, is a general but vigorous statement of the political ideals for which the Labour Party means to stand. It contains few concrete proposals, but every page of the book makes it clear that the Labour Party will look to its members themselves, both men and women, to initiate and direct the details of its policy. In the past, Mr. Henderson says, the Labour Party has been wrongly assumed to aim solely at securing "remedies for a series of material grievances touching hours of labour, rates of wages, conditions of employment." The new constitution is designed to make it clear that labour aims at "good government" in general. The new Labour Party is to include as individuals all workers "whose labour of hand or brain provides the necessities of life for all."

In the reorganisation of industry after the war, "the Labour Party will claim for the workers an increasing share in the management and control of the factories and workshops. . . . We believe that the path to the democratic control of industry lies in the common ownership of the means of production; and we shall strenuously resist every proposal to hand back to private capitalists the great industries and services that have come under Government control during the war." Mr. Henderson goes on to describe the broad lines of the policy which the Labour Party will pursue in national and international affairs. Three chapters are devoted to the discussion of international reorganisation, strongly advocating, as Labour throughout Europe has advocated, the establishment of a League of Nations, and opposing any form of economic boycott. The following chapter, called "Revolution or Compromise?" contains what are perhaps the ablest and most searching passages in the book. Mr. Henderson points out that "Revolution, if revolution is, indeed, to be forced upon democracy, will be veritable civil war." The danger comes from the "stupid refusal to discuss the question of reform at all," which, even before the war, had caused large sections of the people to distrust Parliamentary action. If revolution is to be avoided, it must be proved that "political methods are effective, and that Parliament can be made to legislate for the good of the people rather than for a particular class."

In his two final chapters on "Victory" and "The Spirit of Democracy," Mr. Henderson develops the idea of the conscious responsibility of the people. As the power of the people grows, the importance of personality in politics—the need not only for great leaders, but for followers "individually strong in determination"—becomes more vital. It is with these aims in view that, as Mr. Henderson courageously declares, "In opposition, and presently, as we believe and hope, in office, Labour will seek to build up a new order of society, rooted in equality, dedicated to freedom, governed on democratic principles."

The book as a whole suggests the need of some authoritative statement of the particular measures by which the Labour Party means to attain these universally respected ends; and we may hope that the next volume from the active pen of its leader will show in greater detail how the aims of Labour are to be translated into action.

E. B.

* "The Aims of Labour," by the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P. (Headley Bros., 1s. net.)

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Some New Occupations for Women.

XIII.—WOMEN'S WORK IN A BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

One of the most fascinating and absorbing of the occupations in which there seem to be good prospects for women after the war is that of the Bacteriologist. There is such a vast scope for women's work there—new theories to test, ever more and more research work waiting to be done, for Bacteriology is still in its childhood or adolescence—and there are many fresh discoveries to be made. Now, in this time of world war, laboratories attached to all the big hospitals, military and civilian, are taking in more and more women to replace the men who have joined the Colours. At first, they refused to have women, and it was only the Laboratories that had always women working in them that took new recruits to train, because they saw ahead, and knew that later on trained women would be eagerly snapped up. Now women are working in the Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratories of military and civil hospitals, in the Laboratories of Medical Officers of Health—in fact, wherever there are vacancies. Military hospitals take untrained laboratory assistants as well as trained ones.

When the Wasserman Laboratories gradually come into existence all over the country as a result of the campaign against venereal disease, women will be required to help in them. After the war, there are many researches to be undertaken on cases which have been partially examined during the rush of the war—the bacteria of wounds, the paratyphoid, the bacillary dysenteries and all their variations. There is no time now to continue these investigations; they are all waiting to be undertaken.

Bacteriology is essentially women's work. It requires unending patience, observation, meticulous accuracy in technique, initiative in thinking out new methods, and delicacy of manipulation. Work starts early, as there is so much to do from the previous day—that is, cultures have to be examined which have been planted twelve, twenty-four, or forty-eight hours previously, sub-cultures (or fresh plantings from bacterial colonies) to be made, new media to be made, stains for sections and slides to be prepared—all this to be done before the rush of the day's specimens come in. Your cultures have to be examined by making stained slides from them, and then looking at them under a microscope, where, by their appearance and manner of taking the stains, you are able to recognise the various bacteria.

When the specimens come down to the Laboratory from the wards, they generally consist of sputa to be stained and examined for tubercle bacilli; swabs from throat cases for diphtheria; growths sent down from the operating-theatre; these have to be hardened and mounted in wax, and sections cut from them for microscopical examination as well as for bacteriological; pus to be stained for organisms; blood to be examined for malaria or for differential counts of the red and white cells for anaemia, or to be tested for typhoid or dysentery (Agglutinations) or for syphilis (Wasserman's reaction); faeces have to be examined for protozoa and bacillary dysentery. Urines have to be tested for sugar, blood, bile, pus, or living organisms; vaccines to be made either autogenous—i.e., made from the patient's own organism—or a stock vaccine, to be put up into graduated doses. Suspicious milks, water, butter, &c., are also often sent in. In fact, any investigation required by the M.O.s is done in the Laboratory.

There is a tremendous amount of sheer routine work that goes on the whole time, on which depends the whole working of the Laboratory. That is the ceaseless washing-up and sterilising of tubes, petri plates (for planting bacteria), slides and coverslips, and of making media; otherwise, when you are busiest, you will be held up for sterile petri plates or tubes of media, on which and in which you grow your bacteria. Everything has to be as sterile as possible; the used glass has to be disinfected, boiled in potassium bichromate, washed in acid, and again in water, and then sterilised in a steam steriliser. All the glass test-tubes that are to contain media have to be boiled in acid, as they are apt to give off alkali from the glass which makes the media turbid and unfit for use.

When sterile, the tubes are filled to the amount of 5 c.c. with the various kinds of media required; cotton-wool plugs are fitted into the mouths of the tubes, and the tubes are sterilised at 100 deg. C. for sixty minutes on two consecutive days. Then they are autoclaved (i.e., submitted to steam heat with pressure) at 15 lb. for half an hour where permissible. The

media, sterilised at 100 deg. C. intermittently, has to be incubated during the intervals between steaming. All media has to be incubated at 37 deg. C. prior to use, to see that it is quite sterile; otherwise you may get growths due to contamination which will nullify your examination.

This business of preparing media is one person's work. In fact, in a large Laboratory two or more people are kept busy all the time, as much media is used. One person must supervise, to see that the steriliser and autoclave are at the right temperature and pressure, that the tubes are properly plugged, and that the right quantities of ingredients are used in each medium.

This seems to be essentially a woman's work. It is like invalid cookery on a large scale! All ingredients have to be weighed and measured exactly, and proportions reckoned, very much as a cook reckons on the amount of ingredients she requires. Of media there are literally no end—bacteria have their likes and dislikes in the matter of food like ourselves, and they consume quite a lot of it. Some like meat extract (of which ten or eleven litres are sometimes made in a laboratory every three weeks); some like sugar broths, of which there are about twenty varieties; and others fancy a substance made from Japanese sea-weed—to give but a few examples.

This very roughly indicates how much work is needed, but gives no idea of what an amount of unseen labour goes to producing that media to your hand when you want it. All this spade-work has to be done before one can grow the bacteria in order to investigate what is causing the particular disease one is examining. The morning is the busiest time of all—all the examinations and reports have to be done then; and the afternoon is left for planting, sub-culturing, and plating the specimens sent in.

The work goes on unendingly; always there is something to be done, and to vary the monotony you suddenly get a glut of work on top of all the usual routine work. A convoy comes in, and the Laboratory is inundated with specimens of sputa; or diphtheria is suspected, and throat swabs are rained on you; or dysentery or typhoid patients come in, and you live in a whirl of witals and examination of faeces, &c.

Generally, it happens that when you are most busy, working against time, some untoward thing happens. The centrifuge goes wrong, or the incubator runs up degrees above normal, or the vaccine bath gets too hot or too cold, or someone annexes your platinum loop or your cherished glass pencil, and all is gloom and despair, and you want to commit murder or go berserk. These are the little happenings that go to vary the monotony and really to cheer you up when you are getting "fed up."

In order to become really proficient, and command a reasonable salary, a woman must train in a good laboratory for about eighteen months, after having already had some preliminary scientific training, in exchange for her services. Some women take a science degree at college before specialising in practical bacteriological work, but it is possible to take a bacteriological course by itself at some universities.

The rate of pay varies greatly: 30s. to 40s. a week to start with is a very usual rate—preposterously small, it must be admitted, considering the qualifications required; but this increases as the worker becomes more proficient. A woman with a science diploma may begin with £3, and very soon earn considerably more, while a woman with a medical degree may earn from £5 to £10 when she begins.

Laboratory assistants in hospitals often earn only 25s. to 30s. a week, and the Red Cross is supplying untrained assistants for work in military hospitals. When untrained and partially trained workers are introduced to do work that is usually done by more highly qualified people, there is always a fear that the whole status of both work and pay will be lowered, and it is therefore very necessary that women who take up bacteriological work should stand together and insist on a fair rate of remuneration.

E. SMITH WHITE.

[The following articles in this series have already appeared:—"Draughtsmanship" (Sept. 14th), "Dental Mechanics" (Sept. 21st), "Industrial Chemistry" (Sept. 28th), "Analytical Chemistry" (Oct. 5th), "Optical Lens Making" (Oct. 20th), "Advertising" (Nov. 2nd), "Opticians" (Nov. 9th), "Mechanical Work and Engineering" (Dec. 7th), "Acetylene Welding" (Dec. 14th), "House-Property Management" (Dec. 21st), "Relieving Officers" (Jan. 4th), "Women's Police Service" (Jan. 11th).

The Women's Service Bureau (London Society for Women's Suffrage) 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, gives advice on training for various occupations, and information with regard to conditions of employment and remuneration.]

The Prospects of Women Shop Assistants.

I think that of the old callings for women, few will be more altered for the better in the next two or three years than the shop and its assistants. Nevertheless, it is not, nor is it likely to be, the ideal for a woman of means, unless, as in some cases, she has rich business qualities, giving her a better prospect in the future as a retailer in business for herself than as a teacher, doctor, or other professional calling for which she may be totally unsuited. For the person without means sufficient for training to enter a professional career, it will most probably be one of the best occupations for women of the future.

Until the war, few of the retail shops that had not that accursed system of living in, considered women; but now, and in the future, most retail shops will consider a woman; and a girl starting now to learn her trade properly may still remain under the parents' roof, and by the time her apprenticeship is over may reasonably expect a wage which will keep her, if not in affluence, at least quite independent of her home and able to choose her own lodgings and circle of friends without the interference of the employer.

The shop hours are much less than they were, and likely to be less, but they are longer than offices. Men find the shop healthier than an office, but some girls cannot stand the long hours during which they have to be on their feet, and this should be considered carefully with other health matters before a decision is taken.

It will be mainly a matter of choice; but, speaking generally, I think a girl would be wise to enter a trade that until the war had few or no girl assistants, such as ironmongery, for in such trades the demand is likely to remain longer in excess of the supply than in the trades that have already a number of competent women members.

As a preparation, a girl should have a good general education, improved either before leaving school or during the apprenticeship by a good knowledge, taught by a certificated teacher, of such subjects, as double entry, book-keeping, commercial geography, typewriting, business correspondence, and business arithmetic. As optional subjects I might mention elementary chemistry, shorthand, light and heat, machine-drawing, freehand-drawing, cookery, and elementary general science, which, chosen so far as suitable for the trade chosen, will, by enlarging the knowledge of the goods dealt in, improve her value as a saleswoman and buyer. Do not, however, let her try too much, but make up her mind to tackle what she can tackle, and by keeping the tackling up, succeed in first one way and another, until few, if any, can compete.

A three-years' apprenticeship is, as a rule, long enough, and a premium should generally be refused. If no premium is paid, a salary starting at 5s. per week for the first year, 10s. for the second year, and 15s. for the third year, should be considered fair in most cases.

Following the apprenticeship, a position as an improver should be taken for a year, or at most two years, and if it is practicable to supplement the improver's wage by help from home, it will be best to find a position in a district away from where the apprenticeship was served, so as to get the different experience.

After this, as a full-blown assistant, the wage should be sufficient for self-support, and should gradually improve, but the actual amount will depend largely upon what duties, such as book-keeping, she can do, that the other assistants cannot do; and, also, as this time, for a beginner, is four or five years ahead, it is, with war conditions, impossible to say with any certainty what the wage will then be.

I strongly advise an assistant to join her trade union and to subscribe to the trade paper, and study it from week to week carefully. Do not let her expect to serve the first week she starts. She would only make a fool of herself if she did; for to serve properly, one must first be prepared to answer any reasonable question regarding anything there is in the shop for sale, and to do this will take time.

In most trades the other work, such as correspondence, book-keeping, opening and marking off of goods, dusting, window display, &c., take up at least two-thirds of the time, and the younger members of the firm, of course, get most of the routine work.

The work is most interesting, healthy to those who are strong enough not to be harmed by lifting weights and long standing, and whilst socially and financially inferior to some professional careers, it is far more suitable to some women, and has a better future before it, particularly for those who, later on, will command sufficient capital to start in business for themselves.

H. M. THEEDAM.

Correspondence.

[Letters for publication should be received not later than Monday.]

NATIONAL KITCHENS.

MADAM,—May I add a note to my remarks of last week on National Kitchens? Since writing that article I have had the advantage of hearing the valuable lecture given at the London School of Economics, on this subject, for the Ministry of Food, by Mrs. C. S. Peel, Director of Women's Service. She noted the three chief objections to such kitchens—all advanced by men. The first is that their establishment will make women idle; the second is that it will be a menace to the sanctity of family life; the third is that if such kitchens are imposed upon the poor, there should be fair play and the rich should be so treated also. The first two speak for themselves—ineffable volumes; the last I myself heard, from the mouth of a representative of male municipal wisdom, at a Conference at the Ministry of Food. Among other things we may hope from the Women's Vote is surely the last of such nonsense.

What we now urgently need is the women's help with these national kitchens for the national cause.

C. W. SALEEBY.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

MADAM,—Now that we women are all potential voters, I would urge all women, but more especially women teachers, to write to their local Member of Parliament, drawing his attention to the decision of the Departmental Committee on Teachers' Salaries, in regard to the principle of Equal Pay, and asking him to state definitely his attitude in the matter; and whether he will oppose the Committee's decision. The Committee itself acknowledges the principle when it offers the same salary (£65 minimum) to men and women uncertificated teachers. It is unthinkable that, just as we receive our political emancipation, a Government Department should not only allow to continue, but should actually give a Government endorsement to a policy of inequality as between men and women. To be a real Education Department it ought to have taken a lead in educating the country to acknowledge that women's work is as valuable as men's. The Manchester Teachers' Association (N.U.T.) and the Manchester Certificated Class Teachers' Association have recently passed resolutions in favour of Equal Pay, and some of us hope that the matter may receive consideration at the Easter N.U.T. Conference. It is up to every woman worker and particularly every woman teacher, to press this matter in her local trade or professional associations, and to get them, if possible, to send resolutions of protest to Dr. Fisher before this matter is finally decided (if such be not the case already) and thus show that we women are, at least, not satisfied.

S. WAINWRIGHT.

BUSINESS VERSUS THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

MADAM,—I am glad to read M. Angell Lane's statement *re* business versus the teaching profession. Far be it from me to imply that business conditions are perfect—I know to the contrary, and would have every British woman bestir herself, that life for women workers in these islands may be more worth living than it is at present, but in many ways they compare favourably with those of the teacher.

With regard to the financial outlook, it is stated "the average salary of a woman clerk, book-keeper, stenographer, is anything from £80 to £130." But not so the woman teacher's salary; the Board of Education have recently sent to all education authorities advising them that, as a rule, an uncertificated woman teacher's salary must not be less than £65.

Those who read between the lines may glean information from that circular. Yet an uncertificated woman teacher must, generally speaking, have passed through a more lengthy course of training than the average clerk, and must have qualified for this post by an examination such as Oxford or Cambridge Senior or Matriculation. Further, taking as an example the manufacturing town where I work, a certificated woman teacher of twenty or more years' experience with a large class of elder boys and girls, does not at the present moment receive more than £120 per year, unless she has spent at least two years in college—then she may be receiving £130. Until twelve months ago, the maximum here for such women was but £100 and £110 respectively. War conditions have compelled the education authority grudgingly to pay £20 per year more. No average £80 to £130 here! No chance of advancement—all headships of mixed schools are, in this town, reserved for masters. And, for the teacher, as well as for the business woman, "out of this must come travelling expenses, lunches, and clothes, as well as lodging."

Moreover, five or six hours in charge of a class does not constitute the daily work of a conscientious teacher. She must be at school both morning and afternoon at least ten or fifteen minutes before the pupils—she must remain until after the last child has gone—then she must often spend weary hours correcting school exercises or preparing work and lessons for the next day. Even holidays are often devoted, wholly or partially, to schemes of work for the next term.

Like the writer of a previous article on the teaching profession, I can say "the one time teachers to whom I have spoken have no hesitation in saying they would not go back to teaching"—I know many women who have been trained as teachers who are doing unskilled work rather than return to the classroom. If you wish for further proof, look amongst your married teacher friends—how many of them have sons and daughters following in their parents' steps?

It is time parents thought for themselves and for their children's future. If they do this, if they gather all the information possible on both sides of the question, if they remember the heavy expenses incurred in training, the low average salary earned by women and the small chances of really good promotion, there will be no need for an experienced teacher to say to an intelligent parent: "Don't let your girls enter the teaching profession."

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"Sing, Rejoice, and Give Thanks."

By MRS. FAWCETT.

The sixth of February will ever be a red-letter day in Suffrage annals, for on that day the Representation of the People Bill passed its final stages and received the Royal Assent.

A few of us watched its progress to the very last, and to the very last we were thrilled by excitement and uncertainty. The doubt arose out of the disagreement of the Commons with the Lords' amendments. The Lords suggested a reasonable and harmless compromise; the Government accepted it, and it ought to have gone through quite easily; but Mr. Austen Chamberlain worked himself up to a white-hot passion against it, and endeavoured to work up the House of Commons to share his rage. His speech was greeted by cheers which came ominously from all parts of the House. If he had succeeded in carrying the House with him, the Bill would have been lost. But the Government stood firm. Mr. Bonar Law announced on their behalf that they would use their whole machinery to bring the conflict to an end and save the Bill; and, as we all know, on the motion that the House agree to the Lords' Amendment the numbers were:—

For the motion	224
Against	114
Majority	110

Within half an hour from this division the Bill had been carried to the House of Lords, and had received the Royal Assent, and 6,000,000 women were added to the electorate, and will take part in the next General Election.

My feelings can only be expressed by the words of the 126th Psalm. All through the fifty years of the struggle I have believed absolutely and confidently in success; but now that success has come, I can hardly realise it.

Let not any Suffragist belittle the greatness of our victory. The Bill establishes what is virtually household suffrage for women, coupled with the high age-limit of thirty, which we have protested against and dislike. The object, however, was quite obvious—namely, to reduce the number of women voting to a figure which would allay the terror of the most timid of the other sex. There will accordingly be 6,000,000 women voters to 10,000,000 men voters. It must be remembered that the addition to the electorate is far larger than that made by any previous Reform Bill. The additional number of voters created by the Bill of 1832 was only half a million; by the Bill of 1867, one million; by the Bill of 1884, two millions; but by the Bill of 1918, it is eight millions, of whom six millions are women. What do these figures show? They show that men were more than fifty years in getting the principle of Household Suffrage fully accepted for themselves: we have succeeded in getting Household Suffrage for women after a struggle of practically the same duration. And it surely is something to be proud of that we have been able to accomplish this without a vote between us and on non-party lines. We have not appealed to party passion, but always and constantly to the common-sense of all parties, to the lessons of experience, and to the principles of liberty and self-government on which the whole of our national life has been founded. Every other great Reform Bill has been carried only after a tremendous party conflict, which has split the country into rival factions, breathing forth hatred and suspicion against one another. Our Bill, as we are proud to call it, has been carried by the consent and active co-operation of all parties. In the House of Commons it was supported by every leader of each of the great political parties. There has never been anything like it before, and we may perhaps look upon it as a happy omen of a new spirit which women may bring into politics.

The Future of the National Union.

The Societies of the Union all over the country are meeting to consider the Agenda of the Annual Council Meeting. It must be admitted that it is a complicated and bewildering document, and Committees who do not approach it with the right guiding strings in their hands will probably plough conscientiously through the long series of resolutions and amendments, only to emerge in a bemused condition, with exhausted patience and frayed tempers.

This undesirable result can perhaps best be avoided if Committee members will begin by getting clearly into their heads the draft schemes circulated with the agenda, and having made up their minds as to these, will simply instruct their delegates to vote for those resolutions and amendments, and those only, which best carry out the ideas of the scheme which the Committee has selected. If the Council takes any other course, their deliberations are bound to issue in a hotch-potch of fragments torn from incompatible schemes, and the result will be incoherent and unworkable.

It may possibly do something to clear the air if I try to sketch out in broad lines the ideas which have been in the minds of some of the members of the Executive Committee who have been planning out the future of the National Union. To many of us for many years "the Suffrage"—i.e., the Parliamentary vote—has been merely the keystone of the edifice which the National Union exists to build. We have never thought of it as the whole edifice. Until the keystone was firmly implanted, we could not begin on the rest of the building, because its basis would not be secure. Now at last we are ready to start work in earnest. To those who take this view, the suggestion that the National Union should now come to an end, or fuse itself with some other body, is simply unthinkable. Our Army might just as well have disbanded itself and come home singing "Rule, Britannia" on the first occasion when it took a German trench. We recognise the existence of other organisations of women—the party organisations, the industrial organisations, and the organisations existing to promote all the philanthropic and social reforms in which women are interested. We do not want to fuse with them, but neither do we want to overlap with them or usurp their functions. We believe that the National Union has its own sphere clearly marked out for it by its whole previous experience and history—the sphere of feminism. I know that to many people this particular word is repugnant, because they are touched with a large and vague humanitarianism, and anything which suggests a limitation of purpose, even within limits which embrace half the human race, is distasteful. But surely this feeling of dislike is due to the old fallacy that selection and concentration of work implies somehow narrowness and selfishness, instead of being merely the best and only effective way of getting the world's work done. We of the National Union need not be ashamed of taking as our motto: "I am a woman, and nothing that concerns the status of women is indifferent to me."

Hence we propose as our enlarged aims the attainment of "a real equality of status, liberties, and opportunities as between men and women." Here, again, the vague-minded person who dislikes precision and definition of aims is on our track with the question whether "equality" is not too narrow a thing to aim at. Is not the position of men in many respects unsatisfactory? Why, therefore, try to assimilate that of women to it? But to equalise is not necessarily to assimilate. "Equality" is not a synonym for "identity." If we had meant identity we should have said identity. It should be possible to make the status and opportunities of women "equal to" those of men, without making them in the least the same.

For example, I have often been asked whether, if the "equality" formula were adopted, the National Union would be free to work for the endowment of motherhood. My answer is: "Most certainly! provided that the National Union is convinced that a mother's opportunity to do her work in the world will never be equal to those of a man, until she has been relieved from abject dependance on the whim of her husband for all the tools and materials of her work—viz., the food and clothing necessary for the upbringing of her children."

Undoubtedly, there are many questions really interesting to women which do not come within the equality formula. There

are the questions of peace and war, of temperance, of child welfare; there is the whole wide field of social reforms other than feminist. But there are an abundance of organisations to deal with these questions, both generally and as they affect women in particular. The National Union will do its best work if it does not spread itself out too thin, but concentrates upon the feminist issues which spring naturally out of its Suffragist origin and purpose. A study of the Council Agenda will suggest what a wide and varied programme is possible within these limits.

It is not suggested that the Union should attempt at once to work for the whole of the reforms necessary to the full accomplishment of its new aim. For some of these reforms public opinion is clearly not as yet ripe. The proposal is that the Council should, year by year, determine which of the reforms necessary to its purpose have come within the sphere of practical politics, and should concentrate its work upon these. In some cases, no doubt, propaganda will have to be continued for several years before legislative action is attempted. In others, the Union will probably discover that it has not as yet made up its own mind, and it will require its Executive Committee to carry out investigations and issue a report upon which it can determine its future action.

But it is not suggested that the work of the Union should be confined to securing reforms in legislation. Many of us have been realising more and more strongly as our experience grows, that to get laws passed is one thing; to get them fairly and effectively administered is another. At present the administration of the law is almost wholly in the hands of men, while the mass of women, who need its protection most, are still unorganised and inarticulate. It is proposed to set up Bureaux which will assist women to take the fullest advantage of the existing law by supplying them with expert assistance and legal advice, where necessary, by watching their interests in the Law Courts and elsewhere, and by helping them to voice their needs and their claims.

Nor will the influence of the Union be limited to that part of the work for which it assumes the entire responsibility. The work of the Union itself and its societies will—if this scheme is carried out—be confined to feminist issues, and it will naturally attract to its membership mainly those women whose ideas are already in advance of their time. But it is recognised that the majority of the new voters cannot yet be described as advanced thinkers, and that much of the programme of the Union will be beyond the scope of many of them. Yet it is felt that the Union has a responsibility towards these more backward women whom it has helped to enfranchise. It is proposed, therefore, that the Union should co-operate with other organisations also interested in the welfare of women, to educate the new voters and to make them more effective citizens. It can do this by assisting in the formation of Women Citizens' Associations, or even by undertaking the work single-handed, where other societies are not ready or fitted to share it.

These new Associations will be autonomous when formed, and will probably undertake a good deal of work that lies outside the sphere of pure feminism. For example, women, and especially married women, are at present keenly interested in the problems of Food Control, and although this cannot be described as a feminist issue, it is obviously one in which women may legitimately feel that they have a special concern and a special point of view. The Women Citizens' Association would be the natural medium for bringing the views of women on this subject before municipal authorities. It is proposed that, where possible, the newly formed Associations should be kept in touch with feminism and gradually educated up to its higher levels by making them corresponding or associate societies of the Union. But it will be for them to say whether they choose to exercise this privilege or not.

Those, then, who accept the scheme of development for the National Union put forward by its Executive Committee must picture to themselves the Union of the future as a body with three limbs. The function of the first of these limbs will be to build up, brick by brick, the edifice of the law until it realises the ideal of complete equality between the sexes; the function of the second will be to assist those women who need its help to make the best use possible of the existing law; the function of the third will be to share with other societies in the task of martialling, training, and inspiring the great host of the new women voters.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

POLICIES FOR BUSINESS WOMEN. British Equitable Assn. Co., 1-3, Queen St. Place, E.C.

The Girl on the Way.

BEING A COMPLAINT WITH LITTLE JUSTIFICATION.

She has no ostensible grievance—that's the real trouble. You see, you have given her so much. You gave her a Labour Exchange to advise her when she left school. It talked to her of possibilities and openings; it warned her against "blind-alley" trades and "sweating"; it led her to understand that she was bright and quick; finally, it advised her to train as a shorthand-typist.

Well, she made the effort. She trained. Then you found her work—work, too, not in an office that acknowledged only the rules and aims of commercialism, but in an office with a cause, an office whose directors were filled with the spirit of active citizenship.

Next you provided the office with a beautiful new theory. You appealed to it as a believer in Democracy and the Common Good. In the name of Democracy and the Common Good you called upon it to support your theory of the Living Wage. It responded enthusiastically. It included support of the theory in its propaganda; it refused to deal with any firm that employed sweated labour; and . . . it raised its typists' wages 5s.

This was magnificent. By working her eight-hours' day (and her office disapproved of overtime) the shorthand-typist could not only eat and drink and sleep, but could manage a theatre on Saturdays, and an occasional new blouse. Our congratulations! You have produced a first-class specimen of the genus Aimless.

No, believe us, we are not scoffing at your efforts. Your Labour Exchange was excellent of its kind. Your office was genuinely heart and soul for its cause. Your ideal of education was admirable. Your theory of a living wage, the epitome of justice. Only . . . your ideal is a long way from realisation, and no one will make its attainment harder than the Girl on the Way.

You see, there is so little purpose in her life. The cause she is working for may be a good cause, but it is not her cause. She had nothing to do with its origination. She has to fight none of its battles. She knows nothing of the moments when its fate hangs on the posting of a letter, or the turn of a phrase. She has only to post the letter, or type the phrase that someone else has turned. You can hardly look for her devotion.

And out of office hours what has she to do? The salt of life is anticipation; and what has she to anticipate? She never has enough money for an adventure, or an experiment, or a capital letter of any kind. She makes believe with periodic theatre parties, and grows tired of the pit and the upper circle, having neither *joie de vivre* enough to enjoy the gallery, nor money enough to go to the stalls. Perhaps she wants to marry. It is a vague kind of wanting—a vague craving for luxury and sentiment, any form of variety . . . no real aim on which to focus her activities.

You have given her ideas (only they happen to be other people's). You have made her too well educated to find frivolities satisfying, too respectable to do anything surprising. All she has is a forced enthusiasm for progress, an unsatisfactory pretence of enjoyment—actual monotony. And she is sick of it . . . so sick of it . . . so deadly sick of it.

Well, you say, if it is as bad as that, why doesn't she find a purpose and a cause in rebellion? Why is she not a revolutionary herself? Ah, that is just it. She has no ostensible grievance.

If you had refused her education, denied her work, left her to starve, you would have done her a great wrong, it is true, but you would have made her a living unit within the State. You would have enlisted her an enthusiastic volunteer in the cause of reform. As it is, you have lost her. She is passive in your hands. She is your experiment. But she is of you, not with you. Leave her her grievance, you have . . . a fanatic perhaps . . . at least a force. Remove it, you have a grateful nonentity.

For she is grateful; oh, yes! She is no fool. She realises what you have done for her, what through you she has escaped. She realises what vistas your ideals of education open before her. But also she realises what obstacles stand in the way of your doing more, at least in her time. So she won't take any risks. She is no fool.

She will thank you prettily for all your help. She will agree with your ideas, applaud your endeavours. But she won't help you. Her prosperity is her limitation. Hunger is a week's pay too near to encourage experimentalism. Life is mono-

tonous but safe. Yes, thank you, she has everything she needs. No, thank you, she would rather not do anything that looks "queer." Yes, once she had thought of studying, but then she could never save the money for examination fees, and one is tired in the evening after office hours, and, anyway, schooling wasn't much use to her. Oh, she was saving a bit, and she was young yet, with many a year to work. True life was a bit dull, but, well, there was no use grumbling, was there? And then . . . something might always turn up.

Something may turn up! What a cause for happiness . . . what a purpose in life! Yet this is all your "living wage" has brought her, and this is all your ideals will realise for some time yet. The course of educational reform is slow, and it comes hard on the Girl on the Way.

Come, it's not so bad, you say. After all, she herself is comparatively content. She will get over her hankering after luxury. She will evolve a philosophy for herself.

Yes, we admit it. You are perfectly correct. There is nothing to make a fuss over. She has no (ostensible) grievance.

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

NEWS FROM IRELAND.

At a meeting of the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association, held on February 7th, at 5, Leinster Street, by kind permission of the National Union of Women Workers, at which Mrs. Haslam presided, the following resolution, proposed by Lady Dockrell, and seconded by Mrs. Townshend, was unanimously passed:—

"That the Committee, in consequence of the passing of the Representation of the People Bill, resolve to call a conference of the several suffrage societies in Ireland to consider the future, with a view to possible amalgamation, and invite each society to send three delegates, who will each have a vote, the conference to be held at 5, Leinster Street, Dublin, by kind permission of the N.U.W.W., on February 21st, at 11 a.m."

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

WOMEN VOTERS IN NEW YORK.

Mrs. Ida Husted Harper writes to Mrs. Fawcett:—
"The Governor of New York has called a special election for March 2nd, to fill four vacancies from this State in the Lower House of Congress, and women will vote. The Senate is sure to vote on our amendment before them, and New York women will say: 'If the Democrats defeat it, we will fill all these vacancies with Republicans,' which would give the balance of power to that party."

HOLLAND URGED TO FOLLOW THE TRACK OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

(From Frau Martina Kramers.)

Wishing to celebrate the Suffrage victories achieved on January 9th in the Parliaments of the two principal English-speaking States, the Dutch W.S.A. held a national meeting to call attention to the contrast between the complete, true democracy of nations, which, recognising the needs of modern times, give full franchise to their women, and the semi-democracy of the Netherlands, whose new Constitution gives them eligibility without the vote. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That the meeting called by the Dutch Woman Suffrage Association on January 28th, 1918, at The Hague, to celebrate the recent suffrage victories in the United States and in Great Britain, whilst further victories are expected in North America, Hungary and Sweden; congratulates the National Woman Suffrage Associations of these countries on the success of their work; expresses its gratitude to the Governments of these countries for showing a true insight into the demands of modern times, which constitutes an example for other nations; calls upon the people of the Netherlands to elect for itself a similar Government, which will grant women the right that is their due to participate in the conduct of national and social affairs; and feels convinced that already in the first year of the session of the new States-General a bill will be introduced conferring full enfranchisement on the women of the Netherlands."

THE SHIELD. (Published quarterly by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill Street, 6d.)

The current number of *The Shield* should be read by all who are interested in the promotion of a higher standard of sexual morality and the more humane and intelligent treatment of offenders against the law. Several articles deal with the temptations offered to our soldiers, both at home and abroad. Dr. Helen Wilson writes on the Treatment of Young Offenders; Mr. Theodore Dodd, on the Probation of Offenders. There is also an account of the Police Court Rota of Women organised by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.



"May WE have Huts, too?"

"The hut is very badly needed, for the camp where girls are quartered is a long distance from the nearest village. . . . They are longing for the Y.W.C.A. to put up a hut for them. . . . It is hoped that we shall be able to provide a home-like place for rest and recreation for them **BY THE END OF FEBRUARY**; but funds are urgently needed to enable the work to be carried on at once."—*The Common Cause*, February 1st, 1918.

£431 ALREADY SUBSCRIBED, LEAVING £319 STILL NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE £750 REQUIRED to provide and equip

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for the use of hundreds of W.A.A.C. girls who have recently started working on SALISBURY PLAIN in two specially important branches of the service.

THIS MATTER IS NOW ONE OF GREAT URGENCY

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Please send your donations THIS WEEK if possible.

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of the "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Y.W.C.A. Subscription Form.

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Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

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"THE COMMON CAUSE HUT, No. 3."

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"TRUTH" in an exhaustive report on "PURE MILK PROBLEMS" states:—

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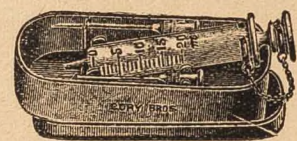


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SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Violet Eustace, Mrs. Olive Strachey (Parliamentary), Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature). Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Aubrecht, Secretary (pro. tem.): Miss Gladys Davidson.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

The Annual Council Meeting will be held, as announced in our last issue, in the Chelsea Town Hall, on March 12th, 13th, and 14th, and the celebration at the Queen's Hall will take place on Wednesday evening, March 13th.

The N.U.W.S.S. is fortunate in having been promised the invaluable help of members of the Bach Choir for the Celebration at the Queen's Hall. The orchestral music will be in the hands of the London Symphony Orchestra, and the conductor will be Sir Hubert Parry. With this basis, the music provided will be of the highest excellence.

The 1917 Franchise Fund.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917	1,129	5	10	1	0
Surrey, Sussex and Hants Fed.	17	0	1		
Mrs. Gossage	2	0	0		
Mrs. M. K. Richardson	1	0	0		
Stafford W.S.S.			1	0	0
The Misses Michael			2	2	0
			£1,152	7	11

Contributions to the General Fund.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Already received since November 1st, 1917	141	18	6		
Received from January 28th to February 9th, 1918:—					
SUBSCRIPTIONS.					
Miss E. J. Sloane	10	6			
Miss C. I. Macdonald	2	6			
Mrs. Napier Sturt	10	0			
Mrs. Archibald Little	10	0			
Miss Elizabeth M. Greg	1	1			
Mrs. Paris	5	0			
Mrs. K. B. Brereton	10	6			
Mrs. Badley	1	0			
AFFILIATION FEES.					
Leicester W.S.S.	1	7	6		
Norwich W.S.S.	3	15	0		
Ascot W.S.S.	1	7	3		
Lincoln W.S.S.	1	12	0		
Melrose W.S.S.	8	6			
Paisley W.S.S.	1	12	0		
Chester W.S.S.	1	0	0		
Hockwold W.S.S.	5	0			
Woburn Sands W.S.S.	6	3			
Aldershot W.S.S.	5	0			
Maidenhead W.S.S.	1	6	9		
Barstley W.S.S.	1	5	0		
Brighton and Hove W.S.S.					
Additional, 1917, 2s. 6d.: 1918.					
£7s. 8d.	3	10	3		
Stafford W.S.S.	12	6			
Scalby W.S.S.	10	0			
Central Sussex W.S.S.			1	12	6
Hendon and Golders Green W.S.S.			1	6	0
Chorley W.S.S.			5	3	
Mid Bucks W.S.S.			12	9	
West Herts W.S.S.			19	3	
Clitheroe W.S.S.			5	0	
Edinburgh W.S.S.			4	5	3
Birmingham W.S.S.			9	1	0
Wallasey and Wirral W.S.S.			2	10	0
Barnes W.S.S.			13	3	
Key W.S.S.			7	0	
Manchester W.S.S.			5	10	9
Glasgow W.S.S.			12	10	0
Farnworth W.S.S.			1	0	6
Sheffield W.S.S.			15	0	
Headfield W.S.S.			1	5	0
Liverpool W.S.S.			3	3	6
Shrewsbury W.S.S.			16	0	
Sheffield W.S.S.			3	4	0
East Herts W.S.S.			1	5	0
Scarborough W.S.S.			14	6	
DONATIONS.					
North and East Riding Fed.	10	0	0		
Sale of Jewellery			2	5	0
X. S. M.			2	12	6
Donation to Scottish Women's Hospitals: Woburn Sands W.S.S.			10	0	
			£242	18	0

Suffrage Thankgiving Services.

A representative gathering of Suffragists attended the special thanksgiving service arranged by the Church League for Woman Suffrage at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, on Saturday, when the banners of the leading Women's Suffrage Societies were carried in the procession and placed beside the altar. The special order of service authorised by the Bishop of London gave thanks "for the good success which has crowned the efforts of those who have sought the enfranchisement of women, and for the new power entrusted to women for the shaping of the national life." The Bishop of Willesden, in his address, urged that women should make full use of their new powers and responsibilities, taking as his text the words of St. Luke, "To whom much is given, of him shall much be required." He said it was fitting that the first public action of the Suffragists should be the dedication of these new powers to the service of the community. The names of many of those who had worked for the "Cause," but had not lived to see it triumph, were remembered with thankfulness. They included the early workers, and many who only recently have passed away. Among them were Lydia Becker, John Stuart Mill, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Emily Davison, Mr. Haslam, and Elsie Inglis.

The fifty years of struggle was illustrated by the three generations of the Maclaren family—Priscilla Bright Maclaren, Walter Maclaren, and Francis Maclaren. Among those present were Mrs. Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and Mr. Nevinson; but the most interesting figure was that of one

Memorial

TO **Dr. ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON**

FROM **THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND**

For the Endowment of Beds in the **NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, EUSTON ROAD, FOUNDED BY HER IN 1866.**

The sum of £1,000 endows a bed to be named after the Donor.

The undermentioned Colleges and Schools are collecting among themselves for presentation to the Hospital when complete:—

Girton and Newnham Colleges, for Cambridge Bed	£	s.	d.
Somerville, Lady Margaret Hall, St. Hugh's College, St. Hilda's Hall, and Oxford House Students, for Oxford Bed	1,000	0	0
Burd College	1,000	0	0
Queen's College	1,000	0	0
Rosedale School	1,000	0	0
Highfield, Watford	1,000	0	0
St. Katherine's, Hook Heath	1,000	0	0
	£7,000	0	0

BEDS have been endowed by:—

Sir Alan Anderson, K.C.B.	£	s.	d.
Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, C.B.E.	1,000	0	0
Lady Bellby, for Julia Cook Bed	1,000	0	0
G. Courtauld, Esq., the Gosfield Bed	1,000	0	0
Mrs. Godfrey Walker, the Yarborough Anderson Bed	1,000	0	0

DONATIONS have already been received towards the Endowment of the following:—

Subscribers' Bed	£	s.	d.
Medical Women's Bed	944	7	8
St. Katherine's, Hook Heath, Bed	601	12	1
Elizabeth Blackwell Bed	450	0	0
Musicians' Bed	433	2	0
Rosedale Bed	288	7	5
Douglas-Lombardini Bed	273	5	0
Civil Servants' Bed	261	2	9
Stage Bed (by Miss Irene Vanbrugh)	214	9	5
Mary Scharlieb Bed	189	2	5
Artists' Bed (by Mrs. Ralph Peto)	105	8	0
Domestic Servants' Bed	100	0	0
Women Landworkers' Bed	87	0	11
Women Writers' Bed	35	15	0
Women Clerks and Secretaries' Bed	32	7	6
Nurses' Bed	25	13	0
Frances Mary Buss Bed	19	10	0
1918 Bed, to celebrate the Enfranchisement of Women	11	1	0
K. S. M.	106	1	0
Millicent Fawcett Bed	5	10	0
Dressmakers' Bed	1	1	0
Laundresses' Bed	1	1	0
Other Donations, amounting to	49,187	1	10
Total	£10,350	0	5

The London County Secondary Schools will maintain a bed by annual subscription.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the MEMORIAL in form of donations towards any of the above beds or towards endowment of others will be gratefully received, and should be sent to

LADY HALL, Hon. Treasurer of the Fund (to whom cheques should be made payable) **NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, 144, EUSTON ROAD, N.W. 1.**

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

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH. Founded by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

Forward as per list to January 24th, 1918	£	s.	d.
Further donations received to January 31st, 1918	284,996	17	6
Falkirk W.S.S., per Miss Belle Mohr, Hon. Treas.: Balance from Flower Show Day in Falkirk, held under the auspices of the Falkirk Horticultural Society	3	6	8
Per Miss Isabel Bassett, Organiser, S.W.H.: Driffield Flag Day (£10 16s. 9d.), Salem Congreg. Church, Leeds, two meetings, men's and women's (£5), Messrs.			

of the two women who, in 1867, when the atmosphere of public sympathy was so different from what it is to-day, brought the first great women's petition to the House of Commons for presentation—Miss Emily Davies.

Banners of the following societies were carried:—N.U.W.S.S., C.L.W.S., W.F.L., U.S., F.C.L.W.S., A.F.L., L.S.W.S.

On Sunday, February 10th, at 6 p.m., the City Temple was crowded for a service, held under the auspices of the Free Church League, to celebrate Women's Enfranchisement. After some fine singing, a prayer for peace in our time, and a lesson (which included what many of us now think of as "Mrs. Fawcett's psalm"), Miss Royden rose to preach. She called to mind the great pioneers of feminism and freedom, both men and women, who, amidst scorn and opposition, made the way for us. The use to which we put our new powers must be worthy of them. Women, she said, would not say "Nay!" to the dictum that life may be sacrificed for a great cause; but they would add, "for nothing less." Women must strive that no lives shall be sacrificed for the gain of others; that no one class or nation shall be exploited for the profit of another class, another nation; that life shall be for none a mere existence, since death is not the worst. In a passage of moving eloquence Miss Royden exhorted women not to forget, now that they were free, what it was to be poor, oppressed, friendless, a prisoner. The attainment of the franchise will not be in vain, she said, as long as those who worked in the cause do not forget that what they suffered, others suffer still; as long as women are worthy of the cloud of witnesses that encompass us.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS (N.U.W.S.S.)

THE CANTEN AT CREPY.

More information has come in lately about the Canteen at Crepy. Miss Taylor, who is Directrice there, describes the very active work that is being carried on. Unlike Criel, the soldiers have little time to spend in the place, and the military authorities have provided a large covered "Salle de repos," with brasiers at intervals. The Canteen is at one end of it. The busy time for the Canteen is between 3 and 5. Four trains come in, and the workers are fully occupied in pouring out soup and coffee as quickly as possible. Each shift serves on an average 3,000—i.e., practically 6,000 are served daily—and during December a total of 194,500 were served. If one translates cold figures into human realities, it is cheering to think of these thousands of men sent on their way warmed and comforted. The authorities realise the value of the work; Miss Taylor says they are exceedingly kind, and take a great interest in the Canteen.

The little Foyer at Creil continues to be a great success, so much so that the Commandant has given orders for the baraque to be made double the size. "He was delighted," says Miss Jack, "when he saw all the men so quietly happy, some reading, some writing, others playing at draughts or cards, while a little crowd stood around the piano singing, while Miss Conner played their accompaniments." Every night it is full, and there is music going on the whole time. The following letter was lately received from a grateful poilu:—
"Aux Dames Anglaises à la Gare de Creil. Mesdames, Mon passage à Creil a laissé en moi un délicieux souvenir. Ma pensée est volage, j'en accuse votre cœur en vous c'est le mirage, l'inépuisable source de bonheur du pauvre poilu.
"Je sens encore en moi votre café réchauffant mes désirs sincères de remerciements. A vous, petites mamans du poilus égaré mon inoubliable souvenir.
"Si parfois, pour la France je dois mourir, votre pensée sur mon tombe viendra me faire dormir."
(Signed) GIRARD."

At the Canteen, great things are heard of Royaumont. A poilu coming for his coffee, and seeing the name "Les Dames Ecosaises," will begin singing the praises of the hospital where he has been so well cared for. One man went so far as to say he would not mind being wounded again if it meant going back to Royaumont. Miss Ramsay-Smith reports that they have had a very busy time at the Hospital.

LONDON UNITS.

Their Majesties, the King and Queen, have signified their intention of inspecting the Elsie Inglis Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Buckingham Palace on Monday, February 18th, at 11.30 a.m.

The advance party of the Unit will leave London on or about February 20th, the second party following soon after. The equipment has already left England.

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

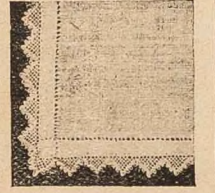
Table of donations for the Common Cause, listing names and amounts in £ s. d. format.

FRIENDS of ARMENIA

Office and Embroidery Depot: 47, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S. W. 1

President: LADY FREDERICK CAVENDISH.

Chairman and Hon. Treasurer: E. W. BROOKS, Esq. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. MARY HICKSON.



HANDKERCHIEF WORKED BY PORT SAID REFUGEES. PRICE 2/1 EACH.

The "Friends of Armenia" are now receiving consignments of lace-edged handkerchiefs, made by the Armenian refugees at Port Said...

Donations in aid of the general relief work of the Society, or in payment of goods, may be sent to E. WRIGHT BROOKS, Esq., Hon. Treasurer, "Friends of Armenia," 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

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

Table of donations for the Common Cause, listing names and amounts in £ s. d. format.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table listing named beds and their donors, including "Buckingham Terrace" and "Belgrave".

Serbian Prisoners of War Fund.

Table of donations for the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund, listing names and amounts.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Table of donations for the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, listing names and amounts.

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

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

CAMBRIDGE.—A fairly well attended meeting was held at Cambridge on February 2nd, to discuss the agenda of the Council Meeting...

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

Table of upcoming meetings for N.U.W.S.S., listing dates, locations, and topics.

Table of upcoming meetings for N.U.W.S.S., listing dates, locations, and topics.

Coming Events.

Table of coming events, listing dates and descriptions.

Items of Interest.

An enterprising scheme is being started for the formation of a Women's Village Councils Federation...

£2,000 NEEDED. The Church Army is desirous of collecting the above sum for the conversion of a lodging

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house for munition girls in Woolwich, which would, once it was made sanitary, be self-supporting...

THE LAND ARMY.

The Land Army is now divided into three sections: agriculture, timber-cutting and forage. In most counties the girls earn a minimum wage of 25s. a week...

The Women's Forestry Corps, which the Board of Trade promoted last July, numbers 400 wood-women who fell timber, saw it into lengths for props, poles, railway sleepers, etc.

The Board of Trade Women's Forestry Corps are concerned only with cutting and supplying timber for national uses.

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Table of displayed advertisement rates, listing insertion costs for various page sizes.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Table of prepaid advertisement rates, listing costs for different durations.

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

EDUCATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON) REGENT'S PARK, N.W. 1. Principal: Miss M. J. TUKE, M.A.

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

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

South Side, Clapham Common, S.W. 4. A General Hospital for Women and Children officered by Medical Women.

POSITIONS VACANT.

APPLICATIONS invited from ladies with organising and business ability for inspectorship in an insurance company; must be resident in either Birmingham or Manchester.

YOUNG, energetic girl, to assist lady with care and education (home) of young children. Opportunity for study of modern ideas and methods.

WANTED, for Manchester, a Woman Secretary for private secretarial work. Good speaker for experience of organising essential.

WANTED, Lady Coachman; for the duration of the war; old lady; pair of horses.—Mrs. Ayre, East-lesmes, Colne, Lancashire.

WANTED, superior experienced House-help for family of two. Help for coal, &c., morning. Plain cooking; modern, convenient house, easily worked. Wages £30.—Apply by letter, Mrs. Thorne, Highlands, Belmont, Sutton, Surrey.

POSITIONS WANTED.

LADY, some experience, wants light outdoor work; poultry, garden, residential, with war workers preferred. Might give help in house.—M. M., 25, Denmark-avenue, Wimbledon.

LADY BOOK-KEEPER, good clerical experience, accurate, desires part-time re-employment; temporary or permanent. Recommended by COMMON CAUSE.—Box 7,478, COMMON CAUSE Office.

(Continued on page 580)

THE RIGHT TO LIVE

By MAX PLOWMAN. PRICE 1d. By post 1 1/2d. PUBLISHERS King and Jarrett, 67, Holland St., Blackfriars, S.E. 1.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE For Breakfast & after Dinner. In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

ALL BRITISH. VALKASA THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.

An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.

1s. 4d., 4s., and 7s. of all Chemists. James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER.

Continued from page 579]

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Practical training; vegetable, fruit, and flower growing. Month or term. Healthy outdoor life; from 60 gns. per annum. Students can enter any date. Visitors received if accommodation permits. Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

GARDENING.—Wanted, near London, by lady—elderly, active, healthy—three months' garden work. Services in return for instruction.—Box 7,479, COMMON CAUSE Office.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 3d., post free, from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 23, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

WAKE UP WOMEN!

FOR full particulars of the latest labour-saving devices, and demonstration in own home, write to "Utility Expert," 154, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

EXPERT TYPEWRITING.—Any quantity in given time; Translations—all languages; Secretarial Training School. Price lists, &c., on application.—Miss NEAL, Walter House, 422, Strand, W.C.

Telephone: Regent 774.

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39, St. James's St., S.W. (corner of Piccadilly).
TYPEWRITING AND SHORTHAND OFFICE.
Personal Supervision.

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PROFESSIONAL.

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

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259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON.
Telephone 946 WESTERN.

Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.

Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil.
Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

GOWNS, BLOUSES, LINGERIE, Etc.**THE BEST CORSET BODICE**

for WOMEN WORKERS
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS,
GARDENERS, Etc.

Adequate support WITHOUT bones.

Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.

Corset Netting . . . 9/6 } Post
Coutil 8/6 } free.

Out size 3/0 extra.
Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E.
Cash with order.

BEATRICE STEMPEL,
17, UPLANDS ROAD
HORNSEY, LONDON, N.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed. Moderate prices.—H. Nelissen, 62, Great Portland-st., W. (late 14, Great Titchfield-st.).

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BLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street,
MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Yrs.
Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.
Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door.
CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

TOILET.

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

LAUNDRY.

DUSH HILL PARK LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-avenue,
Enfield, Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT—MESSRS. A. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 63, Oxford-street, London, W. 1. THE ORIGINAL FIRM who do not advertise misleading prices. Full value by return or offer made. Call or post. Established 100 years.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT

Up to 7s. per tooth pinned on vulcanite 12s. on silver; 15s. on gold; £2 on platinum. Also highest value given for Old Gold and Silver Jewellery. Any condition (broken or otherwise). Cash or offer by return. If offer not accepted, parcel returned post free. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mention "Common Cause."
S. CANN & CO., 69a, Market St., Manchester.
Established 1850.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1

IRISH LINEN ROLLER TOWELS, extra strong and durable quality, 2½ yds. by 17 ins., 1s. 9d. each; three for 5s. 2d.; postage 5d. Send for Bargain List, free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS

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

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

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The large London Market enables **ROBINSON Bros.** of 5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), 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.

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

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear; gentlemen's and children's clothing; also furniture. Separate prices.—London Dress Agency, 27, Green-rd., Southsea.

TO LET.

BED and Sitting-rooms, furnished; gas-fire, 2 rings. Convenient for City or West.—Wood, 55, Myddleton-sq., E.C. 1.

CHELSEA.—Share of small Furnished Flat offered by lady artist; situated high and open.—H., 130, Elm Park Mansions, Chelsea.

MEMBER can thoroughly recommend, from personal experience, furnished rooms, Bushey, Herts; 5 minutes station; scrupulously clean; geyser; moderate.—Apply Box 7,458, COMMON CAUSE Office.

PRETTY Flat to let, furnished; Chelsea. Suit two. Only to careful tenants. 22s. 6d. weekly.—Box 7,481, COMMON CAUSE Office.

ON MUTUAL TERMS.

RENT FREE; part of small furnished country house (Sussex), near post office, church, &c. Trustworthy woman and friend wanted, take entire charge, simple cooking, &c., for remuneration, on occasional visits of owner. Highest references indispensable.—Write, Elizabeth Robins, 6, Cambridge-terr., Hyde Park, W. 2.

THREE rooms, free vegetables and milk, in return wanted lady Caretaker-Cook for lady farm students.—Apply Woodgate, Dane Hill, Sussex.

WANTED.

LONDON Member N.U.W.S.S. desires to share flat, or partial board, with someone of similar tastes. Reciprocal arrangements might be made for weekends or otherwise in Buckinghamshire cottage (excellent train service).—H. W., Box 7,488, THE COMMON CAUSE, 62, Oxford-st., W.

WANTED.—Cottage, for sale or hire, within 30 miles of London; 3 bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen.—"Baroda," Pinner, Middlesex.

WANTED.—Cottage or small House, unfurnished; garden; low rent; near R.C. Church, England.—4, East Court Villa, Clanton-rd., East Grinstead.

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LOVELY TUNBRIDGE WELLS, "England's Beauty Spot." **ROYAL MOUNT EPHRAIM HOTEL;** facing common, full south; excellent cuisine; winter gardens; elevation 500 ft. above sea level; telephone 75; telegrams "Comfort."—For Brochure apply resident proprietress, L. Meadmore.

VEGETARIAN GUEST HOUSE.—½ miles from station; orchards, tennis, bath (h & c), own dairy produce. From 30s.—Miss Bayliss, The Manor House, Noke Islip, Oxford.

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HOSTEL for Lady Workers, Students, and Visitors; terms moderate, by day or week; convenient for all parts.—Miss Sullivan, 59, Albany-st., Regent's Park (Portland-rd. Station).

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

RESIDENTIAL CHAMBERS for Women Students and Social Workers. Unfurnished rooms, with service. Some furniture available for purchase, if desired. References given and required.—Miss Stewart, 13, Upper Woburn-place, W.C. 1.

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

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