

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY.]

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

Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage in British Columbia.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has received a cable message from Toronto: "Women's Suffrage and Prohibition carried in British Columbia." This is the fourth Canadian province within the year to enfranchise its women.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Hospitals (London Unit).

A Reuter's telegram from Petrograd, dated September 17th, reports that the Scottish Women's Field Hospital has arrived at Moscow, and is continuing its journey to the Roumanian front.

Industry and Motherhood.

The inquiry now being started by the Women's Industrial Council into the effects of various industrial occupations on motherhood will, it is stated, be carried out, not with a view to restricting women's occupations, but to improving the conditions under which girls and young women are working. There is a marked tendency in some quarters to assume, on scanty evidence, that this or that "gainful occupation" is prejudicial to women's health or to motherhood. One object of the Women's Industrial Council's investigations will be to discover, if possible, how far any alleged injurious results are due to quite other factors—among them bad housing, insufficient pay (which often means double work, as well as poor food), or bad management in the factory itself (see p. 295).

The Trade Union's Need of Women Members.

Speaking at a Conference of East London Labour Organisations, Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., said that he did not believe that pre-war conditions would ever be restored, and he was of opinion that if, after the war, the trade unionists insisted on fighting their battle on the old, narrow ground they would be hopelessly beaten. Labour must prepare for the after-war struggle in advance, or the employers would prove the stronger. There were now 600,000 women workers. He thought that at least 250,000 of these would desire to remain in industry. What was to happen to these women after the war? If there were differences of opinion between the men and women workers the employers would benefit. A strong and simplified trade union organisation must be built up to meet the future. Women should be admitted to the men's unions, and be given an equal voice there. They must assert themselves and get on to the executives.

The Tuck-Shop in War-Time.

Concern appears to have been expressed at the Trade Union Congress at the amount of sugar which the Government permits to the jam manufacturing industry; and a resolution was passed that the national sugar supply ought to be allowed to pass into private hands rather than into the wholesale preserving trade. It is a little difficult to follow the argument. The country housewife can, it is true, preserve her own blackcurrants, if she grows any, without actually paying anything except for sugar, firing, and perhaps for gallipots. But the great bulk of the fruit of the country is grown on a large scale and constitutes a big industry employing many hands. Thousands of tons of fruit come to the markets to be manufactured into jam, and the manufacturers, again, employ large numbers of hands. To cut off the supply of material would be to throw all these armies of people out of work, and to substitute a wasteful manufacturing process for a more economical and better organised one. Again, the "bought jam" is an important article of daily food. No available quantity of "home-made" country jam could possibly supply the wants of town children. If any of these allied trades are to be put on short rations of sugar, probably the sweet and confectionery trade could be reduced with less loss to the nation than any other.

Many children might with advantage eat fewer sweets. Anyone who takes the trouble to inquire will be amazed to discover what very large quantities are eaten by small children, and this way of taking the sugar they need is a very bad one.

Village Economy.

The fruit is wasting in many districts; plums lie rotting on the ground, vegetables cannot be got to the buyers. But not round about Upton-on-Severn. There, it is true, the villages are lonely and scattered, and market and railway-carriage facilities are scanty; but there was a Will there, and so they found a Way. A collecting depôt was opened three days a week. Meetings were held, and smallholders and villagers were all encouraged to grow more produce and increase the nation's food supply. And now the collectors of produce report that nearly eight tons of foodstuff came to the depôt last week! This was then sold to canteens and camps, and otherwise disposed of. The war-workers were supplied with good, fresh vegetables.

Preserving and pickling also goes on under the superintendence of a Preserving Committee. This Committee was first started on a very small scale in August, 1914, to save the splendid fruit crop of that year. In 1915 they improved on this by starting a little travelling kitchen, which went round working where the fruit was grown; and this year they are extending their labours. Herbs are collected and dried; and a plan is now on foot for starting a basket-making industry for disabled soldiers. Upton-on-Severn is showing the way to a real bit of national economy. It is pleasant to hear that the founders and originators of a scheme now widely supported were members of the N.U.W.S.S.

Wireless Telegraphy and Women Operators.

The Marconi Company, as we have already noted early in the year, has established a school at one of their stations with a view to finding out how far women are suitable for wireless operators. The experiment is regarded as encouraging. Some of the pupils have been already drafted to stations where they

are doing very satisfactory work on longish land lines. Sending by female operators has a tendency to be too light, but it is thought that some of the learners will become quite efficient with more practice, that a number will prove very useful understudies, and that a proportion may turn out successes on the wireless circuit. Until these points can be determined the work of the school will be discontinued for the present after September 30th.

Nurses.

The Supply of Nurses Committee is one more instructive

The Coming Generation.

The Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education brings out several striking and interesting results. Medical inspection of school-children has reached no higher age than this its eighth report, and has yet to work against a certain amount of prejudice. However, at this moment there has been established "machinery for the medical inspection each year of not less than two-fifths of the children of school age in attendance at public elementary schools; and that medical inspection takes place at least three times during the school life of this child." Of the 6,000,000 children in attendance at schools, 100,000 are so defective as not to be able to benefit by the education the State provides, and a quarter of a million children are crippled or disabled!

Where special provision is made for defective children (an obvious necessity), the contention of the Report is for much greater extension of the medical service and the more effective teaching of hygiene as a subject in elementary schools. Medical inspection in the schools is to be related to the organisations that exist for the health and welfare of children, and to work hand-in-hand with Infant Welfare and Care Committees.

"It is said sometimes that in the interests of economy the State cannot afford such a complete scheme. My submission is," writes Sir George Newman, "that in the interests of economy the State cannot afford to neglect a complete scheme," for a comparatively small expenditure yields high interest. The usual objection made to such an extension is one that goes to the root of the matter. "Why relieve the parent of responsibility, which it is right the parent should bear." It goes to the root of the matter, because this question of how much we should do for people and how much we should leave them to do for themselves, is the vital moral issue in all legislation of this type. The Report meets it confidently; "parental responsibility has been stimulated," and we can see how, partly by the readiness of parents to be educated through the means of their children, partly—where other things failed—through the enforcement of the requirement of Local Education Authorities by prosecution. On the methods of this latter and the caution with which it has been used the Report adds an interesting appendix.

A CHILD IS NOT A UNIT.

Most interesting, as bearing out educationists' contentions from a completely different point of view, is the observation made that "school medical work has taught us that each defective or ailing child must be handled as an individual. A hundred children may together attend the same inspection and the same school clinic, but each of them must be treated individually. The mass of a hundred cannot be treated as a mass; each must be dealt with as possessing characteristic and conditions of its own. In short, the school medical service has given a new understanding of the child as an individual, an understanding which cannot in the future fail to affect the whole scheme of its education."

Whatever may be true of secondary education, primary education, as a whole, has suffered lamentably from the limitation to which the teacher has been put through the necessity of dealing with children in masses. Here, too, there has been false economy. Where classes number sixty or more the teacher's efforts are necessarily restricted by the strenuousness of the task of keeping order; the marvel is that as much has been possible as has been achieved considering these conditions; but the medical services' observation will be strongly reinforced from the educationists' side by a plea for classes of not more than twenty-five pupils, and by the demand for more teachers, "an honourable place" for them, and better salaries.

"The existence and strength of a nation ultimately depend upon the survival of its children and their physical and mental

example of how not to do it, even in war-time. The powers that be—who, by the bye, are they?—have, in their wisdom, appointed a Committee to consider the existing system of obtaining nurses for the hospitals for sick and wounded soldiers at home and abroad." The names of seven persons are given: six of these are men, and not one of them represents the nursing profession. The experience of hospital matrons would, we should suppose, be indispensable in this matter, but their experience, if consultative only, will be of little weight compared with the opinions of the outsiders who must decide.

health," and both the physical and mental health of the children calls for a reform in the system of excessively large classes in elementary schools.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

In its plea, the importance of school hygiene enforced by medical advice, the Report lays particular emphasis on the value of open-air life and of a proper system of physical training. Open-air schools have given good results, are not expensive in erection, and the restrictions imposed by the Treasury in capital expenditure, owing to the war, which have curtailed the extension of open-air schools, should, it is urged by the Report, be reconsidered, seeing the immense national importance of taking every precaution to develop as healthy a younger generation as may be. Through open-air schools and a proper system of training, it is urged, the national standard of health could be raised in a comparatively short time. "The medical and surgical treatment of the sick and defective child is essential, but that, however excellent and complete in itself, cannot take the place of the much larger branch of school hygiene comprised in securing for all children from infancy to adolescence an adequate upbringing based on a sufficiency of food and exercise. It is a large claim, but the Report shows this problem to be, on the whole, well within compass."

The use of existing means and opportunities should offer facilities for watching over children's health and welfare from infancy to adolescence without large expenditure or revolutionary methods, and the Report pays full recognition to the actual value of voluntary agencies and their reserves of power to supplement the work of the medical service by co-operation with the teachers and school nurses. It digresses to offer the workers sound advice. The work requires "energy, patience, and tact," but, since the operations of the children's care committee covers practically every aspect of child life and the provisions of after-care arrangements can extend to the time when a child has entered an industrial occupation, it should be possible to achieve the thoroughness without which no case for the children's health can be effective. Unless care is continuous, the work done at one stage is undone in the next.

The whole sphere of work upon which the Medical Officer's Report to the Board of Education touches is admittedly women's sphere, and the report deserves close attention in its statistics of the existing diseases, and of the work done to arrest or prevent them. The implicit recommendations of the Report virtually are for greater national expenditure on education, for foresight in this particular, in spite of the war, and for the avoidance of the pitfall of false economy in savings made at the expense of the next generation. It is here that the Report will claim support in its general principle from women readers. The chapter on juvenile employment perhaps merits especial attention at the moment. It makes no accusations, but merely states the fact that 45,000 children have been lost to the schools by leaving exactly at the legal school-leaving age during this last year—exactly at the age where, as every educationalist knows, education is only just beginning to bear fruit, and where it should most be continued. More than this, on May 31st, 1916, 1,500 children were excused for agricultural whole time employment alone, and more have been employed in other work. The total loss of children to education is reported to be "very considerable," and not by any means wholly represented by these figures. Suffragists will realise that such a state of things calls for extreme watchfulness. The loss of education to these children is a grave misfortune, and closely allied with it is the danger of the exploitation of child labour, which exists not only as a menace, but as a reality.

"A Plea for Progress" & "Marking Time."

Some comment is necessary on a speech made by the Australian Premier at the inaugural meeting of the Women's Imperial Defence Council, on June 22nd. He expressed himself as "quite certain that women would have to be considered a permanent factor in the economic problem, and the task now before them was to consider by what means their employment after the war could be ensured without detriment to the nation or to themselves."

I protest against this misuse of the term "detriment." While crediting Mr. Hughes with the best intentions, this phrase of his is obviously the utterance of a mind entirely accustomed to the masculine view of things; it outlines a bare "permission" to our millions of women to "mark time" in the great Imperial army of intelligence. Can they continue to work as they are doing now "without detriment to the nation"? Has their work so far been a detriment to the nation? Has it not been of immense service to the Empire in this crisis?

Contrast with this the classic utterance of J. Stuart Mill: "The benefit to be expected from giving to women the free use of their faculties by leaving them the free choice of their employment and opening to them the same field of occupation as to men would be that of doubling the mass of mental faculties available for the higher service of humanity." If this sentiment could be set up in large type and exhibited with the lavishness evidenced in the "Economy Posters" it would, in time, leaven the superciliousness of men, boys, and officials, and enhance the intellectual dignity of womanhood.

I am not now pleading on behalf of Suffrage (which is in able hands and in a promising condition), nor on behalf of the valuable rank and file, who are, in such varied capacities, labouring manually for the upkeep of the national honour, for this department is fairly well classified also. I am speaking on behalf of the construction of the mental programme of the immediate future, and in this the same foresight must be used as that which we expect of our political leaders, our Foreign, Home, War, and Trade Secretaries, that we may rise to the situation and grasp its opportunities, claiming the clear, impartial vision which is a mental right of each Imperial woman, refusing to be content with merely being "allowed" to "mark time" while the rest of the Imperial masculine army marches boldly forward! They do this, and will continue so to do because the industrial, commercial, electoral, and militant ranks are already "officered." Promotion in every aspect is (normally) safe, and automatic, with an occasional brilliant "coup" which lifts an individual right over the heads of his colleagues. I therefore plead for the deliberate forging of new paths by educated leaders amongst the army of women, acting as pioneers in the midst of a most conservative civilisation; paths upon which the feet of their less mentally-endowed sisters can tread in future security, so that they may not find themselves abandoned after the war, and mercilessly exploited by schemers, who would deal with them simply as "hands" to be got cheap. In the past the teaching profession has absorbed most of the women holding Degrees. This is a safe and useful career, but is it always the best that might have been done with such mental capital? The best proof of real efficiency, valuable to the world, can only be truly measured by the final results of life-work. The efficiency of the German war machine will be judged by the final result of its clash against Justice. True efficiency, as a woman's guerdon, would perhaps be best illustrated by the life-work of Florence Nightingale, or the individual courage in a sacred cause which impressed one refined gentlewoman of average education (neither B.A. nor M.A.) to leave her quiet country home and, in spite of ridicule and many deterrents, determinedly face the human wild beast of old Newgate and other prisons, finally securing a reform of the brutalising prison system of the last century. The efficiency of the work of these two women was far beyond Greek and Latin qualifications, and neither of them would have been contented to stay for life in the safety of B.A. "dug-outs" in the warfare against the devil.

I venture to quote the rebuke given to Moses when the crowd of fugitives for whom he was responsible stood, hesitating, on the brink of an (recently) impassable sea: "Wherefore criest thou unto Me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward."

They went forward, men and women, and arrived at their promised "heritage."

M. HALE.

INDUSTRY AND MOTHERHOOD.

An important investigation into the effects of various industrial occupations on motherhood is about to be undertaken by the Women's Industrial Council.

The influx of women into industries, many hitherto closed to them, has been widely encouraged through the exigencies of the war, and probably there will remain a considerably larger total of permanent women workers than this country has hitherto known.

This state of affairs will coincide with an intensified national need for healthy and capable children. It will, therefore, be particularly desirable that conditions of occupation in which women are employed shall be favourable to healthy motherhood, and that the fullest information as to what occupations and conditions are and are not favourable shall be accessible.

At present, although there must exist a great deal of information bearing upon this important point, this has not been collected and collated. The conditions in various industries have not been examined with the view of discovering their direct influence on motherhood.

This presents the new field of inquiry which the Women's Industrial Council will traverse, since in the promotion of legislative reform the Council has, during twenty years of successful activity, acted on the principle that the collection of facts should precede demands for action.

As a result of the investigation, it is not intended to bar married women from occupations found to be unfavourable to motherhood, but rather to aim at such improvement of conditions that the risks to healthy offspring may be removed.

It is encouraging to learn that the officials of the two Government Departments who have been consulted are entirely favourable to the investigation.

Expert workers are available, and it remains to complete the investigation with as much speed as is compatible with thoroughness and accuracy. The rate at which it can be carried on must, however, depend on the funds at the disposal of the Council.

The prompt performance of such a valuable piece of national service must appeal to many men and women who have the welfare of the country at heart.

All communications may be made to the Secretary, Women's Industrial Council, 7, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.



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Dispensing as a Career.

Since the beginning of the war, women have found their way into the world of industry with much rapidity. They have entered professions which hitherto have been mainly followed by men. Among these professions is dispensing. Dispensing is work that any woman with a normal amount of intelligence can do. There are many schools where it is taught and also many private people who devote their time in coaching the would-be dispenser, so that at the present time when a woman desires to become a dispenser or pharmacist the profession is easily within her reach. A representative of THE COMMON CAUSE recently had the pleasure of calling upon Mrs. Wood-Smith, M.P.S., of Bedford Park. Mrs. Smith was for some years pharmacist and teacher of dispensing to the nursing staff of the London Temperance Hospital, but now she owns an excellent dispensary and laboratory, where she gives instruction in pharmacy, and coaches women for the Apothecaries Hall examination.

Mrs. Smith told me that she usually takes a student through a six months' course, and at the end of that time the student is ready to enter for the Apothecaries Hall examination.

"What does your examination course include?"

"Materia Medica, dispensing, and practical pharmacy, chemistry (theoretical and practical), study of the 'British Pharmacopœia,' and the recognition of drugs and chemicals."

"And is the training costly?"

"Oh, no; considering that a profession is taught and a livelihood is assured. Small classes succeed best. I find you can get to know your students better in a smaller class, and you can watch their work more closely. I never have more than six students at a time, and this is much more satisfactory, both for the student and myself. I usually arrange so that I can have the advanced students in the afternoon and the beginners in the morning. The hours are from ten o'clock till one, and two o'clock till five."

"Have you your laboratory here?" I asked. Mrs. Smith led me away up to her laboratory, which was a very model of a dispensary. Bottles of every description, containing chemicals and drugs in great variety, lined the walls.

"Are all drugs, chemicals, and apparatus included in your fee?" I asked.

"Yes, the fee covers everything." And as I looked round I certainly thought that here was to be obtained a first-rate opportunity for practical, as well as theoretical, work.

Mrs. Smith told me that she has not yet had a failure, and by what I could see of the interest she took in her work I do not think that she is likely to have any. "I do not take a student," she said, "unless I know that she is particularly interested in the work, because one must be interested in dispensing and chemistry in general to make a success of it. I believe that my success as a coach is due to the spirit of comradeship which exists between the students and myself. I feel strongly that women should be encouraged when they take up the work that appeals to them; and, furthermore, teaching them, with their future work in view, has become a hobby with me."

"Are all your passed students in good positions now?" I asked. Mrs. Smith was very proud to tell me that, as far as she knew—for she has coached a great many women—all her students had been able to earn a comfortable living. When once a woman has passed the Apothecaries Hall examination she can get a post as dispenser. She can rise to £130, but 30s. to £2 a week may be taken as an average. Her students have taken posts as dispensers to medical men, chemists, and at provident dispensaries. "I recently had a letter," Mrs. Smith said, "from an old student who is working at a dispensary in the East End. She is getting £2 a week, and she is gaining a good deal of valuable experience, doing 100 to 150 prescriptions every day."

"The War Office have now admitted women dispensers into military hospitals, but they are only engaged for the period of the war, in order that the men holding these positions may be released for service abroad. The pay is 6s. a day, and in some districts rations and allowances are also given."

"What is the next step after the Apothecaries Hall examination?"

"After practising for three years, either with a doctor or at a dispensary—provided the dispenser has attained the age of twenty-one—she can enter for the minor examination of the Pharmaceutical Society, the passing of which gives the student the legal right to dispense and sell poisons, and she can take the title of chemist and druggist or pharmacist."

"Do you think that the demand will be greater than in the past for women dispensers?" I asked.

"I have not the slightest doubt that women dispensers will be in great demand. You see they are much more economical in their use of drugs and chemicals than the men. It is to be hoped that wholesale houses will introduce women dispensers into their laboratories much more in the future than in the past. There are at the present time as many women students of pharmacy as men, and such is the demand for women students that they are taken up immediately they pass their examinations."

B. P.

The New Responsibilities of Church Women.

The equal service of laymen and lay women is taken for granted in a recent letter on "Women's Work in the Church," by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, in the *Lincoln Diocesan Magazine* for September.

"The question that lies before us is, to what extent are women to be reckoned and employed as laymen? There is no question of principle, but of convenience and expediency. During the war, more and more of the tasks commonly handled by men have been shared or taken over by women. In the banks, in the stations, in the tramcars, in munition works, in the harvest field, women are doing the work of men, at least during the war. It becomes natural to ask whether, in the work of the Church likewise, there are not tasks commonly reserved for laymen, which may reasonably and wisely be shared or taken over by women. Women may legally be appointed churchwardens, and frequently, in fact, fill that office. . . . But for the gifts, the work, the prayers of our churchwomen the Church would be in an evil case. If we look round upon civil and municipal activities we find women regarded as valuable members of almost all Boards of Local Government, especially as Guardians of the Poor, and on Local Education Authorities. The development has had to win its way to popular approval, but it is now accepted and welcomed as a blessing to the whole community."

"Now, these extensions of the social activities of our women have been coincident with the wonderful advance in their higher education, which is one of the most notable features of our time. Our women are now competent to offer to the State a kind of service which they could not have offered a generation or two ago. A silent but tremendous revolution has taken place, and what seemed odd, or unseemly, or impossible before is now taken for granted by the younger generation. But, if this is true, may it not be—must it not happen—that the status of 'women within the laity of the Church is undergoing a like modification? May we not have to readjust our views or abandon some prejudices?"

The Bishop points out that St. Paul "had in view a much better instructed class of laymen than we have in England to-day," also that "he omits the duty of the mother and her vast responsibilities in the home" when he mentions the duties of each member of the Christian family, whereas the influence of the mother is now dominant in the English home. Social conditions are different to-day and enormously improved. The Bishop goes on to discuss how "monasticism and clerical celibacy tended to warp mediæval views of the place and status of womanhood. Feudalism, too, and the military organisation of society prevented woman from taking the place reserved to her in a more advanced and Christian type of social life," except for such women as St. Hilda or St. Catherine of Siena, or Joan of Arc, who "broke through the restrictions of their times and gave the world a foretaste of the womanhood of a later and happier day."

Then he proceeds to our present duty to women in the coming National Mission. Broadly speaking, we shall be wise in treating women as important members of our laity. . . . He enumerates their most responsible offices, prophecy in early Christian times, and various sorts of tuition latterly, finishing with the chief lay office of the Church legally and properly open to women (churchwardenship); "if sex-privileges were essentially done away by the Gospel, then it is clear that we may invite our churchwomen to a much large share of Christian service than has been usual." He welcomes addresses by women in church, and writes that he thanks God and takes courage. In other dioceses a similar spirit is showing itself, and throughout the country this movement is going forward.

H. F. P.

First Hand Experiences.

XVI.—MY FIRST WEEK ON THE LAND.

I have just finished my first week on the land, which I enjoyed very much; but we had plenty of hard work. The first night N— and I slept out, but since then the weather has been too doubtful, and we cannot risk having to come in, as the night is none too long. We are in bed by 9.30 and get up at 5.30, when we have tea and biscuits, and then work from 6 to 8. The next half-hour is a wild rush, as we have to get home, breakfast, make our beds, and give our hands a good, hard scrub! We then work again from 8.30 to 1.0, when we have dinner, and a short rest till 2. We stop work at 5, and then two of us take a bath each day, which is a great treat, as you may imagine. You can't think how dirty we get!

We do different kinds of work, and there is always excitement in the morning to see what we are going to do. On Monday we started with apples. They are quite the nicest to gather. A good many can be reached from the ground, but the majority need a ladder. There is quite an art in putting up the ladder, and it is very necessary to have it firm, as acrobatic feats have to be performed to reach the distant apples, and it is not much fun if your ladder wobbles. It is very thrilling at times, when you have to stretch far out to reach an apple. I stopped at one for the first three days, as we are allowed to for the first week, and I must say I was not sorry.

On Tuesday we snibbed beans, which means picking off the runners. It is a very back-breaking job, as you are bent all the time. After breakfast we picked apples, and had a very exhausting morning. The trees were small and in long rows. We had to walk up and down the rows, carrying baskets and picking the apples. It was like walking over a ploughed field, and as the baskets got very heavy it was hard work. We did them all the morning, and must have walked miles, so we were all very tired, and I was much envied by the others who had to do beans again at two.

On Wednesday we picked French beans, and that was better than snibbing, as you could change your attitude a bit. However, six and a-half hours of it was quite enough. Thursday was pouring wet. N— and I had not real mackintoshes, so we put on bathing suits and jerseys under our waterproofs, as we knew we should get soaked through in no time. We picked apples, and, of course, the trees were awfully wet, and the apples difficult to hold on to as they were so slippery. We had one very troublesome tree, which was very high, but we succeeded in getting all the apples.

We pulled young cabbages for the rest of the morning, and they were among nettles, so we got stung all over our hands, but it was not so bad after a while. That was also a tiring job for the back, but nothing to beans. In the afternoon we finished off the apples, and then snibbed for two and a-half hours. The snibbing was rather awful at the end of the day, but by taking two or three short rests flat on our backs we survived, and I was not so tired, considering that I had done full work. On Friday we bicycled to another orchard and picked apples all day. On Saturday we pulled cabbages, but there were no nettles, which was a mercy. We had the afternoon off, and the farmer offered to take anyone who liked to see the hops at his other farm, which is nine miles away. We all went, and so did some of the family, and some schoolboys who are also working on the farm. We went in the lorry, and caused much excitement to passers by, as we sang most of the time! In the evening we all set out in the motor-lorry to go to the theatre at X—. The family all came and also the boys, so there were heaps of us, and we filled nearly a whole row. It was great fun coming and going, and there was a lovely moon as we came back. We could have slept out of doors, but were too tired to take out our beds, and, much as we had enjoyed our first week at a farm, we were very glad to think that we should not have to get up at 5.30 on Sunday morning!

KATHLEEN McARTHUR.

The *Times Educational Supplement* for September 7th contains several articles of very great interest to women. Chief among these is *The Times Medical Correspondent's* account of the London hospitals now thrown open to women medical students on the same terms as men, the attitude of Charing Cross Hospital being the most catholic and sympathetic. "Special Classes for Women" gives a survey of the training classes in the boot and shoe and other trades in London, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Cheshire.

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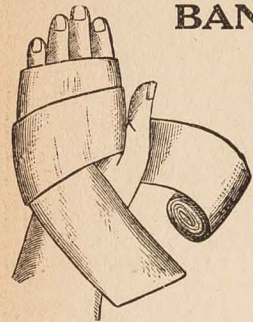
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A Man Speaks Out.

General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien has twice appealed to theatrical managers to try to raise the tone of stage performances prepared "especially for the younger members of our fighting profession." The General explains that when his first letter was written to the Press, "he had in mind the war, and nothing but the war; and, owing to the large number of young men incapacitated from taking their place in the fighting line from preventable disease, the elimination of anything likely to encourage vice in any way."

In a second letter to the Press, he has further widened his appeal. The standard of public decency has sunk to a low ebb, and many of our readers must have thought as they made up packets of magazines for the front, how entirely their contents were out of harmony with the moral of the nation and the spirit of the men who volunteered for so great a cause. It is quite true that "the pictures even in some of our best papers" are vulgar; "and it is almost impossible to buy an illustrated periodical without some inane, suggestive, or vulgar picture in it."

General Smith-Dorrien has raised once again a question of tremendous national importance.

Year after year protests against these things have been vainly made, in the name of Art, of Commonsense, or Decency. Year after year certain vested interests, pretty closely connected with subterranean industries, continue to finance, with very large sums of money, these "most inane performances," with "nothing in them to inspire, much to debase," to quote the scathing words from a letter written by another officer in the Army, describing an experience which was "the beginning and the ending of revues for him." The Censor cheerfully "licenses" this stuff—the very bankrupt-stock of the playwright's brain. The management, no doubt, will assert that there is a demand which they supply, for "exhibitions of scantily dressed girls and songs of doubtful character." It is only too clear that there is a superabundant supply of these things—but is it by any means as clear, that there is a demand for them—beyond the lower circles infested by social parasites? Is it not a supply which is meant to create a demand? There is a great demand for fun and laughter among our men who come back from the front, even for farce and uproarious merriment, for complete and glorious relaxation during the brief holiday leave, when the sense of being alive is, perhaps, keener and stronger than ever before, by contrast with the long hours of darkness and the near presence of death. But too many public performances are not supplying that demand, but quite another—they are simply the advertisement department of practitioners belonging to Mrs. Warren's Profession. They endeavour to make the highway to the lock hospital appear to be a path of roses. Managers cater for what they are pleased to call "popular taste, no matter how debased, and so long as the Censor does not rule them out they are justified in what they produce."

If they wait for the Censor to raise the tone of the stage or music-hall, they may wait for ever. The play that deals with real things seriously is the only kind of drama to which apparently the censorship takes exception; and so long as the revue or sketch makes vice appear bright, attractive, and a great joke, the Censor chuckles and passes it as suitable for youth. The Censor, we have to remember, is an aged institution. He is an inspector in what R. L. Stevenson once adequately described as "the meat-market of middle-aged sensuality." His standards are the standards of the market-place; his dealings are among its purveyors; and he no doubt understands its requirements and the minimum limits of decency to a nicety.

But what does Youth ask for? In the same issue of the paper with General Smith-Dorrien's letter, is another paragraph giving an account of "Plays at the Front." Miss Lena Ashwell and her company have been away on a month's tour, playing in improvised theatres, cinemas, huts, and hospitals. The men flocked to the plays. They "willingly gave up their tea, which is the best meal of the day, for one good hour of healthy laughter. Shakespeare is in great demand." Who can doubt it? Who that has been across the bridges and seen "the old Vic." in a Shakespeare season, nightly packed from pit to gallery, and watched the audience roll and rock with joy over "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and the philosophy of Falstaff in the historical plays; or, during Mr. Herbert's last Shakespeare season at the Coronet, has watched the house completely absorbed in "Macbeth," taking up quickly the points scored in a Shakespearean word-duel, and roaring out with all the force of their lungs, a mighty laugh over the broad Elizabethan humour, could imagine for a moment that Shakespeare is not in great demand. It is the so-called cultured classes, that regard a Shakespeare evening as a severe form of mental "improvement," or the equivalent of reading the Penitential Psalms. The British nation appears to feel itself singularly at home in the age of Elizabeth.

"My correspondents," says General Smith-Dorrien, "cry aloud for Shakespeare, a revival of Gilbert and Sullivan, 'Madame Favart,' and the like, and I am sure that such, and music-halls devoid of indecencies, whilst abounding in jocular, cheerful, and inspiring songs and clever performances, would appeal to the public and still be remunerative to the producers." To which we might add old-fashioned Italian opera, sung with a will and acted with a swing; such performances as the small Italian companies used to give, in by-gone

autumns, to audiences partly Italian, in London. The greatest harmony always prevailed; the heartiest co-operation between pit and gallery and the performers on the stage. The old familiar great melodies evidently smote on the hearts of listeners and singers. "Grand Opera" never thrilled the house as those unknown artists thrilled the pit and gallery "at popular prices." Beauty, heroism, joy, and laughter—youth wants these—and Shakespeare gives them all.

"When I wrote first I had in my mind the war, and nothing but the war, for owing to the large number of young men incapacitated from taking their places in the fighting line from preventable disease, I felt strongly that something should be done, and hoped that an appeal to managers might lead those who do not do so already, to place patriotism before their own interests by purifying performances to such an extent as to eliminate anything of a nature likely to bring into the minds of the audience thoughts which could in any way encourage vice. . . . An important factor in this great war is the cleanliness of mind and the nobility of purpose of our heroes on sea and land, and it seems entirely unnecessary, and certainly wrong, to put into their heads demoralising thoughts, such as they must obtain from many performances now appearing on the stage." . . . So General Smith-Dorrien says. (The italics are ours.)

Not only in the great war, but still more in the coming peace. The old foul cesspits have been allowed too long to contaminate the springs at which youth drinks. Cesspits are not a "necessary evil." A better system would make short work of them. But, in the meantime, we can choose decent literature and pictures for the Fleet and the Army, and hope for a Shakespeare season this winter.

Our "Millicent Fawcett" Hospital Units in Russia.

That our Dominions' affairs are ours and ours our Dominions' in Imperial matters and foreign policy should be established beyond necessity for comment since 1914, yet New Zealand's support of the N.U. relief in Russia is an occasion for special pleasure and warm gratitude. This week £111 18s., in all, comes from New Zealand, £110 of this sum from the Poverty Bay Women's Patriotic Fund, and the Dannevirke Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children, both through Miss M. C. Ross, late of Somerville College, Oxford. There seems no distance, and there is none when sympathy and helpfulness so lead the way. The money will probably be earmarked for the adoption of a nurse in one of our Units. £100 will equip a nurse, pay her travelling expenses, and keep her for six months at Petrograd. £98 will support a nurse for seven months at Kazan. Will others follow the example of our New Zealand friends?

Further satisfactory accounts reach us of the progress of our work in Russia from the Hospitals at Petrograd, Stara Chelna, Kazan, and Tchistopol, and we hear that the Flying Column for Galicia is getting into working order. The Summer Convalescent Home for refugee mothers and children at Souida was closed on September 13th, and the accounts sent by Nurse Hutchinson, who has been in charge there, and by Miss Knight, after an afternoon's visit at Souida, leave no doubt as to the good work done, and to the kindly relations established between our personnel and their patients. Miss Hutchinson writes:—

"It has been a joy to see the enormous difference in the health of the children, but the Home has done them good, not only physically—their manner and general attitude towards each other has improved wonderfully. We know now that when even a mite of three is required to give up something to another he will say, with the most serious face in the world, say 'Please,' and when it has been handed over there comes the further command, say 'Thank you.' And our small Peter, aged two-and-a-half, who we were convinced used to swear at his mother in the early days of our acquaintance with him, now contents himself, when she incurs his displeasure, with the threat, 'I shall tell Sister!'"

"If the children have taught me some Russian they have also learnt from me some English. Very often the first sound that greets me in the day is that of cheery little voices calling out 'Good morning, Sister,' in excellent English, from the room next my own. And one small child used to afford me much amusement by remarking affectionately, 'Sister, nice little girl,' not knowing that an expression that was quite suitable for me was scarcely so applicable to my maturer years! Another

child, an excellent mimic, on hearing me scold a little girl, would say to her severely 'naughty boy' in exactly the tone he had heard me use to himself. We shall be very sorry to say good-bye to them. It is good news that many of them leave us to go to their old homes in Riga. I hope that there some of the mothers we have had from the Maternity Home in Petrograd will apply the lessons they should have received in thrift—for nothing has been wasted; every scrap of bread left has found its way into much-appreciated bread-puddings; potato-parings have been saved for our milkman's cows, and the wood ashes from the stores have been put on to the soil in the garden."

Miss Knight tells of a little Polish girl who visited her at Petrograd after her stay at Souida:—

"The Polish children are particularly sweet. I had quite lost my heart to one little girl of about six, and now she is back in Petrograd and her mother out of hospital, she comes to pay us a call now and then. Her affection is based on gratitude for the clothes we fitted her out with, especially a pair of boots I got her; she was so afraid some other child would get them that she always insisted on putting them on first of all her garments when she got out of bed in the morning. She talks very wisely about her home, and the Germans being there now, and nods her head and says a funny little clipped-off 'da' at the end of all her sentences."

Perhaps the best testimonial comes in the words of some of the parents themselves, who write to Miss Hutchinson as follows:—

"Receive our warmest thanks, Lady President of the British Maternity Hospital, and all connected with that good work for conferring such inestimable benefits on our children Nikita and Pasha. We are very touched by the kindness and care bestowed on our children."

"Thank God, who sent you to undertake this good work for the poor refugees, and once more, with all our hearts we thank you."

"GREGORY and MARIANNA LEONOVY.
Petrograd, August 1st, 1916."

We shall hope to hear soon that the Flying Column in Galicia is in full swing. At present "fleas," and "alterations of the builder," are making it hard to nurse forty patients with a staff not yet complete. However, they are being nursed, and the Unit is working manfully. We are promised full news next week.

For "The Common Cause."

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

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

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

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

THE NATION IS LEARNING WHERE ITS STRENGTH LIES.

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

We need at least £500 at once to "carry on" THE COMMON CAUSE.

Thanks to the generosity of our readers we have now £323 towards the amount which we need.

WILL YOU HELP?

This week we acknowledge with grateful thanks the following amounts:—

Already acknowledged	£ s. d.	Mrs. Tite	£ s. d.
Miss Matr	323 9 4	The Rev. Canon Wilson	10 0
Mrs. Lamport	1 0 0	Miss M. Lees	20 0 0
Miss Mary Rathbone	1 0 0	Miss Holmes	2 0
The Misses Michaels	1 1 0		
Miss Martin	2 6		
Miss Milbanke	10 6		
			£349 16 4

"I enclose postal order for 10s. for THE COMMON CAUSE FUND. I think it is the best Suffrage paper we have. I hope to send you another donation later on."

"I enclose a small donation. I should indeed be sorry to be without this most interesting and encouraging paper."

"I should consider THE COMMON CAUSE being unable to carry on, a national disaster," says another.

"I trust," writes a third well-wisher, "the paper will always flourish, even after our cause is won."

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

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

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

A FARTHING A WEEK WELL LAID OUT.

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

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

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
 President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
 Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON, MISS OLIVER STRACHET (Parliamentary), MRS. OLIVER STRACHET, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London.
 Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH, Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT, 4675 Vic. & 4574 Vic. Telephone—4675 Vic. & 4574 Vic.

GENERAL SERVICE FUND.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the above fund whereby we provide the upkeep of our offices, and the salaries of our staff of workers.

It is in the very nature of things that the special Funds, such as the Fund which has provided Hospital Units for France, Serbia, Salonika, and Corsica, and the Fund which has enabled the N.U. to send out Hospital Units to the help of the refugees in Russia, should make a more arresting appeal to the general public, and even, to a certain extent, to our own members, and therefore receive a larger measure of support. But just because the Fund to meet the general expenses does not make this wide appeal, we must rely on our members and friends—on those who realise the value of our organisation—to provide us with means to stoke the engine of our efficiency.

The support we have received up to the present is very encouraging. Donations have come, not only from all parts of the United Kingdom, but also from distant places such as South Africa, Punjab, and British Columbia.

We now confidently appeal to all those of our readers who have not yet, or who have not recently, contributed to our General Funds at Headquarters, to send a donation, as large as they can afford, to the GENERAL SERVICE FUND.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	£ s. d.	Mrs. Marlor	£ s. d.
Received from September 4th to September 16th, 1916:—	2,485 6 0	Mrs. Morse	2 2 0
		Miss S. B. Hunt	2 0
		Miss M. L. Mathieson	1 10 0
		Dr. M. J. Pirret	1 1 0
		Miss W. B. Crisp	2 6
		Miss G. W. Evans	10 0
		Mrs. Margaret Steen	2 2 0
		Miss F. de G. Merrifield	5 0 0
		Mr. E. Hughesdon	2 0 0
		Miss Gertrude Magee	5 0
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		Miss E. C. Lyon	1 1 0
		The Misses Seymour	2 2 0
		Received for Scottish Women's Hospital	1 15 0
			£2,535 2 0

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

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

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

Owing to the difficulty of transport it has been decided to send no more gifts in kind, clothing, dresses, &c., to Russia, but gifts in money will be very welcome. Several friends and members of the National Union have sent proceeds for the sale of jewels or valuables to the Fund, and the Treasurer most gratefully acknowledges £80 realised by an anonymous sale in this way.

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

Already acknowledged	£ s. d.	Dannevirke Society for the Promotion of the Health of Women and Children	£ s. d.
Miss Alice Bolton (5th monthly donation)	8,582 15 7	Mrs. Armitage	10 7 0
A. J. M.	10 0	Miss McKerron	1 1 0
Anonymous	3 0 0	Bryn Mawr College Red Cross Fund	5 5 1
Miss K. M. Macnaghten	2 10 0	Miss Sutton	10 0
Miss L. M. Donnelly	2 0 0	Miss J. L. Franklin	2 0 0
Miss Florence Heath	2 1 1		
Per Miss Mary C. Ross, Dunedin, New Zealand, Poverty Bay Women's Patriotic Fund	10 0		
	100 0 0		£8,712 19 9

Correspondence.

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSEKEEPING.

MADAM,—Miss Clementina Black's interesting articles on "Federated Housekeeping" offer us a glimpse of the Millennium. "No more thought of the domestic details of to-morrow," an end to the question "what shall we eat?" (except in wisely appointed limits): best of all, the servant problem solved to their happiness and the employer's advantage; no more "washing day" for the working woman, and the domestic expert come into her own! Who could visualise this without mentally handling the bricks for the building, and resolving it shall be no castle in Spain. But how make the bricks? The first one requires a good deal of shaping. For the ordinary London district, Miss Clementina Black suggests adapting adjacent houses in a street for the central kitchen, offices, and servants' quarters. There would be the capital outlay for the freehold of these two houses, so that the improvements, the necessary steam kitchen, new tiled, round-edged and slate-slatted larders, &c., should not be lost, and pass on to the landlord at the termination of the lease. Very probably the houses for the ten or more families who are to compose the unit should be obtained by purchase of the freeholds, certainly by purchase of a lease on long terms, as it is essential to retain some control over the tenants of the houses near the Central Kitchen so as to secure a permanent promise of their co-operation—another heavy item in capital outlay, to say nothing of the difficulties inherent in buying up a street, and of the expenses for removal and decorating devolving on the families, or the alterations presumably required to secure the hot-water supply in each of these houses. Well, it is not impossible that a well-intentioned capitalist might be found to assist in these expenses, otherwise the voluntary association will purchase the millennium at a high price, and the actual saving in future will be strenuous.

To accept anything short of the Millennium—say, a less good kitchen, or less good offices—would wreck the scheme, but that economy in current expenditure could be real, granting the initial difficulties overcome, there is no doubt whatever. The practical realisation next depends upon the manageress, who should be a woman of a liberal, if not a university, education, besides her necessary expert training. Unless the manageress has social sympathy, born of real understanding, the plan must fail. Her functions will be something between those of a lightning conductor, and those of a whipping-boy, and she must needs have personality and the resources of a generously judicial disposition. Miss Clementina Black allows her a good salary, and certainly the psychological as well as the practical interest of her work may well attract the educated expert, and open up a larger number of posts to highly trained women. We assume the voluntary association will recognise her value and eagerly support her. But what will her legal position be? Will she be entirely dependent upon the committee of residents, a small body, accessible at any moment almost, to a majority of "the wrong kind"; and how would the scheme work if co-opted members or people whose standing is a guarantee of character were to interfere with the resident's domestic arrangements?

Indeed, unless it is possible to secure groups of like-minded people selected on some sounder basis than taste in foods and ways of living, it is difficult to see how permanency is to be secured—and without continuity of personal and methods the federation cannot flourish in any ideally social sense. If the Millennium is to be interpreted and realised by the ordinary contractor and hotel proprietor, we shall turn aside listlessly with an "I know it, thank you," or does Miss Clementina Black's scheme open up a vista of State Socialism in which that ambiguous body, the State, is represented by people as they should be, and in which all is right with the world? Given the right people and enough capital, federated housekeeping should be a brilliant success, and though many of us may sigh for the personal contact with servants from which we may have derived much interest, enlarged sympathy, and some friendships, after all there are the manageress's posts for which we could apply.

A DOMESTICATED READER.

MADAM,—I have read with interest, but also with a feeling of dismay, Miss Black's series of articles on Co-operative Housekeeping, in THE COMMON CAUSE. It appears to me that the system of housekeeping advocated will tend towards the greatest of all evils—the destruction of the home life and family circle. Such a system of housekeeping can be very little better for the occupants than living in a boarding-house, and there are few among us who have not suffered from these, however good they are. The scheme may be useful to those who have absolutely no time to devote to the home life, but it can never be more than a makeshift. The home circle is the ideal atmosphere in which to bring up the future race, and this would be impossible in a glorified boarding-house. The intimate conversation and companionship between parents and children at the meal hours would be entirely lacking in a common dining-room. Further, with regard to individual tastes in cooking; an average middle-class woman would be utterly miserable, particularly in cases of illness or with delicate relatives, unless she were in a position to buy and cook little dishes exactly as she wanted them done. For a small number of professional women the scheme would probably work quite well, but I do not think Miss Black is right in advocating co-operative housekeeping for all; as a convenience, yes; but as an ideal to be striven for, no.

A MOTHER OF SONS.

MADAM,—I have been extremely interested in reading Miss Black's able and lucid articles on Co-operative Housekeeping. I feel sure that in the future federated households are bound to come, as the domestic problem is so acute, and housewives will have to band together to find some way out. While reading the articles I could not help longing to find myself in one of these snug little federated homes, with an experienced parlourmaid laying my ready-cooked meal, instead of struggling along servantly in a large country vicarage, without a single device for labour-saving or economy. And that brings me to the question I want to ask—What solution has Miss Black for households such as mine, in a remote country village, six miles from a town, shunned by domestics—"carrying on" from day to day to the best of one's ability, and heartily tired of the useless expenditure of labour and energy involved in such a thankless task?

If she can see any light in the darkness, I, for one (and hundreds in like cases), would rise up and call her blessed! COUNTRY HOME.

MADAM,—The point, strongly emphasised by Miss Clementina Black, in her admirable series of articles in THE COMMON CAUSE, that federated housekeeping should be really co-operative if it is to be a success, deserves to be noted, I think. I have repeatedly seen schemes, apparently well-laid, fail because they were put out on contract. One ambitious plan for catering for several blocks of flats came to grief from bad management; the victims, like the cat and the bird in Lear's ballad, "dined upon mince" till their patience gave out. In another case, a large house was taken over by a firm who arranged the separate floors as flats, and established a housekeeper-cook in the basement. This scheme promised well; but in practice the tenants were unable to exercise any control over the housekeeper, who made rules and regulations of her own for their guidance. As she used to accept evening engagements as a jobbing-cook, one of her rules was that no food could be cooked after four p.m.; another, to allow no hot baths after that hour. The tenants—all of them were "lone" ladies—grumbled, but they found that their only remedy was to give notice to the landlord, and endeavour to secure a sub-let for the rest of a three years' agreement! Nothing short of real co-operative housekeeping, with a small householder's committee, would prevent such troubles as these. In counting up the savings under rent, might it not be possible to include besides the saving of servants' bedroom accommodation, and the kitchen or scullery, the dining-room itself, or at any rate its equivalent—the third sitting-room? But perhaps, under the new régime, when labour is not to be wasted as it has been in the past, this extra sitting-room will be wanted as a work-room or study by the mistress of the house.

LONDONER.

REGULATION OF FOOD PRICES.

MADAM,—Your correspondent, in the issue for September 15th, records an opinion expressed at the Trades Union Congress meeting at Birmingham, that "the recent decisions in connection with palm kernels were made solely and entirely to keep up the price of margarine." If the statement was made precisely in this form the speaker cannot have read the report of the Oil-seeds Committee and the minutes of evidence given before the Committee. The decision in question was that an export duty of £2 per ton should be levied on all palm kernels exported to countries outside the British Empire. The evidence given showed that before the war practically all the palm kernels from British West Africa went to Germany, where the oil was expressed, and exported to Holland to be converted into margarine, which was then largely exported to England. Palm kernels are not, by any means, the only oilseed from which margarine can be made, and, so far as effect on price is concerned, the chief result of the export duty should be to restrict the market for the kernels and lower their price. The fear that this may happen accounts for a certain amount of opposition to the duty on the part of one or two Liverpool merchants. Obviously, when all the facts are considered, the duty cannot lead both to a fall in the price of the kernels and to an increase in the price of margarine.

JANE HENRY.

WHY NOT FIND OUT

as many ladies have already done, that the AYAH Labour Savers will reduce your housework by half. Here are three—

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

Table with columns for donor names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Forward as per list to September 7th, 1916' and 'Per Miss Bury: Miss Smith'.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to carry on the work.

Equipment.

The Equipment Secretary make an urgent appeal for the following articles:— Men's leather slippers (particularly large sizes).

MISS KATHLEEN BURKE.

Miss Kathleen Burke has safely reached New York on September 18th, and will at once begin her lecturing tour for our hospitals.

Women interested in herb growing can apply to the Women's Herb Growing Association, Room 35, sixth floor, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, S.W.

OUR HOSPITALS AT AJACCIO.

The Paisley Teachers' Bed.

The King, Salah ben Mabrouk, lay on a bed in a corner by the window of the Elsie Inglis Ward. He seldom stirred or said anything, only occasionally the glint of a smile lit up his

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bright eyes. The other patients were rather awed by the presence of this chief in their midst.

One evening, about six o'clock, just after supper, when several of them were enjoying a smoke (including his Majesty), there was a slight bustle by the door, and two new arrivals were brought in. The Chief glanced casually at the first man, who hobbled along supported by two orderlies, but when he caught sight of the other, who was being carried on a stretcher, he gave a yell like a war-cry, which was faintly echoed by the crumpled mass on the stretcher, who turned out to be one his subjects.

He was put in a bed near the Chief, and from that moment the great man's care and attention never ceased, and, although badly wounded himself in the arm, he made great efforts to render all sorts of little services to his unfortunate subject.

They are not unlike children these Senegalese and Arabs, little things please them so much. Not long ago they were given some indiarubber dolls, which had been specially made for them in the factory at Asnières, and they were simply delighted with them, even those who were very ill kept lifting them up, squeezing them, and putting them back again.

Unfortunately, the poor subject was very ill, and had to have his leg amputated. When the Chief heard this, he burst into uncontrollable weeping, his whole frame shaking with sobs. According to their religious beliefs, you appear in the Hereafter as you were in this life, and the thought of a subject without a limb was too much for the poor King.

Strange to say, he was much less upset by the man's death, which took place later. He went to the funeral, and became so excited about getting his clothes on that half the ward was in hysterics over his wild glee. The dressing of a chief is no small matter.

The scene in the churchyard was quaint in the extreme. The Directeur, Miss Loudon, and the Chief were the only mourners present. When the coffin had been lowered into the grave, the Chief solemnly took a handful of earth, spat upon it, and threw it upon the coffin.

They are great fighters these men, and it seems, in many ways, hard for them to be killed or wounded, for an affair which must seem of comparatively little importance to them. For as one of them, dying, remarked: "Il n a pas de guerre dans mon pays."

Bo'ness Academy Bed.

Bogosav Kistitch, who occupies this bed, is an awfully funny boy, and is quite convinced that we are killing him, not with kindness, but with draughts. We always go round every morning and draw up the side of the tents; at this he protests vigorously. "But Doctor says so," we answer. Then, half in Serbian and half in French, he tells us that draughts are good for English, but that Serbs have not yet learned draughts.

Directly your backs are turned he furtively puts the curtains back. He highly approves of sun baths, and lies bared to the waist in the hot Corsican sun, until his skin is blistered. He is very greedy, and contrives generally, to get more than his share of food, especially Serbskir Mleka, a sour milk, of which they are very fond.

He came from Belgrade, and fought against the Bulgarians in 1916, when he was wounded in the head. I think this must still be troubling him.

EUSTON THEATRE. DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY · OCTOBER 8th · 6 p.m. Speakers: Robert Williams, Fred Bramley, Mrs. Barton, Sylvia Pankhurst, W. Carter, Harry Dubery and others. Come and demand a Vote for every man and woman!

Items of Interest.

The Council of Bedford College for Women have made the following appointment for the Session 1916-17:—

Lecturer and Head of the Department in Botany.—W. Neilson Jones, M.A., Cantab., late Assistant Lecturer in Botany.

A Dearth of Dressmakers.

A conference of employers in the West End dressmaking, ladies' tailoring, and millinery trades is to be held this week to receive the report of a committee appointed to consider the problem of staffing their workrooms. As the result, partly of dismissals when work was slack, and partly of the attractive wages which can be earned in munitions works and other occupations, great difficulty has been found in obtaining an adequate staff of women and girl workers, and particularly in getting young girls as learners and juniors.

The committee recommend a number of improvements in wages and conditions, including the following:—

A 48-hour week; learner's pay to be 6s. during the first six months and 8s. during the second (at present they begin at 5s. or less); payment for all bank holidays; a week's holiday with pay after a year's service; no stoppage of pay for learners when on three-quarter time; learners not to be employed on outside messenger work; and shelter to be provided for girls who travel by workmen's trains and trams and arrive before working hours.

The most important proposal is that all girls between fourteen and sixteen should be required as a condition of employment to attend a trade school for three hours on two days a week during business time, the methods of training to be supervised by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the employers, the workers, and the London County Council.

The Southwark Diocesan Committee on Women's Work have established a scheme for training in church and social work, and a course has been arranged with the help of Dr. Nairne and other professors at King's College.

The training will consist of lectures and private tuition in theology and social science, together with practical work, and will probably extend over three terms. The Bishop of Southwark will give his personal supervision and will grant certificates of fitness for work in the diocese to students who attain the requisite standard. The fee will be £3 a term, and arrangements could be made for those students desiring it to live at the Talbot House or Lady Margaret Hall Settlements at a cost of £50 a year. The autumn term begins on October 3rd.

Further particulars may be obtained from Miss J. M. Douglas, Talbot House Settlement, Addington-square, Camberwell, S.E.

The German Birth-Rate.

The Medical Officer of Health for Deptford, in his annual report, states that as regards the actual birth-rate the decline in this country is insignificant compared with that recorded in the latest German statistics. These returns show that in twenty-four leading German cities the birth-rate decreased during April, May, June, and July, 1915, by 20 per cent., as compared with the corresponding months in 1914, which is equivalent to a loss of 400,000 births annually throughout the German Empire.

There is such a scarcity of schoolmasters in Hesse that the education authority has issued an appeal to women teachers who were formerly required to resign on their marriage. "A Darmstadt 'Women's Welfare' society therefore requested that, after the war, married women be not expelled from their office; and the Minister of Instruction," says Die Frauenfrage, "rejected the demand."

A Novel Dower.

Since the Federal Monopoly of Brandy was adopted in Switzerland, the annual consumption of brandy per head of the population has dropped from 9½ litres (or rather over two gallons) to 5½ litres, "which is still evidently too much," says the writer of an article on "L'alcoolisme en Suisse" in Le Mouvement Feministe. And he quotes M. R. Herod, who says that the money annually spent on spirits in Switzerland, would, if saved up, enable the State to give a present of £500 to each young bride and bridegroom on their wedding day!

Forthcoming Meetings.

SEPTEMBER 22. Marylebone—New Life Centre, Bechstein Studios, Room 25, 32, New Wigmore Street, W.—Speaker: Miss Walford on "Possibilities of Trainings for Women"—Part II. 8.15

SEPTEMBER 25. Birmingham—Selly Oak Institute—Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 3.0

Peckham—Peckham Rye Baptist Chapel, Rye Lane, S.E.—Speaker: Mrs. Palmer, on "Infant Welfare" 3.0

SEPTEMBER 26. Birmingham—Northfield Women's Adult School—Mrs. Ring 3.0

Bristol—St. Agnes Vicarage—"The Present Suffrage Situation"—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 8.0

SEPTEMBER 27. Cheltenham—Private meeting in the small Victoria Hall—Speaker: Miss Annie Cooke, on the "Prospect of Women's Suffrage" 8.0

Norwood—Drawing-room Meeting, at 1, Elder Road, West Norwood—Hostess: The Misses Russell—Speaker: Miss Ruth Young, on "The Effect of the War on National Life" 3.30

OCTOBER 3. Cambridge—Members' Meeting, at 20, Green Street—"Women on the New Parliamentary Register" 3.0

OCTOBER 4. Accrington—Meeting at the Town Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Conway, M.A.—Chair: Mrs. Belsey

Bristol—The Patriotic Club, Newfoundland Road—Re-opening of Club—Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 3.0

Working Parties.

Ascot Society—Working Parties for Members and Friends. Held in Ascot every Tuesday, and Sunninghill every Thursday 2.30-6.0

Bellon—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit. Every Monday, 3.0-6.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 3.0-6.0

Chilwick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3.0-6.0

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit. On Thursday, at 2.45-4.15

Haestings—At the Suffrage Club—A Working Party for Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday, 2.30-6.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Leamington—Every Tuesday, at 35, Warwick Street, to make sandbags; and every Wednesday, to make hospital garments 2.30

Lowestoft—For the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit—Every Monday alternately—Miss Coates, 61, London Road—North, Mrs. Drummond, 32, Kirkley Park Road 2.30

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Monday, 2.45

Shiplay and Baldon—Ladies' Parlor of Saltira Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting Every Thursday, 2.30

Southampton—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit, at Hazelhurst, Hulse Road—Hostess, Mrs. Farquharson Every Wednesday, 3.0-6.30

South Kensington—55, Iverna Court, W.—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.0-4.30

Surbiton and Kingston—Working Party for Friends of the Suffrage at 107, Maple Road, Surbiton, to make cloths for East Surrey Regiment Every Tuesday

Wakefield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.30-6.0

Forthcoming Events.

MISS CICELY HAMILTON TO SPEAK AT CLARIDGE'S HOTEL.

A drawing-room meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28th, at Claridge's Hotel (by kind permission), at 3.30 p.m., in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service. The speakers are to be Miss Cicely Hamilton (Hopital Auxiliaire 301 Royaumont) and Miss Mary Lowndes. The chair is to be taken by the Countess Brassey. Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d. (including tea), may be obtained from the Scottish Women's Hospitals, 58, Victoria Street, Westminster, and Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, W.

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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

HELP WANTED. WANTED—Furniture for new London Offices of the Scottish Women's Hospitals: writing tables, office chairs, plain tables, and cupboards, will be gratefully received by Lady Ashmore, 66, Victoria-st., S.W.

POSITIONS VACANT. (A)N lady recommend widow and daughter, cook and housemaid; good home and wages; modern house.—Write A. A., 37, Cheyne Walk.

LADY Cook required, October; age 30; farmer's daughter suitable; assistance—1, Avenue-rd., St. Albans.

WANTED, Good Woman Gardener where help is given; living in; wages, 15s. week.—Reply to Plewlands, Haslemere.

WANTED, Lady as servant for one lady; easily worked country cottage; every convenience; water soft. If musical, or clever at renovating, please say so. Possibly some one previously lady's maid might suit. References, fullest particulars, salary.—Miss Williams, Glascoed, Penparke, Aberystwyth.

POSITIONS WANTED. A S working housekeeper, with simple living vegetarians preferred; suit one lady; experienced.—State salary, T. E., 77, Clarendon-rd., West Croydon.

HAUFFEUSE, experienced, seeks post, London; 35s.-40s.—Box 6,992, COMMON CAUSE Office.

INSURANCE. INSURANCE.—On all matters appertaining to Insurance, Life, Endowment, Annuity, Women's Insurances, Write H. W. Wicks, Pembroke House, 133-135, Oxford-st., W.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL. FRENCH lady gives lessons; recommended.—V., 21, Hogarth-rd., Earl's Court.

(Continued on page 304.)

Continued from page 303.]

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

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

TUITION BY CORRESPONDENCE—For Matriculation, B.A., and other Examinations. Single Subjects taken. Latin, Greek, French, Mathematics, Logic, &c.—Address, Mr. J. Charleston, B.A. (Hons.), 14, Elsham-rd., Kensington, W.

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ARTISTIC hand-embroidered dresses, coats, and jabbs. Special prices during war time. Designs, &c., on application.—Maud Barham (late 188, Regent-st.), 33-34, Haymarket, S.W. Facing Piccadilly Tube Station.

IF YOU ARE WANTING an Artistic Overall for yourself or your child write to Elizabeth, of The Green Door, Chesham, Bucks.

LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed; prices moderate.—H. Nelissen, 14, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-circus, W.; patterns sent on application.

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GENERAL PROVISIONS. HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY
All Cakes and Pastries of finest ingredients by own Baker

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is made in all textures and sizes. Gives lasting wear and is guaranteed unshrinkable.—Write makers to-day for free book with patterns, Dept. 10, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

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

ELECTROLYSIS (for removal of superfluous hair, moles, &c.), face massage, and electrical hair treatment. Lessons given and certificate granted.—Address, Miss Theariston, 54, Devonshire-street, Portland-place, W. Hours, 11 to 5.

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COLD, 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., 21, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

MADAME HELENE, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough, gives generous prices for ladies' and gentlemen's worn suits, dresses, boots, furs, lingerie, and children's garments; separate price for each article; carriage paid; cash by return, or parcel promptly returned if offer not accepted.

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