

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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Notes and News.

A New Triumph for Norwegian Women.

The Storthing has agreed, by 91 votes to 14, to an amendment of Paragraph 1,250 of the Fundamental Laws, thereby enabling women to be appointed members of the Council of State.

Nurses' Allowances.

In the House of Commons, on April 5th, Sir Philip Magnus asked the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether, having regard to the duties undertaken by nurses at the front, the risks they run, and their obligations in many cases to near relatives at home, he could see his way to recommend the repeal of the Order of December, 1915, under which no allowances, with the exception of field allowances, are to be drawn by nurses. He pointed out that the withdrawal of these allowances for lodgings, fuel, and light was a great hardship in many cases, and was regarded by the nurses as a serious grievance. Mr. Foster replied that while he fully appreciated the services rendered by nurses at the front he could not hold out hopes of any modification of the orders issued.

The reason given by the Army Council for withdrawing these allowances is that they are special issues for officers at the front in aid of their expenses at home. But while a considerable number of young officers have no home expenses at all, many private nurses are doing war work at a pecuniary loss, and have financial obligations which it is only possible for them to discharge out of an extra allowance. It is to be feared, therefore, that some of the more experienced women now engaged in army nursing may be compelled to give it up.

Infant Mortality.

In reply to a question from Mr. King, the President of the Local Government Board stated that the death-rate for infants under one year of age amounted, according to the latest figures for 1915, to 110 per 1,000 births, as compared with 115 per 1,000 births in the previous ten years, and 105 in the year 1914, and 108 in the year 1913. He stated that in spite of the general restriction of local expenditure active steps were being taken by practically all the larger local sanitary authorities to lessen infant mortality and to promote the welfare of infants generally. From many districts, however, come complaints of the bad condition in which the streets are kept, and the infrequency with which household refuse is now collected, and this will

be a more serious matter when the warm weather begins. In Newcastle-on-Tyne, Liverpool, and Gateshead women are already being employed as street-sweepers, and it is urgently necessary that they should be taken on in every town to fill the depleted staffs of men scavengers. Unless energetic steps are taken it is to be feared that infantile diarrhoea will levy a heavy toll this year on the little lives which health visitors and others are endeavouring to save.

Wittenberg.

Some idea of the fearful overcrowding of the prisoners of war in the Wittenberg Camp, says *The Daily Telegraph*, may be gained by comparison with Mr. Seebohm Rowntree's account of the worst instances of overcrowding in York. The most densely inhabited district in York, Mr. Rowntree found, was a slum with a population of 349 per acre. Comparing it with London, he found that it was only exceeded by one London district—Bethnal Green—where the number was 365. But at Wittenberg 15,000 men were huddled together in a space of 10½ acres—over 1,400 to the acre! Water for washing, soap, fuel, and the common decencies of life were not procurable; the whole appalling story of the outbreak of typhus, the prompt flight of German officials before the plague, and the sufferings of the victims caged in that narrow space where the pestilence raged, loaded guns being placed ready to prevent any escape from the seething mass of misery inside, is far more hideous than the worst records of Nana Sahib's cruelties. Modern German "thoroughness" and efficiency have made for themselves a monument of shame—the prison camp of Wittenberg will be remembered as the greatest triumph of Kultur. None know better than the Germans the elements of sanitation, the dangers of crowding great herds of half-starved men together under conditions which would not be tolerated in that country for cattle-pens. For the conditions were deliberately created, and were not a consequence of the first confusion due to the outbreak of war.

Higher Wages and Better Health.

At the annual meeting of the members of the Manchester, Salford, and District Women's Trades Society (reported in *The Manchester Guardian* of April 6th), the President, Miss Reddish, announced a decrease of £300 in the amount of sickness benefits paid out, as compared with 1914. Miss Reddish remarked that many women had left their old occupations to do munition work, and the lessened ill-health, in her opinion, was due to the fact that they were receiving higher wages, and, consequently, could feed and clothe themselves better. "Pauline" (will gentlemen who manage the finances of insurance committees please note?), when she can get food, needs so much less in the way of medicine and medical attendance that she ceases to be a burden upon "Peter," whose hard-earned insurance money (not so hardly-earned, by the way, as Pauline's) is encroached upon by her bad health. But Peter is supposed to support her "in sickness and in health," which is one of the chief reasons, in fact, why she is badly paid in the labour market and cannot afford to eat. And the strangest part of the whole strange tale is that Peter cannot see that her cause is his own, and her interests are his; but does his best week by week to keep her out of his union and to drive her to accept the starvation wages which are fatal to the interests of both.

The Stable-Boy and the State.

"It has recently been brought to our notice," writes a correspondent from a southern county, "that the Government—whilst urging drastic economy upon the anxious, over-burdened taxpayer, whose income is constantly decreasing while the prices of the necessities of life are rising—is paying boys from 15 to 17 years of age 24s. and 25s. a week for acting as stable-boys in the horse camps. The statement of the above fact is its own comment! These boys have just left school and are quite untrained in the work. This salary, by the way, is the amount paid in more than one Government Department to a woman with a University degree."

Anti-Suffragist Saws.

"The woman's work of which the nation will stand in most need after the war will be that which would prompt each one to regard herself as her sister's keeper," is a mysterious oracle given forth by The Anti-Suffrage Review.—"The individual attention that women have it in their power to give . . . must remain individualistic and mainly local," at first sight a dark saying, it can soon be paraphrased into the old familiar adage: "The woman's place is in the home," without losing anything in the process. "Rather should we seek to utilise the services of those who are not driven by necessity to earn their living in directions where a day's work has no monetary equivalent," is a yet darker saying. Now it is, of course, laudable to wish to "utilise" this class of labour, for "women who earn their living in directions where a day's work has no monetary equivalent" are, to put it bluntly, being sweated, and persons employing them might come into collision with the Truck Act. Why, then, does the Anti-Suffragist Reviewer, at the end of the article, recommend his methods and "others which will readily occur to everyone," because "they will be out of the limelight!" There is nothing in them really that need shun publicity. Besides, after all the precautions he has taken to muffle up his meaning in intricate phrases, ten to one nobody will ever find him out.

At the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, Royaumont.

Jean Leon Grenadel, Occupant of the "Hirondelle" Bed, "Jeanne D'Arc" Ward.

Grenadel is another legacy from the September attack, though, as a matter of fact, he got his present wound in the "consolidating" work after the second Artois attack in October. It was his curious accent that first made me notice him. When we were attached to the Army we rarely heard the curious Midi speech, but we had a great many Bretons. Now we are becoming accustomed, in our work for the Army that is on the immediate right of the British, to the twang of the Midi men.

At the front from the beginning, wounded twice, Grenadel looks between thirty and forty, but he is really a great deal younger, and before the war farmed a little piece of land at Monferran-Saves, near Toulouse, and lived with his parents. He had kept his nose too close to the grindstone to marry, but he had just made up his mind that he could do so, and the betrothal arrangements were all in train, when the French Army was mobilised, and he was sent off to his dépôt. During the retreat, he was wounded in the chest in the fighting round the Meuse, and was evacuated, as a grand blessé, to Toulon, with a rifle bullet in him. Here he remained, seriously ill, for nearly three months, but they got his bullet out, and the military surgeon who performed the operation, when he gave the relic to Grenadel, told him that there were few men in the Army who possessed a souvenir such as his, because there were very few who could, as live men, hold in their hands a bullet extracted from such a vulnerable spot and such a difficult position.

However, he recovered, and returned to his regimental dépôt. Very soon he was drafted into a battalion of his regiment that was being formed to join the French Expeditionary Force to the C. Dardanelles. But when it came to long marches, it was soon discovered that his old wound was going to bother him. He was unable to march any distance, owing to painful short-windedness, and he was thrown out of the battalion and returned to the dépôt. Thence he was drafted into another regiment, and sent up to the Somme. It was with this new regiment that he was to see fighting as fierce as anything during that memorable retreat. He went through the September attack on Souchez unharmed—spending the first four days in the first line, and then six days

The Mansion House Meeting.

At the Mansion House Meeting last Tuesday in aid of the Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia, organised by the N.U., the Lord Mayor presided, and most interesting speeches were made by Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., Red Cross Commissioner; Mr. Rothay Reynolds, Miss Violetta Thurstan, and Miss Frances Sterling. Mr. Ian Malcolm said that he spoke as an anti-Suffragist, whole-heartedly supporting the work of a society with which he had not always been in sympathy. He was glad to bear testimony to the great work done by women's societies and the excellent organisation of hospitals run by women.

Women and Banking.

The Gilbert Lectures on Banking, for 1916, delivered at King's College, were, for the first time, addressed to an audience composed of men and women clerks. So many bank clerks have joined the Army that the examination was thrown open to women who have filled their posts. It was hardly to be expected that the women students would take very high places in the final examination, for their experience of practical work has been limited to a period of months rather than years; but a woman student, Miss Rose Esther Kingston, of the London and South Western Bank, heads the list of twenty-two prize-winners, which also includes three other women's names.

The "Common Cause" Scholarships for Commercial Chemistry.

In another column we acknowledge the receipt of donations to the Scholarship Fund, which brings the total to the amount for which we asked our readers. We want to express our warmest thanks to the givers, not only for the generous response and support to the Scholarship scheme, but for the kind letters received and the sympathy and interest expressed. We hope shortly to be able to announce further developments.

in the second line, where his company was subjected to a furious bombardment that never ceased. For ten days he got no rest at all. It was at Vailly that he was wounded for the second time during the war, on October 21st. His company had just reached the trenches, coming up from billets, when a shell fell into them. Not a soul besides himself was touched, but he got a substantial piece of it into his thigh. He did not arrive at our hospital till November 8th. The piece was extracted, but it had been an ugly wound, and Grenadel himself, rather low after the hard work of September and October, and handicapped by the weakness left by his old chest wound, was not in the condition best calculated to pick up strength quickly. Still, he is as cheerful as may be, and is content to lie and talk for hours about the problems of the war. To him the war is one long, weird dream. He cannot imagine ever waking from it. It is curious enough to listen to this peasant farmer, in his uncouth accent, philosophising about the psychology of the war and of the nations engaged in it. He is convinced that we shall all of us undergo some tremendous mental change as a consequence of the war. Like so many of the French soldiers, he dallies with the idea of this war ending all warfare, and it gives him pleasure to sketch out a new world, with a tribunal before which all national quarrels shall be brought. And then his salt commonsense peeps out. He shrugs his shoulders, and smiles. "Ah! but, with human nature, such a consummation is impracticable!" So he sums us up, this shrewd, courteous peasant farmer, who, with all his years of toil that left him no time from his field work to get married, has yet managed to think out the causes and consequences of this world-war that has made two attempts to leave him a broken man, and the third time—as so many of them believe—may finish his career altogether.

Joseph André, Occupant of the "Elizabeth Teacher" Bed.

André is a Breton peasant, and when war broke out was in a cyclist battalion. The night before war was declared he was never off his machine—riding backwards and forwards at break-neck speed carrying despatches from the military centre to all the outlying districts. Later he was drafted into a cavalry regiment, and during the early part of the war

was often on patrol duty. Afterwards, partly because they had lost all their horses, partly because the campaign settled into trench warfare, the entire regiment was dismounted, and the picturesque French Dragoon, still retaining his shiny helmet and horsehair plume, his magnificent breeches, and his sword, went into the trenches and settled down to picking off Boches with his little cavalry carbine.

André was at Bar le Duc, at Mezières, at Neufchâteau, and at Mailly—the dragoons were often rushed about from point to point in motors. During the earlier part of the campaign, his patrol came into touch one day with a large body of German horse, and was obliged to retreat. His lieutenant fell, as the troopers thought, killed. But after they had gone some distance, they looked back, to find that he was still alive. The German officer also saw—and killed the wounded French officer immediately.

During the great retreat André was under fire, at Neufchâteau, for eleven hours on end, before his regiment could get under proper cover. They were pushed back thence to Mailly, but it took the Germans a month to do it. During that stubbornly contested backward movement the dragoons got practically no sleep and no food. Every man had to fend for himself, for the commissariat arrangements were entirely disorganised. They had permission to commandeer food anywhere they could find it, but were forbidden to touch anything else; and in André's corps, at least, these orders were obeyed to the letter.

On one occasion, during the retreat, André's patrol was in the rear, keeping touch with the enemy's advance patrols. It was dark, and they heard the throb of a German motor-cycle coming up the road. There were two farm-carts handy, and the French troopers dragged these across the road, and, leaving their horses under cover, hid themselves in the ditch. The cyclist came on, saw the obstruction, and rode straight at it. To the astonish-

ment of the Frenchmen, the cycle and the cyclist got through somehow. The motor-cycle was smashed; but, in a moment, the German was up and trying to escape, quite unharmed, it appeared. The Frenchmen caught him, of course, but André has never been able to understand how the German cyclist got through that barrier unscathed. Learning from their prisoner that a large German force was advancing, the patrol mounted and went smartly back to warn the French rearguard.

Afterwards, when the German armies had been pushed back to their present line, André was taken ill with typhoid at Reims. At the New Year, André's regiment was entrenched opposite some Bavarian and Saxon troops, and took part in the extraordinary scenes that were witnessed on the front at that time. The Bavarians came out of their trenches and brought the Frenchmen cigars and tobacco, and chaffed the French troopers because they had brought nothing. One of André's comrades, who had received an especially handsome present, promised that his friend the enemy should have a bottle of wine from him the next day. But that day was the last of the informal truce, which had lasted for five days, and when the dragoon tried to get across to his Bavarian the following day, he was stopped by a sentry. However, the situation was explained—the trooper's honour was at stake; the wine must be taken across somehow, to prove to the enemy that a Frenchman's word was always kept. The sentry laughed and let the man pass. To the honour of the Bavarians, he not only passed safely through his own lines, but through those of the enemy, delivered his New Year gift, and got back again without a shot being fired at him.

The misfortunes of war are strange. André has had the most remarkable escapes, and has always been in the forefront of the fighting, yet here he is, in hospital at last, not wounded, but injured badly by a fall from a horse.

CICELY HAMILTON.

The Nursing College and the National Union of Trained Nurses.

In the beginning of January a letter arrived from Miss Swift (British Red Cross Society) enclosing one from Mr. Stanley addressed to Hospital authorities, stating that it was proposed to form a College of Nursing. An educational body of this kind had long been wanted, and had been urged again and again by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and other leaders of the nursing profession. Therefore, there was no opposition to the College as such; but the organised societies of nurses, who had been working for State Registration and for the ideals of the nursing profession, felt they ought to have been consulted about the scheme—and said so very plainly. Then the representatives of the various Societies were asked to meet the promoters of the scheme, but obtained very little information. They were told by Mr. Stanley and Sir Charles Russell that the scheme was so nebulous it could not be thoroughly discussed. But it appeared even then that the College was not to be a merely educational body, but was to have disciplinary powers, putting people on and taking them off a register, and, in fact, governing the nursing profession. Great opposition was at once manifested to this attitude, and also to the fact that the first Council was a nominated one—not an elected one—chosen by Mr. Stanley himself. There appeared to be so many grave dangers in this scheme, as it stood, that a further Conference was asked for. Before the next Conference the Articles of Association were sent to the Nurses' Societies, but at the meeting itself the representatives there were told that they could not be discussed or altered. Besides the fact that the methods on which the College was started were such that no democratic society of nurses working for the self-government of the profession could assent to, there were several very controversial clauses in the Articles and Memoranda of Association that wanted very careful reconsideration and re-drafting.

The Executive Committee of the N.U.T.N. therefore sent in a strong protest to the President of the Board of Trade based on the following points:—

- 1. That at this time thousands of matrons, sisters, and nurses are absent from England, or are so occupied by their professional duties that they are unable either to study the scheme or to hold conferences or meetings to discuss the subject.
2. That no full or complete account or description of the scheme appears to have been circulated in the medical press, and that no special steps have been taken to consult the medical profession as a whole on the matter.
3. That until the scheme was practically formed, no notice was sent to any of the societies representing the nursing profession, though a considerable number of persons connected with the profession had been privately consulted, and informal meetings held.

4. That the "Articles and Memoranda of the proposed College" were only sent to the societies a few days before the Conference on March 24th, and that no opportunity was given at the meeting or at any other time for criticising or discussing them.

We would therefore most humbly beg that the said Articles and Memoranda of Association of the College of Nursing be submitted for consideration to a competent body of professional experts, with full representation from—

- The General Medical Council,
The British Medical Association,
and the organised Societies of Trained Nurses, such as the following:—
National Council of Nurses,
Matrons' Council,
Royal British Nurses' Association,
Scottish Association of Trained Nurses,
School Nurses' Association,
The Fever Nurses' Association,
National Union of Trained Nurses,
Scottish Society of Trained Nurses,
Irish Nurses' Association,
Poor Law Matrons' Association,
&c., &c.

(Signed) EVELYN M. CANCELLOR,
Chairman, Executive Committee.

As the Nursing College registered as a private limited liability company no opposition could stop the articles going through, but the protest at least showed clearly the position of the N.U.T.N., and similar representations have been made by other bodies.

At a recent meeting of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, for example, the following resolution was unanimously passed, with acclamation:—

"This meeting is of opinion that the constitution of the proposed College of Nursing as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, is not only useless to effect the good organisation of the Nursing Profession, but constitutes a danger to the personal and professional liberty of Trained Nurses, as it places the workers under a nominated Governing Body of Hospital Officials, who have no right to exercise authority over them. This meeting therefore recommends that a Nurses' Protection Sub-Committee be here and now constituted to safeguard with vigilance the rights and privileges at present enjoyed by certificated nurses."

The protests made to them have not been without effect on the promoters of the College scheme, who now seem more disposed to meet the views put forward by the representatives of the nursing profession. They are receiving this week delegates from the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses to discuss the question of the Registration Bill, for which nurses have been working so long, and if they adopt this as part of their programme the misgivings at present felt will be largely lulled to rest.

M. M.

For Students of International Relations.

Perhaps the most important account as yet available on the causes and events leading up to the war is the volume* recently published by the late Belgian Minister at Berlin, for it belongs to the extremely small number of books by a writer who has himself been behind the scenes. Most of the thousand-and-one books about the war are either written by spectators of its tragic consequences or produced by what may be called "the stage-management" through the agency of neutrals. Baron Beyens was himself concerned in the events which he relates with a dignity and moderation, almost a detachment, which, for the time of reading, at any rate, help us to rise above the dust and smoke and wrath of battle into a clearer atmosphere.

Baron Beyens went to Berlin only a few months after the Agadir crisis, in 1911, when Germany and France had seemed to be on the brink of war; at a time when Great Britain was, to all seeming, hors de combat with a coal strike. His impression was that by far the greater number of Germans, high and low, rich and poor desired peace and dreaded war; "not that anybody had the slightest doubt of victory," but the whole nation of workers was "dreaming, not of conquests, but of making money and growing rich. . . . All manufacturers working on borrowed capital—and their name is legion in Germany—wanted credit and tranquillity above all things." How came there to be a strong war party in Germany? Was the population increasing so quickly as to require territory for expansion? M. Beyens shows that, so far from having a surplus population, Germany was actually short of workers. The average number of emigrants had fallen considerably, so that for the last five years they numbered about twenty-three thousand, three-fourths of whom went to the United States. But every year about seven hundred thousand foreign labourers came into Germany to reap the harvest; and numbers of Italians were employed on roads and railways. Germany's "industrialisme à outrance" has withdrawn all but 28 per cent. of her people off the land and into the towns. The fall in the birth-rate, which everywhere accompanies industrial prosperity, has, besides, been especially marked. There is no sign of "an excess of population, a race driven by hunger to overflow into the more fertile fields of neighbouring lands." Nor did they lose their emigrants.

The Imperial Government for many years past has made it one of its chief cares never to lose a German. Legislative enactments of the Reichstag, in 1913, reinforced the work of consuls and diplomatic agents, "invisible threads were woven which, like cables that communicate an electric current, kept the scattered forces of Germanism closely in touch with the Empire." A naturalised German does not lose his original nationality. By these methods, directed with a political rather than a commercial aim, an overseas empire was being prepared in the midst of foreign nations (p. 201). M. Beyens gives us his views of the real origins of the war:—

"In twenty-five years Germany was possessed with the desire for great colonies. Her African territories, wide though they were, had merely whetted her appetite for more. The architects of her future greatness dreamed of creating a black Germany, to be the servant and slave of the 'blond' Germany, out of the spoils of France, Portugal, and Belgium."

"The reckless war waged by the Kaiser's soldiers is, above all things, in my humble opinion, a political war," M. Beyens concludes. "Economic causes have only played a secondary part. Plans conceived at Berlin stand out to-day with a clearness that pierces through all the clouds which obscure our vision. What was meant, when two millions of men were poured in upon France, while the Russian armies were to be held in check and the execution of Serbia should be carried out? To crush, once for all, the military Power which stood in the way of German imperialism; to drive Russia out of European affairs; to hand over the whole North Sea coasts to Germany, while making her a Mediterranean Power by the annexation of French Africa; to dissolve the Balkan Alliance, and destroy Slav aspirations; to hand over the Balkans in tutelage to Austria; to dominate at last, without contest, as far as Constantinople, and through Turkey, to the Persian Gulf. A few decisive battles should suffice to subjugate Continental Europe on which to found that 'Mittel Europäischen Staatenverband—the Central European State, of which German intellectuals now talk openly—while leaving England isolated and easy to reduce in another campaign.' Consolidated Central Europe first, and then—World Power."

The chapter on Belgian neutrality contains the inner history of the great betrayal, followed by the blunder which was worse than a crime; and this, with the gallery of full-length portraits of the Kaiser, the Crown Prince, and other members of the Imperial family; and vivid character-sketches of the Chancellor, Bethmann-Hollweg (the courtier-bureaucrat subservient to the Emperor, lacking only two things: "eloquence and a will of

* L'ALLEMAGNE AVANT LA GUERRE: les Causes et les Responsabilités. Par M. le Baron Beyens. Paris: Van Oest. 1915. (3fr. 50c.)

his own); of von Jagow, with his contempt for the little States of Zimmerman, of von Bülow, and other shapers of Germany's foreign policy—for this page of history and these portraits alone M. le Baron Beyens's book is indispensable to every student of contemporary history.

The AIDS TO STUDY issued by the Council for the Study of International Relations give, at a trifling cost, a number of suggestions and syllabuses drawn up to help members of "study-circles" and other students of the problems of international relations. Of these, No. 4.—*What to Read*—(price 6d.) gives a list of books and pamphlets, written from all points of view, and arranged under such subject headings as "International Relations Since 1890," and "The History and Policy" of different States. Other pamphlets are: *British Foreign Policy: A Scheme of Study* (price 3d.), an admirably-planned syllabus, with outlines of topics for discussion, though it might have been made clearer that the aim of Britain is not "domination" in Europe or anywhere else, but to establish a commonwealth built up on commonwealths: a very different matter from "world-power" or "world dominion." *The Problem of Small Nations, and Serbia's Place in Human History* are the first two numbers of a FOREIGN SERIES brought out under the same auspices.

TO ALL OUR READERS.

DEAR READERS,—Will you sell the SPECIAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE NUMBER OF "THE COMMON CAUSE" on Lamp Day (Florence Nightingale's birthday), May 12th? Or if you are pledged to give other service on this day, will you pay for a substitute to sell for you? Three shillings will pay for a seller for the day. If we can collect £50 we can employ 200 to 300 sellers.

It is very important that our paper should be sold at every pitch in order to bring the aims and work of the N.U. before as large a public as possible. We want Our Great Day in London to be also a magnificent advertisement for "The Common Cause."

Motor-Cars.

In order to achieve this it will be necessary to have at our disposal at least six motor-cars, with drivers. Who will lend these?

We must make arrangements for the employment of sellers early, and we therefore earnestly ask you to forward your substitute donation to the Manager, at THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, as early as possible. It will greatly facilitate the organisation of the sale if offers of personal help are also sent in early.

Secretaries who are organising COMMON CAUSE sales in conjunction with Lamp Day, are asked to let us know as soon as possible the approximate number of copies of the Special Florence Nightingale Number, May 12th, that they will require.

Correspondence.

A WAR-TIME SOLOMON!

MADAM,—I have circularised the nineteen Mayors of Kent on the subject of women on Appeal Tribunals. Seven of them had the courtesy to reply. If you think it would interest your readers, you would, perhaps, insert two specimens of the answers:—

I. "Madam,—I have to-day had placed in my hands a letter addressed to . . . I am the latter. In reply to the same, I should like to point out to you, though I have a great admiration for the ladies, but at the same time, as an Englishman, I consider they should keep their own position in life. A German lady has no other prerogative than to do as her husband commands her, but an English lady is asked by her husband, and, having the natural Motherhood instincts, she attends to her duties, which are her home, her children, and her husband, and leaves the latter to attend to the business of the nation.—Yours faithfully, &c."

II. "Madam,—Replying to your letter of the 12th, I beg to inform you we have a woman on our tribunal, and we find her advice and knowledge exceedingly useful.—Yours faithfully, &c."

"P.S.—We have two women police and a lady doctor for House Surgeon at our hospital."

GERTRUDE E. MOSELY,
Hon. Sec., Kentish Federation.

LACK OF STATUS.

MEDICAL WOMEN IN AUXILIARY MILITARY AND WAR HOSPITALS.

MADAM,—In *The Nineteenth Century and After* for November, 1915, is an interesting article by the famous woman surgeon, Mrs. Scharlieb, entitled "The Medical Woman: her Training, her Difficulties, and her Sphere of Usefulness." This article deals with her difficulties. One of the anomalies of the present Army Medical Service is the lack of status

GARROULD'S

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In stout linen-finished Cloth, 2/6 each.

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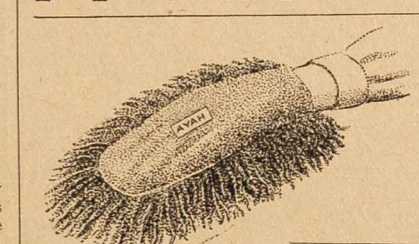
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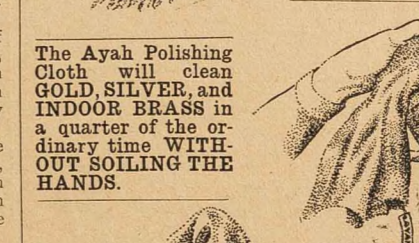
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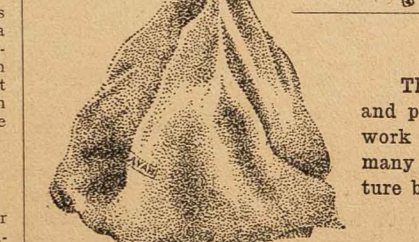


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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

Dragging the Housewife into Politics.

It is impossible to open a newspaper nowadays without finding a more or less complete surrender to the principles underlying the demand for Women's Suffrage. The thinkers were for us long ago; the statesmen of to-morrow are all for us; the Press has, in fact, conceded the position. Slowly and reluctantly recognising that the woman-power of the nation is vitally necessary for a people in the hour when they must put forth all their strength or perish, the Press has dropped its old tradition and pretence of addressing itself to men only, except in its back pages, where formerly drapers' advertisements were deftly worked up into something which was derisively called a "woman's column." The writers in the newspapers of to-day address themselves directly to women as well as to men. The leaders of the change have been the writers on economics and finance. We have had a rude awakening from mental torpor. We have had to learn that there are many ways of acting to the detriment of the community, and we are developing a new sort of conscience, besides a quite new sense of the meaning of the words "the power of the purse."

Only this week Mr. Hartley Withers explained to the United Workers that it was necessary now, at once, with the beginning of milder weather, to cut down our consumption of coal as fast as possible, because the supply of labour and the supply of coal were both limited, and unless self-denial was practised now, the poor would suffer next winter for our self-indulgence this spring. But the reasons for coal economy spread far and wide. Almost every problem of expenditure, sooner or later, takes us back to coal. The needs of France, cut off from her own supplies by invasion; the needs of factories, the needs of munition supply, the needs of the poor—all to be considered before an order is written out for the coal merchant! Which is to say, that the prosecution of the war, the economic problems of the Allied countries, shipping and import questions, and foreign exchanges, are only a few of the considerations which economists and the Press urge daily upon the woman who holds the family purse. The housewife has been dragged into politics with a vengeance; she must grasp questions of State, she must realise that her decisions tell for or against the interests of her country, and of all that she holds most dear. She is finding out her responsibilities.

How far off seem the days when women were told that they must "leave the nation's concerns to men" and interest themselves in home, parish, or possibly, municipal affairs, and never look beyond. Thus far and no further! And now this arbitrary line of division is found impossible; the railings are down. The big Imperial Reasons, why and wherefore, must control the domestic machinery; and all the woman-power of the household is called forth to serve the State.

It is assumed, in short, that women's political education is complete; that she has reached a standard of intelligence and a conception of public duty which (before the war) were believed to be beyond the average male voter.

For the call to women to think, to act, to exercise their judgment daily and hourly in steering their course for the good of the Commonwealth, is nothing less than a recognition of the fact that the statesman's faculties are to be found among women as well as among men, and this appeal to those faculties in women is a more important sign of the times than even the recognition accorded to women's work in war time.

Report of the N.U.W.S.S. Women's Interests Committee.

At the beginning of 1915 the Women's Interests Sub-Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was formed, with the object of safeguarding the interests of women in time of war, and of holding a watching brief against any interference with their personal liberties.

During the past year the Committee has undertaken much useful work of an extremely varied and comprehensive character. While confining itself, in the main, to upholding general principles, it has been able to ventilate in the Press and elsewhere industrial grievances of women, and, in many cases, has been instrumental in relieving these. It has given whole-hearted support to the Government in its campaign for National Economy and in its Women on the Land campaign. The question of the exploitation of child labour has engaged the earnest attention of the Committee. Investigations have been made, an active Press campaign has been carried on, and a resolution urging the Government not to accede to any demands to lower the standard of education was sent to the Board of Education. A case of the employment of boy labour at Northwich, on the plea—subsequently proved to be false—that female labour was not available, was reported to the Apprenticeship and Skilled Employment Association, who were prepared to take the matter up; but the firm in question subsequently decided to employ women, and the matter was therefore allowed to drop.

The Committee has taken action in the question of the employment of women as taxi-cab drivers. It was ascertained that there was a growing list of women qualified to take the place of men, while the taxi firms were quite ready to take on women on the same terms as men. Inquiries in various large provincial towns elicited the information that, on the whole, the general attitude towards the employment of women as taxi-cab drivers was favourable. The only opposition came from Scotland Yard. The whole question was ventilated in the Press, and interviews were requested with Sir John Simon and Sir Edward Henry. So far, however, no licences have been granted to women in London, although a woman taxi-cab driver has been licensed in Manchester.

In conjunction with the Railway Clerks' Association, the whole question of the treatment by the Great Central Railway and other companies of their women clerks was thoroughly ventilated in the Press, and it was ascertained that attempts had been made by more than one railway company to prevent some of their newly-employed women clerks and others from taking up membership in the Railway Clerks' Association and from making any endeavour to improve their economic condition.

Representatives from the Women's Interests Committee sit on the Industrial Committee of the N.U.W.W., which is dealing with the whole question of the pay and conditions of women munition workers as compared with those of men. Much useful work has already been done in this direction.

An inquiry is at present being conducted into the extent to which married women are being refused clerical work in banks, insurance offices, &c., on account of their being married. The Committee is also considering a scheme for voluntary middle-women in the sewing and tailoring trades.

Some idea of the scope and variety of the grievances investigated, and either redressed or reported to the right quarter, may be gained from the statement that they range from the question of the wages paid to women bookbinders to those of shop-assistants, from the disabilities of women employed under the borough council to cases of overcrowding and bad ventilation in Government Departments, and from a case of underpayment of a girl letter-carrier to the whole question of the payment of war-bonus to temporary women clerks. In all its work in connection with industrial and economic grievances the Committee has always emphasised the importance of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The question of opening the higher grades of the Civil Service to women has constantly engaged the attention of the Women's Interests Committee, and a copy of the following resolution was sent to all Government Departments and to the Advisory Committee on Women in Industry:—

"That this Council views with satisfaction the new opportunities for training and for work that are now open to women, and the magnificent response that they are making to the need for their labour, but protests against the continued refusal of the Government to open the higher posts of responsibility in the Civil Service to women, and further calls upon it, as the greatest employer of clerical labour in the country, to remember that the underpayment and arbitrary restrictions now imposed upon its women employees inevitably lower the standard of work and efficiency amongst all clerical workers."

Careful attention has been given to the question of the representation of women on Government and other Committees on which their presence is urgently needed, such as the War Loan Committee and the Labour Supply Committee. The Women's Interests Committee has also urged upon the Societies of the N.U.W.S.S. the importance of seeing that the requisite number of suitable women are appointed to local Committees under the Statutory Committee on Naval and Military Pensions.

The Women's Interests Committee took up the question of the proposal by the Committee on Public Retrenchment to curtail the inspection of factories by refraining from filling the vacancies, and, as a result of the exertions of the Committee, a question was asked by Mr. Snowden in the House, and elicited a reply from the Home Secretary, to the effect that it is practically impossible, during the war, to fill vacancies on the male staff, but that, with regard to the female staff, a number of additional temporary lady inspectors have been appointed, in view of the extensive employment of women in place of men, and the special need for supervising the conditions of such employment.

An exhaustive inquiry was undertaken into the possibility of openings for women in wireless-telegraphy, the results of which appeared in an article in *The Times* (which was also widely circulated in the provincial Press), and were also placed before the First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Balfour, however, considered that such work came under the category of combatant service, and that therefore the employment of women could only be considered in the last resource.

It was decided to hold a Conference of representatives from local Women's Interests Committees, and the N.U.W.W. agreed that this came more properly within their scope than within that of the N.U.W.S.S. This Conference developed into the Special Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.W.W. held on April 14th.

Carpentry for Women.

"What made you first think of taking up carpentry as a profession?" I asked Mrs. Brown, the "war-time carpenter," when I called at her workshop, at 5, Palmer Street, Westminster, to arrange for the mending of a chair.

"Well," she replied, "one feels one must do something useful just now. My income was not big enough to allow me to invest in War Loan, beyond a very tiny sum, so I thought I would try to add to it. I have always been able to do anything I turned my hand to, and am especially fond of doing odd jobs about a house, so I put my pride in my pocket, took up my bag of tools, and went round touting for custom."

"To start with, I got a job from a friend. It was quite a big job, with plenty of variety, and kept me occupied for two months. Of course, I cannot do everything myself, but I employ a good man to work under me for any bit of work that requires two people. I have never declined any job I have been asked to do. Many jobs that a man-carpenter would not undertake because of his trade union rules, which limit him to certain branches, I don't hesitate to tackle, and I always find that once I have been employed in a house I am called in again for something else."

"It must save people a lot of trouble," I remarked, "to be able to employ one person to do a variety of things in a house instead of having half-a-dozen men in, with several boys to hold the tools. It seems to me there ought to be considerable opening for women in carpentering."

"I am sure there is," replied Mrs. Brown, "for the right sort of woman. But the start is not very pleasant, and the prospect of calling at houses, tool-bag in hand, and presenting one's card, as I did, seems to put a good many women off. I have had several inquiries about training from women who say they would like to take up the work professionally, but, so far, none of them have gone any further. Perhaps they think my fee of £10 too high, but considering the amount a competent carpenter can earn when trained, I think it is really very moderate. None of the technical schools have opened carpentering classes to women, so it is no easy matter for them to learn. I am not keen on teaching, from my own point of view, as it takes up a lot of time, but I should like to help any woman who is really keen on taking up the work."

"And would you teach amateurs as well?"

"Yes, I have two pupils from the country who want to learn how to repair their own gates and fences, and that kind of thing, and I would teach women who want to know how to do little jobs in their own house."

"You must have a real bent for carpentering to be able to pick up the trade without special training?"

"I have always been interested in it, and have never missed taking a lesson from first-rate men at their work in my own house. A very good man I employed to do up my country house used to invite my suggestions—seeing that I was keen on things and knew a bit about them—and he has been most kind since I have gone into the trade. He has promised to give me any help he can if I ever get into a hole. 'We all of us get into a hole sometimes,' he said; and, of course, that is so in such a complicated kind of trade as mine."

"How do your fellow-craftsmen look upon your entry into the trade?" I inquired.

"I have had nothing but kindness," was the reply. "And I have been very well treated, too, by the firms from whom I have bought my materials. With one exception, they have all given me trade prices—on showing my card—and have been very helpful in getting me what I want. One firm in particular, Messrs. Humm, of Rochester Row, have spared no pains to help me, both in choosing materials and tools and with the best professional advice."

"I got in a good supply of various things when I first began business, just before Christmas, and it is lucky I did so, as prices have risen in many cases by so much as 75 per cent. Whenever I see a good bit of well-seasoned wood I buy it; it is sure to come in handy. Sometimes one has to search quite a long time for a bit of wood suitable for mending an old chair, for instance."

"That means that a woman intending to go into the trade should have a little capital?"

"Not necessarily; it is much better, of course, to have £40 or £50 with which to lay in a store of materials, but a competent woman, who is not too proud to go round and offer her services, should be able to earn enough at odd jobs to keep her going. No doubt her earning capacity is increased if she has a little capital, and need not live from hand to mouth; but I don't consider it essential."

"And what about a shop? Would not that be an advertisement in itself, and bring in trade on a larger scale?"

"Yes, I think there should be an excellent opening for a woman with two or three others working with her, particularly in connection with a secondhand furniture shop, where repairing and re-modelling is undertaken. It is wonderful what can be done with good old pieces of furniture, even when they are almost falling to pieces."

Our Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia.

Mrs. Alys Russell is on her way back from America, and is expected to arrive in England about April 17th.

She went to America with two objects in view: To plead the cause of the Refugees among whom our Russian Units are working, and to speak on the general work of the N.U. About £180 has reached us, the result of collections taken at drawing-room and other small meetings in Pennsylvania during the earlier part of the war. We hope to announce in the next week's COMMON CAUSE the total amount raised.

In her last letter, Mrs. Russell wrote: "The Suffragists gave me a splendid meeting in Boston. I always spend part of my time speaking of the National Union and of Mrs. Fawcett." A full account of the six weeks' tour will, we hope, appear in THE COMMON CAUSE of April 21st.

FIFTEENTH LIST. Table with columns for names, amounts, and totals. Includes names like Miss E. G. Ransley, Miss Adam, Westbourne Park Chapel, etc.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to thank all those who are subscribing to this fund, and will gratefully acknowledge further subscriptions. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death, at Salonika on April 7th, of Mary de Burgh Burt, a member of the nursing staff of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Notes from Headquarters

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON, MISS OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary). Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUBREY DOWSON. Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.

The Office will be closed from the evening of Thursday, the 20th, to the morning of Tuesday, the 25th.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table listing contributions to the General Fund from various W.S.S. branches and individuals, including Cambridge W.S.S., Huntingdon W.S.S., etc.

General Service Fund Donations.

Table listing donations to the General Service Fund from individuals and organizations, including Mrs. Mundella, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Crickmay, etc.

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

Contributors Please Note. 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.

"LAMP DAY."

The arrangements for the "Lamp Day" Street Collection, on May 12th (Florence Nightingale's Birthday), which is being held in aid of the funds of the London Society, the Women's Emergency Corps, and the British Women's Hospital (Star and Garter), are well under weigh, and there is every prospect that the "Day" will be a huge success.

It will be remembered that Lady Brassey has very kindly placed at the disposal of the Lamp Day Committee a room in her house at 24, Park Lane, for the purpose of pasting up collecting-boxes. Helpers for this purpose are urgently needed, and any gifts of empty coffee-tins will be most gratefully welcomed.

"Common Cause" Scholarships for Commercial Chemistry.

Table listing names and amounts for "Common Cause" Scholarships for Commercial Chemistry, including Christ Thomas, A Glasgow Member, etc.

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Large table listing supplementary subscribers to Margaret Beds, including names like Margaret B. Harris, Miss Margaret Green, Miss Margaret J. Murray, etc.

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Table of donors and amounts for the Common Cause fund, including names like Miss Matheson, Alex. Cupples, and various individuals.

Table of donors and amounts for the Common Cause fund, including names like Miss Lucy H. Soutar, Mrs. Murray, and various individuals.

Table of donors and amounts for the Common Cause fund, including names like Mrs. Turnbull, Allan, Esq., and various individuals.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation. An effort is at present being made amongst the Societies of this Federation to raise funds to finance the Refugee Children's Unit, Kazan, for six months.

Liverpool, three teach, and three have home duties, but all six of them sew. LIVERPOOL W.S.S.—The working strength of this Society is entirely absorbed in S.S.F.A. work.

£33 ios. for the Scottish Hospitals, and sold 382 copies of the "Hospital" number of THE COMMON CAUSE. WALLASEY W.S.S., with two other Associations, is running a maternity centre and babies' welcome.

GODALMING.—The Head-master of Charterhouse and his wife kindly held a meeting in the School Library on April 7th, in the afternoon, in aid of the Scottish Hospitals, the Headmaster in the chair.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further subscriptions to carry on the work.

SHREWSBURY. A well attended meeting was held on April 3rd, at which the present Suffrage position was discussed.

Wokingham. A jumble sale will be held on Saturday, April 15th, at Montague House, at 2.30 (by kind permission of Miss Beith).

CUPAR-FIFE. A jumble sale in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was held in the Corn Exchange on Saturday afternoon, April 1st.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. APRIL 15th. Bristol—Hay Box Cookery Demonstration by Miss Blades, at 40, Park Street.

WORKING PARTIES. Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48A, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

KEYS (Hon. Treasurer), Miss Mabel Ramsey, M.D.Ch.B. Edinburgh (Hon. Secretary), Mesdames Ball, Berriman, Bosworth, Clarke, Croole, Macleod, Carey, A. C. Ramsey, and Williams forms the Committee.

HERNE BAY. To celebrate the anniversary of the initiation (on March 23rd, 1915) of this Society's work—meetings on behalf of the N.U.W.S.S. Women's Hospitals, a "Réunion" of those members who have assisted in this work—took place at the residence of the Hon. Sec. and the Chairman, on the afternoon of March 23rd last.

Over £50 was raised for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and £32 for Red Cross purposes for the War Work Association. Some 300 meetings were got up which, on the whole, were well attended.

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Blackheath and Greenwich Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk. Every Tuesday, 2.0-6.0.

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

Highgate—At 26, West Hill—Hostess, Mrs. Garnett—Members and friends cordially invited every 3rd Friday.

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyle Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Wakefield and Leamington—35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Working Party to make sand bags Hospital Garments. Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.30-6.0.

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HELP WANTED.

EMPTY Coffee or Cigar Tins, or Boxes with Lids, as Collecting Boxes for Women's Service "Lamp Day."—Please send Countess Brassey, 24, Park-lane.

THE LAND.

WOMEN ON THE LAND.—Opening in village for two friends; mixed farm, milking; furnished cottage with garden to be had, 8s. per week inclusive.—Dale, 50, South-st., Dorchester, Dorset.

ESSEX.—To let, small Farmhouse, with good garden; suitable for two or three ladies wishing to assist on land; rent moderate.—Marriott, Althamstone, Bures.

WAR WORK.

EDUCATED Women able to take a short training for small fees are wanted at once for work in Aeroplane factories in or near London.—Apply as soon as possible, to Women's Service, 53, Victoria-st., Westminster.

POSITIONS VACANT.

LADY-SECRETARY.—The demand for trained Women Secretaries and Female Clerks is very great; good salaries; no age limit; rapid postal training at home; certificates granted; success assured; guide free, highly recommended.—Write, Bursar Secretarial Dept., Training College, 229, Strand.

WANTED, Suitable Women to train as Police Candidates for openings now offering.—Apply Training School for Women Patrols and Police, 5, Belgrave-rd., Tyndall's-pk., Bristol.

LADY wanted as Welfare Worker among girls in works near London.—Write, mentioning salary required, age, and experience, to Box 5,757, COMMON CAUSE office.

POSITION WANTED.

EXPERIENCED, Qualified Governess desires post.—A. G., 5, Naylor-rd., Whetstone.

CARPENTRY.

TRY THE WOMAN WAR-TIME CARPENTER.—Estimates free for window-sashes, locks, electrical work, &c.—Mrs. A. Brown, 5, Palmer-st., Westminster, S.W.

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