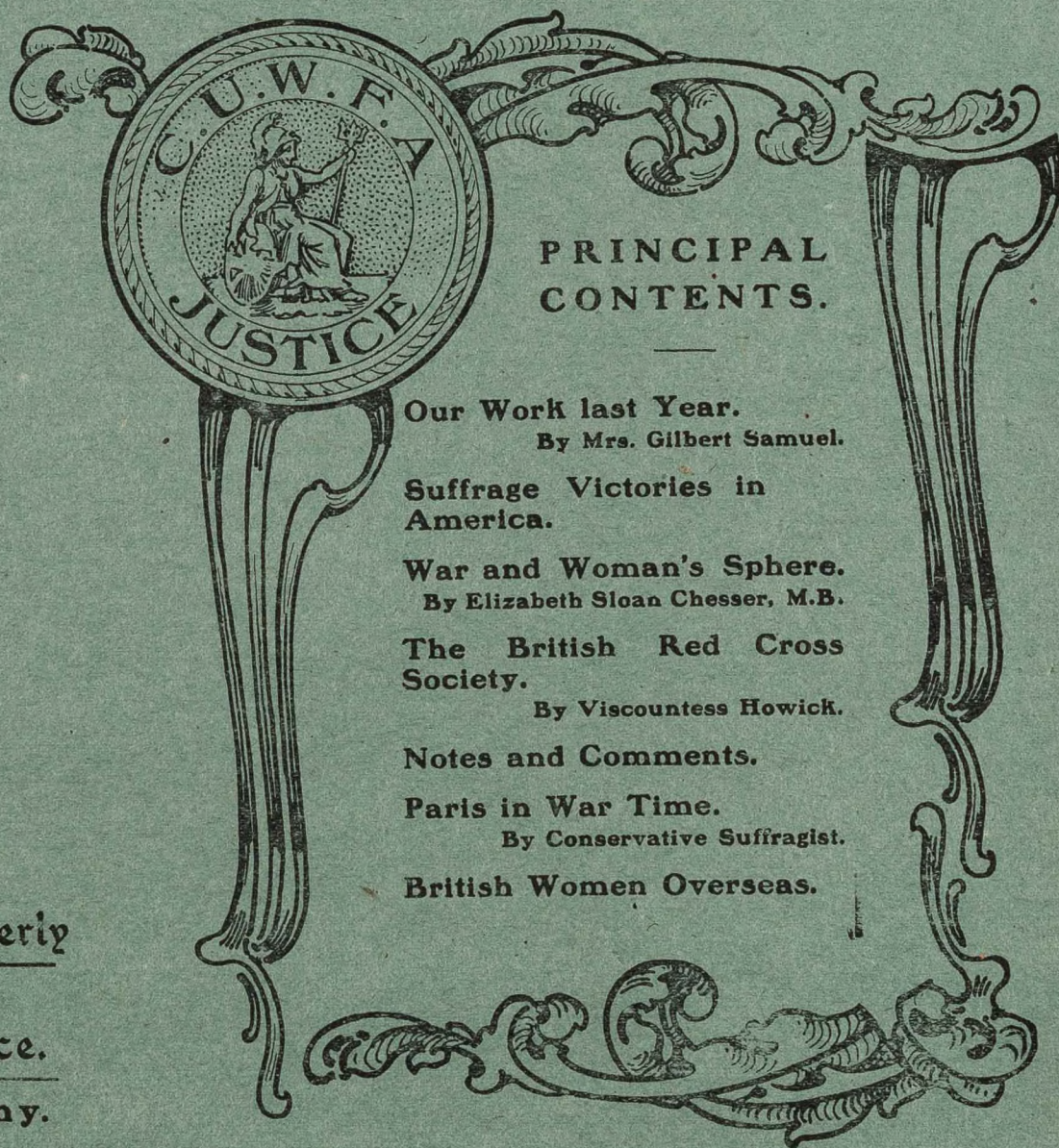


The CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST WOMEN'S REVIEW



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By Viscountess Howick.
- Notes and Comments.
- Paris in War Time.
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- British Women Overseas.

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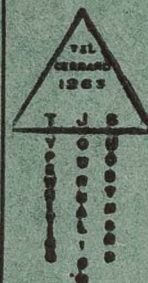
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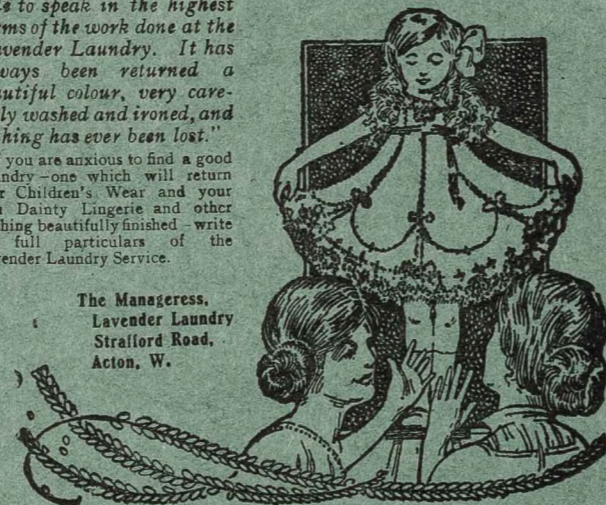
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No. 22.

JANUARY-MARCH, 1915.

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It may be useful at the beginning of a New Year just to take stock, as it were, of the reasons which lead us Conservative women to be in favour of the change which is involved in cutting away the sex basis of the parliamentary franchise.

For it is implied in our profession of Conservatism that we require every proposal of change to be abundantly justified. Our natural prepossessions are against change. On the other hand, common sense teaches us that some change is necessary. "Time is the great innovator," as Lord Bacon says, "and a froward retention of custom is as turbulent a thing as an innovation." So that the true Conservative avoids change until it becomes necessary, but does not delay it, when delay is deleterious.

The grounds on which we think the granting of votes to women is a timely reform may be divided into two groups, under the heads of reason and experience. Reason teaches us that women are naturally as fit to vote as men. Their intellectual capacity differs to a certain extent from that of the other sex. There are fewer people of genius among women than among men; but in practical common sense there is no such inferiority, and in conduct more men fail than women. These are reasonable grounds for expecting that women will make as good voters as men.

Experience emphatically confirms the deductions of reason. The weight of testimony in all countries which have made the experiment is overwhelmingly that it has worked for good.

And now when we see how much misery has been caused by the failure of the men of peace to restrain the lovers of war in the German nation, we may justly think that in the male sex the lovers of war are too numerous. The addition of women to the electorate will always strengthen the forces that make for peace. We know that some wars are rendered inevitable, but to women war brings nothing but sorrow. To some men it also brings glory, so that they do not always fairly weigh the evil side of it.

MAUD SELBORNE.

OUR WORK LAST YEAR.

By MRS. GILBERT SAMUEL.

I have been asked by our Editor to write an account of the work of the Association during the year, and I am glad to record that both the Branches and the Head Office have been busy with many plans, which have been successfully accomplished, and which have resulted in a satisfactory increase of membership. It is unnecessary to enumerate these activities, as they have already been described in the REVIEW. The tours arranged by Miss Martin and Miss Mercer for Lady Selborne and Lady Betty Balfour last year were so successful that similar ones were being organised for this autumn, but naturally were given up on account of the war. Our honorary secretaries have all done excellent work. Lady Willoughby de Broke and our Warwickshire branches held a large Fête in July, which was most popular; the Devon and Exeter branch held a Sweated Industries' Exhibition, which was largely attended and was well noticed in the press. We hear that the Scottish branches are being re-organised into two federations with Edinburgh and Glasgow as centres respectively, and Miss Balfour has consented to be President for the whole of Scotland. Our Brondesbury branch has this year been incorporated with Hampstead. Miss Paul, who had been our honorary secretary at Hampstead has unfortunately been obliged to resign, but Miss Dowding, who did such good work in organising the Chelsea branch, and at our Sweated Industries' Exhibition, has taken over the work. In the early summer our Association helped to entertain the delegates at the Conference of the International Suffrage Alliance, and our Annual Dinner and reception at the Hotel Cecil were a great success.

That the work at the Head Office grows apace is proved by the greatly increasing correspondence. Eighty-two thousand letters were sent out to the end of August, and over 16,000 since that date, almost all of which have dealt with the work the Association has done in connection with the war. Our stock of literature has been largely increased. A valuable series of leaflets, written by experts on special subjects, was prepared for use when it was thought that a general election was imminent, and they will prove very useful later on. The Literature Committee prepared some pamphlets reproducing important speeches in the debate on Lord Selborne's Bill last May. The Committee has also been collecting information regarding the behaviour of women and girls in the training camps and on the attitude of women to recruiting, which they hope may be of value. The London Committee has formulated a scheme for a thorough organisation of the municipal vote, and this scheme has been satisfactorily adopted by several of the London branches. The Head Office arranged some important public meetings in London, at which Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P., Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Rev. A. E. N. Simms, Miss S. Macnaughtan, Lady Darwin, Mrs. F. A. Steel and Miss Compton spoke, and which were very well attended and well reported by the press.

A fresh effort in propaganda, which was started this year, has been the issue of a monthly leaflet, recording the work of the Suffrage generally and of our

Association in particular. Our activities are increasing so much that the need for a publication which appeared more frequently than the REVIEW was greatly felt and it is satisfactory to learn from our Branches how much it is appreciated; many thousand copies are distributed monthly, and it has proved an excellent means of making our work known in quarters which we could not reach by other means. Our REVIEW still holds its own and our number of subscribers has steadily increased. Among our contributors last year were Dr. May Thorne, Miss Kilgour, the Honble. Lewis Palmer, Lord Robert Cecil, Mrs. Hutchinson, Lady Selborne, the Honble. Malcolm Macnaughtan, Mr. J. J. Mallon, Lady Chance, Lord Lytton, Mrs. Mackintosh, Miss Chadwick, Miss Esther Roper, Lady Robert Cecil and Lady Betty Balfour. Unfortunately we have reduced its size, with other economies which we have been obliged to practise on account of the war, but we trust this will not be for long.

On the declaration of war all our suffrage work was suspended and our energies were devoted to helping our country in the best manner possible. Our offer of service, made to Queen Alexandra, for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, was accepted, and many of our members have been busy in connection with it. Our Kensington Branch has done good work in the Walham Green district, under the special supervision of Lady Craggs, Mrs. McLean, and Miss Allen. They started and maintained a scheme for supplying home work to the wives of Service men and have provided material for nearly 300 garments, the S.S.F.A. paying the women's wages. A room was lent them and they gave work to 48 women twice a week. It would be impossible to enumerate the many societies which our members have helped; but our readers will gather from MONTHLY NEWS and the REVIEW that the Association is well represented in practically every organisation started for relief work in connection with the war.

In October we inaugurated two schemes of our own, as we were then in a position to see in which direction our corporate help would be most needed. Our appeal for an Ambulance to be sent to the Front as a gift from our Association has received a splendid response, and the amount was subscribed in a very short time. Our Hostel for educated women, thrown out of employment on account of the war, also promises to be a great success, but I will not enlarge upon it as it has a separate article to itself on another page of the REVIEW.

Our members will, I hope, appreciate how satisfactory has been the work of Branches and Head Office during the year which is just over. I appeal to everyone to continue their support, in work and money, for enthusiasm and funds are both necessary if we are to continue the special services we have undertaken. At the present time all our thoughts are given to our men at the Front, but we must also remember the importance of the work that lies at home and be ready to take up our suffrage propaganda again with energy when the longed-for day of Peace arrives.

By resolution passed at the Annual Meeting, all ladies holding office on committees and sub-committees are invited to retain their positions until the end of 1915.

OUR HOSTEL.

Our scheme for opening a Hostel for educated women who have been thrown out of employment on account of the war was not decided upon when the last number of our paper appeared, but the appeal which was sent out subsequently has been most generously responded to and our Hostel was opened for guests in the early days of December.

A house has been lent to us for six months in South Kensington, and the gifts and loans have been so satisfactory that we have been able to furnish it at very little expense, but we still require beds, bedding, blankets, bedspreads and towels. Our members have risen splendidly to the call made upon them. Not only has a large sum been raised in donations, but subscriptions amounting to £12 per week have been promised, and this is nearly enough to enable us to take in twenty ladies. Our Branches have worked with a will. Miss Chadwick held a meeting for Kensington, when much interest was aroused in the work and offers of help were freely made; Westminster, Marylebone and Paddington are canvassing their members, and Hampstead is getting up a concert in aid of the fund. The work of preparing the house for occupation has been directed by Lady Craggs and Miss Rathbone, and many of our members have been busy distempering and papering walls, painting wood, staining floors, enamelling baths, mending venetian blinds, making curtains, besides unpacking and taking inventories of all gifts and loans. A Bureau in connection with the Hostel has been opened at the Office, under the charge of Miss Raiker, where applications for admittance will be received and all the secretarial work conducted. Our guests will be admitted temporarily; while there, we help them to find work or to make other plans.

We wish to make it quite clear that the Hostel is not conducted as a Conservative or Suffrage undertaking. The opinions of candidates for admission are not asked on these questions; the only conditions are satisfactory references and British birth. It is gratifying to know that Anti-Suffragists as well as Suffragists, have contributed to our funds. Members and their friends will be able to see over the Hostel every Wednesday afternoon from 3 to 5-30, and the Matron will be glad to explain the work.

The expenses of maintaining the Hostel will be great, and though our appeal has been generously responded to, we still need more money to carry on the work. We ask our members to contribute as far as they are able and to get their friends to do so too. Subscriptions or donations, however small, will be gladly received by the Head Office. This is an undertaking for which there is an urgent need; and the money spent on it will be well employed, for the Hostel Committee are carrying on a difficult work with great care and economy.

All questions relating to the Hostel to be sent to the Secretary, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly. Kindly enclose a stamp if an answer is required.

THE AMBULANCE.

Our President's appeal for a motor ambulance, to be sent to the Front as a gift from our Association, was quickly responded to, and the sum (£300) was sub-

scribed in a very short time. Lady Malmesbury, Miss Chadwick and Mrs. Worthington Evans undertook the arrangements, and the ambulance, with the name of our Association upon it, was despatched with others sent out by Colonel Du Cros. Our members will be glad to know that they have helped, in the most practical way they could, to lessen the sufferings of our men.

OUR WORK IN WALHAM GREEN.

Soon after the war began the Kensington Branch started preparing and giving out needlework to the wives of Service men, under the direction of Lady Craggs, Miss Allen and Mrs. McLean, in a room in Walham Green, kindly lent for the purpose. The material was provided chiefly from subscriptions for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, sent in to our Head Office, amounting, with other donations, to £57. The work began with about ten women and at the last meeting before Christmas material was given out to over fifty applicants. The S.S.F.A. have been most helpful and have paid the weekly wages bill, the garments made being given to them afterwards for use in the Fulham district. The women belong to a most respectable class and are eager to turn out good work. We feel it has met a much needed want and has done a great deal of good.

WESTMINSTER BRANCH.

Miss Agnes Hall, who kindly undertook the duties of Hon. Secretary of the St. George's, Hanover Square and Westminster Branch on the retirement of Mrs. Adkin, has been compelled to relinquish them owing to the pressure of work occasioned by her office of Hon. Secretary of the Bow and Bromley Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. Miss Alice Sandford, who has been a member of our Association almost since its inauguration, has most kindly consented to take up the work, with Mrs. Guy Locock as Assistant Hon. Secretary. The Westminster Branch now starts on a new career of usefulness, and with its strong Committee, of which Mrs. H. Percy Boulnois is the Chairman, great things may be expected.

FORTHCOMING CONCERT.

An evening Concert will be held by our Hampstead Branch, at 8-30 on Thursday, January 14th, at the Conservatoire, Swiss Cottage, at which the following artistes are kindly giving their services: Miss Percival Allen, Mr. Thorpe Bates, Mr. Maurice Doisy, Miss Annie Godfrey, Mr. Reginald Higgins, Mr. Frederic Norton, Miss Loui Risby, etc.

The proceeds will be given to the Hostel which has been opened by the Association in South Kensington for educated women out of employment. It is earnestly hoped that members of all London branches will interest themselves in this project by co-operating with the Hampstead Committee in making the Concert a success.

Tickets 5/- and 2/6 (reserved); 1/- (unreserved), may be obtained from the C.U.W.F.A. Offices, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W.; Miss Dowding, 14, The Pryors, East Heath Road, N.W.; Mrs. Beeton, 9, Maresfield Gardens, N.W.; Mrs. Kendal Johnson, 26, Lambolle Road, N.W.; or at the Conservatoire.

BRANCH NEWS.

LONDON.

Hampstead.—Hampstead members are helping with the work of the s.s.f.a., Women's Emergency Corps, Red Cross and Belgian Refugees. Three sewing parties have been formed; one has supplied a Voluntary Aid Detachment with surgical shirts, operation socks, nightingales, sheets, pillows and cases, etc.; another has sent to the Rouen Base Hospital nearly 200 articles for officers, while the third is working for the Women's Military Hospital at Paris.

A Concert in aid of the Hostel has been arranged for January 14th, details of which will be found elsewhere.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Dowding, 14, The Pryors, East Heath Road, N.W.*

Kensington.—We are most encouraged by the acknowledgements of the Walham Green Committee of the s.s.f.a. of the general help we have been to them in providing "such efficient visitors."

We were very glad to welcome back Miss Chadwick after her long absence abroad, and the At-Home she gave to members of the branch was crowded. Much interest was shown in the Hostel and Ambulance schemes and there was a good response to the appeals for money and furniture made by Lady Craggs and Miss Allen. Miss Chadwick took the chair and gave an address.—*Hon. Sec., Miss L. J. Allen, 19, Penywern Road, S.W.*

Marylebone.—Our members in Marylebone have been engaged in helping the local branch of the Red Cross Society, Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association in Walham Green and Charity Organisation Society in Portland Town, also with needlework for the wounded and in giving practical help to Belgian refugees. Miss Tuke, M.A., has lent Bedford College for first-aid, nursing and cookery classes.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Ashford, Halcyon Club, W.*

Paddington.—Although regular committee meetings are not being held, the branch is actively engaged in relief work. Sixteen members are acting as visitors for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association in North Paddington, and a great deal of help has been given by individual members to the British Red Cross Society, National Relief Fund Committee, War Refugees Committee, work-room for unemployed women (organised by the Women's Local Government Association) and to Queen Mary's collection of socks and belts for troops at the front.

The Committee are employing Miss Jackson to canvass our members in order to obtain donations towards the upkeep of the Hostel.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Mure, 7, Craven Hill Gardens, W.*

COUNTRY.

Birkenhead.—At the commencement of the war it was felt very strongly by our branch and by the local branch of the N.U.W.S.S. that one of the most serious results would be the unemployment of women. A scheme for opening workrooms was therefore formulated. The Mayoress kindly undertook the work both of President and Treasurer, Mrs. Duckworth, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Miss J. B. Chambers the arduous duties of Hon. Secretary. Between thirty and forty women are being employed

in workrooms, and another thirty as out workers, the latter with knitting, etc. The minimum Trade Board wage of 3d. per hour is paid generally, and in cases of fine work 3½d. per hour. A thirty hours week is the minimum, according to the work to be done, and the workers are allowed 1½ hours for lunch. Many ladies have been very kind in sending work usually done at home and in giving contributions to the fund. The work-rooms have been most generously placed at our disposal by the Wirral Lodge of the Theosophical Society, and the workers are thoroughly trained to make every part of the garment required, and not, as in ordinary workrooms, to specialise on one particular part only.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Stanley Clarke, Stanley Mount, Oxton.*

Bishops Waltham.—The Hon. Secretary of our branch in Bishops Waltham is a member of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, Red Cross, and has offered, if required, the use of her house as a convalescent home for twenty-five wounded soldiers. All C.U.W.F.A. members in this district are engaged in war work. We hear that Miss Gunner is Commandant of the Red Cross Division and is also helping to find homes for Belgian refugees; Mr. Christian is Treasurer of the local Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and Mrs. Christian has organised working parties. A rummage sale was held in Droxford a short time ago, the proceeds, £31 being sent to the Belgian Relief Fund.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Bashford, Soberton Tower, Droxford.*

Cheltenham.—The Committee of our branch was very anxious to open Refugee Homes, but on applying to the Mayor for permission, was told that this must be refused as so many similar requests had been received, and confusion and overlapping must inevitably result. The Committee therefore abandoned the idea, and members of the branch are busy working for the local Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Red Cross Society and War Relief Committee.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Kelley, Ireton House.*

Christchurch.—Members are taking active participation in war work in this district, and are rendering valuable assistance to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, British Red Cross Society and Women's Emergency Corps. The branch is well represented on local relief committees, and members have also helped to secure hospitality for Belgian refugees. Knitting comforts for sailors, and collecting funds for Lady French's appeal, War Refugees Fund, Red Cross Society, etc., have all received the enthusiastic assistance of our members.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Irene Vipian, Tuckton, Bournemouth.*

Croydon.—Many of our members in Croydon are on one or other of the relief committees, and all are busily engaged in war work.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Bienemann, 94, Park Lane, Croydon.*

Devon and Exeter.—Our members in Devon and Exeter are working splendidly. In September they sent out 200 pairs of socks and in November 200 belts to the Devonshire Regiment at the front. Everyone is doing something. A fine piece of work is being carried through by members of a sub-committee, formed by Miss Andrews, in regard to Belgian refugees. Offers of hospitality have been procured

from all over the county and many houses have been lent as temporary homes. This work has been so well organised that it has been recognised both by the Belgian Legation and our own Government. Meetings in parties of 100 are met at the station and conveyed in motor cars (kindly lent for the purpose) to a clearing house, which has been furnished and provisioned by Miss Rookes, and where the Belgians are sheltered temporarily. Here they are also provided with clothing, which has been collected by the Committee. The Hon. Secretary is helping in the management of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Recreation Room, having besides other duties, taken over the entire work of catering for the men.—*Hon. Secs., Miss Montgomery, 10, Baring Crescent, Exeter, Mrs. R. Worthington, 30, East Southernhay, Exeter.*

Dorsetshire.—Much useful work has been undertaken by C.U.W.F.A. members in Dorsetshire since the outbreak of war. Our Hon. Secretary, Miss Paterson, is Quartermaster of the local Red Cross, and had to get stores and make arrangements for a hospital for fifty wounded. At the same time she was summoned to Poole Hospital, where first as night nurse and then as a day staff nurse she has been working ever since. She is, therefore, far too busy to send us a detailed account of the work of the Branch.

A large number of refugees have been provided with homes in the county, this very difficult work being under the management of Mrs. Colville-Hyde.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Paterson, Corfe Lodge, Parkstone.*

Edinburgh.—Since October the Edinburgh office has been open daily all day, and a voluntary staff of Associates, under the organization of the Hon. Secretary, has carried on the different schemes of patriotic work which were begun in August when the usual political work of the Association was suspended. Consignments of comforts have been sent to the Front through the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Committee for Providing for the Men on Active Service (the Lord Provost's Committee). Over 60 pairs of socks and over 30 body belts were contributed to the Queen's gift, and small consignments have been sent independently to other of the Scottish regiments, to the fleet, to the hospitals, etc. Consignments of clothes have been collected from our Associates and sent to the Belgians. The children of the Association have been circularised and have generously contributed toys, which have been sent to the Belgian children. Our men members have been circularised and men's clothing collected for wounded soldiers on their discharge from hospital. Our Association (authorised by the Lord Provost and with consent of each Manager) has collected in the theatre queues and vestibules, for civilian women out of employment by the war. The collections have brought in over £50. Our Association has opened two depôts in different parts of Edinburgh, where worn clothing is sold at nominal prices to civilian women thrown out of employment by the war. Sales have already been held, under the management of Miss Williamson (Committee member) who is taking charge of this branch of the work. Great satisfaction has been expressed by the purchasers at the help thus given them. They are all vouched-for cases of distress by the war. In answer to the appeal in *Monthly News* our

Associates have been circularised, asking for a small donation for the Ambulance, and they are responding very heartily, and with special gratification that the Ambulance is to bear our name. The work of the Association since November has received great impetus by our having our President, Lady Betty Balfour, in the north with us. Lady Betty has arranged, through our Association, with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association (Garrison Committee) to speak on war themes at informal social gatherings of the soldiers' wives, and her kindness has been greatly valued. The Edinburgh and East of Scotland Committee for Providing for Men on Active Service is to hold a Flag Day in Edinburgh on 26th December, and our Office has been asked to undertake the organisation of the flag selling in Princes Street—the chief street of the City.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Rosaline Masson, 100, Princes Street.*

Glasgow.—The members of the Glasgow branch have assisted in a variety of social objects since active suffrage propaganda was dropped at the outbreak of war. One member has helped in starting a training school for unemployed women and also in the creation of a new toy-making industry which promises to be a great success. Another member has devoted much of her time to the organising of a self-supporting, self-sufficing Belgian colony in the neighbourhood of Glasgow. Other objects helped by our members are the Red Cross Society, Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, Emergency Organisation for the Navy League, Boy Scouts, St. Andrew's Ambulance, Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and the Prince of Wales' Fund. Our Executive has decided that the Glasgow Branch should now concentrate on working for the following objects: the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service and the formation of clubs for the wives and dependents of soldiers. Dr. McIlroy, a member of the Executive, has kindly promised to give a drawing-room meeting on behalf of these objects on January 15th at 3 p.m.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Robertson Mackay, 36, Queen Mary Avenue, Queen's Park, Glasgow.*

Ireland.—The Committee of the Irish Branch unanimously agreed to follow the example of the Head Office and offer their help to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. The Committee has been working also for the cause of temperance, and after evidence had been collected as to the increased drinking among men and women, an application was made to the Recorder to lessen the facilities. Unfortunately, although the application was made by the military authorities, the concessions given were very small, the public houses being required to close only a little earlier than usual. The Committee are interesting themselves in several other schemes, notably, toy and flag making for girls, women patrols for recruiting centres, and work for unemployed women; they are also assisting the Belgian Refugee Home and hospitals for the wounded.—*Secretary, Miss K. Patton (Office pro. tem.), 40, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.*

Liverpool, Wirral and District.—This Branch is at present deprived of the advice and assistance of its much-valued chairman, Miss Frances Ivens, M.S., who has gone to France with the second unit of the

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service. With her cordial approval the branch has sent a donation of £25 to the Scottish Women's Hospital, which sum carries with it the right to name a bed for six months. A donation has also been sent to our Head Office towards the ambulance.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Brassey, 75, Newsham Drive, Liverpool.*

Plymouth.—Plymouth members are working with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, Relief Fund, Friendly Union of Sailors' Wives, Red Cross, etc. All are busy. The working parties organised by Miss Boyes-Powder, which take place twice weekly at the Unionist premises, and which are managed by ladies belonging to the Primrose League, have shown splendid results, having sent some 500 articles for the use of wounded soldiers. The Hon. Secretary, while waiting a call to join the staff at the Military Hospital as a Red Cross nurse, has helped in recruiting, and has also formed a Ladies' Rifle Club, which has proved a great success. The Club has been allowed to combine with the Plymouth and District Rifle Club and a large number of ladies have been enrolled.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Crowle, Hemerdon House, Mutley.*

Purley.—Several members of our Purley branch are doing good work on the Patriotic Fund Committee and on the Belgian Relief sub-committee, which is composed of ten members, five being suffragists. Propaganda work, according to the policy of the Association, has been stopped since the outbreak of war, but the Committee hope in the New Year to have a few informal At-Homes.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Baker, Somerfield, Foxley Lane, Purley.*

Warwickshire.—*Leamington.* Five of our members belong to the Leamington Detachments of the Red Cross; Miss Sutton and Miss Hulbert are serving on the Mayor's Committee of the Belgian Refugees' Hospitality Fund; Miss Edlmann has been appointed hon. official correspondent to the Local Government Board, to report on the economic and social effects of the war within the Borough of Leamington, and Miss Davis is on the committee which has been formed to appoint women patrols. Sewing parties have been working hard and many useful garments have been made for the S.S.F.A., Red Cross, and Belgian refugees. The offices in Warwick Street, belonging jointly to the Suffrage Societies, have now been lent to the League of Honour for use every evening as temporary headquarters.

The annual meeting of the circle was held at Leamington on 19th December, when Lady Willoughby de Broke presided. Reports of the various branches were given, and the condition of funds at the close of the financial year, proved to be thoroughly satisfactory.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Hulbert, 35, Warwick Street, Leamington.*

Woking.—Three working parties have been organised and a great many garments have been sent to the Surrey Needlework Guild for the families of those at the Front. Knitted comforts have been made for the Leicestershire regiment, and garments are being collected for the Surrey regiments. Money has been collected for the soldiers' washing fund and for the Mothers' Welfare Club. A donation has also been sent to the Head Office towards the Ambulance.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Burrell, Birch, St. John's, Woking.*

SUFFRAGE VICTORIES IN AMERICA.

The elections which have recently taken place have resulted in the addition of two more States—Nevada and Montana—to those in which women are already enfranchised. The victories add four more Senators and three representatives to the supporters of the cause in the United States Congress, where their help will be valuable.

In a most interesting article in the *Maryland Suffrage News* the President of the Nevada Equal Suffrage League points out that their victory means not only of equal suffrage in the West and another step towards equal suffrage for the United States of America, but a triumph for local self-government. Nevada is the most "male" State in America; the census of 1910 shews that there are two men there to every woman. Nevada law, custom and social life are more nearly an expression of man-made law and custom than that of any country in the world, and the fact that, out of a voting population of 20,000, a majority of 3,000 was cast to give women the right to vote, not only shows that men in the State are just and fair-minded, but that they have realised the value of women's help. The suffrage amendment was carried the first time it was submitted to the electors.

In Montana the verdict of the electorate was also a clear and decisive majority of 3,148 votes, the result of an enthusiastic campaign. Editors were bearded in their dens and won over; journalists and reporters were captured and converted. Speakers worth listening to; organisers who could organise; writers who could write—all were busily employed. The work was tremendous, but it won the day. These victories have added nearly a hundred thousand more women to the electorate. Women have now an equal voice with men in casting of electoral votes, or more than one-sixth of the total number in the electoral College.

In Nebraska, Ohio, Missouri and North and South Dakota the question was voted on, but the amendments were not carried. In Nebraska there was a remarkable growth of the favourable vote as compared with the vote when it was submitted before. Ohio suffragists also feel encouraged by the addition of 87,000 votes over the previous year. The President of the Missouri Association considers that enough strength has been shewn to insure the passage of the Bill in the next Legislature, and victory this year; the affirmative vote was 182,000. In North Dakota it was necessary to get a majority of votes cast at the election and not a majority on the amendment, and this made North Dakota's case almost hopeless, but the campaign work will have its effect this year when the regular constitutional amendment will probably come up. The large minority vote cast for woman's suffrage in Missouri and North Dakota is the more remarkable as it was the first time the question had been before the voters of those States, and equal suffrage seldom wins on its first submission. The suffrage amendment in South Dakota was beaten by only 9,000 majority, as compared with 22,000 four years ago.

Women are now a political power in twelve American States—Wyoming, 1869; Idaho, 1896; Utah, 1896; Washington, 1910; California, 1911; Oregon, 1912; Arizona, 1912; Kansas, 1912; Alaska, 1913; Illinois (partial suffrage), 1913; Montana, 1914; Nevada, 1914.

E.M.

WAR AND WOMAN'S SPHERE.

By ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.B.

We are engaged in the greatest war in the history of the world. A war with which women are closely identified, in that they are personally participating in the work of ameliorating suffering and distress. Nearly every relief committee includes some women who are also associated with work for soldiers and sailors, for the care of the wounded, for the provision of employment and the care of maternity. In the war area, or at least, at its margins, there are women nurses and women doctors, whose privilege it is to succour the wounded. As Mrs. Fawcett has well said, the best work that women can undertake lies in helping to maintain the vital strength of the nation, recognising that in war women have the better part, in that we are not engaged in destruction and in the infliction of suffering upon others. Our sphere is not to take life but to save it.

Every woman, as well as every man, must do something to help the Country through the present crisis. Let us recognise that the response of our men has been magnificent. Women are not eligible as combatants, but they have already organised themselves for service in so far as they can, and have displayed that solidarity which is increasingly evident among modern women. When our men are responding so splendidly to the demand for public service, there is a greater need for women to do their share, but women also have shown the right spirit. They have formed committees for the protection of the women and children of the men who are giving their lives at the Front. They have made a special appeal for the assistance of maternity in time of war. The Women's Co-operative Guild has worked for the establishment of municipal maternity centres, where mothers can receive advice and treatment for themselves and for their children, and for the provision, in necessitous cases, of nourishment and of medical and nursing care. Largely as a result of women's work, the Local Government Board and the Government Distress Committee have recognised the duty of the nation to its motherhood. The Public Health Authorities are being urged to organise maternity centres for nursing and expectant mothers, especially those in distress through the war. Thus a great preventive service of hygiene and health has been initiated, which will have far-reaching effects upon the welfare of the nation and the generations to come.

Another practical aspect of women's work in the war is concerned with the relief of unemployment among women workers. The Queen's Work for Women Fund is associated with the Central Committee for the employment of women for providing work (and therefore doing away with the need of "relief" for thousands of women and girls thrown out of work on account of the war), and also training for many women which will serve to make them more efficient, more economically valuable after the war, to the nation. The new "charity" is concerned with teaching and helping people to help themselves, and the wonderful organisation of the different Women Suffrage Societies is helping, at this time, to co-operate and co-ordinate valuable efforts towards providing

"relief" on the soundest principles for the necessitous women and girls of the country.

Many thousands of women are actively engaged in nursing and caring for the wounded. As a voluntary agency, the Red Cross Society has done useful service in providing means of relieving the congestion of the base hospitals, and many women holding First Aid and Nursing Certificates have been able to care for convalescents and soldiers with minor wounds and ailments in different parts of the country. On the Continent, women doctors and women nurses have given invaluable assistance in the war area itself. The British Women's Hospital established at Paris, the groups of women doctors and nurses in Antwerp and Calais, the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia, Belgium and France, have succoured thousands of wounded soldiers and saved innumerable lives.

Apart from these practical considerations of women's work in the war, we have also to consider the ethical aspect of the question. The first duty of every intelligent woman is to study the history of the war and to have a clear idea in her mind as to its cause, because there is a very pressing need for a healthy public opinion at this time. We have to avoid the extreme of sentimentality on the one hand and the spirit of revenge on the other. We have to cultivate a sane and courageous outlook. The conditions of war are very grim, very terrible and very serious. The natural tendency is to desire a cessation of a conflict which is bringing sorrow and suffering to millions of human beings. I do not suppose there are many people among the nations engaged whose lives are untouched by the war. We know that war is inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity, even with the spirit of humanity, but the desire for premature peace has its dangers, and I think that is one of the things that women must recognise. Few women see the glories of war, because they realise so keenly its terrible consequences. In this respect, we differ from men, a larger proportion of whom will be found to exalt war and its "beneficial" effects, which exist, let us acknowledge, because the spirit of self-sacrifice, of courage and of service, are more and more in evidence just now. On the other hand, the devastation, the pain and suffering and the horrors of war outweigh all else. It has frequently been said that women do not understand Foreign Politics and Public Affairs. In truth, many of us understand them now, and women realise that this international chaos ought never to have occurred; that war is a pestilence that is preventable and that must somehow be prevented. The real enemy of England, as of Germany and of every country involved in this present struggle, is militarism. The repudiation of militarism, the recognition that effort must be concentrated towards federating the countries of Europe,—in such wise that war between nation and nation is by common will rendered impossible—that is the ideal to which all serious men and women must struggle.

Europe freed from this nightmare of war will arise purified and revitalised, and men and women together will build out of the debris, a new social structure, safeguarded against the menace of militarism and of brute force. The women's, the mother's point of view, can no longer be disregarded if we are to ensure peace.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

By VISCOUNTESS HOWICK.

In these days when every daily newspaper contains allusion to "Red Cross Work" and "Red Cross Societies" it is perhaps pertinent to ask how many of us really understand what the British Red Cross Society is.

The Red St. George's Cross on a white ground has been taken as the outward badge of all ambulance work in time of war, because it is the reverse of the national flag of Switzerland, which is a white cross on a red ground. The International agreement relating to the treatment of sick and wounded was drawn up at Geneva, while no doubt the inherent fitness of the symbol conduced to its universal and popular recognition.

But all work done under the shadow of the Red Cross flag is not done by the British Red Cross Society. There are French, German, Russian and many other Red Cross Societies—and there are other Ambulance Associations in England, which in peace time are quite separate, although now they are all working with and through the British Red Cross Society. This latter Society is, to quote its own pamphlet, "the outcome of the fusion between the late British National Society for aid to the Sick and Wounded in War and the Central British Red Cross Council." It was inaugurated in 1905 under the Presidency of Queen Alexandra and was granted a Royal Charter in 1908.

In time of peace, and before the Voluntary Aid Movement was inaugurated, the British Red Cross Society's existence was like the hero in the legend, who sleeps until awakened by the trumpet call of a crisis. The dingy little office in Victoria Street, with its very small staff, was the outward sign of the quiescent state of the British Red Cross Society during peace. Three or four years ago, in view, no doubt, of the threat of a German invasion, the Voluntary Aid Scheme was inaugurated for providing temporary hospitals and assistant nurses all over the country. The work of organising fell upon the British Red Cross Society, and it is thanks to them and to their various representatives in the counties, that there are at this moment such a large number of Voluntary Aid Hospitals and personnel ready to relieve the enormous pressure on the regular Military Hospitals. There are already five hundred and forty four Voluntary Aid Detachments actually in use with wounded under their care, and no doubt as the war goes on many others will be utilised.

The Voluntary Aid work, which was primarily intended to supply clearing hospitals for the Territorial Force in case of invasion and which has occupied such a large share of the British Red Cross Society's attention in the last four years, has really been of inestimable value to the country, quite apart from the actual services it may render now. It has been the means of training forty thousand women in all the elementary principles of hygiene, sanitation and first aid treatment. When it is considered that the largest number of these women belong to the lower and working classes, and that most of them have never known the meanings of the words "germs" and "infection," nor the uses of a thermometer, of

antiseptics, and of sterilizing—it will be realized what a stimulus to cleanliness and care for the health of their children is at once introduced. Further, in country districts where the nearest medical aid is several miles off, the knowledge which they have obtained is of immense value in case of accidents. There have been several instances in one village where severe accidents in a quarry have been so well attended to by members of the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment that they have evoked special commendation from the doctor when he eventually arrived on the scene, and he expressed his opinion that in two cases the life of the injured man had certainly been saved.

In time of war the British Red Cross Society awakes as a giant refreshed, and undertakes the stupendous task of organising, co-ordinating, and supplying everything that is needed to supplement the regular arrangements of the Army Medical Service. It is the official channel for all supplementary effort. To again quote the Society's own modest definition of its functions: "the primary object of the Society is to furnish aid to the sick and wounded in time of war. Such aid must necessarily be supplementary to that provided by the Medical Departments of the Navy and Army . . . the Society only professes to offer such additional comforts and such general help as may be considered beyond the reasonable scope of the official bodies." It is somewhat interesting to speculate as to what would be officially recognised as within the reasonable scope of the official bodies, seeing that up to December 1st the British Red Cross Society have been enabled, through the generosity of the public at large, to send to the Front a medical and nursing staff of one thousand two hundred and thirty, and to provide a large fleet of six hundred and eighty-five motor ambulances, which were so very sorely needed. These can hardly be disposed of as "additional comforts." It is certain that the British soldiers on the Continent and in England would have fared but hardly in their sickness if it had not been for the work of the British Red Cross Society. Of course the perfectly true reply of the Army and Navy Medical Services would be that this war has created a situation with which no small organisation would have been adequately able to deal, for the magnitude of the scale on which it is carried on is absolutely without precedent. Countless private units and individuals are also giving their services quite independently of any society at all, yet even so there is much left undone. There is room for everyone in the work of healing during this war, and difference of opinion must not blind us to the immense and wonderful work which is being done by the British Red Cross Society.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have brought out a valuable little volume, price 1/-, on the *Red Cross in War*, by Mary Billington, which describes the share women take in the work of nursing the wounded. The chapter dealing with the evolution of military nursing is particularly interesting, and we are also given the history of the Red Cross organization, the territorial hospitals and other institutions for the relief of the suffering. A chapter on how women worked at the outbreak of the present war brings the book up to date.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

We have been asked to draw attention to the fact that the present condition of affairs affords almost unlimited opportunities for individual fraudulents and bogus agencies under cover of obtaining relief for distress caused by the war, and to appeal to persons in high positions or of well-known standing not to give their names to any society or agency, however admirable its professed objects, without ascertaining for themselves at first hand, and practically, its actual working. A name is a trust as much as any other kind of property, and should be bestowed and used as conscientiously. In recent cases names had been obtained as patrons or presidents by two agencies who were receiving public contributions for objects in themselves quite admirable, but where genuine relief was administered in only such degree as to cover the proceedings of enterprises run for private profit. The names of the ladies who consented to be patrons were used and traded on for some time after they had been withdrawn.

"When war breaks out where are the women?" was the contemptuous query, just about a year ago, of an eminent statesman somewhat out of touch with his time. To answer the question adequately would take more space than we can afford. We must content ourselves with stating that women are filling the places left vacant by men in administration, in the professions, in trade and industry, to an extent not only undreamed of by our grandfathers, but which would have been impossible without the long and successful struggle of women against grandfatherly prohibitions.

Modern warfare is making nonsense of the old doctrine that men and women should be kept in water-tight compartments. The inter-changeability of their work has, in fact, become highly desirable. To give only one instance. The war, as might have been foreseen, has brought about a very serious shortage in the medical profession, and consequently women doctors are being loudly called for. On December 5th the *Times* in a leading article strongly urged women immediately to take steps to qualify themselves for the duties awaiting them. We hope this excellent advice will be followed. Unfortunately some little time may elapse before women realise its significance, for the old prejudice against medical women is by no means extinct, and up to now they have been much hampered and discouraged in the exercise of their profession, as an examination of the constitution of our leading hospitals will easily show.

That women surgeons are of value, not only at home but in the theatre of war, is proved by the R.A.M.C.'s acceptance of the base hospital near Boulogne run by the Women's Hospital Corps. The Russian and French Military authorities recognised women doctors from the outset, and we are glad that our own War Office has now followed suit. Of even greater importance is the admission of nurses to the clearing hospitals. This concession has been won in the teeth of considerable opposition on the part of those who are for ever trying—if we may so put it—to

tie a woman to her grandfather's crutch. The risk involved at these points (or even nearer the firing line) is, after all, not greater than that cheerfully faced by missionaries' wives or by nurses in a cholera epidemic, while the gain to the patient is not in dispute. No one even remotely acquainted with the physical and mental effects of modern shell-fire upon its victims could wish to deprive our wounded of the solace of female nursing at the earliest possible moment compatible with military requirements.

The Labour Woman gives an interesting account of the position of soldiers' families in Germany and also the provision made for unemployed women. The separation allowances paid to the families while the man is away at the Front are rather smaller than here. The nation only gives the wife 9/- a month, with 6/- a month for each child. The municipal authorities have power to supplement this, and the town of Berlin gives the amount of the national allowance over again. The pensions to the families of those who are killed are on a rather more generous scale. The wife of a private receives £20 a year (unless her case is complicated by the receipt of various insurance benefits, when the scale is lower), and she is entitled to this amount if her husband is killed in battle, or dies from causes due to his military service within ten years after peace is signed. Each child receives £8 a year or if the mother is also dead, £12.

With regard to unemployment, the town council of Berlin has made some provision, inadequate though it is. Unemployment pay of 5/- a week for those who have children, and 4/- a week for others is paid to workers who have lived in Berlin since June 1st, have been for a fortnight unemployed while able and willing to work, and are periodically registered as such. This provision does not apply to any one drawing sick pay, pension or Poor Law relief, but on the other hand, it is granted to small employers and independent workers, as well as employees, if unable to support their families.

The Central Committee for National Patriotic Associations (Canadian Pacific Building, 62, Charing Cross, W.C.) has undertaken to aid in the work of stimulating and instructing public opinion throughout the country with respect to the causes and object of the War, to arouse the nation to a sense of its danger, and to awake and keep alive the continuous determination to carry on the conflict until a peace honourable, durable and satisfactory to ourselves and our Allies is maintained. Members of the C.U.W.F.A. in small towns and villages will render valuable service to the nation by helping on the work of the Central Committee, who will gladly supply speakers and send lists of literature suitable for distribution.

We feel sure our members will deeply regret to hear of the death of Mr. Harold Rolleston Stables, who was killed at Ypres the latter end of last year. His death will be a great loss to the Suffrage cause, as he was one of its warmest supporters. He often spoke for our Association and his earnestness and eloquence won us many friends.

PARIS IN WAR TIME.

BY CONSERVATIVE SUFFRAGIST.

By the beginning of October the tide of invasion had already receded from the high-water mark when the German guns were almost within ear-shot of Paris. Not that all fear of a siege was removed. Of that there was more evidence than the continued absence of the Government, the cattle stocked in the Bois de Boulogne, and certain makeshift barricades—a source of gaiety to the flippant—which adorned the Paris gates. The grip of the invader had been loosened but it was still felt. If town life in the poorer streets appeared to go on much as usual, in the haunts of the rich it was at a standstill. The grass in the public gardens showed a two months' growth; the Louvre was emptied of its treasures, long since removed to securer keeping; the great hotels and the best-known cafés were closed, and fashionable dressmakers, jewellers, booksellers, and, generally speaking, the commercial amenities were represented by morose looking iron shutters. Even for minor necessities one might have to tramp far to find one's object, and those shops which gallantly kept open seldom boasted a customer. With motor-buses all at the front, taxis few and far between, and only some of the trams in being, the streets and boulevards were strangely quiet, though it must be admitted that military motor-cars did their best to keep things lively for the foot-passenger. The blue and red of the French infantryman seemed to be ubiquitous, and the khaki of the British Red Cross, and women in black. So universal was the mourning garment that one came to look upon it as woman's war uniform, as indeed it well may be. Undoubtedly, the atmosphere of Paris was sad. It was also very clear, for a great part of her factories were resting, as well as innumerable private hearths, so that at dusk it was possible to look from a fourth floor window across acres of roof and count no more than a couple of chimneys smoking. Most striking of all, perhaps, the huge buildings, flats and others, everywhere in course of erection, with elaborate scaffoldings, and preparations for work at high pressure, all suddenly arrested, as in the land of the Sleeping Beauty. On a bare wall near the Rue St. Honoré hung a torn and faded advertisement of "le vrai Tango," an ironic reminder of the life which had been.

"It is like a dead town," remarked an inhabitant, and if noise and glare and crowded streets are the life of a town then certainly Paris was dead. But on a closer inspection the impression received was rather of life forced below the surface and there flowing in new channels more strongly than before; of a town re-born—purged of its baser elements. A stranger's judgment stands open to correction, but by general consent the capital of France in her hour of trial shows dignity, soberness and Christian patience. Her emotion is reserved for religion—her crowds for the churches. One might wander any day at any moment into her scores of historic shrines and never find one without a worshipper. On those autumn Sundays in the Madeleine the congregation overflowed the steps of the high altar, so that the officiating priests were hidden from view. That there was a new spirit abroad was shown in the violent and

spontaneous outbreak which greeted M. Caillaux's first appearance in Paris, ten weeks after the scandalous acquittal of his wife. When the Government appointed the politician, whose name has become a bye-word for political corruption, to a lucrative post under the War Office, they counted without the people, and the ex-minister has now thought it prudent to absent himself on an obscure mission to Brazil.

In many ways it is a changed Paris. Is it the real Paris? Or will the soberness, dignity and new severity of these days give place again to the old materialism and cosmopolitan grimace? That is the question which Paris is asking herself. In the newspapers there is constant talk of a religious renaissance, of a new France. France is now embodied in her army and there is evidence that officers and men turn willingly to the old Faith. Thousands of abbés fight in the ranks, and when fighting is over minister to their comrades. In the hospitals the mass is celebrated, and of the wounded who recover the majority receive the Sacrament before returning to the front.

The end of the war is not yet in sight but it is certain. Sooner or later the cause of the Allies will win, because it is just. It is not here that there is any room for doubt. But after the present wave of destruction has spent itself there will be a new world to re-make. Everything, it may be the very existence of modern civilisation, will depend upon the nature of that reconstruction. The war has swept away much of inestimable value that can never be restored, and also, we cannot doubt, many shams and dishonesties that should not—if they could—be restored. Not all the ruined factories deserve to be rebuilt, not all the closed shops and theatres of Paris deserve to be re-opened. In a striking article which appeared lately in one of the leading Paris journals, a well-known French writer, after enumerating the evils of modern industrial civilisation—alcoholism, luxury and destitution, party and class warfare, intellectual frivolity, social ambition and corruption—declared that if we should again allow these things to dominate our lives those who return from the war will have the right to protest 'It was not for this that we, and those who are dead, have fought.'

In England as well as in France the war has forced upon us a truer sense of proportion, a return to simpler, saner ways of living. If there is to be a healthy national recovery from the shock of war it is essential that these ways should continue when the war is over, that there should be no re-action towards the old chaos of greed and waste. There is here a definite part for women to play. As moulders of public opinion they can do much to set a right standard. As the national buyers they could, by spending more intelligently, exert such an influence over trade as would ensure better conditions both for the consumer and the producer.

SMOCKING INDUSTRY.

In order to provide work for unemployed needlewomen, Lady Wilson has opened a workroom at 82, Walton Street, S.W., where orders are taken for smocking in exact reproduction of old English designs. We hope members will place orders with Lady Wilson, and so make a success of this new undertaking.

UNDER THE FLAG.

CANADA.

At the outbreak of war the President of the National Council of Women of Canada sent out an appeal to equip a hospital ship and the response made by the Local Councils, often in collaboration with the local Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire and general committees of ladies of the towns, was most gratifying. By October a large sum had been raised and a sum of over £56,500 has been promised as a gift from the women of Canada; twenty thousand pounds to be applied for hospital purposes wherever the War Office wishes and the rest to be allotted to the Canadian Women's Hospital at Haslar. The call of the Red Cross for supplies for the sick and wounded and for comforts for Canadian men then training at Valcartier Camp has been also generously responded to. The headquarters of the Toronto Women's Patriotic League has packed large stores to be sent to the camp.

BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.

The outbreak of rebellion in South Africa has brought British women there in contact with a side of the great war which their sisters in other parts of our Dominions have not experienced. Suffrage propaganda is suspended and the societies, in common with other women's organisations, have given up their time to work in connection with the war.

In Cape Province various branches of relief work are being carried on by special relief committees, one of the most interesting being the Women's Hospital Ship and Convalescent Home Equipment Committee, which undertakes to help the Voluntary Aid Committee to raise the funds necessary to equip a hospital ship for service along the western coasts, as well as to fit out any convalescent homes that may be necessary. The local Council of Women have opened a dépôt in Capetown for receiving comforts for the soldiers and in the first five weeks over six thousand bags, containing socks, bootlaces, cigarettes, soap, etc., were distributed to the troops.

Port Elizabeth is now a recruiting and training dépôt for fifteen hundred men, who require a constant supply of shirts and socks, and the local Council of Women has undertaken to supply the need. Seven out of the twenty women on the Mayor's Relief Committee are members of the local branch of the Women's Enfranchisement League; the latter organised a successful café chantant and provision sale, the proceeds of which were divided between the Women's Hospital Ship, the Convalescent Homes Equipment Committee, and to supply linen for the base hospital at Wynberg.

The Women's Relief Committee of Johannesburg has undertaken to provide much needed clothing for the troops and many hundred garments have already been sent in. A flag has been presented to General Botha from the women of the Transvaal. In Grahamstown, two members of the Women's Enfranchisement League are president and vice-president respectively of the War Sufferers' Aid Society; two are on the executive committee for the local administration of the Governor General's Fund, and another

has organised three ambulance classes. A Belgian Fund is being strongly supported by all the women's societies in Graaf-Reinet, and the suffrage club is taking its turn in giving public teas to raise funds for the same object. A large amount of material has been purchased from money collected by the Benoni Soldiers' Comforts Committee, and clothes have been despatched to the British Red Cross Society.

Every town has its own organisation and no scheme which can possibly help England in her hour of trial or can bring relief to sufferers, is ignored.

NEW ZEALAND.

The women's branches of the Empire Defence Fund have been working hard, and ladies' committees in various out-centres have co-operated energetically with the Ladies' Central Committee in collecting funds, while local efforts have supplied clothes and comforts to the value in most cases of several hundred pounds for the men going to the war. Ingenious methods of raising money have been devised. One lady has presented the lease of a suburban section for sale by public auction, the purchaser to have the section free of rent for the remainder of the lease—about seventy years. The women of Napier organised a sale of flowers which brought in a profit of £21, and a street collection in the same place totalled over £350 in one day. Lady Liverpool has started a fund to which there has been a splendid response in spite of many other demands: over £200 was raised in one small place by the women, and in another the money which had been collected for a ball was handed over to the Fund instead. Women have worked indefatigably in sorting, classifying and packing the cases that were sent to the Defence Office for distribution. There is no doubt that New Zealand women have seen that their men are splendidly equipped.

INDIA.

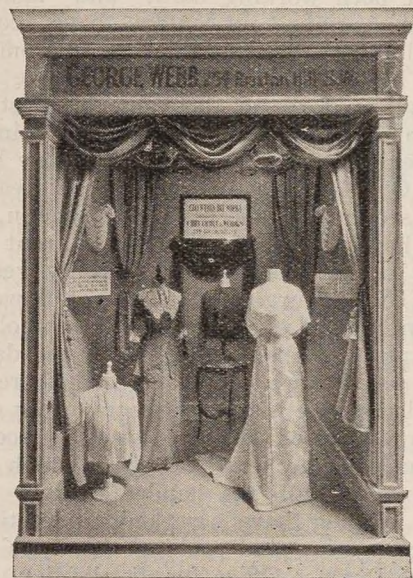
We learn from the *Devon and Exeter Gazette* that Indian women in our great Dependency are associating themselves with the effort to send comforts and relief for the men in the fighting line. The native ladies of Delhi, both Hindu and Mohammedan, have held meetings, at which women, who have never in their lives before done such a thing, have made speeches, formed committees, and collected money to buy clothing that would be useful. Both English and Indian ladies have united to form a "Women of Oudh" Branch of the Imperial Relief Fund. At Bombay some 60 strictly purdah ladies meet to do needlework for the Presidency Branch.

Even more striking, than the events recorded above is, perhaps, the effort by the Rani of Vizianagram, who has addressed personal letters to a number of native ladies of position, asking them to collaborate with her in forming an Indian Ladies' Loyal League, one of whose objects was to support the Prince of Wales's Fund. But the proposal has since developed on broader lines, and besides assisting this and other special war funds, the main object will be "to bring together the womanhood of India under an organisation whose motto will be 'Loyalty to the British Raj.'" These movements by the women in India are of special significance.

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Church League for Women's Suffrage Monthly Paper.

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Leading Article: A sorrowful Protest.

The Case for Women's Suffrage:

Women's Franchise and the Empire.

Helen B. Hanson, M.D.

The Ancient Office of Deaconess in the Past.

Annie Gilchrist.

Memos. from the Organizers:

- (1) With the Citizen's Committee in Birmingham.
- (2) The Mayoress of Swansea's War Garment Fund.
- (3) Women's War in Manchester.

Notes of the Times

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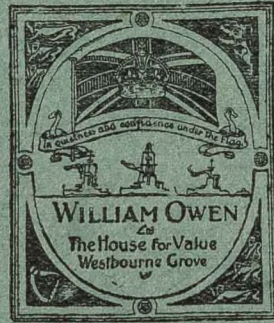
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