

# The Common Cause

## OF HUMANITY.

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

VOL. IX., No. 463.]

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1918.

[PRICE 1d.  
Registered as a Newspaper.]

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

### Notes and News.

#### Canada and Women's Suffrage.

It is good news indeed that the Canadian Government is proposing to introduce a wide measure of Women's Suffrage next Session. Great Britain has followed the example of New Zealand and Australia, and now the remaining Dominions seem prepared to follow the example of the Motherland. Only South Africa lags behind. Will not the lovers of freedom there take note?

#### A Grave Question Still Unanswered.

In our issue of February 8th we called attention to the very grave evidence published in *The Shield* about events at Cayeux-sur-Mer, where an hotel in a prominent position in the town was turned into a house of ill fame ostensibly for the use of British soldiers in a convalescent camp close to the town. The citizens of Cayeux protested against the scandal. The Mayor, in reply to their petition, stated that the Municipality was not responsible, and referred the petitioners to the British military authorities. A question was asked in the House of Commons by Commander Wedgwood on December 15th, but no answer was given. *The Shield* (the Organ of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene) then published the full particulars. On February 6th the Bishop of London raised the question in the Upper House of Convocation, and, after some comments by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the House unanimously resolved "that the attention of the military authorities be called to the statement published by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene with regard to scandals connected with licensed houses in France, especially at Cayeux and Havre, and that if such scandals are proved to exist they be asked to take drastic steps to prevent their occurrence." On February 18th in the House of Commons, Mr. King asked Mr. Macpherson (Parliamentary Under Secretary to the War Office) whether he had enquired into the question of Cayeux, and whether he had received since August, 1916, protests and memoranda concerning alleged licensed and medically regulated houses at Rouen, Havre, Marseilles and other places in France. The reply to this was "*The matter is one entirely for the French civil authorities and we cannot therefore take any action.*" There the matter stands at present; but it cannot be allowed to continue to stand there, and we do not believe that either the Bishops or the House of Commons, or the Press, or the Public will allow it to rest,

#### Milk for the Babies.

We are glad to learn that the Government are at last taking steps to secure a supply of milk for young children and expectant mothers. In some districts a scheme is already in preparation providing that milk shall be supplied in priority to holders of priority tickets issued by the local Food Control Committee, such tickets being issued only to children up to five years of age, and to people recommended by a medical practitioner as needing a special quantity of milk. Now the Food Controller and the Local Government Board have made Orders empowering local authorities to supply milk to children, and milk and food to expectant and nursing mothers, at cost price in ordinary cases, and free, or at less than cost price, in cases in which the women supplied cannot afford to pay the cost price.

The administration of the Order will be in the hands of local authorities, and certificates authorising applicants to obtain food and milk will be granted by medical officers of health, medical officers of maternity and child welfare centres working in co-operation with the local authority, and by persons specifically empowered by either of these medical officers or by the local authority itself.

It will rest with the officers empowered by the local authority, and acting under their directions, to decide the cases in which the woman is to be supplied free or at less than cost price, the general principle being laid down that food or milk shall be supplied in cases in which the competent officer certifies that such provision is necessary, and at less than cost price only where the woman supplied cannot afford to pay the full price.

Expenses incurred under this Order will be defrayed as to one-half by the local rates and as to one-half by grant from the Local Government Board. The Order is to be known as the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

#### The Railway Women Demand Equal Treatment.

At a meeting of women railway-workers, convened by the National Union of Railwaymen, in London on February 16th, a resolution was passed demanding an increase of the women's war bonus from 8s. 6d. to 21s., thus bringing it up to the level of that granted to the men. It was pointed out at the meeting that it was in the interests of all that an equal standard should be maintained for men and women. The N.U.R. has shown itself the most progressive of trade unions in its treatment of women, and we are glad that the women themselves are making a firm demand for equal treatment.

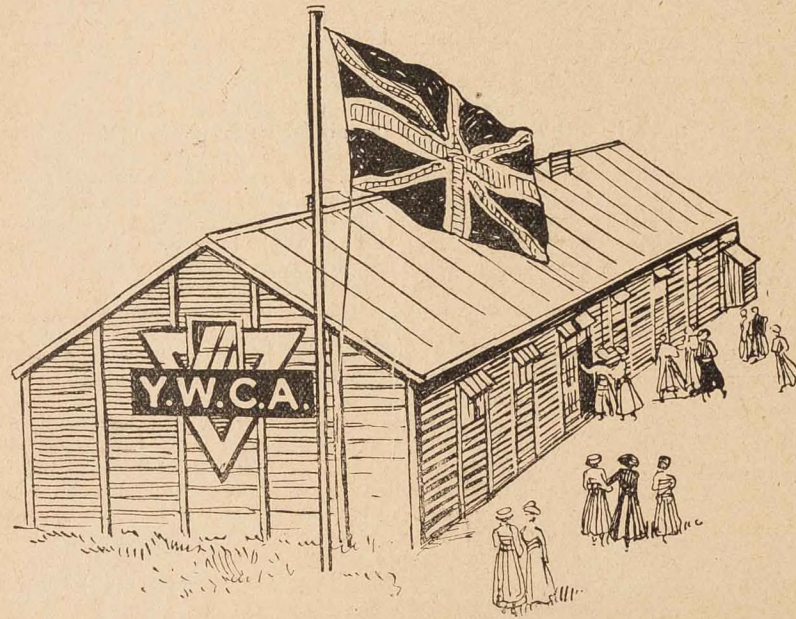
#### Important to Women Voters.

Even in the final stages of the Representation of the People Act there were some modifications of the qualifications for women. After the article by Miss Chrystal Macmillan in our issue of February 1st was written, it was decided that a woman should not be qualified for the Parliamentary Franchise by occupancy of premises other than a dwelling-house unless the annual value of the said premises was £5 or more. This is to apply whether a woman qualifies on her own or her husband's qualification. Occupancy of a dwelling-house will, however, enable a woman to qualify, even if its rental value is below £5.

The date for registration is not yet fixed, and will be announced later. We hope to publish from time to time notes on the qualifications of women voters, and on registration which will, we believe, be of use to our readers,

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## Permanent National Kitchens.

By DR. C. W. SALEEBY.

For more than two years past Germany has been using public kitchens as an emergency war measure. She could not have lasted without them.\* The French experience has not been very successful. Our own Ministry of Food started an experimental kitchen early last year, which is doing valuable work at this moment. From the beginning of his reign Lord Rhondda has approved of these kitchens, and has done his best to encourage them; but from the first he made it clear, to me for one, that he regarded them as more than an emergency war measure, and was aiming at nothing less than their permanent establishment. This is a vastly better and bigger idea, which in no way interferes with the immediate usefulness of these kitchens, and with nothing less than which must we be satisfied. For observe that the purposes which these kitchens effect are scarcely less valuable in peace than in war. They economise food, fuel, labour, room, and transport; they are the true solution, as I have long insisted, of the smoke problem; they provide hot meals on her return home for the woman who works outside as well as within it, and hot meals for the children without prejudice to the mother's work. Consider what proportion of the average working woman's energy is spent upon the purchase, carriage, and cooking of food, and we soon discover that hosts of women would be released from something scarcely less than slavery if they could be relieved from the greater part of these duties. The national kitchen will do so.

Unfortunately, these purposes do not appeal very much to ordinary men, if, indeed, the present representatives of male municipal wisdom are to be so accounted. Their response to Lord Rhondda's invitation has hitherto been entirely inadequate. When they were summoned to a Conference at Grosvenor House a few months ago, they gave an exhibition which I shall never forget. That kind of thing is how to lose the war and the peace. Now at last, since the national safety requires that we shall have ten or twenty thousand national kitchens instead of two hundred, Lord Rhondda has appointed a new Director of National Kitchens in the person of Alderman C. F. Spencer of Halifax, to whom I wish all success. But he must be helped by those whom he is out to help, and without whom he cannot succeed. Will not the women's organisations do their part now? Surely it must be for them partly to provide or train the many cooks who will be wanted—the amateur is as futile here as usual—to assist in the problem of distribution, and to teach their fellow-women to avail themselves of what these kitchens have to offer.

We have nothing here to do with soup kitchens, nor with tenth-rate trumpery places in back streets. I would it were possible, on the contrary, for Mr. Spencer to avail himself of a suggestion which I made at the Albert Hall as far back as last May—that not a few of the palatial edifices at the corners of our streets, now quite otherwise engaged, but most eligibly situated for this purpose, should be turned to the national service forthwith. That, indeed, has been done with the kitchen at Holloway just opened by Lady Rhondda. But now, why above all do I wish these kitchens to be permanent?

#### NATIONAL KITCHENS AND THE BIRTH-RATE.

The war has awakened us to the vital importance of producing a strong and healthy race if the Empire is to be developed and consolidated in the years to come. But when considering the practical steps which should be taken to increase, or even to maintain, the birth-rate in Great Britain, and to lower the present alarming rate of infant mortality, people rarely go to the root of the problem.

The primary obstacle to healthy family life is the totally inadequate housing accommodation prevailing in so many quarters, and among so many sections of the community. The reason for this inadequacy is, of course, economic. No matter who is behind the new building, this factor determines its type. Guinness and Peabody buildings, municipal enterprise, private enterprise, the efforts of the State at Rosyth or elsewhere—one and all concern themselves with provision for adults, simply because provision for children does not pay. In this sense, be it observed, no service to the future pays; no sacrifice of the present, no maternal pang, nothing that maintains our race can be said to pay.

But when the nation as a whole takes up the question of

\* See Mr. John Hilton's admirable article in the "Quarterly Review" for January.

housing, we might expect a farther-sighted view to prevail. We do spend money on the future, as, for instance, in education, because we admit that on the whole to provide for its continuance is the duty of any nation; therefore, we may perhaps now begin to consider the propriety of building houses where there is room for children, and which women may thus turn into homes for the young future.

In all the many discussions of this subject, hitherto, the perpetuation of all the old features is taken for granted. Things are to be better, airier, cleaner, less unpleasant to look at, but nothing resembling a change of type is contemplated. Women are to be called in at the last when all essentials have been decided in order to state their views on cupboards and larders. In short, the women's problem—for housing is that if it is anything, or what does the word domestic mean?—is to be solved by men.

The national kitchen provides for the working classes just what the idling class provide for themselves, if and when they have money enough. The typical, modern, expensive, completely equipped block of "mansions" in London to-day has a common kitchen and restaurant, whereas the individual suites of flats are without a kitchen altogether. Hence, while men in local power delay, women of the middle classes in Wimbledon and elsewhere are clubbing together to provide themselves with a similar blessing on their own account.

Let me make a new point further. The combination of smoke and fog in London, for instance, which I prefer to call "smog," and which blinds and blackens and chokes and kills us, is dependent on the smoke produced by myriads of kitchen fires. Abolish these, "smog" vanishes, public health is greatly served, dirt largely disappears, and woman in her home finds cleaning and cooking largely disposed of by the one act.

Women, therefore, would pronounce for the next move not in units, but in millions. Before we decide upon the type of the 300,000 houses, we propose to build as soon as possible, let us call in women, in the first place, and ask them not "Do you want cupboards?" which, of course, they do, but "Do you want kitchens?" which, for the most part, directly they know what we mean, of course they do not.

In short, I suggest that we now have an unprecedented opportunity for making a great forward move in our national housing. Whilst others must think of the present—economy of food and women's labour, and so forth—I am thinking of the future. To include the national kitchen as an integral part of our new housing will be to serve the birth-rate and the lives of those born in two distinct and valuable ways.

First, not even a woman can eat her cake and have it. The more of her physiological income she spends on external work the less she has for internal work. This is a necessary truth which we fail to perceive, because a woman's latent resources are so immense, and she draws on them when she must. But she does not abrogate the law of the conservation of energy, nor one of its necessary consequences, which Spencer called the principle of "Individuation versus Genesis," and which Geddes and Thomson have recognised in the preponderance of anabolism over katabolism in the female—that is, the natural or maternal female—as compared with the male. Every device that lessens the external burden gives a better chance to the supreme burdens of gestation and lactation.

Second, if, by practically abolishing the private kitchen, we can save one room per house, we practically resolve my old antithesis between "housing and homing." We save at least one room per home for fine children instead of poor cooking, and we largely abolish that factor of the falling birth-rate which consists in the absence of house-room for the nation's children.

The Committee of Architects (all male) which has been appointed to solve what is so very much more than an architectural or male problem, does not appear to have thought fit to hear evidence on my proposal, authorised though it be by three years' work upon the Birth-rate Commission; but perhaps women may come into their own just in time to make possible the very substantial piece of social reconstruction or evolution which, I submit, is embodied therein.

One, and only one, exception must be noted to my assertion that new housing schemes ignore the needs of the future. That exception is the Duchy of Cornwall Estate in South London. There the personal interest of their Majesties has shown itself in the provision of what are really homes, with room for chil-

dren, even growing children of opposite sexes, under decent conditions. Amongst the new ideas there exemplified is one, the plan of which I had the honour of showing at the Royal Institution, in 1914, in a course of lectures on the progress of eugenics. It provides movable fireproof partitions between adjacent houses, so that the number of rooms in each can be modified as the respective families increase or diminish in size. Perhaps His Majesty the King may now include model national kitchens in his fine scheme of domestic reconstruction, thus making more room for childhood and illustrating his own splendid saying, "The foundations of national glory are laid in the homes of the people."

### The Organisation of Social Workers.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, AND WHAT THERE REMAINS TO DO.

Miss Helen Ward, in her article "The Uplifters," in *THE COMMON CAUSE* of December 21, 1917, has stated broadly the need for improvement in the conditions of work—and especially in the salaries—of social workers. The object of the present article is to state briefly the steps that have already been taken towards this end, and to outline the aims of a Committee which is considering a scheme of organisation among social workers—a scheme which will, it is hoped, ultimately ensure a higher standard of training, on the one hand, and better salaries and conditions of work on the other.

The first definite proposal of any kind for organising social workers emanated from the Victoria Settlement, Liverpool, in December, 1915. It was proposed to form an Association, composed of voluntary and paid workers of either sex, in order to improve the status of social workers, to promote a register, and to help workers to obtain work.

The interest attaching to this scheme is, however, mainly historical, as it was never put into operation, and the next step—made without any knowledge of the Liverpool proposals—was an attempt to interest the general public in the question. An article appeared in *The Times* of June 13th, 1917, under the title "Women in Social Work: The Case for Organisation," in which the subject was approached from the point of view of the paid social worker. The writer pointed out the evil results, both to the workers and to the work, of the prevalence of small salaries and unlimited hours, and urged that social workers should combine, in order to press for certain improvements. Among these, it was suggested that a woman working for a philanthropic society should not receive as an initial salary less than £120 a year in London, or £100 in the Provinces, and that the maximum weekly number of hours should not exceed forty.

Correspondence was invited from those having any definite scheme of organisation to propose, and a good many letters were received. Only two, however, contained any definite suggestions. Miss Charlesworth, Secretary of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, proposed that membership of her Association would meet the case; and Miss Pearson, Warden of the Victoria Settlement, Liverpool, described the scheme mentioned above. Other correspondents, however, having expressed a wish to discuss the matter, half-a-dozen people met on June 27th, 1917, and agreed that a Conference of social workers should be held, in order that as large a number as possible might have an opportunity of expressing their views as to any future scheme.

It was clear that such a Conference, if it was to have any weight, could not be called by one individual, and both the National Federation of Women Workers, and the National Union of Women Workers, were approached. Finally, the N.U.W.W. agreed to hold a Conference at the London School of Economics on November 9th, 1917, to discuss "Special Aspects of Demobilisation affecting Social Workers" from the point of view both of the professional and of the voluntary worker, and the status of the trained worker, and the standard of remuneration. . . . Miss Christie, of the London School of Economics, Miss Helen Ward, of Women's Service, and Miss Lawrence, of the Charity Organisation Society, were announced to speak from the voluntary standpoint, and Miss Susan Lawrence, of the London County Council, and Miss Hadow, of the Ministry of Munitions, from the professional.

In the meantime, a second article, dealing with the case for the organisation of social workers from the point of view of the employer, had been accepted by *The Times*, and appeared on the morning of the Conference. This article urged the need for establishing a register of trained and experienced social

workers, pointing out that, in the absence of such a register, no employer of social workers had a "guaranteed" supply from which to draw. The writer concluded by saying that the subject would be discussed at the Conference being held that day.

At the Conference, however, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, President of the N.U.W.W., asked those present to speak as workers only, any discussion from the employers' point of view being thus ruled out of order. It was also noticed by those present at the Conference that the voluntary element in the discussion predominated markedly over the professional, as, owing to the absence of Miss Hadow at the last moment, there were three speakers on the voluntary side, and only one on the professional. The result was that, apart from some very practical suggestions made by Miss Helen Ward, the point most emphasised at the Conference was the need of definite training for all those undertaking social work, rather than the need for improvement in the status and conditions of the professional—or paid—worker.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a Provisional Committee, composed of both professional and voluntary workers, was elected, "to draw up a scheme of organisation among social workers." Among those elected were Miss Morton, Chief Organiser of Children's School Care Committee work to the London County Council; Miss Milnes, Lecturer at the London School of Economics; Miss Tucker, of Women's Service; Miss C. Gregory, Poor Law Guardian (Holborn); Miss K. Lawrence, Charity Organisation Society; and Miss Micholls, of the Social Institutes Union for Women and Girls.

The election of this Committee was an important step forward towards the organisation of social workers. It has met frequently and regularly ever since. At the first meeting it was decided to survey the whole field of social service, in order to decide which groups of workers were in greatest need of organisation, and to which workers the Provisional Committee might be most helpful. The Committee decided, as a result of this survey, that doctors, teachers, and nurses, though all social workers in the widest sense, were outside the scope of the Provisional Committee. With regard to nurses in particular, it was decided that, in the narrower sense, a nurse does not become a social worker until she ceases to nurse, and enters the ranks of social workers as a Health Visitor, Infant Welfare Worker, School Nurse, or Factory Nurse, after which she is usually eligible to become a member or associate of the Women's Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association.

The Provisional Committee next began to draw up a definite scheme of organisation among social workers. After the most careful consideration of various proposals, it was decided to adopt a scheme providing for the formation of sectional associations for each group of professional social workers—e.g., Hospital Almoners, Infant Welfare Workers, Industrial Welfare Workers, &c. The members of these associations would be professional workers only, but voluntary workers would be encouraged to form their own associations. Each professional association would draw up conditions of employment best suited to the particular kind of work undertaken by its members, quite independently of the other sectional associations. This plan, rather than one for the formation of one association, or union, for all social workers, was adopted, because the majority of the committee felt that the kinds of work undertaken by social workers generally were so varied as to make any uniformity of conditions impracticable. The need for some central advisory body would, however, be met under this scheme by the formation of an Advisory Council composed of delegates elected by the associations, both professional and voluntary. The functions of the Advisory Council would be "to work for constant improvement in the status of social workers, and in the conditions of work of professional social workers." It would strive to promote these aims by defining the qualifications, including training desirable in social workers, by compiling a register of qualified workers, by agreeing as to the minimum salary desirable for professional workers, and by bringing its recommendations before the committees of all societies and other agencies engaged in social work. The Advisory Council thus formed would, it is hoped, become a useful centre of propaganda and information, while retaining a purely advisory character, both in relation to the societies and other bodies employing social workers, and to the workers themselves.

This, then, is the scheme proposed by the Provisional Committee. Whether it ever becomes a living thing depends on its reception by the whole body of social workers. That some, both among employers and employed, have felt the need for improvement, we are sure. That many more would

demand it, if the facts of the case were brought home to them, we are equally sure. The most urgent need is, then, that the facts may be brought home, and that social workers generally shall feel that they have duties and responsibilities, not only to those whom they are seeking to "uplift," but to each other. The Provisional Committee is anxious to get into touch, either through the written or the spoken word, with as many workers and with as many committees as possible. Some of the members of the Provisional Committee are willing to explain the objects aimed at by addressing groups, however small, of workers and committee members, whenever and wherever they may be invited to do so.

It is also hoped to publish a leaflet setting forth the scheme more fully, and dealing with the whole question of the need for improvement in the training, status, salary, and conditions of social workers. Then, when the whole matter has been discussed by some groups at least of social workers, it will be for them to decide whether the scheme proposed, or some other, is most suited to their needs. The most pressing question is that of propaganda; but propaganda means money. The work of a committee, however simply it is carried on, entails some expense, and a pamphlet, if it is worth having, is worth paying for. Later, the launching of the scheme will cost more money; but it is not a question of that yet. A small fund, for propaganda purposes only, is urgently needed. Will any readers who feel, with Miss Ward, that "the Uplifters should be themselves uplifted," and who feel that the Provisional Committee is helping towards this end, send a contribution, from 1s. upwards, towards this fund? Also, if any group of workers or others would care to have an informal "talk" about the whole matter, the honorary secretary of the committee will try to arrange one.

All contributions, and all communications, should be addressed to Miss Nora Milnes, Hon. Sec. Provisional Committee, London School of Economics, Clare Market, Strand, W.C. 2.

A. SAYLE.

### Women as Barristers.

On January 17th, 1917, *The Times*, writing in reference to Mr. Holford Knight's motion requesting the General Council of the Bar to consider and report on the desirability of providing for the admission of duly qualified women to the profession, used the following words:—

"There are special reasons just now why the law, which is the oldest and closest and most distinguished of Trade Unions, should set this particular example to the rest. . . . One of the supreme problems of the future is concerned with the power of women to maintain their advantage after the war. The mere prospect has already done much to modify public opinion on Woman Suffrage, and the attitude of Parliament, which is all that Woman Suffrage can affect, is of very much less importance in this connection than the attitude of the Trade Unions. If, as we hold, our strength as a nation depends largely on a proper distribution of the energies of all . . . the final emancipation of men from women's work, and the retention of women wherever they can fairly compete with men—then it is not too soon to give practical expression to the principle wherever it is found."

At whatever date the war is fated to end, we are now nearer that end by the year that has elapsed since these words were written; and during that year has been set up one of those great historic landmarks whose magnitude is the more fully apprehended as time recedes from them. Since the discussion a year ago by the Bar Annual Meeting on the advisability of considering the admission of women to the legal profession, the womanhood of the country, if not yet as fully enfranchised as the manhood, has been emancipated from the sex disability which debarred women from any voice in the choice of the Legislature. They may now help to choose those who make the law. It is the logical complement of this that they should not, on grounds of sex, be excluded from the administration of the law. For if there is some inherent unfitness in women which ought to debar them from applying law, then far less ought they to be entrusted as a sex with any share in the greater responsibility of framing the law. If a woman cannot drive an engine, far less can she invent and fashion its machinery.

The public mind to-day is much more ready to receive the woman lawyer than was public opinion prepared for the woman doctor in the Victorian Era. But the medical woman has fought her fight and come to stay. The feeling of the nation would not tolerate for an instant any attempt to set the clock back by the expulsion of women from the medical profession should any group of men or women be audacious enough to propose it; and probably the community would take its stand upon the proven utility of such women's services to the nation. The women doctors would doubtless make efficient nurses, housewives, or clerks, but there would be a general feeling that specialised talent was not being used in its natural sphere of utility, and that insomuch the nation would be the poorer.

That is precisely the case for the legal woman. Either one of the two following propositions must be true at the present moment: certain women are endowed by Nature with qualities which would make them useful to the community as lawyers; or, alternatively, no woman in this country has any such capacity. If the first statement be true, then whatever forces would exclude such women from the sphere of the law are dark forces that tend towards the lessening of national power by preventing suitable women from exercising the functions fittest for them. If the second statement be true, then the British woman is inferior to the French or American woman, who can, and does, become a lawyer; and the inferiority is of so extraordinary a nature that a sea-voyage to any of our Dominions where women may qualify and practise is sufficient remedy!

Some of those who are ready to admit that women might make good lawyers shift the ground of objection by abusing the profession itself. Women are good enough for the Law, one is told, but is the Law good enough for women? This is evidential of the relation of quasi-hostility now unfortunately so prevalent between the Law and the general public. It is also partly a family relative to the old argument about the vote dragging woman from her pedestal. [I don't know what the pedestal was.] For good or for evil, women are now in for the rough-and-tumble of life, and have left the home, bringing not peace, but a sword—the sword of new ideals which will make cleavages along new lines in old traditions. I am not suggesting that an incursion of women is the precise method of rehabilitating the law with the general public. But in so far as the admission of fit women into the profession showed some evidence of a more liberal and less exclusive mentality, of more response to the spirit of the age and less to outworn tradition, in that degree the Law would go some way towards putting itself right with the general public.

The Law has been in some ways the noblest of British professions. A stately procession of eminent lawyers has held and passed on the torch of liberty from generation to generation—Eliot, Pym, Hampden, Coke, and the great Cromwell himself were all men of law. The profession that has produced such men, and that has so nobly aided to vindicate liberty in these islands, is one it would be an honour to enter. That a type of sordid lawyer-politicians has been an unfortunate feature of it in recent years, one cannot deny, but that does not affect the nobility of the law in itself. The higher good of the State is best served if every member of the community puts forth his or her utmost power. For the days of reconstruction after the war we shall need the maximum of effort to ensure a just social order, and that maximum effort must be applied so as to produce the maximum result. If any group of men wish to exclude women from their calling, the onus of proof of unfitness and danger to the public lies with those men, and if their arguments are untrue, they will advance them at their peril. Much water has flowed by the Temple since the days when Miss Pankhurst addressed the Bar on the admission of women; and I am permitted to state as a fact not without significance that one of the barristers [Mr. Wells Thatcher] who then publicly opposed Miss Pankhurst is one of the sponsors of the writer in her application to be admitted as a Law Student "for the purpose of being called to the Bar."

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## Women in the Engineering Trades.

### II.—THE PAY.

If the question of the work done by women in the Engineering Trades is wrapped in confusion and complexity, the question of the pay that they receive and the rates and methods by which they actually are, and legally should be, paid, is infinitely more obscure.

The story of the Agreements, Acts, and Government Orders by which the wages of women have been regulated since August, 1914, is in itself full of contradiction, and to give any picture of how they have been misinterpreted, misapplied, evaded, disregarded, and twisted, would fill several volumes. The Memorandum which is the basis of this article tells the story of these Agreements with little comment, and gives a number of typical instances of their unjust and incomplete application, and emerges with the conclusion that women are paid from a third to half less than men for the same work, where they are doing work previously called men's work, and are paid something between £1 and 24s. a week where they are doing work previously called women's work.

The question of the wages of women has a direct bearing upon the speed with which dilution is accomplished. Obviously, a Union which is being induced to permit dilution, either of unskilled men or of women, does so more readily if the customary rates of pay are not adversely affected. Equally, it is clear that the employer accepting dilution puts up with the inconvenience caused by it more readily if the customary rates are lowered by the dilution. Between these two contending forces the Government has steered a zig-zag course, inclining, as is the nature of Governments, towards the side of the employer, and neglecting flagrantly and remorselessly the interests of the unrepresented party to the bargain.

The first Agreement, called the Crayford Agreement, was entered into in November, 1914, between the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. Its substance was that the work of skilled men should not be given to women. This was quickly corrected by the Shells and Fuses Agreement, by which women could be introduced, for the period of the war only, into operations performed by skilled men, provided they were paid the usual rates of the district for such operations. Under this Agreement not a single woman was introduced on to the operations performed by skilled men; many thousands were introduced on to those operations very slightly altered (in order that the Wage Clause should not apply to them), and they were paid the usual rates for women in the district, which worked out to considerably less than half the rates paid to men. The breakdown of the Shells and Fuses Agreement led to the famous Treasury Agreement, March, 1915, entered into by the Government and thirty-three men's Engineering Unions, at which no woman at all was represented. By this Agreement the restoration of all relaxed Trade Union rules and customs was solemnly promised, and it was further agreed that the admission of semi-skilled or female labour to any work "shall not affect adversely the rates customarily paid for the job." Mr. Lloyd George immediately after interpreted this phrase to mean that women should be paid the same piece-work rates as men, but not on the same time-work basis. This interpretation destroyed all the value of the safeguard as to wages; very few women were put on to piece-work, the time rates remained about half those of the men, and the undercutting and rate-destroying process went gaily forward. These attempts to protect the women's rate, futile as they were, applied only to the women on skilled operations. The women "on women's work" and on unskilled operations were all this time receiving the customary rates—2½d. to 4d. an hour—and taking wages that amounted to 15s. or £1 a week for excessive hours.

The Manchester and Salford District Women's Interests Committee now demanded a minimum wage of £1 for a week of forty-eight hours, and this became the basis for the famous circular L 2, which was published by the Ministry of Munitions in February, 1916. This Order, which was not compulsory on any but Government factories, and not enforced there, set up a rate of £1 for women working "for a week of normal hours," and repeated the principle that women employed on the work of fully-skilled tradesmen should receive the fully-skilled tradesmen's rates, leaving untouched, as before, practically the whole mass of women workers who were doing part only of the work of a fully-skilled tradesman. Even its minimum rate of £1 was immediately circumvented by an alteration in the hours of work, so that women not working "a week of normal hours" need not be paid this minimum rate. The Munition

Amending Act of 1916, however, at last created an improvement in the situation. It gave power to the Minister of Munitions to fix wages, and to set up Special Appeal Tribunals, under which the principles of L 2 began to be enforced.

In February, 1917, the Order known as Order 49 secured the fully-skilled tradesman's rate to women employed on part of a fully-skilled tradesman's job, subject to a 10 per cent. deduction for expenses of extra supervision; it laid down, moreover, a definition of a "week of normal hours" as one of forty-eight hours. Under this Order the wages, both of the women on skilled work and the women on unskilled work, began to creep slowly upwards, and the minimum began to be really enforced. But still the subtle devices by which women's wages have been kept down remained in constant use, and new and glaring injustices were perpetrated. The war-wages and war-bonus granted to men have not been granted to women—4s. where men get 11s., nothing where men get 12½ per cent., so the injustice runs, while amid the confusion of payment by piece, by time, by premium bonus, and by complicated calculation, the employer still finds a thousand ways of cheating his women of their proper pay.

Throughout the whole struggle, as the Memorandum clearly shows, the National Federation of Women Workers has persistently tried to pull up the wages from the bottom, gaining, in the teeth of incredible difficulty, rise after rise and compromise after compromise. At the top, the women on skilled work have gained here and there a small yet important victory, and the men's Unions, torn between their desire to keep women out altogether and to protect their own rates, have now helped and now hindered their unfortunate competitors.

"To interfere rashly in wages," says the Minister of Munitions, "is like sticking a knife into the hands of a clock." But while he makes this timid, if true, statement, prices rise, and rise, and rise, and the vicious circles of inflated prices and uneven wages and excessive hours set the works of the clock going in such a crazy fashion that a knife here and there would do little to damage the mechanism.

RAY STRACHEY.

## The Road to Fairyland.

GEORGIAN POETRY, 1916-1917. (Published by the Poetry Bookshop. 4s.)

True Thomas, so the story tells, was shown by the Elfin Queen three paths: the first a broad one, leading across the "lily leven," the second beset with thorns and briars, and the third a "bonny road that winds about the ferny brae." This last was the path to fairyland, and Thomas, having kissed the Elfin Queen, had no choice but to follow it with her, and was not seen on earth again "till seven years were gone and past."

At the present moment, some of us, if we had the chance, might wish to follow Thomas and his queen along the green and ferny path, and forget the world for seven years. But if the ballad tells the truth, the path did not go on as it began: Thomas and the Queen came presently to a land where "they saw neither sun nor moon, but heard the roaring of the sea":—

"It was mirk, mirk night, there was nae starlight,  
They waded through red blude to the knee;  
For a' the blude that's shed on earth  
Rins through the springs o' that countrie."

Afterwards, Thomas was provided with an apple which gave him a tongue which never could lie, and though he protested against the extreme inconvenience of the gift, which would make it impossible for him to buy or sell, or "speak to prince or peer," or "ask of grace from fayre ladye," he was forced to eat it. Thomas the Rhymer thus became "True Thomas," and if he ever came back from fairyland, and ever told anything of what he saw there, all that he said was certainly true.

The new book of Georgian poetry (appearing this time in a green cover) offers a path to fairyland. Those who follow our modern rhymers along it will only be disappointed if they have hoped to escape from the darkness and the "roaring of the sea," and have forgotten that "a' the blude that's shed on earth rins through the springs o' that countrie."

There is no escape from the war in this book: that would be impossible when so many of our poets are fighting, so many slain; the pain and horror of it echoes through these pages, and finds expression in such poems as "Fulfilment," "In the Pink," "It's a Queer Time," and "The Death Bed." But

the fear that must have crossed many of our minds that the war would destroy not only the bodies of our poets, but the poetic faculty of the generation is, we think, proved groundless. And there is something surprising in the kind of poetry which has been produced in these terrible years. One might expect that the love of country and love of justice which have so visibly inspired the younger generation should find expression in heroic verse as well as in heroic death; but we do not find much heroic verse in this book. What we do find is an intense human feeling, and interwoven with this a love of beautiful, far-off magical things, which reminds one of Coleridge. Pity is certainly the predominant passion in these poems—pity not for human beings only, but for all helpless, tortured creatures. Siegfried Sassoon's "Death Bed" treats of human death and of the agony of war; but John Freeman's "Pigeons" reminds us of daily suffering, which is not human only, and which happens even when there is no war. This latter poem is almost unbearable in its poignancy, and the poet seems to have found it so himself. He ends it with the cry:—

"Jesus forgive us all our happiness  
As thou dost blot out all our miseries."

Ralph Hodgson expresses the same feeling when he writes:—

"'Twould ring the bells of Heaven,  
The wildest peal for years,  
If parson lost his senses,  
And people came to theirs,  
And he and they together  
Kneel down with angry prayers,  
For tamed and shabby tigers,  
And dancing dogs and bears,  
And wretched, blind pit ponies,  
And little hunted hares."

The generation of poets that has matured in anguish has certainly not become insensitive to human or animal pain.

Nor have they lost that extra sense by which the rhymers find the Elfin Queen. The magic that is in the leaves of the forest, and the ripples of the stream, in colours and beams of light, and words and notes of music, can be apprehended at moments by everyone; but it is for the poets to capture it, and it sometimes seems that the power to do it is the one true test of the poet.

"Beyond the blue, the purple seas,  
Beyond the thin horizon's line,  
Beyond Antilla, Hebrides,  
Jamaica, Cuba, Caribees,  
There lies the land of Yucatan."

There lies the land of Yucatan,  
The low coast breaking into foam,  
The dim hills where my thoughts shall roam,  
The forests of my boyhood's home,  
The splendid dream of Yucatan!"

So writes W. J. Turner, whose poems are full of magic. Nor have the older poets, still young enough to be included in this collection, forgotten their peculiar spells. Who would not recognise this of Mr. Masfield's?

"Roses are beauty, but I never see  
Those blood drops from the burning heart of June  
Glowing like thought upon the living tree  
Without a pity that they die so soon,  
Die into petals, like those roses old,  
Those women, who were summer in men's hearts  
Before the smile upon the Sphinx was cold,  
Or sand had hid the Syrian and his arts."

Or who but Mr. de la Mare could have written this:—

"Who knocks?" "I who was beautiful  
Beyond all dreams to restore,  
I from the roots of the dark thorn am hither,  
And knock on the door."

"Who speaks?" "I—once was my speech  
Sweet as the birds on the air,  
When echo lurks by the waters to heed,  
'Tis I speak thee fair."

Magic has not gone from the world, and we cannot close this book without a passionate thankfulness to those who are keeping it there, and a passionate regret for the singers we have lost:—

"Yet, though the slain are homeless as the breeze,  
Vocal are they, like storm-bewildered seas,  
Their faces are the fair, unshrouded night,  
And planets are their eyes, their ageless dreams.  
Tenderly stooping earthward from their height,  
They wander in the dusk with chanting streams;  
And they are dawn-lit trees, with arms up-flung,  
To hail the burning heavens they left unsung."

Perhaps, then, they are not altogether lost?

I. B. O'M.

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## Kitchens.

Woman's Place is the Home. But what is the home? Once upon a time home was the place where the family needs were supplied. Clothes were made and washed there; food was grown, killed, cured, and prepared there; doctoring and education were carried on there; and a woman's home offered her a full and busy life. What is a home now? The industries have gone out of it; the clothes, the washing, the teaching, and the mechanics are all prepared and procured away from home, and very little but the food is left. The home has gradually dwindled into the kitchen, and now the kitchen is leaving too. What, then, is to happen to the woman?

It is obvious what has already happened. Many women have followed their work out of their homes, have entered industry, medicine, nursing, or the teaching profession, and others have stayed faithfully by what remained, devoting themselves laboriously (and foolishly) to their kitchens, wearing themselves out in useless and frivolous lives, cleaning grates and cooking meals, or directing others to clean grates and cook meals by obsolete and inadequate methods, and toiling their days away to produce an unending series of tepid joints and badly boiled potatoes, while backs ached with the labour of it and homes resounded with the complaints of husbands and of children.

No one can seriously maintain that the domestic arrangements of the average home in England were either comfortable or economical before the war. The vast majority of homes were hopelessly overcrowded; in all the large towns hundreds and thousands of families lived, and still live, under conditions in which privacy, decency, cleanliness, and even cooking itself are practically impossible, while among the richer people monotony, triviality, and convention ruled both drawing-room and kitchen. And now a change is before us, for the Communal Kitchen is at hand, and the last of the home industries is about to be reformed. What, then, is to happen to the woman?

It is clear that they must follow their kitchens. It is clear that this coming change, this latest development of economy, is one that most vitally concerns women, and here, if anywhere on earth is a clear case for a woman's department. Municipal or Communal Kitchens must be planned, managed, and administered by women, in the light of the experiences of women, and with a clear understanding of the problems that their existence will solve. Nothing could be more obvious, and nothing less controversial, than this fact. And yet nothing could be further from what is actually taking place.

The facts are these. Nearly a year ago Lord Devonport authorised the experiment of one communal kitchen in the Westminster Bridge Road, which has supplied cheap and well-cooked food ever since. Many months later a decision was reached—without consultation with any women, even those who are officials of the Ministry of Food—to put the provision of communal kitchens into the hands of the municipalities. These arbiters of our domestic future, when they met to consider the policy of the kitchens, were almost unanimously opposed to them. They favoured establishing them, if at all, upon temporary lines, upon the ground, among others, that "it would make women idle." Not a woman had a voice in that conference. Not a man knew what he was talking about. And so is our future decided.

The next step was the appointment of the staff to carry out the new schemes. Not a woman has yet been appointed: one has been lent from another department, and it is rumoured that another may actually be paid a salary; but the policy, the administration, and the control still remain in the hands of men. An Alderman from Halifax has been put in supreme command; his first thought has been advertisement by means

of lighted tramcars, gramophones, and baskets of flowers. And meantime our children are hungry and our women wait in queues.

The matter is a serious one, and the need for action urgent. We must do our own work, and do it properly. We must have women in charge of the new kitchens who will think of providing food and not advertisements, and who will plan for the future and for the common good. Woman's place is indeed the kitchen, and we must see to it that she is not shut out of it by a swarm of highly-paid officials and an army of contractors. Lord Rhondda seems to have forgotten that woman's place is the home. Every woman in the country should hasten to remind him.

R. S.

## The Future of the National Union.

Throughout the past eight months, ever since it has seemed fairly clear that women would speedily be enfranchised, the thoughts of hundreds of Women Suffragists have turned to the future, and have been focussed on one question—more important than the future of any existing organisation—the question how, when this first instalment of the franchise has been won, to bring the influence of the women's point of view to bear on local and national policies.

Suffragists have asked for the vote as an instrument, and now that it has been granted to 6,000,000 women, they want to use it not only for obtaining full recognition of the citizenship of women, but also by means of it to make the considered point of view of women citizens tell. In various quarters all over the Union, Suffragists have arrived at the conclusion that the N.U.W.S.S. should do its part in working for both these ends.

Miss Rathbone's motto for the National Union in her article in THE COMMON CAUSE of last week, "I am a woman and nothing that concerns the status of women is indifferent to me," is one of the mottoes of those who take this point of view. They wish to see women endowed with opportunities "equivalent" to those of men ("equivalent" seems to express Miss Rathbone's point of view rather than "equal"). But, first, in view of the fact that the phrase "equality of opportunity" appears ambiguous, and is liable to be interpreted as identity, although it is not meant as such, they would prefer to say frankly that the N.U.W.S.S. should stand for that "freedom of opportunity" without which women can never make their full contribution to the affairs of the nation.

Secondly, they desire not to exclude from the work of the future National Union any subject on which women have a special point of view, or of which women as women realise the importance more than men. All matters concerned with life have a special significance for women, so another motto might be added to the first: "I am a woman, and nothing which concerns the life of my children or of other women's children is indifferent to me."

These supremely important matters will be dealt with by Women Citizens' Associations, and other women's organisations where such exist, but many of the National Union Societies wish as societies to take their share in this work, and to assist the new women voters to realise their responsibilities. They think that the women who have worked for the vote in order to use it as an instrument should endeavour to secure the effective use of the instrument, and should make for definite constructive legislation on concrete questions—that the Women Suffragists gathered together in the National Union, with others who will join them now the vote is won, have a point of view to express, and should express it, and should take action together to see that the expression is effective. The women in many of the Societies of the N.U.W.S.S. desire to expedite legislation on Housing Reform, on Infant Welfare, and on such matters as measures for preventing criminal assaults on children, &c. They wish neither to be obliged to join in a separate organisation to work for each separate reform, nor to form autonomous Women Citizens' Associations outside their own Society. Their idea is that the Societies of the N.U.W.S.S. should develop into Societies of Citizens, co-operating with other women's organisations where such exist, to secure Freedom of Opportunity for women, and meanwhile to help them to use those opportunities they already have to bring their point of view into prominence.

A constitution with so wide a scope would supply the local Societies as well as Headquarters with a programme of such

vital interest that every individual member should be impelled to take her part. It is clear that such societies, working for women's full citizenship, would not include quite as many women as autonomous Women Citizens' Associations, but they would include many who would not be inspired to vigorous action by work directed only towards obtaining equality or even freedom of opportunity. It has already been proved in many localities that they do appeal to many women who have not in the past worked for or even desired the vote. Public meetings would be held for the benefit of the "more backward" women, and the ranks of the Societies would be gradually recruited by those who from time to time felt themselves prepared to join. It is more natural for bodies of opinion to grow thus gradually, and it may well be wiser to expand slowly rather than to start as huge, unwieldy masses with no definite points of coherence.

Indeed, the main difficulty involved in the working of autonomous Women Citizens' Associations would be their isolated position, with no headquarters, and little influence outside their own area. If the N.U.W.S.S. becomes a Union aiming at definite legislation on all matters of special significance to women, then its headquarters will be a means of linking up all groups of women citizens who desire to take combined action. As parts of a National Organisation they would then have the great advantage of a National Council and Headquarters, of coherence and driving force. Those who are in favour of this wide scope for the future National Union are fully aware that it will do its best work if it "does not spread itself out too thin"; year by year, at its Annual and Provincial Councils, it must consider and determine what reforms are of paramount importance at the moment, and it must lay its main emphasis on these definite reforms; but there will be the saving grace that, with its objects broadly framed, it will not find itself at some crucial moment faced with a limited choice.

M. G. THODAY.

## Correspondence.

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

### "THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL UNION."

MADAM.—We owe Miss Rathbone our gratitude for her attempt to help us in our wrestlings with the Agenda of the Annual Council Meeting. It is useful to have "sketched" but in broad lines the ideas which have been in the minds of some of the Executive Committee who have been planning out the future of the National Union." Yet some of us still find it difficult to grasp the precise reasons for the choice advised on the alternative courses which the Agenda presents.

These alternatives concern two principal issues: (1) Is the formula "equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women" likely to provide a broad enough platform for our Union in the new situation created by the Franchise Act? (2) Should our Societies undertake themselves, or form other "autonomous" Associations to undertake the practical administration and educational work of the proposed "Women Citizens' movement"? Miss Rathbone is deeply interested in the Women Citizens' movement and wants the Union to forward it. She admits—she proclaims—that the equality formula does not cover the work of the Women Citizens' movement. Does she therefore advocate the enlarging of the formula so that it shall cover the work to be done? On the contrary, she asks us to accept the formula as it stands and get over the difficulty by deciding that our Societies shall not be Women Citizens' Associations (under some other name) but shall only form them. But WHY? I can find no ghost of a reason put forward in all Miss Rathbone's article!

Where Women Citizens' Associations already exist under other auspices, by all means let them continue so. Some of us (I among them) have allowed ourselves to be obsessed by these comparatively rare cases, and it is time we freed ourselves from our obsession. Where these Associations do not exist and where our Societies are to get the work done, why should they try to get other people to do it instead of doing it themselves? If the Women Citizens' movement is so important—as I believe it is—and if our Societies are peculiarly fitted by their constitution and experience to foster it—as I believe they are—why erect complicated and wholly superfluous machinery which will break down of its own weight when so much simpler a course is open to us? If Miss Rathbone would simplify the Agenda for us, let her cut clean away all this unnecessary tackle and the thing is done! No one can love cumbersome machinery merely for its own sake!

The White Knight, it will be remembered,  
"was thinking of a plan  
To dye one's whiskers green,  
And always wear so large a fan  
That they should not be seen—"

And our W.C.A. plan as it appears on the agenda seems to me to have been conceived in much the same spirit. Why should we restrict our stated "objects" to half the work we wish to do and camouflage the rest under the make-believe of a separate organisation?

I hope at the Council we shall make our "objects" "not only a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women, but also freedom of opportunity for women to make their full contribution to the affairs of the nation." Then we shall have scope for the work Miss Rathbone and all of us want

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The speakers at the Celebration on March 13th at Queen's Hall will include, besides the Chairman, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., the Earl of Lytton, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, the Rt. Hon. A. Henderson, and Miss Maude Royden.

Sir Hubert Parry will conduct the London Symphony Orchestra and a portion of the Bach Choir in a stirring programme, which will include the Léonora Overture No. 3. The choral music, not yet arranged, will be announced later.

Seats for the Celebration are priced from 1 guinea in the Stalls and Grand Circle, to 1s. in the Balcony, with the intermediate positions priced at 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d. The entertainment tax has to be added, particulars of which can be seen on the advertisements.

### The Final Agenda.

The final Agenda, which will reach Societies on February 22nd, requires a few words of explanation.

It differs from the Preliminary Agenda somewhat in its arrangement. Everything that appeared upon the Preliminary Agenda, however, appears upon the Final Agenda; but in some cases the order of resolutions and amendments has been rearranged for greater clearness.

The first section of the Resolutions deals with those called for by the passage of the Representation of the People Act. These are followed by two general resolutions, re-stating the present objects of the Union. Next comes the widest of the proposed alterations in the constitution of the Union proposed by Edinburgh, which, if carried, would rule out of order the subsequent detailed resolutions upon extensions of objects and of work. This is immediately followed by the resolution on the extension of the objects proposed by the Executive Committee, and the amendments to it proposed by Chinley and Manchester, which embody the main point of difference between the two schemes called A and B. The next section deals with Women Citizens' Associations, the two schemes (called X and Y) being here presented. This is followed by a section defining the programme of the Union, and another describing the administration work which (in general outline) are common to both schemes A and B.

At this point the Agenda Committee consider that the Council will have decided which of the two schemes it proposes in the main to adopt. An urgency resolution will therefore be moved at this point specifically adopting one of the schemes, and the Council will then have the opportunity of taking minor alterations in it, and the consequential changes in rules, in detail. It will, however, be possible to refer this matter to the Executive Committee, or some other body if the Council so desires, as the main decisions which will guide the immediate work will already have been taken. All the consequential changes and other alterations in the schemes are printed not on the Agenda, but with the schemes themselves, and the point at which they will be in order will be as amendments to the Urgency Resolution of the Agenda Committee.

The next section of the Agenda deals with resolutions to be placed on the Programme of the Union, and this is followed by (1) other changes in rules not consequential on any schemes of new work; (2) a section on women at the Peace Conference after the war; and (3) a small section of miscellaneous resolutions.

Delegates are urged to study the Agenda carefully, and to come prepared to stay during the three days of the Council.

The most important decision to be taken is that relating to the future work and objects of the Union, the proposals for the formation of Women Citizens' Associations being closely allied to it. In view of the complexity of the agenda, and the probability that amendments will be proposed on the spot, Societies are advised to give their representatives a general guidance as to the direction in which they wish the Union to develop rather than detailed instructions as to how to vote on each resolution or amendment.

### Literature Department.

The Literature Committee issues this week a new leaflet, "Six Million Women Can Vote," on the qualifications of women parliamentary electors, and how they are to get on the Register. It is in simple language, and is intended for wide distribution. Price 1s. 6d. per 100. (Postage 2jd.) Amendments in the House of Lords have delayed the reprint of Miss Macmillan's article "And shall I have a Parliamentary Vote?" from THE COMMON CAUSE of February 1st, but this is undergoing revision, and will appear shortly. The proprietors of PUNCH have kindly given the National Union permission to reproduce the cartoon "At last," which appeared in PUNCH of January 23rd, in post card form. Cards are now on sale at 2d. each. The department is stocking the leaflet published by the Women's Local Government Society, which gives details of Local Government franchises for women. Price 1s. 9d. per 100. (Postage 2jd.)

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

#### LONDON UNITS.

The work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals received Royal recognition on Monday, February 18th, when their Majesties the King and Queen inspected the "Elsie Inglis Unit" which is to start for the Eastern Front within the next week. The Unit left the London Office, 66, Victoria Street, shortly after 11 a.m., and marched by way of Buckingham Gate to the Palace. Dr. Annette Benson, as C.M.O., and Miss Hedges, as Transport Officer, led the way, and were followed by the hospital "Greys" in double file, while the Motor Transport "Buffs" brought up the rear.

As the line swung round through the Palace gates, a military band passed, marching in the opposite direction, and it was therefore to martial strains that the Unit entered the grounds. After a short interval, during which the Unit took up its position, the officials of the London Committee and Dr. Benson entered the Palace, and were presented to their Majesties. The doors were then opened once more, and as the King and Queen came down the steps, accompanied by Dr. Benson, the Unit stood smartly to attention. All the officers were presented in turn by their C.M.O., the Queen showing a special interest in Dr. Ward's account of Dr. Inglis's last days, while the King asked several questions about the retreats of the Scottish Women in Serbia and Roumania of those members of the Unit who had already served in previous campaigns.

The inspection over, His Majesty made a brief speech, in which he complimented the Unit on the courage they displayed in taking up work with Allied nations, in the time of stress and danger, and concluded his remarks by wishing the Unit "a safe voyage, good luck in your work, and a speedy return."

The march back was made by way of Buckingham Palace Road and Victoria Street, and caused considerable interest among the general public. In the afternoon, Mrs. Kinnell was At Home to the General and Executive Committees of the London Units, when the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley was present to wish the "Elsie Inglis Unit" success in all its endeavours, Dr. Benson replying on behalf of the Unit.

The advance party leaves for the Front on Wednesday, February 20th, and other detachments will follow later.

[Donations are urgently needed for the maintenance of the Unit and should be sent to the Rt. Hon. Viscountess Coadray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.]

#### LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work having been undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H. Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Forward as per list to January 31st, 1918. £25,937 3 10  
Further donations received to February 14th, 1918.—  
Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H. Greenock.  
Proceeds of "Christmas Show and War Relics Exhibition," Greenock—£150 4s. less expenses £18 17s. 5d.—Greenock Christmas No. 1." Bed. Royaumont (£50); "Greenock Christmas No. 11." Bed. Royaumont (Elsie Inglis' Hospital, Greenock Ward) (£50); "Chrysanthemum Day—Greenock" Ambulance, Royaumont (£20); (Balance of £15 6s. 7d. held over for Gramophone in sort) Bed. "Greenock Christmas Gift to Greenock Ward, Christmas, 1917." £2nd to 45th Penny Weekly Collection in Greenock, further for Ambulance for Serbians (£38 4s. 5d.).  
Messrs. Hally & Co., Sale of Waste Paper Tubes for Halley & Co. Auchterarder." Bed (Elsie Inglis' Hospital) (£6 11s. 2d.); "Firm and Workers, Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., Port Glasgow, for upkeep of "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" Bed (New Hospital, Greenock Ward) (£6 3s.); Glen Yard Ironworkers' Patriotic Fund, per A. Quinn, Esq., Serbian Hospital (£3 3s.); Per Miss E. H. Brown, Greenock—Miss Brown, Gowankbank, Dunoon, £12 10s.; Rev. George McNeill, St. Anne's Bay, Jamaica, B.W.I., £12 10s.—(£20 to continue Annie B. McNeill" Bed, Villers-Cotterets); Kilmarnock Collections per Mrs. Robertson, for "Kilmarnock Children's Cot," Bed (Serbian Hospital); Kilmarnock Academy, per Dr. Clark (£15 17s. 1½d.); Loanhead School, per the Headmaster (£14 10s. 6d.); Hamilton School, per the Headmaster (£11 1s.); Bentinck School, per the Headmaster (£6 7s. 6d.); Grammar School, per the Headmaster (£3 7s. 10½d.).

### The

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There is a host of witnesses to the success of the Alabone Treatment. One may take the experience of those who had been given up to die of consumption by our best-known specialists. Their name is legion, and they come from all classes of society. Dukes and other peers and persons of title, bishops, and men eminent in the legal and other professions have given their written and verbal statements, not only that they have experienced lasting benefit themselves, but that they have seen many cases similar to their own treated with equal success.

The father of one patient, in writing of this treatment, commends it in the warmest terms. He states: "We happened to hear of your treatment, and resolved to try it, and in a very short time she began to improve so that after six months of your treatment she was pronounced by two doctors to be quite cured. They both said that there is not the slightest trace of the disease now."

It is also of interest at the present time to read the following extract from a letter sent by a member of our Territorial Forces, who writes: "My parents and myself thought it would soon be all over with me. However, thank God, after proceeding and persevering with your treatment, I was totally cured. A period of nine years has now elapsed since giving up your treatment, and I am now a member of the Territorial Forces. I think this speaks for itself, and therefore requires no further comment."

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the fact that the results are lasting, for it is in this essential feature that the Alabone Treatment differs from the so-called cures which have been introduced with a flourish of trumpets from time to time. It has undergone the test of forty years, and has emerged triumphant.

To refer fully to the evidence furnished by leading journals in support of the Alabone Treatment would occupy too much of our space; we, therefore, give brief extracts only from the following journal. "Truth," in a long article describing the life-work of Dr. Alabone, makes the following comment:—

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When one finds a periodical like "Truth," which is a bitter enemy of all frauds and shams, devoting a whole page to the eulogy of Dr. Alabone, it is clear that his methods were genuinely successful.

Readers desiring further particulars regarding this successful treatment for the cure of Consumption are recommended to procure a copy of Dr. Alabone's important book, "The Cure of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, and other Diseases of the Chest," illustrated by numerous cases pronounced "incurable" by the most eminent physicians, now in its 49th edition, 178th thousand, which can be obtained for 2s. 6d. post free, from the Secretary, The Dr. E. W. Alabone Treatment, Lynton House, 12, Highbury Quadrant, London, N. 5, who will gladly answer any inquiry upon this vital subject.—Advt.

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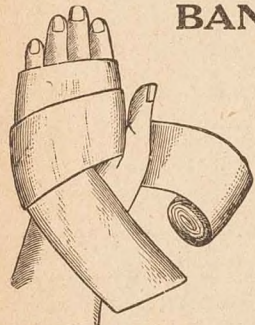
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FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table listing names of donors and the names of beds named in their honor, such as 'Greenock Christmas No. I' and 'Hally & Co. Anchtarder'.

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

February 24: Birmingham—East Birmingham Labour Church; February 25: Kennington—Wheatheaf Mission Hall; February 26: Scarborough—The Committee 'At Home'; February 27: Rugby—New Schools; February 28: Chinley—The Cafe; March 1: Kennington—Women's Unionist Association.

Coming Events.

February 22nd.—At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.—An address will be given by Miss Smee, U.D.C. on 'The Work of a Public Health Committee'.

Reports.

Manchester and District Federation. Under the auspices of the Clitheroe Branch of the N.U., a Conference was held on January 22nd last. Representatives were present from the Co-operative Women's Guild (3 Branches), Women's Labour League and the Colne Progressive Congregational Church.

Accrington W.S.S.—On Tuesday, January 29th, a conference was held in the Accrington Town Hall (Council Chamber), which was kindly lent by the Mayor of the town.

CHINLEY.—A meeting of representative women was held at the Cafe, on Thursday, February 7th, Mrs. Thoday in the chair, to discuss 'What women can do with the Vote.'

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH.—A small meeting held at the Victoria Cafe on Saturday, February 9th, to discuss the prospects of a Society for Women Citizenship in Chapel. Chair: Mrs. Thoday; Speaker: Mrs. Annot Robinson.

SEAFORTH AND WATERLOO W.S.S.—A successful Drawing-room Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 13th, at Mrs. Rollos', Waterloo Park.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A THANKSGIVING for the EXTENSION of the FRANCHISE to WOMEN will be held in BROWNING HALL, York St., Walworth, S.E. on Sunday, February 24th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage, Manchester Branch.

Service of Thanksgiving & Dedication, on February 23rd, at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral, Manchester. Preacher: Rev. Canon Peter Green, M.A.

LECTURES

155, BROMPTON ROAD on THEOSOPHY & the INVISIBLE WORLDS Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. and every Friday at 3.30 on THEOSOPHY and the GOSPEL STORY Admission Free.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE.

The Committee desire to thank all who have supported the Association in its protest against facilities for immorality provided for British Troops in France and elsewhere.

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

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WANTED, trustworthy middle-aged working cook-house keeper; entire charge. Cottage easily worked, one lady. Shops near. £25.—Miss Plowden, Knebworth, Herts.

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

WANTED.—LADIES AS REPRESENTATIVES to a well-known old-established Insurance Company. An entirely new opening for women workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.—For particulars write Miss Rochford, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

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

(Continued on page 596)

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Continued from page 595]

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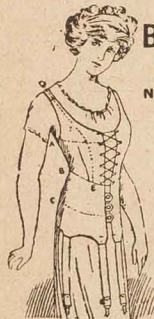
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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitechapel House, Carmelite St., London E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. London: George Vickers. Manchester: John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. H. Smith & Son. Edinburgh and Glasgow: J. Menzies & Co. Dublin and Belfast: Eason & Son.