

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union* 561. [NON-PARTY.]

VOL. VIII., No. 394.]

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1916.

[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.

The Conference.

The Conference on Electoral Reform continues its sittings. Nothing has as yet transpired as to the discussions which are taking place, but it seems unlikely that a speedy conclusion will be reached. An article in *The Times*, for October 24th, suggests various forms of compromise, including a "fancy" franchise for women. Efforts to please everyone are apt to end in pleasing no one, and it is to be hoped that the Conference will not waste time in wandering through a maze of fancy schemes, but will realise that simplicity and common sense are the surest and most satisfactory guides in the end.

Wages at the Steel Works.

"A good deal of steel-casting is called for in connection with mercantile shipbuilding," reports a writer in a recent number of *The Economist*. "Regarding wages, a little anxiety is being experienced amongst Sheffield manufacturers of some of the lighter steels, especially amongst makers of such things as files, as a result of the new Government regulations regarding the payment of women and girls. Many of these have all along been earning wages that put their former earnings into the shade, but the present scheme increases the wages in some cases to the extent of 50 per cent. For instance, small girls of thirteen, who have just left school and have had no experience, are put down at a minimum of from 10s. to 12s. per week, according to hours worked, and older girls proportionately higher. Firms that are not 'controlled' may appeal, and it is understood that a test case may be anticipated."

On making some further inquiry about wages paid to small girls, a Sheffield correspondent informs us that the result of the new regulation (447) is apt to be that employers paying 10s. to 12s. per week prefer to take older girls, aged sixteen or over. This applies to the silver trades, where the agreement stipulates for 10s. as the minimum learning wage for girls who are substitutes in the new processes. Boys are seldom employed in the same classes of work, so any comparison of wages is difficult to make; "but in any case it is almost impossible to obtain boys, because the munition works 'simply devour them.'" Under these circumstances, it would appear that juvenile labour is scarce at Sheffield, that manufacturers are anxious to keep down wages in a rising market, and that the present regulations tend, at Sheffield, to prevent small girls from going into the factory.

The War Bonus and Sex Distinctions.

We have had occasion several times lately to call attention to the unfair discrimination between men and women workers in the employ of the Government in the matter of the War bonus. Any male employee over eighteen years of age receives the full amount; every woman, precisely half of this allowance "made in respect of increased cost of living." The Liverpool City Council, we are glad to hear, has provided that men or women employees with dependants receive the bonus irrespective of sex. We commend this precedent to the Lords of the Treasury with a further query. Why should a male employee without dependants require extra nourishment? They appear to consider him a case for "special diet."



[By permission of the "Daily Graphic."]

WOMEN VOTING AT WESTMINSTER.

Australian women are recording their votes on the Conscription Referendum—a good omen for the women of Great Britain.

An Urgent Problem of National Health.

A very earnest tone pervaded the crowded meeting held on October 24th at the Mansion House to discuss the combating of venereal disease, and a real desire was shown to take the best possible measures for dealing with the terrible scourge that takes such heavy toll of life. Every one of the speakers was strongly against compulsory notification—at least for the present. This, explained Mr. Walter Long, was not because they were afraid. The Government would leave nothing undone to grapple with the problem of clearing the country of this hideous curse. But they had gone thoroughly into the matter, and had quite definitely come to the conclusion that, for the present, compulsory notification would simply defeat its own object. He was very confident that the New Year would see the Government's scheme embarked upon fully.

Several speakers paid tribute to the excellent work done by women police and women patrols, and spoke of the further work which they could do. It was also realised that women doctors have an important part to play in stamping out the disease. Sir Thomas Barlow advocated hospitals staffed entirely by women for dealing with women patients. He laid stress on the need for making treatment as easy as possible, and for avoiding attaching to it any sort of stigma. Very many of the people requiring treatment were, he pointed out, innocent victims, including numbers of respectable married women. Lady Barrett (Dr. Florence Willey) emphasised this view, and suggested that instead of having separate clinics for venereal diseases there should be special sections attached to general hospitals, and that the work should be so organised that no one outside need know that a patient was being treated for this disease. Many people would seek treatment, if they could be sure of privacy, who would be afraid to go openly to a clinic which everyone associated with venereal disease, and with which a stigma would be associated in the public mind.

Protection for One Sex Only.

There was a tendency on the part of some of the speakers to talk as if the danger of infection came from women only, and to ignore the equal danger to women from men. Mr. Herbert Samuel stated that the action of the police with regard to the arrest of prostitutes was in no small degree hampered by the restrictions imposed by the statute law. "It was also, unhappily, the case that at the present time these diseases were spread through the agency of quite young girls, who were not of the 'professional' class, and could not be dealt with by measures directed against that class." But who infected these young girls? And is it not as important to protect them from infection as to protect the young men whom they, in turn, infect? It must be remembered that the age of consent in this

country is sixteen (though considerably higher in countries where women are enfranchised), and that a man cannot be arrested for soliciting a woman.

The Real Remedy is Knowledge.

Almost the only reference to the educative side of the question came from the one woman speaker. The question of providing treatment was thoroughly explained and discussed, and Mr. Herbert Samuel announced that the Government was prepared to pay 75 per cent. of the cost of administration of their policy. He also wanted to make it a crime for any person knowingly to infect another, and he made the suggestion that no one should be discharged from any institution in an infectious state, but that such cases should be sent to hospital for compulsory treatment till cured. But it rested with Lady Barrett to point out that we must go to the root of the matter, and try to check the indulgence that is the cause of disease. "All that we are doing," she said, "is only curative. The real prevention is knowledge." Mothers, fathers, school-teachers, and others must do all they can to bring knowledge of this evil to the young, so that youth should not be able to say "Why were we not told?" This was the piteous cry she had so often heard from girls in the course of her practice.

Both girls and young men will need to learn more discipline and more self-control if the problem of stamping out venereal disease is to be thoroughly tackled. It is little use to teach these duties to one sex only, while the other is allowed to grow up with the idea that self-control cannot be expected of men.

The Danger of One-sided Restrictions.

That there is a real danger of an attempt to protect men and make vice safe for them, without any corresponding attempt to protect women, is shown by some observations on preventive detention made by Mr. Francis, at Westminster Police-court, on October 24th, in the case of two girls, charged with soliciting soldiers. It is thus reported in *The Daily Telegraph*—

"Mr. Francis said there was a special medical report from the prison as to both defendants, and as long as he sat on the bench he would do everything he could to ensure detention in such cases, even if he had to remain in custody week after week.

"Mr. Barnett, the court missionary, said there were grave difficulties—the cases were so numerous. Every day, when fines of 50s. were imposed, the money was readily forthcoming and the evil so multiplied. He did not think there was any special medical treatment during remands in custody, and if girls were sent to the workhouse infirmary they were in a position to take their discharge within forty-eight hours, and usually did so.

"Mr. Francis said he did not wish to do anything which might appear harsh, but there must be some protection from the scourge which was doing such terrible mischief. Prisoners would be sent to the infirmary for a lengthy period under probation, a condition of which was they should remain, or be liable to be brought back for punishment."

What a Soldier Thinks.

THE WOMAN'S QUESTION IN WAR TIME.

[Through the kindness of one of our readers we are permitted to publish this delightful letter from a soldier on active service abroad. The writer of the letter had been deeply interested in the work carried on at a school for mothers at Bagley Wood, near Oxford, in the days before the war, and after eighteen months of life in the trenches, has written down, for an old friend, his thoughts on the part of women in national life.]

"The half-day I spent at Bagley Wood left a lasting impression. The names of some of the students who were there that day are very vivid in my mind. Even some of the items discussed still linger with me. The 'Woman's Movement' was one.

"Since then we have had that movement brought to the front a good deal more. Even this war—whilst it has made us forget a lot of things, has made it quite evident that women must be recognised. But I'm very much afraid they (the women) will have to fight for every inch of ground.

"The opponents are so well entrenched in behind parapets of ignorance that they will take some shifting. It is said that the English 'Tommy' has more grit than any other soldier. That may or may not be. One thing is certain, though, he has a good share of grit. But where does he get it if not from, or partly from, his mother?

"And I can tell you I am hoping to see a display of that grit after this war is over. Old England has been brought to see that she has ignored too long the other half of her nature. In the future we will have to face problems that only our women

can solve. For instance, do you think that man alone can solve the housing, intemperance, education, and other important questions? I am convinced he cannot. What a lot of time we could save if the women were given their full share in the work. Many may think that they are not educated enough to take any of the work on. But they never will be if we go on in the old way.

"That cannot be, though, thank goodness. Changes there will, and must be. The man cannot boast about his educational accomplishments, can he? Your experiences amongst so many of the mothers will have proven to you, I feel sure, that if given the right education and the opportunity to learn, the women could become as efficiently equipped for the affairs of the nation as men. That is my candid opinion. Now let me thank you for that day I spent at Bagley Wood.

"For your work amongst the mothers and the babies I am only one of many who have thanked you over and over again, and that without really knowing you other than through your work. It is uphill work, but I feel certain that you will have had many moments of joy from the grateful look in the eyes of the little kiddies. If ever a reformer worked for the future, you are one.

"The good you are doing will not be seen in full bloom for many years. But it is certain that the care given to the mothers and the babies now is all work for the future.

"I hope I have not bored you by my straggling ideas. I am surprised at myself, for really this employment of being a soldier does lend itself to much thinking."

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

WITH THE AMERICAN UNITS.

The following is a most interesting extract from a letter from Dr. Sybil Lewis to a friend. Dr. Lewis is in the American Unit, and was previously with Dr. Hutchison at Valjevo:—

"We are getting our tents pitched in a beautiful spot, and hope all the equipment will be here in a day or two, and then we shall be able to start in earnest. Don't be worried if my letters are a little erratic in arrival, as posts from here are not so regular as from Salonika. I am delighted to be away from Salonika, and up among the hills, where one can breathe.

"We came all the way by motor. Fancy a string of thirty-nine Fords! and all had to stop if one went wrong. Fortunately for me I was in the first, so escaped the worst of the dust. The first few hours was across the plain, and would have been dull but for the other occupants of the road, who varied from Greeks and Turks in their picturesque clothes to French, and even a string of carts under the guidance of Chinese, with their curious little star-shaped helmets. Then mules, buffaloes, horses, autos of all varieties, family groups flitting, or at their cottage doorways, as we bumped past. We had a long wait by the roadside at dinner time, while three punctures were repaired, and then went on. Once we got into a block, a very narrow bridge, carts already stopped on it, and not room for us to pass, when a cavalcade coming in the other direction tried to do so. Confusion worse confounded when the buffaloes found themselves faced with Fords. However, we backed, and let them pass the carts in front, and get on slowly into a wider part of the road; then we ran past and got ahead again. Then for a long time we had the road almost to ourselves, and then we began to mount, and the roads and bridges became correspondingly difficult. One bridge, of planks, had three loose planks on one side and a hole in the middle of the other—but we got safely over—another had to be crossed as it were on rails, loose planks laid for the wheels at each side, then a ford with a bridge of stones, followed by an upward incline and a sharp corner, and then a mountain to climb by a zig-zag road.

"Some of the engines bucked at last; they had already done extraordinarily well, and had got so hot that they really could do no more. The one I was behind said so very clearly, as we got out and prepared to have tea.

"We had just finished when the officer in charge of the convoy, who was looking over the edge of the road to the windings below, suddenly said (but in quite a casual tone), "There's one of the cars over the edge, before my very eyes!" We rapidly emptied another (which had also stuck) close by, and he and I got on, and ran down to the scene of the accident. The driver and his only passenger, a sister, were both out of the ruin and lying by the roadside, she, shaken only, and he with a cut on the temple and a few bruises. The car was literally standing on its head, but had not had a deep drop, or they would hardly have escaped so easily. I sent them both back in an ambulance to a hospital we had passed on the way. I could not have the Sister spending the night by the roadside after such a shock, nor, indeed, landing in a half-prepared camp. She came on next day, and the driver, they said, would be out by Saturday—so 'all's well that ends well.'

"After that it was 'Go straight on'—every car that can—and get as many to the camp for night as possible." So the engined cars sorted their passengers, and took as many as they could, and on we went. Three times the engine behind which I was, had to be flattered and coaxed. She had never been used to such roads, but a Ford never gave in, etc., etc. A drink of water, a shove behind to start, and finally, after going through the most deliciously picturesque villages, and past a wee lake with reeds and rushes, we ploughed down sandy lanes, and bumped ourselves by the lamplight from the side-lights into the site of the camp."

On September 20th, Dr. Bennett wrote from "Up Country in Macedonia," where the Unit was in the midst of most serious and stubborn fighting:—

"Our conditions are more strenuous even than when I last wrote. We have now admitted 221 patients; twenty-three have died, which will show you how serious our cases are. In an ordinary hospital quite half of our cases would be considered worthy of special nurses. Our staff are working splendidly and do everything possible. . . . If you can see your way to send me more ambulances and drivers, will you do so? Many of the patients came in with chest symptoms, owing to lying out on the hills waiting for transport. We require a much larger number of stretchers for this work—100 would be most acceptable."

An urgent appeal for funds is again being made. The Headquarters Committee, Edinburgh, are now responsible for

Royaumont, 400 beds; Girton and Newnham Unit, 300 beds; American Unit, 200 beds, Mrs. Harley's Transport Column and the Hospital for Serbian Refugees at Ajaccio. Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, will gratefully acknowledge all subscriptions.

EQUIPMENT.

The Equipment Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, is badly in need of the following articles: Blankets, white and coloured; pillows; sheets, old and new; pillow-cases; towels of all sorts; day shirts, cotton and flannel; handkerchiefs; hot water bags, rubber; nightshirts, flannel and cotton; pyjamas, flannel and flannelette; sphagnum moss pads.

WITH THE LONDON UNITS.

A further report from Dr. Elsie Inglis, who is in charge of the Field Hospitals in Roumania sent out by the London Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, has just arrived. It describes many picturesque incidents of the long journey across Russia. Throughout the Units were received with enthusiasm.

At the port at which they arrived the Town Guard lined up from the ship to the station, and the Russian soldiers tossed various officials, according to their national custom. Dr. Elsie Inglis was tossed, among others, and was glad it was dark and that there were no cameras.

A special train was provided for the Units, and a letter from a certain high official acted as magic all along the line. The carriages were lighted by tallow candles, and the washing arrangements were primitive; but there was a sleeping berth for every member of the Unit. Meals were provided at irregular intervals, and the days were full of interest, with the new scenes that unfolded themselves. At Moscow, members of the Unit had an opportunity of seeing the Kremlin.

RECEPTION AT ODESSA.

At Odessa, the Governor of the Town, and other Russian officials, the British Consul, and twenty Serbian officers, awaited their arrival on the platform. Here the Units stayed four days, and were royally entertained. One day, Dr. Inglis and others dined at the mess of the Serbian officers of the 2nd Division.

"We had a wonderful reception," writes Dr. Elsie Inglis; "the whole mess of two hundred men rising when we went in, and cheering till we were nearly deafened. . . . It is something to remember."

She writes, too, of a gala performance at the opera, for which the Mayor sent tickets for fourteen boxes.

THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA PAVLOVA.

The Grand Duchess Maria Pavlova was present, and inspected the Units in the corridor, speaking to each of its members. She devotes much of her time to Red Cross work in Russia.

"When we got back to our seats the orchestra played the British National Anthem three times, and the third time the Unit took up the air, and sang, the whole audience turning towards us, cheering and waving handkerchiefs. . . . I felt quite choky. . . . It is a great thing to feel that we are going to our work with so much enthusiasm behind us."

A SECOND VERDUN.

"They say, in the papers," continues Dr. Inglis, "that we have Hindenburg and Mackensen against us on the front where we are going, and that it is going to be a second Verdun. . . . I have wired asking for another hospital for the base. I know you have your hands full. . . . but I also know that if the people at home realise what their help would mean out here just now, we would not have to ask twice. I only wish they could see the Serbian force here—such magnificent fighting men."

IN THE DOBRUDJA.

Letters bring us up to this point, but we know by wire that the Units are near the firing line now, probably some of them at the first dressing-station, in the Dobrudja. Wires have come for more ether, chloroform, &c. The necessity for money to accede to their requests is pressing. The idea of refusing them is heartrending. Subscriptions to these Field Hospitals should be sent to the Joint Treasurers of the London Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, The Lady Cowdray, and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster.

First-Hand Experiences.

XVII.—SOME OXFORD WOMEN ON THE LAND.

"The nicest thing we ever did was to go on the land," some of our party agreed, after having worked for a month at 14s. a week as unskilled labourers. We seem to have been lucky in our district and its inhabitants, for our neighbours took us naturally from the beginning, and showed every disposition of friendliness. An advance party, cycling into the unknown, was received at the farm of our destination with "So you've come. Will you have some tea? Lucy will show you the way to the cottage and bring you your milk at night." When Lucy, aged eleven, had escorted us to the semi-detached cottage where we were lodged, the shepherd neighbour poked his head in half shyly with an "you can pull the cabbages, and have some currants; we've carted wood into the shed close by, and they've brought coal," and soon afterwards some of his babies knocked at the door to bring flowers and look at the strange ladies. An empty shepherd's cottage on a hillside and overlooking a sloping hayfield had been furnished with all essentials by our employer, and we used to look at its grey roof and square chimneys that sent up a thin trail of smoke as we were working long hours in the fields close by. Labouring on the land increases one's sense of the value of one's own fireside and sheltering roof. Inconveniences are part of a cottager's life. You are lucky to have a clear spring just outside your porch, from which you can carry your water supply indoors pail by pail. "Ye'll be takin' the whole well indoors next," said the shepherdess next door, as she watched us with surprise. A large family, increased by a blind lodger, work on the land, and a liking for the occasional distractions of the village made her shun extensive use of the well, but also gave her a large-hearted tolerance of those whose views were different. The difficulties in the way of instituting pumps and sinks in country cottages are great, but where it has been done the housewife's life has been transformed.

The cottagers' friendliness made us particularly anxious to show that we had not come to play but to work. The first day we found we offended by continuing our hoeing of thistles when rain set in. It was natural to us, but to the labourer a change of clothes is a serious thing, and we quickly learnt to follow the lead of "Thomas," our instructor, who wrapped himself in a sack and sat under a hedge for shelter, and if the rain continued concluded, "Us 'ad better be going home." But we were put to the test as to our determination to work. The solemn shepherd summoned us with a nod on the first really wet day, and we found ourselves cleaning a stable that had not been touched with broom or pitchfork for two years, satisfactory work showing its results quickly, for where our zest was perhaps half-assumed at first, we were pleased to find large manure heaps growing outside the stable as the hours passed, and when we discovered that our task was considered three-quarters of a day's work for four men, and that our party of four women had worked well up to time and finishing early, with time over for more "docking," we felt satisfied that we had passed our test. Working hours were from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for women, and from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. for men. We were ready for either, and doubtful as to whether we were to be considered men or women, but when we found on enquiry that we should raise dismay locally by considering ourselves men, we conformed to the women's hours, greatly to the shepherdess's relief. We had our chance of longer hours on haymaking days, which began with the improved weather. On these we worked till 7 p.m., or as much longer as was necessary. In this way hours taken off for sheltering are equalised by the agricultural labourer. There is no half-holiday on Saturday in that district. "Maybe we'll get it after the war," thought Thomas. Most would use the holiday, it seems, to dig their own garden plot, for which there is very little time at the seasons when the garden cries out for work.

If we were lucky in our district and our neighbours, we were luckiest of all in our employer, whose personal influence told much in those parts. He knew his men and knew about their work, and, as a keen farmer and broad-minded landowner, would close his eyes to the doings of the picturesque rabbit-catcher with his traps of tar buckets, but he also knew how to come round. "I know you'll do your best to help us these haying days," and the labourer who described the scene said, "You can't help doing your best when the Squire thinks that of us." Besides the 14s. a week, the labourers have their cottage and a garden (which they work themselves in their free time), and they are given coal, wood, and milk, according to the size of their families, so that the rate of pay is not so poor as it looks on paper.

Arcadia is the home of Conservatism and conventionality, and we found the one thing we must not do was to shock local feeling. They accepted our short skirts as ladies' ways; but they would have resented emancipation from the social standard in other ways that tempted us. We spent our nights indoors, we respected the Sabbath, we were careful not to exact or expect anything that one labourer does not naturally do as a kindness to another, we conformed to the codes of neighbourliness. But perhaps most important of all seemed great care in showing that we had come as unskilled workers ready to learn from the skilled. We found that they understood us over this, were ready to show us anything, and took a great interest in our progress; in exchange they turned to us for news of the war or occasional advice about clothes or children, and we parted wishing on both sides to see more of one another, and as regards work we had the satisfaction of hearing that the local farmers' meeting passed us as a successful experiment after three weeks of our work; and at a place ten miles away from our farm, where I begged a cup of a friendly cottager, I was told incidentally as news, "Those ladies at so-and-so are doing well, the farmers say."

To us there remains the happy memory of long days in the open fields, with views of far hills and clumps of trees or grazing cattle, and an intimate knowledge of this or that field in particular on which we saw our haycocks at a far distance! Certainly it was hard work and brought stiff muscles during the first week. People who do not wish to take their holidays actively had better avoid the land; but to the others it should be wholesome recreation and an avenue to many an experience and a better knowledge of a world that does not labour for pleasure.

"YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU."

AN APPEAL TO EDUCATED WOMEN.

The Ministry of Munitions is prepared to receive applications from women who desire to be trained as munition workers. Various centres have been established for such training by arrangement with the Education authorities, and it is hoped that women of education and leisure hours will answer this call for their services.

Since the cry arose for more shells thousands of women, it is true, have entered upon work in munition factories, but as the war proceeds, "shops" multiply and work piles up. More machines call for more "hands," and the nation looks for help to its reserve of labour—the women of goodwill with time at their disposal. It is obviously not desired that women who are already employed on productive tasks should transfer their services to munition works. But there are numbers of other women who are doubtless eager to help their country in its time of need, if they knew but how.

There are, for instance, the women whose husbands and fiancés are at the front, and upon whose hands the hours lag; there are women who would gladly exchange the artist's coat for the workshop overall, and those who would willingly put aside their books, their music, their needlework, and all less urgent tasks, if they could thereby forward the national cause. Such as these will welcome the news that a free course of training can be obtained for munition work by any accepted students between the ages of eighteen and forty-five who will undertake to enter a factory at the close of their course.

The training at the various centres occupies only a few weeks, the maximum being six weeks, six days a week, four hours a day—144 hours in all. At the end of this time the student will find that she has acquired the bases of munition work, that she has become an ally of the machine, and so can pass out with confidence to the work in the munition factory. The foundation thus acquired might be summarised thus: The student "learns to work to size"—in other words, she is taught how to handle with accuracy the raw material of munitions. She learns how to measure and how to "turn," how to "bore" and how to drill; to "shape" and to "mill" in an exact fashion. And, upon accuracy and judgment, keenness of sight and delicacy of touch, rather than upon physical strength, depends the part women take in the production of munitions. A mere child could often work the machines, but it needs a practised and a nice judgment to "finish" a shell, or to measure a gun-sight.

At the conclusion of the training, with her awakened "machine sense," she passes into the shops where she will probably earn an initial wage of £1 to 25s. a week. A proficient worker, however, will receive a much higher salary. Applications in writing should be made to the Training Department, Ministry of Munitions, Whitehall, S.W.

Reviews.

OUR NASCENT EUROPE. (St. Catherine's Press. 1s.)

"Amidst all the mighty changes which this war is bringing, there is perhaps none greater than that which is overtaking the position of woman," says Lucy Re-Bartlett, in a chapter on "Woman and Destiny."

"In proportion as men are drawn to the war, so do their places require filling, and thus in every country women are being swept by a great current of destiny into many spheres of work for which human, or rather masculine judgment has hitherto declared them to be quite unfit. These facts are striking all, and many who have always disapproved of all extension of the sphere of woman are already becoming very nervous as to the final result."

In England especially, says Mrs. Re-Bartlett, people have already begun to consider the problems which will follow the war, and among them the question of the position of women who have been filling men's places. "There is frank opposition to the feminine irruption on the part of Trades Unionists, and opposition not so frank, but no less persistent, on the part of higher authorities."

The war has forced the acceptance of women in many occupations hitherto closed to them, but though "it has coerced indeed our action in many ways, it has not yet deeply illumined or changed our thought."

While regretting that the equalisation of woman's opportunities with those of men should have come about in this way—with resentment and fear on the part of a considerable section of the community—Mrs. Re-Bartlett hopes that a more general comprehension and acceptance may soon grow up. Examining some of the objections raised to the economic emancipation of women, she exposes the evils of the "parasitism" in which so many women live to-day—evils that affect not only the individual, but the race.

The war, she maintains, is "breaking down barriers and bringing new visions. In regard to women we may say that it is painting them to men for the first time in a human instead of a purely sexual light. Not devoid of sex assuredly, any more than man is devoid of it when he gives himself to other things, but capable, as man, of those 'other things.' Superior men in all countries have, of course, always had this conception of woman, but what the war is doing to-day is to drive it home also to the ordinary man—the man who constitutes the controlling multitude—the man whom we call 'the man in the street.' Obligated to avail themselves of the powers of women, men are finding that those powers, even outside the home, can make a very fair showing. . . . We are learning the great lesson which we required to learn—that there are competent and incompetent to be found indifferently in both the sexes, and that human excellence must be measured, not by sex, but by more interior and comprehensive standards."

At first sight, says Mrs. Re-Bartlett, it seems odd that in England, where women occupy a stronger position, politically and legally, than in France and Italy, there has been more opposition to their assumption of new fields of work than in either of the Latin countries. This she explains by the fact that in England the entrance of women into new occupations is regarded as possibly permanent, whereas in France and Italy "that which is granted to women to-day may more or less easily be withdrawn to-morrow."

"Here, even in the midst of a world-wide war, many men are seeing in this oncoming of women a thing big enough to resist, and all supporters of the old order are secretly fighting it with something of that desperate tenacity of which we all are capable when placed with our backs to the wall. It is probably the last fall of the woman's movement, this question of equal employment."

It is a situation full of irony, comments Mrs. Re-Bartlett, that it is Germany, who has held its own women in such subjection, that is yet helping to liberate ours "with a rapidity to which their own efforts have never attained."

That England should be called upon to take an important step forward, in regard to women, "with a permanency and irrevocability not yet exacted of some other nations," is only right, natural, and to be expected. For is not England further advanced in regard to Liberty than some other countries, and the liberty of women is but the *Third Stage of Liberty*? First comes always religious liberty, then political; and, lastly, emancipation from sex-tyranny; first the freedom of the spirit, then freedom of action; then last of all, freedom from the subjugating instincts.

After the war, the world will need the co-operation of women in a much wider field than ever before. "She may be rejected indeed, but only at grave peril."

"Thus dawns the age of woman, or rather the age in which a complete humanity, masculine and feminine, is called imperiously to bring its full collective contribution to the further evolution of our race."

In another chapter of her book Mrs. Re-Bartlett elaborates her idea of the part which women are to play in the future of Europe, and what her value in politics will be found to be.

SUGAR.

We have received for publication the following letter, addressed to the Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, by the British Women's Patriotic League:—

DEAR MADAM.—We venture to bring to your notice the following resolution which has been passed by the Executive Committee of this League:— "That in view of the scarcity of sugar at the present time for legitimate household requirements, some protest should be made by the women of the Empire against the manufacture of expensive sweets and the iced and elaborately decorated cakes which are abundantly on sale."

Knowing the difficulty which the poor are experiencing in buying sugar, we hope that your Committee will consider this question, and if possible bring it before any meetings which they may be organising.—Yours faithfully,

N. WALLACE, Secretary.

92, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.
October 11th, 1916.

Correspondence.

ECONOMY.

MADAM.—Faced, as we are, by the necessity for economy in every branch of our national life, are there not better ways of cutting down expenses than by depriving our children of sufficient well-paid, efficient teachers, and our people of the use of museums, picture galleries, &c.?

The following facts speak for themselves:— I have just been staying in an hotel on the south coast—an ordinary hotel, typical of thousands scattered through the land—and speaking only of the two principal meals of the day, luncheon and dinner, as served there, it seems to me an enormous daily wastage is going on. Three or four courses for lunch—with a good choice of dishes—and five or six courses for dinner may be agreeable, but are certainly neither economical nor hygienic.

And, quite apart from hygiene, think of the folly and pity of it! Food cooked and served daily, in utterly unnecessary profusion, throughout the hotels of the country, sending up prices, impairing health by encouraging over-eating, and (perhaps not the smallest item of waste) taking from two to three solid hours to consume, and much more to prepare. Yet we are told that time is money!

I suppose I shall be considered a very carping critic if I add one further remark. It was rather discouraging to see, among the many men in khaki, scarcely one following the example of our noble King, and the late Lord Kitchener, in the matter of water drinking.

Would it not be possible, by legislation, to make hotel life fit the times? Surely if the Government is in earnest in its work for retrenchment this would be one good method, entailing no hardship, and having only excellent results. If, at the same time, the weekly "day without meat" could become general, it is certain there would be an immediate fall in prices, and a general improvement in health, brains, and pockets.

ANNA E. MENZIES.

DEAR MADAM.—I have been interested in Mrs. Johnson's advice to practise economy by making one's own clothes. But why confine the pastime to the people who have time; change of occupation is always the best form of relaxation? There is no better rest to a tired brain-worker than the creation by her own hands of a garment! There is no feeling of independence more lofty than the knowledge that one can perfectly well repair and replenish one's own wardrobe. Thinking over one's clothes "scientifically" is not at all a bad antidote to real anxieties.

Follow these rules:—

Cut absolutely according to your pattern.

Put together and try on faithfully.

Never trim home-made clothes.

Never give way to panic in face of your material.

The simple dress is always the most expensive-looking; it is really quite easy to be a Paquin at home. Relax your cares in home dressmaking, even if you do more than "stand and wait."

H. M. K. W.

GIRL WORKERS IN THE EVENINGS.

MADAM.—In these days when the energy of social workers is being strained to the uttermost, it is hard to make a plea which will be heard by those who are still able to help. But our plea is not a new one. For very many years now the need for girls' clubs has been fully recognised by all; and it is only now perhaps that the full responsibilities of club workers are beginning to be understood.

We wonder whether among your readers there are some who, after the strenuous work of the day, can still find time to teach or to amuse working girls in the evenings? We would remind them that these girls, after their heavy day's toil, are still full of vitality, and they are able to appreciate those who give themselves in sympathetic service.

Our Secretary receives daily appeals for teachers in all kinds of subjects, and for those who will assist in giving recreation. Club work is infinite in variety, and those who are willing to help will always find plenty to do if they have the power to win the hearts of young girls.

The work is full of happiness, and we trust we may hear of those ready to undertake it.—Yours faithfully,

LOUISE CREIGHTON, President.
LILY H. MONTAGU, Chairman.
EDITH H. GLOVER, Hon. Sec.

National Organisation of Girls' Clubs, 118, Great Titchfield Street, W.

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on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and
Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).

Now.

Last week, in a brief survey of the past twelvemonth, we
traced the various causes which have led to the present demand
that Women's Suffrage shall be included in any scheme of
electoral reform.

It is strange, but true, that war conditions have brought
Women's Suffrage automatically to the front.

Given a voters' roll from which the voters have dropped out
to go abroad on active service or to work on munitions in
other areas: given a bye-election or two, when, to the bewilderment
of members, and perhaps still more of constituents, they
look round, see all these changes, and begin to ask themselves
whom the member actually represents; and, naturally, the dis-
covery follows, that the voters' roll needs revision.

But one discovery usually puts us in the way of making
half-a-dozen more. There are electoral reforms, long over-
due, that come up at once for consideration.

We are, politically speaking, something like a householder
who has not kept his house in order, but put off repairs for such
a long while, that a good deal needs doing. And now "some-
thing must be done," even in war-time, when it is harder than
ever to find the labour to get anything done. Repairs put off
far too long mean reconstruction; and a great deal of social
and political reconstruction, it is admitted, will be necessary.

The war strain has found out many weak points—the present
position of women in the body politic is one that has become
glaringly evident. Called upon by the Government in the name
of the Nation, as in the appeal of the Minister of Munitions,
which appears in our columns this week, women are urged to
come forward in increasing numbers to work in the places of the
absent voters. Is it too much to say, then, that the real agent
that has brought Women's Suffrage to the fore in war-
time was not political agitation—it is the War itself.

But there is a much greater and stronger force, driving home
with all the remorseless logic of events, the moral of Women's
Suffrage—and that is the coming Peace. To take only one
aspect of the case, the industrial aspect, we are hardly beginning
to realise, even yet, the immense problems looming ahead.

"The re-equipment of our factories for war purposes, in
both tools and workpeople, has wrought a revolution compar-
able with that effected by the introduction of the steam-engine,"
says Professor Kirkaldy in *Labour Finance and the War*.

"One may grieve over the passing of old methods, as one
is sometimes tempted to regret the days of cottage industries!"
That is how an expert observer writes of the stupendous change
in manufacturing England, Scotland, and Wales.

There will be a difficult time of readjustment to the new
conditions. Employers will want all the labour they can find,
and the temptation to exploit women's labour will be over-
whelming; labour, male labour that is, insisting the while
on reinstatement. Capital will be fully represented in the Legis-
lature; male labour organised, with the vote behind their organi-
sations; are the women-workers who have helped the country
through the crisis and are only partially organised, to be left
wholly unrepresented? If so, they will find themselves between
Scylla and Charybdis, the danger of being taken on as cheap
labour to bring down the men's wages, and the peril of being
thrust out of the trades on which they must now rely to earn
their bread, and that of their dependants. Without the safe-
guard of the vote, the women-workers are bound to suffer; and
the country will suffer for their helplessness.

Let us bear in mind that it will fall to the next Parliament,
or the next but one, to deal with all the problems of that critical
period of readjustment. It will not serve to enfranchise women
another five or ten or fifteen years' hence. The political en-
franchisement of women must be undertaken Now, and cannot
prudently be deferred.

It is impossible to dwell in detail on the constructive work

which lies ahead of us all. The growth of a new sense of
personal responsibility is shown even by the popular phrase:
"Doing one's bit." The last two years of war have rapidly
developed that sense, and the contribution of educated women
to public work is steadily growing in importance. But, at the
same time, there is a certain sense of what may be called
insecurity, which tends to vitiate even their best work. There
are few women workers who have not had to realise that their
tenure of any opportunity of usefulness is ever at the mercy of
masculine prejudice or even caprice. The present insufficient,
cavalier, and careless methods by which the process, called
"taking the opinion of representative women," is, more or less,
perfunctorily accomplished, are often so carried on that the
intelligence of these women is insulted rather than consulted.
No human being can possibly put out his or her best thinking
powers under a haunting sense of the futility of every effort.
The spectacle of one woman on a committee of some score of
persons, where she represents, or is supposed to represent, "the
women's point of view," is woefully familiar to us all. Still
more familiar, it is true, is the sight of a committee exerting
its very considerable power to promote the discomfort of women

and children, without even one woman to refer to on doubtful
points. The representation of women's opinion is grotesquely
insufficient.

The only effective way of representing women's interests
(and it may be added the children's interests, which, it is
admitted, they best understand) is by the way in which men's
interests are represented and safeguarded—by the vote, by the
method of direct responsibility.

This week we have seen a new thing in our history. The
sight of the women of Australia recording their votes
at a polling-booth in Westminster has reminded us very
forcibly that in deciding the wider questions of foreign
and Imperial policy the women of Great Britain should also
have a voice. Through their deeds they have spoken. The
forces at work re-shaping the world are with them. Gagged
and bound, the women of these islands are, in spite of them-
selves, a source of weakness to the country. To plead that it
is better to keep them gagged and bound "because it is war-
time" is folly. Now is the time to put forth all our strength.
The national need for the enfranchisement of women has never
been so great as NOW.

Notes on the Work of War Pensions Committees.

Since July I have been one of two women serving on the
Neath (South Wales) Rural District War Pensions Committee,
a Committee which has to deal with one of the largest rural
districts in the country.

It is probably only by actual experience in administering the
regulations framed by the Statutory Committee that one can
obtain practical knowledge of them, and some idea of how they
will work. The mind of the man in the street is confused by the
number of new regulations, or variants of old regulations, that
have been issued during the last couple of months. Pushed on
by public opinion, the Statutory Committee has been compelled
to take some steps towards remedying the hardships which were
bound to arise under a scheme so ill-digested and ill-framed.
As a result the regulations have been changed from week to
week to the bewilderment of those concerned with the adminis-
tration of the Naval and Military War Pensions Act. Much,
however, remains to be done. I wish to draw the attention of
fellow-suffragists to the following points in particular.

PRE-WAR INCOME STANDARD MEANS PENALISATION OF
VOLUNTEERS' FAMILIES.

The regulations lay down that no supplementary separation
allowance must be granted which "will bring the total income of
the beneficiary up to a larger sum than the pre-War income of
the household," and it defines pre-War income as "the total in-
come of a household at the date of the man's enlistment, after
deducting the cost of his keep." It is further provided that all
grants hitherto made by the S.S.F.A., National Relief
Fund, etc., must be reviewed in the light of this pre-War income
standard. "It was not definitely laid down by the National
Relief Fund that any assistance granted, together with State
separation allowances and other income, should not exceed the
pre-War income of the household. The Statutory Committee must
emphasise this rule, and these allowances should be carefully
reviewed, and, where necessary, reduced or discontinued."

In actual practice this works out thus: Families whose men-
folk answered early to the call of their country are penalised as
against families of conscripts. Wages in 1914 were lower than
they are in 1916, and the rise in wages has been closely con-
nected with the rise in the price of food. The families of men
who enlisted in 1914 and the earlier part of 1915 are tied down
to the "pre-War income" as it then stood, but the full weight of
the rise in the price of food falls on their shoulders. The families
of conscripts benefit because their mankind did not go until
they were "fetched," and by the time they were fetched wages
had soared up, in some cases to nearly double what they were
in 1914.

In another way the "pre-War income" standard bears hardly
on dependants. Take the case of a widowed mother dependent
on a son, a young boy, an "improver," or an apprentice. He
hears his country's call, and enlists in his 'teens—had he waited
until he was "fetched" his wages would have doubled, even
trebled. The case of the mother of a "Collier's boy" came
up before our Committee at the last meeting. He had been
earning 30s. before enlisting early in 1915. A member of the
Committee connected with the Miners' Federation exclaimed,
"Yes, but he would be earning £3 a week now if he had kept

on at work." But that boy's mother is tied down to the 30s.
a week standard, from which 12s. will be deducted for his keep,
leaving 18s. as dependence rate "for the duration of the war,"
whereas had he waited to be "fetched" her income would have
been, say, £3, minus 12s., £2 8s.

The potential earning capacity of the soldier had he remained
in civil life is entirely ignored.

THE CASE OF THE EXPECTANT MOTHER.

Another regulation affecting women adversely is that which
provides that a supplementary allowance (other than rent allow-
ance) to a childless wife may not exceed 2s. 6d. a week, and
should be stopped if, being offered "suitable employment, she
declines or neglects to avail herself of the opportunity thus
afforded." A wife's allowance is 12s. 6d., out of which she
must meet rent up to 4s. a week (no rent allowance being
granted except for sums over that amount), leaving 8s. 6d. for
food and clothing. During months of pregnancy, when she
may be unfit to work, her income cannot be made up beyond a
rent allowance to meet rent above 4s. a week (on this she gains
nothing), and 2s. 6d. a week supplementary allowance, i.e.,
to leave for food and clothing 11s. With food prices at their
present level this will inflict hardship on a woman whose husband
was earning £3 a week previous to enlistment, as was the fact
in a case recently before our Committee. It should be
remembered that help under the Civil Liabilities Committee can
only be given for certain specified obligations, such as rent, hire
purchase, interest on loans and mortgages, etc., rates and taxes,
insurance premiums, school fees. "Assistance will not be
granted by the Committee for the discharge of ordinary debts."
Another class of women who suffer under this regulation are the
elderly wives. "Too old at forty" they often fail to find work
which would not involve the breaking up of their homes; and to
them, too, the maximum 2s. 6d. supplementary separation
allowance is a very small drop in a very large bucket. It should be
remembered that in the Territorial regiments there are numbers
of reservists of over forty.

The War Pension Regulations confirm the scandal of the
position of wives and children of deserters. Separation allow-
ance and allotment are stopped for the period of desertion. The
family is left entirely unprovided for through no fault of its own.
"It is admittedly hard . . ." but, "in the interests of
discipline, it is essential that dependants should not be subsid-
ised during the period of desertion," and no assistance should
be given.

Then there is the case of dependants (other than widows) of
soldiers where the man's death is held by the authorities to be
"not directly attributable to the service." If a pension is
refused a temporary allowance may be granted, but only on the
following scale: it must not exceed the State separation allow-
ance and allotment last received by the dependent, or 10s. a
week, whichever is less.

AT THE MERCY OF VOLUNTARY INVESTIGATORS.

There remain two points to which I wish to draw attention.
The Regulations provide for constant investigation of cases,
they are full of directions that "information should be obtained"

and forwarded to such and such bodies. Committees will have to undertake investigations of claims, and in some cases the supervision of dependents; they are told they must "satisfy themselves" of this, that and the other. Now a practical difficulty at once arises. Who is to do all this personal, delicate, exacting work? "It will not usually be advisable that the Local Committees should appoint paid officers to act as visitors" (Circular 7, June 27, 1916), and in the case of District Committees (which are Sub-Committees of Local Committees) there would appear to be no provision whatever for enabling them to employ paid investigators. The members of these Committees are for the most part hard-working men and women who have little time for personal investigation. The only light thrown upon the problem is in a paragraph under the heading of Expenses of Administration, where it is stated that there is "throughout the country a keen desire on the part of a large section of the community to render Voluntary Service in connection with various forms of war work . . . it is hoped that the utmost use will be made of their services where they are available."

That means, broadly speaking, that the soldiers' wives and dependents are to be handed over, to a great extent, to the discretion of the "S.S.F.A. Lady." I have been one of these often maligned individuals myself since the outbreak of the war, but I am not prepared to say that I think this voluntary system of investigation is a satisfactory one, nor that it will make for equality of treatment for dependents. It will work well where the individual is capable, broad-minded, and in touch with social questions, and it will work badly where she is of mediocre ability, narrow-minded, or prejudiced against the working-classes. I regret to have to confess that the latter type is not unknown to me. The Pension Officer who deals with separation allowances is not always an ideal person, but he is, at any rate, a whole-time paid officer, who is supposed to "know his job" and to work to scale.

It is true that War Pensions Committees will, as committees, review the reports of investigators and almoners, but in the press of committee work it will be found that an adverse report stands, and does influence the committee, just as a favourable one influences it, and it will not be easy for committees to get behind the reports which their voluntary workers may send in. These voluntary workers, from the nature of the case, are nearly all drawn from the middle and upper classes, and many have not the wide experience necessary to make it advisable to endure them with that power which the failure to provide for paid investigators under the War Pensions Act will place in their hands. And what is to be done in places where voluntary workers are not forthcoming, or forthcoming only in insufficient numbers?

INSUFFICIENT ALLOWANCE FOR CHILDREN.

Lastly, there is the question of the separation allowance to the third child and younger children in a family. Here in Glamorganshire the interval between each birth is short—lamentably short, as I think it—a year, perhaps eighteen months, is the common interval, so that we have:—

Idris, aged 10	...	5s. Separation Allowance.
Blodwen, aged 9	...	3s. 6d. Separation Allowance.
David, aged 7½	...	2s. Separation Allowance.
Nest, aged 6	...	2s. Separation Allowance.
Gladys, aged 4	...	2s. Separation Allowance.
Llewellyn, aged 2½	...	2s. Separation Allowance.
Baby, aged 1	...	2s. Separation Allowance.

Now all the four eldest cost much about the same to feed, and all the three youngest should cost about the same to feed if Baby even could get milk at 5d. a quart! Of course one is told that the larger the party the lower the sum needed for the keep of each member per head. I have evidence of the impossibility of feeding, housing and clothing a woman and seven children on 31s. a week, with the purchasing power of the sovereign dropped to 12s. 4d. in the case of food and to 13s. 6d. in the case of general necessities.

If you are prepared to say, "Well, people have no business to have seven children," there is an end of it. The little unwanted late-comers must take their 2s., and be thankful for small mercies. But with the spectacle before one of bishops fulminating against the falling birth-rate and the Local Government Board and the Board of Education tumbling over each other in their efforts to proclaim that the children are a nation's wealth, that infant mortality must be attacked, and welfare centres scattered over the face of the land, it appears a very poor form of war economy to mulct all the younger children in a family simply because they are younger children, and to allow them a pittance on which they cannot, as prices now stand, be properly fed or clothed.

WINIFRED COOMBE TENNANT.

Tributes to Our Hospital Units.

The new units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals are winning keen appreciation. Reuter's Special Correspondent, writing from Salonika, says of the women drivers:—"It is only right to pay a tribute to the bravery and devotion of the chauffeurs of the Scottish Women's Hospitals attached to the Serbian Army, who take the ambulances as far as the cars can go along these precipitous paths in order to meet the wounded, and are constantly risking life and limb in this dangerous work, which requires skill as well as nerve. Yet young girls perform the journey sometimes twice daily, and often have to spend the night on the mountain-side, as breakdowns are unfortunately too frequent in such bad country."

A correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—"The large corps of the Scottish Women Motor Transport, etc., in the Dobrudja is earning the great admiration of the Rumanians and Russians alike. The Prefect of Constanza said to me: "It is extraordinary how these women endure hardship. They refuse help, and carry the wounded themselves. They work like navvies. No wonder England is a great country, if the women are like that."

Changes of View.

At a luncheon given in his honour, at the Manchester Reform Club, on October 18th, Sir Edward Donner, speaking of the changes brought about by the war, announced that his views had changed on the question of Women's Suffrage. The war, he said, had thrown an extraordinary light on women's capability, and on that account alone he thought women had established an enormous claim to be allowed to take a share in the management.

Another convert to Women's Suffrage is Mr. Horace Annesley Vachell, the novelist. Formerly inclined to anti-Suffrage views, he now declares himself an ardent supporter of votes for women, and urges that women's adaptability, courage, and endurance have won them the right to be "enfranchised in every sense of the word." Writing in *The Star*, he states his belief that just as women have proved themselves indispensable in time of war, they must also have the last word in peace. "It lies with the women of the world, not the men, to make future wars unachievable," both international and industrial.

Obituary.

MISS ELLEN STONE.

We have received, with much regret, the news of the death of Miss Ellen Stone, daughter of Mr. Frank Stone, A.R.A., and sister of Mr. Marcus Stone, R.A.

Miss Stone was one of the many unobtrusive workers who, by reason of their high personal character and their unvarying support of the Suffrage movement through dark days as well as bright, have contributed so much to its advancement in public opinion. As a quite young woman Miss Stone signed the Petition from Women Householders for the Suffrage, presented to the House of Commons by John Stuart Mill, in 1867.

In 1871 she took an active part in promoting the candidature of Miss Elizabeth Garrett (Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D.) to the London School Board. Miss Garrett was returned at the top of the poll by an overwhelming majority. *The Times* described this success as "an astounding victory" and as "an extraordinary phenomenon in the history of electioneering."

Miss Stone initiated, in 1897, a scheme by which sympathisers with, and new supporters of, the Suffrage cause were organised in the constituencies and brought into direct touch with the central office in London. This scheme resulted in the formation of a large body of organised supporters, who were able to make their weight felt, and gave strength later to the work of the N.U.W.S.S. in Parliamentary elections.

Though in later years ill-health prevented Miss Stone from taking active part in propaganda, she always followed with the keenest interest all the new developments of work of the N.U.W.S.S., and joined in the big Suffrage processions organised by the N.U.

The last public demonstration at which Miss Stone was present was the great historic meeting in Hyde Park on the occasion of the Suffrage Pilgrimage.

Daughters of professional men wishing to train as nurses for infants are able to get a very thorough training at St. Margaret's, Crowcombe, Taunton, Somerset. The school aims at enabling women and girls to take posts in families of their own social standing. The full course of training is one year, and the fee is 45 guineas.

Our Millicent Fawcett Units in Russia.

Dr. Daisy Stepney reports from Kazan: "We are having a busy time with our scarlet-fever cases, as six new cases (seriously ill and filthily dirty) were admitted in one hour one day last week, besides two other non-infectious admissions the same afternoon. Some of these eight were refugee children under three years. Nearly every scarlet-fever case out here has some complication or other. We have four children at present hanging between life and death; three of our cases have acute nephritis, and one is desperately ill with double pneumonia—a nice sort of complication on top of scarlet fever—another is full of abscesses. Most of the rest have ear troubles, and one is threatening meningitis. The sisters are continually hurrying from one to the other without a moment's pause, all day and all night, and it seems most probable we shall continue like this all through the winter. Our staff are all such good nurses, and take the keenest interest in saving the lives of the children. I expect before long we shall have to close the general ward and use all our premises for scarlet-fever cases. We are very thankful for the thick winter coats that have been bought for us, as the weather is bitterly cold now, a few flakes of snow already falling in the rain, and much frost."

"The pale-blue check flannel garments sent from America suit the children to perfection. Eight of them are dressed exactly alike, and are about the same size, and we call them 'Sister Wilson's bunch of forget-me-nots.' All of them love Sister Wilson, and smile in a bunch whenever she comes near them. We are making good use of the blankets and red woolly covers brought by Mrs. Elborough, for we were really beginning to suffer from cold. The heating apparatus is not much use at present, though it is *sometimes* turned on late in the evening!"

Though the list of donations is held over this week, we beg all our friends to send contributions as soon as possible for our winter work to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. Cheques and postal orders to be crossed London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch.

Plain garments or fancy articles for our stall at the United Suffragists' Christmas Sale at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, December 2nd, 3 to 9 p.m., will be gratefully received at Headquarters before December 1st.

Any old clothes or articles suitable for a Jumble Sale should be sent to Mrs. Alys Russell at her Chelsea address, 11, St. Leonard's Terrace, S.W., before December 1st.

Copy of Letter from Sir Robert Newman, Bart., read at the Meeting at Torquay on October 11th.

We are glad to be permitted to put before our readers the following interesting letter, which puts with admirable clearness reasons why women should be given the franchise now:—

MAMHEAD PARK, EXETER.

DEAR LADY ACLAND,—I should consider it a privilege to support Mrs. Fawcett, but I am sorry to say that I have an engagement in Salisbury on the morning of October 11th, which would make it impossible for me to get to Torquay by three. I am so sorry, for as you know I am always most anxious to keep before the public, as far as I am able, the rightful claims of women.

While on this subject there is one aspect of the situation which requires consideration: are women to have any say in the peace terms? Surely, after all they have done, this is only just. Further, are they, or are they not, to have a say in the election of the Parliament after the war that is to deal with the vital questions which will arise after this great struggle? Surely, again the answer shall be "Yes"; but if nothing is done until the war is over, is this likely to be the case? I am more than doubtful. One hears it a good deal said that the present Parliament has no right to deal with drastic reforms until an appeal is made to the electors; this may be quite true in most matters, but as one who believes the only possible solution of the franchise question is universal suffrage, male and female, I will not admit this can be justly applied to the question of parliamentary votes, for the simple reason that the only appeal Parliament can make is at present to a body of electors (none of whom are women) who happen to have the present voting qualification. How have they the right to claim the possession of a mandate, which is to decide whether anyone besides themselves shall, or shall not, have the privilege of a vote which they hold on to so steadfastly themselves!—Yours sincerely,

ROBERT L. NEWMAN.

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

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON. MISS OLIVER STRACHBY (Parliamentary).
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH. Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic.

Secretaries of Societies are urged to send notice to Headquarters and to THE COMMON CAUSE of any meetings which they are arranging, in order that they may be supplied with any news of special interest that may be of use at the meeting.

The Literature Department now stocks the excellent brochure compiled by the War Office on "Women's War Work" (1s., postage 4d.). This is invaluable for those who are following the invasion by women of so many fields of labour. What will form the charm of the book to many not deeply interested in technical details will be the seventy-two fine illustrations of the women at their varied work. It forms a record valuable both from an economic and historical standpoint, and Suffragists will be well advised to include a copy in their library.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Already acknowledged since November, 1st, 1915	3,136 8 8	Letchworth W.S.S.	2 10 0
Received from October 16th to October 21st, 1916:—		Tain W.S.S.	10 0
		Eastbourne W.S.S.	1 7 9
		Lancaster W.S.S.	10 0
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IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

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

For "The Common Cause."

"I take the opportunity of saying that I have found our paper very valuable, inspiring, and educative. It is always full of good ideas, and I wish it a long life."

Already acknowledged	£ s. d.	Miss F. Simson	£ s. d.
Mrs. Kerland	530 13 4		1 0
Miss E. Barrett	2 6		
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THE WEAVING STUDIOS.

The Problem of Rescue Work is beset by many pitfalls, but in one case at least a happy solution has been found. Early in 1913, a school of hand-weaving was started with the object of developing the artistic powers of girls of the upper and middle classes requiring a fresh start in life.

The Organiser of this school, desiring to co-operate with those engaged in rescue work by offering a new opening to better-class girls, has found by over three years' experience that hand-weaving is specially suited to their needs.

The chief need at present is a Hostel where the weavers may live until they are sufficiently skilled to be financially independent. A suitable house is being sought but Annual Subscriptions to the amount of £450 are urgently needed to maintain such a house which will receive, not only the girls, but also their babies. Inquiries and subscriptions should be addressed to—

Miss SKRINE,
The Weaving Studios,
6, Denmark St., W.C.

or to

The Treasurer,
Mrs. GLYNNE WILLIAMS,
7, Berkeley House, Hay Hill, W.

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

Table listing donors and amounts for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes names like Miss I. Gordon, Mrs. Larkman, and various employee groups.

Table listing donors and amounts for the 'Further List of Beds' section. Includes names like Wemyss, Co-operative Society, and various individuals.

Text section detailing the 'Further List of Beds' and mentioning Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, and the need for beds and staff.

What Some of our Societies are Doing. Carlisle W.S.S. When the Carlisle W.S.S. Committee met...

Accrington Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies held a Public Meeting on the 4th inst., in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Accrington.

ALL BRITISH. VALKASA THE TONIC NERVE FOOD. An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.

RELIABLE NURSES' APRONS.

Robinson's Nurses' Aprons and Requisites are guaranteed to be of the best materials only; perfect shape and fit, they are the result of many years' experience.

Robinson's Linen Warehouses Ltd., 5 & 7, Barton Square, St. Ann's Square, MANCHESTER.

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MOTORING. WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING. 259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON. Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.

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

Herne Bay. The capable and energetic Secretary of the Suffrage Society here, Mrs. Cowper Field, was mainly responsible for the success of Sailors' Day.

Bournemouth. A most interesting lecture on the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was given at Bournemouth on October 18th, by Miss Edith Stoney.

Forthcoming Meetings. OCTOBER 27. Bristol—Meeting at Homebrook—Speaker: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross.

OCTOBER 28. Edinburg—40, Shandwick Place—Jumble Sale Leamington—Jumble Sale for Headquarters, contributions needed and gratefully received at 31, Warwick Street.

OCTOBER 30. Birmingham—Beechwood Co-operative Guild—Mrs. O'Leary. Guildford—Holy Trinity Hall—Lecture on "Pioneer Women," by Miss Ruth Young.

OCTOBER 31. Brighton—Railway Women's Guild—Mrs. Robie Unlache on Women's Suffrage and the Registration Bill.

NOVEMBER 1. Birmingham—Waverley Road, Small Heath—Mrs. Ring. Bristol—Working Party, at 40, Park Street.

NOVEMBER 13. Scarborough—War Economy Exhibition, Lectures and Demonstrations—Ashley's Boarding House—Afternoon Tea 2.30 and 7.0.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Table with columns: WORDS, ONCE, THREE TIMES, SIX TIMES. Shows rates for different word counts and frequencies.

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

PERSONAL. DACHELOR WOMAN (31), not too serious, desires the friendship of another—Please write, Kathleen Oliver, 1, Barton-st., Westminster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. November 1st, 7.30 p.m. House dinner. "Changed Views on the Woman Question," by Mr. Holford Knight.

FOR WAR WORK.

WAR SERVICE FOR WOMEN. WANTED, Strong, Capable, Educated Women, to TRAIN FOR FARM & GARDEN WORK, to take the place of men who are doing War Work.

POSITIONS VACANT.

DOMESTIC HELP WANTED.—Two in family; non-basement kitchen; four bedrooms, dressing room; bright, convenient house; near Croydon; comfortable home; good salary.—Advertiser, Chadderton, Watford-rd., Northwood, Middlesex.

LITERARY.

£50 PRIZE FOR BEGINNERS.—Great chance for new writers. Send 7d. for particulars and copy of "How to Make Money With Your Pen."—Craven Press, 32, Craven-st., Strand, London.

GARDENING.

LADY having charming house and garden would be pleased to lend another lady kitchen garden in return vegetables; good market near; board, &c., 21s.—Conolan, Kingswear, S. Devon.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

FRENCH lady gives lessons; recommended.—V. El, Hogarth-rd., Earl's Court. "MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustments)—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. Phone, Central 6049.

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

[Continued on page 368.]

Continued from page 367.]

TREATMENT SPEECH DEFECTS, Stammering, &c. Experience, St. Thomas's Hospital; certificated, Miss Elsie Fogerty.—Enid Andrews, 33, Bath-rd., Chiswick.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 6d. post free from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 21, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

WITH OR WITHOUT SERVANTS, it is management alone that makes work light. Send 1s. for Mrs. Langmaid's booklet, "A Woman's Work, and How to Lighten It"—5, Corbett-rd., Cardiff

INSURANCE.

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

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

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TEMPERARY PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.—B. Crombleholme, General Manager. Enquiries solicited.

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HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS, Made in the Dauntless Hall Workroom. Artistic Dress Fabrics in Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. On Sale at the Alston Studio, 8, New Bond-st., W., where lessons in Spinning and Weaving are given. Demonstrations every Tuesday, 11.30 to 1.

DRESSMAKING, MILLINERY, &c.

ARTISTIC hand-embroidered dresses, coats, and frocks. Special prices during war time. Designs, &c., on application.—Maud Barham (late 186, Regent-st.), 33-34, Haymarket, S.W. Facing Piccadilly Tube Station.

DRESSMAKING.—A member of the N.U. recommends her dressmaker, a real artist. Coat-frocks and rest-gowns a speciality. Velvet and house-coats to order, from one guinea. Work at customers' houses, per day 5s.—Box 4,004, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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Coat-frocks, Coats and Skirts
From 4/6 guineas. Blouses

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

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ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street, N.
MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
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Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.
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CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

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

HAIR FALLING OFF.—Lady who lost nearly all hers, and has now strong, heavy growth, sends particulars to anyone enclosing stamped addressed envelope.—Miss C. C. Field, Glendower, Shanklin.

HAIR GROWTH FOOD, 1s. 8d., cures dandruff and ensures new growth even in old age.—Miss Davy, Bere Ferrers, South Devon. State paper.

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

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DEVONSHIRE CREAM, 2s. 2d. per lb.; 1s. 4d. per 1/2-lb., post free.—Miss Paynter, Hocklake Farm, Berealston, Devon.

DELICIOUS "SALUTARIS" DRINKS.—Orange! Gingerale! Lemonade! and do. home-brewed. Economical, healthy, and free from all impurities; made from pure distilled water.—Salutaris Water Co., 236, Fulham-rd., London, S.W.

QUINCES FOR SALE.—12 lbs. 5s. 6d., 24 lbs. 5s.; carriage paid.—Mrs. Owen Powell, Harmer Green, Welwyn, Herts.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is all wool, comfortable, durable, and guaranteed unshrinkable.—Write to-day for free book with patterns, and buy direct from the makers, Dept. 10, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

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GALVANIZED Exeter Hot-water Can for Sale; almost new; holds six pints; price, 8s. 6d.; carriage paid (cost 14s.).—Box 6,168, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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

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FURNISHED, large sitting-room, large kitchen, pantry, one large bedroom (two by arrangement) in country cottage; standing in own meadow; 2 1/2 miles Hatfield Station; 12s. 6d. weekly.—56, Willifield-way, Hendon.

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TO LET, nominal rent for winter months, very well-furnished cottage, nr. Lyme Regis; 4 bed, 2 sitting-rooms, verandah, garden; good maid left; or would exchange flat, Chelsea or Westminster.—Apply Bridge, Uplyme, Lyme Regis.

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TO LET, in professional woman's house, two unfurnished rooms, top flat; small rent; Chelsea.—Apply, Elm, Box 6,123, COMMON CAUSE Office.

WESTMINSTER EMBANKMENT.—Overlooking River. Furnished flat to let for three months; three rooms and bath; rent £1 per week.—Box 6,154, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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HOSTEL FOR STUDENTS, Professional Women, and other Ladies. Near British Museum, University College, and Women's School of Medicine. Central, quiet.—Miss H. Veitch-Brown, 6, Lansdowne-pl., Brunswick-sq., W.C.

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Address

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at 14, Great Smith St., Westminster. 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.