

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. IX., No. 418.]

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917.

[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 Enfranchisement of Russian Women.

In reply to a wire asking whether the universal suffrage proclaimed by the new Government includes women's suffrage, the Secretary of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance has received a cablegram from Madame Schischkinn-Yavein, President of the National Society for Women's Rights, saying that in the liberties proclaimed, women are excluded. The message continues:—"We demand, we protest, we demonstrate."

According, however, to Mr. Harold Williams, *The Daily Chronicle's* correspondent in Petrograd, the Russian women are to have votes. Writing on April 1st, he says: "The Government has not yet officially announced its views on Women's Suffrage, but Ministers say it is decided that women shall vote later in municipal and rural council elections, and in elections for the Constituent Assembly." He adds that the chief newspapers have adopted the principle, and the chief parties have it on their programme.

The Health of the Nation.

During last week three documents were published which throw into glaring relief the urgency of greater expenditure of money and energy on child-saving and the problems connected with it.

The Registrar-General states that the year 1916 will probably show the lowest birth-rate ever recorded; Sir Arthur Newsholme, the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, shows that 575,078 children under five died during the years 1911-14, while the "Health of the People: A New Policy," which is the report of a Committee of Unionist M.P.s which has been sitting under the Chairmanship of Mr. Waldorf Astor, points out that our present system whereby the care of public health "is distributed among six Government departments is a guarantee of practical waste and inefficiency."

These documents give valuable backing to the scheme for a Ministry of Health, which it is understood will be provided for in Lord Rhondda's Bill dealing with the nation's health.

The Destruction of Food.

In an article in *The Daily News* of April 4th, Dr. Saleeby shows that Lord Milner was mistaken in his statement in the House of Lords that no food is now being used in brewing. It is true that the further destruction of barley for brewing has

been prohibited, a large stock of malted barley being now in the brewers' hands; but, states Dr. Saleeby, brewers are still destroying maize and rice and grits. "They are further destroying nearly a thousand tons of sugar a week, and vast quantities of sugar are now lying at the docks which no mere caterer for the food of the people may use, because Lord Devonport has forbidden its release except for the brewers.

"The brewers tell us that the sugar they use is unfit for human consumption, and so they put it into beer. But they libel themselves. The sugar, and the only sugar, from which alcohol is made is glucose. . . . Brewers' sugar has been purchaseable at the shops for months' past; I have kept myself going on it, in large degree, for a long time."

Dr. Saleeby also points out that malt-cake is an excellent food for cattle, and can therefore increase the supply of milk and meat, of both of which there is a shortage.

Wages of Women Munition Workers.

In reply to a question by Mr. Anderson on April 3rd, Mr. Kellaway, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, stated that the Minister of Munitions had considered the recommendations of the Committee on Production with reference to the wages of women, and had decided to issue a new series of orders which would raise the time rate of women now working in men's work by four shillings a week, and that of girls under eighteen who were doing men's work by one penny an hour.

The time rate of women over eighteen who were not doing men's work, said Mr. Kellaway, would be increased by one penny an hour, and three-farthings an hour when employed on piecework, while girls of over seventeen and under eighteen would receive an increase of a halfpenny an hour and a farthing an hour when on piecework.

The Women's Land Army.

Up to Saturday last, 5,500 women had joined the Land Army, but many more are still wanted. Women who enrol now will be able to follow the growth of crops from the time when the land is ploughed and ready for the seed until the harvesting, and will, therefore, be of more use to the farmers and the country next year than those who join up later. Those who show themselves efficient will be put in charge of parties of workers, and receive a slightly higher rate of pay. Milkers are urgently wanted at once, and arrangements have been made for their training.

Forms for enrolment can be obtained from any post office.

Women Shop Assistants Underpaid.

At the Conference of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, at Leeds, a resolution was passed noting with satisfaction that the Government was considering the extension of the Trades Board Act to the retail and wholesale distributive trades, and calling for immediate legislation. It was stated that women members of the Union over twenty-one years of age were being paid the following weekly rates in the trades named:—Mantle trade, 10s.; pawnbroking, 8s.; boot trade, 8s.; grocery, 16s.; drapery, 7s. 6d.; millinery show-rooms, 12s.; and fancy leather goods, 17s. Rates earned by women not members of the Union must be considerably lower. While some women substituted in trades hitherto confined to men were able, by means of organisation, to demand from £3 to £4 a week, there were women in the distributive trades earning as little as 7s. 6d.

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A mother writes:—

"My little girl is still as fat and strong as ever; also my little boy. He will be two years old the 6th of April, and is a fine, fat, strong boy, and so contented.

"I have just got a new baby boy, the 23rd of March, and, as I have lost my own milk, I am trying him on Nestlé's, which I hope will prove as successful with him as it has with my other six children, for I have had no trouble with them cutting their teeth, nor any bad nights with them."

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).

President Wilson's Speech to Congress.

By MRS. FAWCETT.

WHEN Charles James Fox heard of the fall of the Bastille in 1789, he wrote to a friend, "How much the greatest event it is that ever happened in the world, and how much the best." Thoughts similar to these must have risen spontaneously in all our minds on hearing of the great events of the last three weeks: the Russian Revolution, and now, on Good Friday, the news of President Wilson's address to Congress, in which he expresses the determination of his Government "to accept the gage of battle with the natural foe of liberty." His words, endorsed as they are by an immense majority of both Houses of the American Parliament, usher in a new world. Henceforward the English-speaking nations are at one as they never have been since the American Revolution; henceforward the countries which are foremost in standing for the principles of democracy and self-government are at one and are united in a common resolve to resist the natural foes of liberty, the nations which stand for autocracy and tyranny. The revolution in Russia and the establishment of free institutions there make the road clear and plain to many who could not at first discern what the real issues were. But now, more clearly than ever, these issues are perceived: they are set forth in President Wilson's speech to Congress on Monday, April 2nd, which we have all been reading, and from which one short paragraph may here be quoted:—"We are accepting the challenge of hostile purpose because we know that in such a Government following such methods we can never have a friend, and that in the presence of its organised power, always lying in wait to accomplish we know not what purpose, there can be no assured security for the democratic Governments of the world. We are now about to accept gage of battle with this natural foe to liberty, and shall if necessary spend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and its power. We are glad—now that we see facts with no veil of false pretence about them—to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world, for the liberating of its peoples—the German peoples included—for the rights of nations great and small, and for the privilege of nations everywhere to choose their way of life and obedience. The world must be safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the trusted foundations of political liberty."

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE are trained in the principles of democracy. To whatever political party they may belong they stand for liberty and self-government, and know and constantly insist upon the fact that there is no satisfactory basis of government except the consent of the governed. Women Suffragists have constantly for the last fifty years demanded the application of this democratic principle to women, and they now see in this gigantic world-war that Armageddon is being fought to maintain the principles of freedom and democracy for which they have always stood. The Suffrage demand is that these principles should be acted upon. Great Britain and her Overseas Dominions, the United States and the Scandinavian countries, to which our cause owes so much, have been the great missionaries of this Gospel to the rest of the world, spreading knowledge of the fact that political principles are applicable to both sexes alike.

The President's speech and his address, published in January to the belligerent nations, will always stand for the type of high idealism which has led the United States to depart from its traditional aloofness from the tragedies and struggles of the old world. That attitude has long been becoming untenable. It is destroyed for ever now; and the United States throws in its lot with Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia to fight for the ultimate peace of the world, to make the world safe for democracy and to plant peace upon the trusted foundations of political liberty. Democracy has been tried in the furnace of war, and has

not been found wanting. In a further address to the American people, issued from Washington on Good Friday, President Wilson indicates his own hope and expectation with regard to the future. "The hope of the world is that when the European war is over . . . that in some ordered, just way, the peace of the world may be maintained by such co-operation of force among the great nations as may be necessary to maintain peace and freedom throughout the world."

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

Founded by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

SALONIKA.

It has been bitterly cold, and one can hardly hold a pen to write. This morning I found difficulty in writing so much as a label; the mittens we wear are a varied lot, but we are very glad to have them. The hills behind are covered with snow, and we are all reminded pretty forcibly of what we had to bear at Ghevgheli, though, of course, it is nothing like that in reality, and our conditions of life here are very, very different to those terrible weeks. It will soon change again, though, and the snow and rain will perhaps give us a better water supply when summer comes. You have no idea how difficult it is to air or dry your clothes! The only fire is in the kitchen, and oil is too precious to make a stove possible. (The patients, of course, have stoves in their tents, and very comfortable they look, instead of the dusty coal stoves of last winter.)

It is grand weather for appetites, however, and even "bully" goes down with a will. Our cooks have discovered several different ways of disguising it, but we old hands know!

We have a woman patient! One of the victims of shell-fire round — brought down in the ambulance train with the soldiers. Her brother was killed at her side—where her husband's or her three children, she does not know—never will, I expect, poor soul. She is extremely ill, and one wonders whether she wishes to come back to life shattered and maimed. She seems happy with us, and knows she is surrounded with her fellow-countrymen; though she cannot see them, she can hear them talking. I went to bathe her head with some of the eau-de-Cologne Mrs. Duguid sent back with me for hospital use—she loved it, poor thing, kept whispering, "Dobbra, dobra," which means, "good," and turning her head from side to side on the pillow to let me bathe her cheeks. What a pitiful victim of force and cruelty, and only one of thousands! Well, whether she lives or dies, she will have been nursed as few of her fellow-countrywomen have had the chance to be, by a devoted nurse, speaking Serbian fluently, and who spares no trouble to anticipate the slightest need or wish of such a poor fragment of humanity—and yet a sister and an ally of all of us.

I had an amusing experience to-day with an Albanian outpatient. A soldier attached to the Albanian Headquarters here, who comes sometimes to see fellow-countrymen whom we have as patients, and who thought he also would like to be treated as one. I gave him some cough-lozenges, great big things, to be slowly sucked, and, entirely forgetting that here nodding your head means "No," and shaking it means "Yes," I did the latter when in dumb show he enquired if it were to be swallowed whole! How he swallowed it I cannot imagine; evidently there was nothing wrong with his tonsils! Happily he did not die of a choking fit, but I shall not forget again that shaking your head to a Balkan States man does not mean a negative! These patients are a difficulty; they do not speak Serbian, but imagine you must know all they want you to. It took four of us of all languages to make this man understand he was to take his medicine three times daily out of a measured bottle. He ended by saying, triumphantly, "First time, one measure; second time, two measures; third time, three measures," by which time both the bottle and he would have come to an end probably!

The time of Epiphany in the Greek Church brings with it a peculiarly interesting ceremony for which the whole town goes *en fête*, and none of your workpeople turn up. A very ceremonial "Te deum" takes place at one of the principal churches, and then the Metropolitan, accompanied by several other priests, all in their most gorgeous canonicals, process down to the water-side, where, under the shadow of the "White Tower," a silver cross is thrown into the Bay and dived for by expert divers. Whoever recovers it is supposed to be safe from ill for the next twelve months. I should

imagine that probable, if he survived the chill of those January waters! Four white doves are then released and fly off to freedom; then the sea is considered safe for travel and prolific in fish until next Epiphany comes round. This "Blessing of the Waters," I believe, is a relic of the days when Venice was ruler of Salonika, against whose powers afterwards the Turks built the aforesaid "White Towers," a striking landmark, and one whose walls, could they speak would tell many a wonderful tale. For the first time in its existence, an Allied Army has a garden and some chickens on its roof!

My latest present is a sea-horse. I have never seen one out of an aquarium, and everyone is very interested in it. It is pickled in a bottle, poor thing! If we have to move, it will go in a drug box, and be another "mascot" for the pharmacy.

In spite of the cold and rain, snowdrops and crocuses are out in abundance on the hills, the former a good deal bigger than ours, but, otherwise, exactly the same. I hope this spring one may be able, now there are roads, to see a little of the country in its prettiest time, but we may have to keep near Salonika—one can't tell.

LONDON UNITS.

Dr. Potter has just returned from Russia, as her contract with the London Units is at an end. We shall not repeat the details of work that have already been printed in these columns, but Dr. Potter has been able to supply first-hand information of the hospital at Reni, of which only a very brief report has been received.

The Russian authorities provided for use as wards two small rooms and one large room, all of which had double windows to keep out the cold, and one other large room without double windows; also some other rooms for stores, and a house next door in which the *personnel* lived.

There was a shortage of bandages and wool at the start, and Dr. Inglis was told that if she could send someone a two hours' journey by carriage, large stores would be obtained. Dr. Potter went off on this commission, but as her carriage was driven by a soldier who did not know the road, and across a marsh, the journey was prolonged for seven hours, by which time the store was closed, and she had to wait till next day. That is characteristic of Russia! The supply obtained made up for the difficulties, and she returned on the cart triumphantly raised on bales of wool. After Dr. Inglis left for Odessa, the weather became intensely cold, and the hospital could obtain very little food and no coal or water. For two days wood was entirely lacking, the only fuel being reeds, and the only water melted snow. In a hospital where extremely badly wounded cases were being nursed, one can imagine the difficulties confronting the staff. The Russian Red Cross officer advised Dr. Potter, who was in charge, to close the hospital, but she felt it impossible to carry out an evacuation when the removal of many badly wounded cases might mean immediate death, and so forty beds were kept going somehow.

On Dr. Inglis' return from Odessa, Dr. Potter left, and the subsequent history of the hospital will be in Dr. Inglis' next Report, which should arrive shortly.

At the annual meeting of the Scottish Federation held in Edinburgh on Saturday, March 31st, it was decided to change the title of the Hospitals to include Home Service. In future, the Hospitals will be known as the "Scottish Federation National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service." The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, has received further magnificent donations during March from the many warm supporters of the Hospitals, the total for March being £17,103. During the past week, £4,000 has been received from Bombay, a further donation of £959 from Calcutta, and £100 from Madras. The support sent to the S.W.H. from India as the result of Mrs. Abbott's tour has surpassed all expectations, and the Committee's heartiest thanks are due to the many friends in India who have come forward so enthusiastically to help the work of the Units, in whatever part of the world they are carrying on their humanitarian work.

Contributions towards the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund opened by the S.W.H. have been very disappointing. It is hoped a greater and immediate response will be made before the Fund is closed. The sum it is hoped to raise is £1,000.

THE LADY'S PICTORIAL for April 7th contains reproductions of the most interesting photos taken by the Ministry of Munitions, in order to show women at work on skilled engineering processes. These photos were exhibited last week at the Royal Colonial Institute, and are now to be seen at Gateshead. Others may be shown later in London, and if they are as interesting as the first collection they should be well worth a visit.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon. Secretaries: MISS VIOLET EUSTACE, MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary), MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

The Committee to obtain the Opening of the Legal Profession to Women has drafted a leaflet in connection with the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill.

We have about two hundred of the handsome programme covers which were used at the Queen's Hall Meeting for sale. Those who obtained one at the time of the Workers' Demonstration will remember that the date and place of meeting have been printed on a separate flap, which can very easily be covered by a small slip.

In Memoriam: Mr. Edward Harford Smith.

We regret to announce the death, on April 4th, of Mr. Edward Harford Smith, a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage for nearly fifty years.

Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH. Founded by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock.

Table with columns for donor names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Forward as per list to March 29th, 1917', 'Employees Muirhead & Sons', 'Mrs. D. Y. Cameron', etc.

Table with columns for donor names and amounts. Includes entries like 'Leggar Bros. (£5 3s.)', 'Wolverton and District', 'Kingston and Subbiton', 'Worcester', 'Oxford', etc.

* Denotes further donations.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

WOLVERTON AND DISTRICT.—The annual meeting was held on the 27th ult., the Rev. Canon Harnett presiding. The Hon. Secretary's report showed this new society had made good progress during the year.

Miss Margaret Jones, of the National Union Executive, gave a graphic and very interesting account of the proceedings of the annual council, and at the close, a resolution was passed urging the Government to adopt the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference on the question of woman's suffrage.

KINGSTON AND SUBBITON.—The annual general meeting was held on March 28th, and attended by a good proportion of members. Constitution and officers were elected. Rule 6 of the constitution was altered to enable the society to hold its annual meeting after the N.U. Council, so that work for the year might be arranged to correspond with the plans of the N.U.

WORCESTER.—The annual meeting of the Worcester Society was held in the Vaulted Hall, the Deanery, on Thursday, March 22nd, the President, Mrs. Moore Ede, presiding.

OXFORD.—The society held its annual meeting on March 15th, at 8 p.m., under the presidency of Professor Geldart. The audience consisted not only of members, but of their friends, as it was felt that non-members should be given an opportunity of hearing Dr. King-Atkinson and Miss Rathbone.

not only of members, but of their friends, as it was felt that non-members should be given an opportunity of hearing Dr. King-Atkinson and Miss Rathbone. The business part of the meeting, which was sandwiched between the two speeches, consisted of the reports of Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, and the election of officers and committee.

Dr. King-Atkinson gave an arresting account of the work of the Galician Units; an account which made us realise anew both the heroism and the value of the task undertaken by the doctors and nurses. Her story of the work of the Zemstvos was made still more interesting by the events of the days just following, and as a consequence of her address, a cheque for £40 has been sent from the Oxford Society to the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Unit.

Special Notice.

In order to avoid wastage of paper no publication will be allowed to be issued to newsagents, bookstalls, &c., on sale or return, after April 30th.

Will all our readers therefore kindly give A Standing Order to their Newsgent to supply THE COMMON CAUSE weekly, as it will be impossible to obtain copies, unless ordered in advance, EXCEPT FROM THE OFFICE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.?

Forthcoming Meetings.

- APRIL 16. Birmingham—Westminster Road—Women's Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Martin. 3 p.m. Blackheath—Mrs. Markem, 36, Shooter's Hill Road—The Work of the Millicent Fawcett Unit in Russia—Speaker: Dr. Olive Bentham. 7 p.m. St. John's Institute—625, Holloway Road—Position of Women after the War—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram. 3.25 p.m. APRIL 17. Bristol—Portishead—The Present Situation—Speaker: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross. 5 p.m. APRIL 18. Birmingham—Crick—Annual Meeting—The Rectory—Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m. Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party. 3-5 p.m. APRIL 19. Cardiff—The office, 132, Queen Street—Annual Member's Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Coombe-Tennant. 7 p.m. APRIL 20. Birmingham—Central Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 5 p.m. APRIL 21. London—Mrs. Arthur Whitting, 4, Cheyne Gardens—(a) Scottish Women's Hospital and (b) Women's Service—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram. 3.30 p.m. APRIL 30. London—Miss Henniker, 90, Comeragh Road, W. Kensington—Women's Service and Lamp Day—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

- APRIL 24th, 1917, 3.30 p.m.—4, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, S.W.—Women's Service and Scottish Hospitals—Speakers: Mrs. Bertram, Miss May Curwen. APRIL 24th, 1917, 5 p.m.—2, Harrington Gardens—Chairman: Mrs. Carrington-Wilde—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield.

Coming Events.

Judge Neil, of Chicago, will lecture on "Mothers' Pensions" at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, on Tuesday, April 17th, at 8 p.m. Other speakers will be Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Dr. Barbara L. Tchaykovsky. Tickets 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d. can be obtained from the W.S.W., 400, Old Ford-road, Bow; the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Strand, W.C.; and at the door.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—Public Meetings every Tuesday, 3 o'clock, in The New Constitutional Hall, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, April 17th. Some Questions of Reconstruction. Prof. L. T. Hobhouse (University of London). Admission free.

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