

The Common Cause

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

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Notes and News.

Industrial Fatigue Research Board.

Many people must have noted with amazement that the Research Board recently provided "to consider the relation of hours of labour and other conditions of employment to production and fatigue" does not so far include a single woman member. It would be a mistake to seek for an explanation in the presumption that there are not women specially qualified for this work. On the contrary, it is a subject in which several women doctors have specialised, and which has been recognised as of vital importance to women because of its close connection with the study of Motherhood and Infant Health. The names of Dr. Janet Campbell, Dr. Winifred Cullis, Dr. Lane Claypon, and Dr. Harriet Chick are among those which will at once occur to those who know anything about this subject as possible members for the Board. We may add that if the Board was to include other experts besides the medical ones, it seems extraordinary that Miss Anderson, whose vast experience in inspection of factories is unique, should not have been included. Miss Lilian Barker's great special knowledge of the needs of women workers gained in her extension welfare work at Woolwich, might also be of service.

Unconquered!

It is always delightful to suffragists to hear of the useful activity of other suffragists, especially in work of national value during the war. Innumerable instances of this are known to us all in this country, and now we have evidence of it in Belgium. Mme. Jane Brigode, of Brussels, a member of the Board of Officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, has remained in Brussels all through the German occupation. She perforce dropped her suffrage work, and immediately applied herself to the formation of L'Union Patriotique des Femmes Belges. The object of the society, which came into existence on August 8th, 1914, was to give material and moral support to women during the war. The material support consisted in finding work at adequate wages for the poorer women. Three industries were started and maintained: clothing, lace-making and the manufacture of toys. Wages paid down to December 31st, 1917, amounted in the three-and-a-half years in the clothing industry to nine hundred and sixteen thousand francs, the women employed being more than three thousand; in the lace-

making industry to four hundred and twenty-four thousand francs, and in the manufacture of toys to one hundred and thirty-six thousand francs. It is hoped that this last has been established on a permanent basis. Mme. Brigode was the leading spirit in all this useful activity; but on the day when King Albert re-entered his capital she resumed with admirable tenacity her suffrage work.

The Education of Indian Women.

During the recent meetings of the Head Mistresses' Association a very interesting address was given on the education of women and girls in India by Mr. G. K. Devadhar, senior member of the Bombay Branch of the Servants of India Society. Mr. Devadhar set forth the facts which have on several occasions been brought before readers of THE COMMON CAUSE, bearing on the extraordinary backwardness of women's education in India. Only one woman in a hundred can read and write sufficiently to be reckoned as "literate" in her census returns. If certain classes are excluded, the figures are even worse, and the educated women are less than one in a thousand. Nevertheless, Mr. Devadhar's narrative was not uniformly depressing. In a considerable number of cases, girls are admitted to the boys' schools, and taking India as a whole and including all classes the number of girls receiving education has more than doubled in the last ten years. This is due to the best of all possible causes, the demand on the part of India itself. Mr. Devadhar made a very stirring appeal to the teachers present at the meeting to take a personal interest in the education of women in India, and to influence their girls also in this direction, and above all to remember their responsibility to India, and to use their newly gained electoral power to cause this responsibility to be translated into action. It is understood that Mr. Devadhar is one of a group of Indian Journalists especially invited to this country by the Government.

Women Electors for the Presidency of Bombay.

We hear from Bombay that the new party recently formed in the Indian Congress is firmly asking for women in the electorate at once. "The Indian Social Reformer," a 'moderate' paper which is, as we understand, an organ of this party, takes a very strong line on the necessity for the inclusion of women. It says: "The Montagu-Chelmsford Report lays down that 'the extent to which responsibility can be transferred is related to the nature and extent of the electorate which will be available in any particular province.' The question is what is the electorate that we can devise for this Presidency? Our population of the Bombay Presidency excluding Native States is under twenty millions. The population under the age of twenty-one, the present age limit for voters, is about nine millions, so that the population from whom the electorate has to be carved out numbers about eleven millions. If women are excluded from the electorate this will still further be reduced to under six millions. But we cannot imagine the adoption of such a narrow, reactionary policy in this Presidency. . . . Having regard to the strenuous efforts which the women of this Presidency have, with little encouragement from the Government, made to obtain education for themselves in all stages, and the admirable social and humanitarian work they are doing in many parts of this Presidency, it would be nothing less than a scandal if they are excluded from the electorates in any scheme of Constitutional Reform. We hope no importance will be attached to the possible objection that to give votes to women will add to the number of voters of the progressive sections of the community. The communities which, realising that social reform is the sure foundation of political progress, have begun by educating their women, are entitled to any advantage they may derive from their wise action."

MRS. FAWCETT.

WITH deep sorrow we have to announce that Mrs. Fawcett is about to resign her office as President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and that she has decided not to stand for the Executive Committee which is to be elected in March.

The reason for this decision on Mrs. Fawcett's part is to be found, she tells us, in her more than three score years and ten. It is true that, as the age of statesmen is generally counted, Mrs. Fawcett's is not great, and that in energy of body and mind she still appears far younger than many who began their public life thirty or forty years later than she did, but no one who remembers how she has toiled for the political enfranchisement of women during the last half century will grudge her freedom from the labours of her presidential office and from Committee work. We believe that it would be difficult to find the record of any other great leader who has worked for one reform for so many years without a break and without any flagging of hope. Turning to the earliest records of the Suffrage Movement we find the name of Mrs. Fawcett occurring over and over again as the chief speaker at meetings, the most active member of committees, the leader of deputations, the author of innumerable pamphlets and articles; in short, as the most untiring worker in all the most toilsome and monotonous tasks. Those who have had the honour of working with her in recent years know that she is so still. That she will now find leisure we hardly think, for she is one of those who place their 'rest elsewhere,' but she may at least find freedom and change of work.

In history we believe that Mrs. Fawcett will be seen to have the same relation to the enfranchisement of women that Wilberforce had to the abolition of the slave trade, Mazzini to the rebirth of Italy, Shaftesbury to the release of the factory children, Cobden and Bright to the repeal of the Corn Laws, Josephine Butler to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. She is one of the great Statesmen-reformers who have spent their lives, not in building up systems of power for themselves or their States, but in breaking down prison walls, loosing chains, and setting the captives free. They are the Deliverers, whose work is perhaps really the most constructive of all, though 'in the sight of the unwise' it does not seem so.

We believe moreover that she will take a singularly happy place in that glorious band because of the movement to which she has devoted her life and because of what she has achieved for it. No great reformer has ever seen his *cause won*; reforms are won, but they always turn out to be part of something else; movements still lead on, and must do so till they reach the kingdom of God on earth. The abolition of the British slave trade was only one stage in the abolition of black slavery, and that was only one stage in the war against race exploitation which is far from having reached its close. Mazzini wanted not only a free Italy but a world of free nations striving for righteousness. He died a broken-hearted exile from the nation he had made, and it is only now, nearly forty years after his death, that nationalism in its higher form has begun to seem a practicable ideal. The Factory Acts put an end to some of the worst forms of child slavery in our mills and mines, but the exploitation of childhood for purposes of money making still goes on. Josephine Butler

succeeded, after seventeen years, in getting the English Contagious Diseases Acts repealed, but all over the Continent and even, alas, within the British Empire, girls are still sacrificed to demands of lust.

Still less could such a mighty and many-sided movement as that which has for its object the ending of sex domination and the freeing of half humanity reach its goal in a single life time. It is greater than any of these we have mentioned because the subjection of women is an older, wider, deeper evil, than the subjection of classes, the subjection of nations, or the subjection of races. It is more difficult to overthrow because it seems 'natural' to the greater part of mankind. The gain to humanity when it is overthrown will, we believe, be correspondingly great. This work in which Mrs. Fawcett has spent her life is the greatest of all efforts for freedom and we can truly say she has been happy in her cause. She has been happy, too, in the success achieved. The advance that has been made in the fifty-two years of her work is so amazing that even those who have seen it happen can hardly believe that it is true; and she has helped in every part of it. She has helped to open the doors of education to women, she has helped deliver them from many of the horrors which are imposed on them by the acceptance of the double moral standard, she has helped them to gain the right to work, and the right to the possession of their own earnings. Her own special task has of course been to gain their admission to political rights, that is to the service of their country in public affairs, and here the most important victory of all has been won. Under Mrs. Fawcett's leadership women have attained to the opportunity of citizenship at a time when their country was engaged in the greatest of all wars for liberty. The triumph for women's suffrage in Great Britain was closely followed by the triumph of the Allied cause. Mrs. Fawcett reminds us in her letter that in her mind the two events are closely connected. British women have become citizens at a time when to those who are faithful to their trust, British citizenship means something more than it ever did before. We may feel then that Mrs. Fawcett has been happy not only in her task, and in her manner of doing it, but in the moment which she has chosen (or which has come to her) for bringing her official labours to a close. We cannot but announce her resignation of the Presidency with sorrow; every parting brings sadness, and to us who have used to depend on our leader for guidance at every step, the loss must needs be severe. But it is after all *only* from office that she resigns. She will remain a member of the Women's Society for Women's Suffrage and through it of the N.U.W.S.S. She will still be there to strengthen and advise. There is then no real farewell, and our sorrow will in time be swallowed up in gladness and in gratitude. No leader of any great cause has ever deserved or received a fuller confidence from those she led, none has ever gone straight forward with a more unflinching step, none has ever been more stainless in unselfishness and in honour, none has had greater reason to rejoice in a cause or in its success. She does so with her whole heart; we shall be worthy of it and her if even while we sorrow we do not rejoice too. It is a great thing to have worked for freedom. It is a great thing to have worked under Mrs. Fawcett. Every member of the N.U.W.S.S. may well count herself happy in her lot.

Credo.

"Does the road wind up-hill all the way?" some within the N.U.W.S.S. are asking. Let the answer ring clear, "Yes, to the very end." Uphill roads are the only ones for pioneers, and the N.U.W.S.S. is, and must remain, a pioneer society. Is, and must remain—for what is the bearing of the passing of a measure of Women's Suffrage on our work? Was the granting of the vote a sign of the conversion of the nation to the standpoint of Feminism? I think not. I do not wish to minimise the change in public opinion regarding the status and capacity of women which war-time conditions have brought about. But who will deny that the vast majority of the inhabitants of Great Britain have either no knowledge of the way of salvation as it is seen by Feminists, or remain unconverted to the Feministic creed.

What is Feminism? It is an atmosphere, an inspiration, a touchstone, a temper of the spirit, a principle stretching its threads into many departments of human life and conduct. And

to the individual it is never revealed as a whole—it comes, like all things of the Spirit, as it listeth, as one is ready for it; it crops up and surprises one in the stray corners of one's mind, until at last it is seen suddenly to have links with a large part of the domain of human affairs. The relationship of men and women, in marriage, in social life, in work, in industry, in public affairs: the relation of women to one another, of parent and child: certain problems in education, economics, politics, religion—all these the light of Feminism touches and illumines. Yet more, far more, than half the people are dwelling in darkness and outside its rays. Few convinced Feminists will dispute this. I am not of course speaking of distinctively Suffrage circles in such of the large towns as are centres of intellectual activity. But take provincial life, its trade unions, clergy, local authorities, professional and middle class (to say nothing of its landed Junkers), take the atmosphere of its public schools, and the *personel* of its political party—machinery—are not multitudes here in dense and

uncomprehending ignorance concerning that attitude of mind, that conception of human relations, that perception of values, which the word Feminism connotes? If the N.U.W.S.S. works to alter this state of things our road will be found to wind up-hill all the way.

And how pleasant level roads are! We have been for years toiling, organising, agitating—often ignored, often ridiculed, often misunderstood—for the political emancipation of women. It was a definite peak of the Feminist range, one we could all see and all agree to make for. Now we have planted our banner there. (I assume that "as it is or may be" lies not very far ahead of us in the future), and we pause to take breath. Level roads stretch invitingly before us, roads where we shall be made welcome, along which we can do good work whilst moving with the stream. Social Reform, Infant Welfare, Housing, work on public bodies, political work (how candidates and party agents have courted us these past weeks!)—all interesting roads, all in their way good. Presently, too, Government will be looking round for women with knowledge of public work and traditions of public service to act on Government Committees, and among Suffragists it will find a body of women well qualified to serve the State. Level roads again. But—as *Members of the N.U.W.S.S.* should we choose the level roads, or must we buckle on harness once more, and start organising, converting, agitating, swimming against the popular current, and pressing on the public a doctrine for which many are not ready, which many will misunderstand, and which is sure to meet with considerable opposition? And are we, after all, agreed within the N.U.W.S.S. about Feminism, what it is, what it involves, and how far it stretches? And even if we were, can we agree when the critical point is reached where belief must be translated into action? Then there is the problem of the different stages of development reached by different societies—the progressive, the "safe," the timid. Looming in the distance is the thought of our Executive—so interesting and so entirely delightful when you are on it, at times so baffling, so lacking in rapier-like swiftness and decision, when you are off it! How can we weld all these elements together into an army whose sole and undivided aim shall be the triumph of Feminism in every department of social and public life? And can we bear with one another through the process of finding out how best it may be done?

It is the old dilemma, "the dream and the business," and how to combine and harmonise the two. Without vision the N.U.W.S.S. must perish. Let us be thankful for that, those of us who have worked in its ranks during its fighting days. If it ceases to have a real function among the progressive forces let it vanish from the scene. We do not want the scaffolding of its fine organisation left standing for anything less than its own special work.

But a great future lies before the Union if it will grasp its opportunities. Holding firmly to a principle, applying it consistently and untiringly, preaching it in good repute and in evil repute, refusing compromises, dealing with situations and testing policies and persons in the light of that principle, climbing by steep places to the heights—that is the work for which the N.U.W.S.S. should be preparing.

Feminism is not anti-man-ism. Women can be, and often are, the antithesis of everything for which Feminism stands. Feminism is for the salvation of men and women equally, it has as much to give to our sons as to our daughters. It is the unrealized bit of Civilization which it is the province of our Union to aid in bringing to our own country and our own time. Let us work for this, and not follow after other things, though they be things in themselves good. For us anything less than the spread of the truth as it is in the full Feministic creed is waste. Even the concrete things that we may achieve by the way must be in the nature of those things that shall be added unto us. Our main aim, our main inspiration, is something beyond and outside any Acts of Parliament. It is nothing less than the conversion of the people to the principle for which we stand and by reason of which we exist. Let March* find this bitten deeply into our minds.

WINIFRED COOMBE TENNANT.

The Demobilisation of Women Clerks.

ON December 30th, the "Times" published a letter signed by two members of the Women Clerks and Secretaries Association, calling on patriotic women clerical workers possessed of private means voluntarily to resign their posts, even when they are

*The Annual Council Meeting will be held in London on March 5th, 6th and 7th.

doing good work and not merely carrying out routine duties such as any moderately intelligent worker without experience can discharge with credit, in order that those women workers who depend for their livelihood on their earnings may stand a chance of permanent appointment where their employment is now of a temporary nature only, and not be passed over in favour of those better endowed than themselves with this world's goods. For the rule, "to her that hath shall be given," is a worldly, as well as a heavenly, rule.

It will be interesting to see what will be the effect of this public appeal to women's patriotism. There are two reasons why the course suggested by the Representatives of the women's clerical trade union would be patriotic. There is the narrow, surface reason set forth in the letter quoted: that women who need paid work may retain it and the out-of-work employment money may thus be saved for the heavily taxed community; and there is the deeper reason—women who are fitted and who can afford to train for other work, with or without State assistance, should do so. They have most of them entered on what is a blind-alley occupation to anyone of moderate ambition possessing powers of personal imagination and initiative. They took the turning into this blind alley, as their brothers entered the trenches, for their country's sake. Many of their brothers have paid the greatest tribute the State can ever ask of a man, and will never return home. Patriotism calls to these women of means, of imagination, and of power, to come forward once again and fill up the empty ranks which their brothers have left in those professions and callings, where something more is necessary than the perfunctory intelligence which a woman clerical worker is expected to display.

The Final Report of the Civil War Workers Committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction was published in November. It is dated November 7th, and was therefore completed shortly before Armistice Day. It can be obtained for one penny from His Majesty's Stationery Office, or through any Bookseller (Cd. 9,228). Every woman who is interested in the welfare of her sex should read this. It deals chiefly with women engaged in clerical and commercial occupations, an earlier report having been issued on women engaged in the metal and chemical trades. The extraordinary thing about this Report is that it is the product of the Civil War Workers Committee, on which two women only sat, neither of whom is directly and intimately acquainted with the needs of women clerks—and yet half its chief work has dealt with women clerks—an unpopular and misunderstood body of workers. We look in vain for the name of a representative of the Women Clerks and Secretaries Association, the Trade Union which has spent years of labour over the improvement of the position of women clerks and which was responsible for the establishment of the Women Clerks and Secretaries Friendly Society under the National Health Insurance Act. No mention is made in the Report of the Memoranda submitted to the Committee by the Women Clerks and Secretaries Association, although the recommendations of the Committee are at one with the recommendations of the Union. Surely much valuable time and some public money might have been saved if the Union had been invited to submit recommendations direct to the Ministry of Reconstruction!

The Report states that there has been an increase in the employment of women substitutes since July, 1914, as follows:—

In the Civil Service	99,500
As Clerks	57,000
In Finance and Banking	63,000
	219,500

This represents a net replacement of men numbering 97,500 (in the Civil Service 49,500; in the professions chiefly as clerks, 20,000; and in Finance and Banking, 28,000). Subtracting this figure from 219,500 (the increased number of women employed since 1914), we find that 122,000 women have to be considered who are not replacing men, 50,000 of these are in the Civil Service; 37,000 are clerks, and 35,000 are engaged in Finance and Banking.

These figures are large. At present, until the condition of the money and labour markets become apparent, it is impossible to make any forecast of the number of women likely to be thrown on the market. Shortened hours of work will account for the continued employment of many. From the Civil Service, however, it seems more than probable, practically certain, that in a year's time many thousands of women will be thrown on their own resources. Even the Pensions Office must reduce its staff as the work gradually becomes of a permanent nature only, and we are apparently not to exist in perpetuity under the

fatherly guidance of the Ministry of Food. But there are many other Government Offices whose *raison d'être* must cease almost immediately after the conclusion of Peace—if not at an earlier date. Half an hour's leisurely walk down the Embankment, along Horse Guards' Parade and through St. James' Park will convince the most unimaginative that the question of the unemployment of women clerical workers is about to assume pathetically serious importance.

What is to become of these women? At present the only provision appears to be the Government allowance of 25s. a week for thirteen weeks, *within six months after the signing of the Armistice*. If this period is not extended, women losing employment after May 11th of this year will be left destitute, except for their scanty savings. The allowance, of course, if that is the sole help to be given these women, should be given for thirteen weeks after the date of dismissal. Dismissal from Government Offices is not yet; indeed, there are still vacancies for temporary clerks—a considerable number of vacancies. Offices which dealt with war work, but were not carried on under the aegis of the Government are already paying off their staffs, their work being completed. These are such voluntary agencies as the Red Cross of different nationalities and the societies dealing with Prisoners of War. The Women Clerks and Secretaries Association predicts a dark time twelve or fifteen months ahead. The Society has watched over the woman clerical worker since August 4th, 1914, forming almost immediately a War Relief Committee to deal with the dire poverty which overtook many women when war began, and which lasted till February or March, 1915.

Those persons who remember how and in what manner women clerical workers were recruited for Government offices and private employers in 1915 will call to mind that the Home Office set up a special Committee to deal with the matter under the chairmanship of Mr. Harold Harmsworth (now Lord Rothermere) on which two women only, Miss Violet Markham and Miss Patterson, Woman Insurance Commissioner for Scotland, served. Wives, mothers, and girls with their hair down were enlisted in clerical service; the girls in the large secondary and high schools downed books and answered the patriotic call; women from the universities, both students and lecturers, hurried to the office stool.

For my first reason—the narrow surface reason—that women who need work, who cannot pay their bread bills and clothe themselves decently without it, women with private means should give up their posts now or in the very near future. By so doing they will be acting patriotically. Many of the women who without their work would be driven on to the streets or into the workhouses have during the war lost their only tie of relationship with the opposite sex—and now stand alone. With the high prices which have prevailed these women can have saved nothing. They have spent their earnings patriotically if they are now well-fed and decently clothed and are physically prepared to face the ogre of unemployment with hope and courage. It is to be hoped that the older ones may step into the shoes of the women of means who answer the appeal to "down tools." The Women Clerks and Secretaries Association is holding a mass meeting on January 21st at Caxton Hall, when all these problems will be discussed. The hall ought to be filled to overflowing. It is not out of place here to indicate what the Association is ready to do for its members. In disputes on unemployment questions the Court of Referees, in most cases where an umpire is appointed to decide the question at issue, will deal with a Trade Union and not with the individual. The Association is ready to take action here. It is also in close touch with the Consulates in most European countries and in Brazil and the U.S.A., and is in a position to advise its members on chances of employment abroad.

The second reason why women of private means who have filled posts in Government Offices and elsewhere from a sense of duty to their country should retire from such employment is that—given the brains and the application—many of them will be able, after training and preparation, to serve their country better in the medical, teaching and legal professions, or on the land or overseas, than in the office. There has never been a time in our history when the service of women was so valuable to the State, when educated intelligence could be so incalculable an asset in rebuilding society on a purified basis. Women of initiative and means will fall short in true patriotic feeling if they continue to conceal the talents with which they have been endowed and, because they have given four years' service of a restricted nature to the State, refrain from offering a wider service to the community in the future.

RUTH YOUNG.

The Vote and Its Limitations.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that the first election in which women have participated as voters should be distinguished by a remarkable display of political ignorance on the part of a great many electors, both male and female. This was almost inevitable under present conditions; the country is still excited and rather hysterical with the tremendous reaction from four years of strain and anxiety; and I am sorry to say that the majority of Parliamentary candidates appear to have taken advantage of this fact to try and persuade their constituents that now, for the first time on record, their votes are going to have a powerful influence upon the foreign policy of Great Britain. What is worse, scores of guileless voters (male and female) have believed this; and in consequence they are bound to be deeply disappointed, and may even come to despise the power and value of the Parliamentary vote when they discover that its influence upon our foreign policy is practically nil.

But it would be very foolish to despise the power of the vote. It is perfectly true that at present foreign policy is quietly decided by a small group of diplomats and permanent officials, over the head of the House of Commons; it is perfectly true that the aspiring M.P. who has been explaining to us so emphatically just exactly what penalties he means to inflict upon Germany at the Peace Conference, will never once be invited to give his opinion upon the subject after he is elected; and it is highly probable that the question of who is to pay an indemnity and who is to receive it was settled by the Allied Governments behind closed doors long before December 28th, when our votes were counted. None the less a vote is a highly valuable possession to all those who are sufficiently well acquainted with the government of their country to recognise its limitations.

At the present day we have not got "democratic control" of foreign policy, and it is flat nonsense to pretend we have. Indeed, it is even possible that until the electorate as a whole becomes better educated, more intelligent, and more tolerant—and incidentally less under the influence of the cheapest type of newspaper—democratic control would have a positively disastrous influence over international affairs. But this is a purely academic question. When the final terms of the Peace Settlement are announced they will no doubt disappoint both the Jingo party, because they are too lenient, and the pacifist party because they are too severe; and both Jingos and pacifists will be inclined to turn round upon the M.P. of their choice and angrily inquire "Why did you permit this?"—which will be most unfair to the poor innocent M.P. He will have no more to do with the Peace Settlement than the humblest of his constituents; and if he has led them to believe otherwise, that was merely a bit of camouflage to hide the fact that over, and almost equally vital questions (where he might indeed exercise a powerful influence if he chose to do so) his opinion was nebulous and his political position wobbly.

Are we, then, to fall back into the traditional state of insular indifference towards everything that takes place beyond the boundaries of our own little island? No indeed; for the last four years have proved that foreign and domestic affairs are so closely interwoven that even such trivial domestic details as the baby's hot bath and our own eggs and bacon are seen to be dependent, in the long run, upon the main lines of European statesmanship for the past twenty or thirty years. Moreover, if we really wish for more power over foreign policy we must fit ourselves to exercise that power in an intelligent fashion; we must realise our responsibility towards other nations as we are beginning to realise it towards our own fellow-citizens. And meanwhile we may occupy ourselves very usefully in becoming acquainted with the daily working of the Parliamentary machine, until we learn that it is only a machine and rather an antiquated one, and certainly not Aladdin's lamp; and that the rather hoarse and flustered gentleman who topped the poll because of our votes (or in spite of our votes) is not the Genii of the Lamp, but only Mr. So-and-So, M.P.—a very useful person if we don't expect impossibilities.

MADGE MEARS

No Room for Children.

The man sat by the fire with his elbows on his knees and his head resting between his hands. His wooden chair was crooked because one leg had slipped into a hole in the brick floor. "I don't know where us 'll ever put it," he said.

The woman sat at the table mending some garment of faded pink flannelette by the light of a small oil lamp. She tried to

answer the man bravely though her lips trembled. "It can sleep along of us fer a good bit," she said with forced cheerfulness.

"Oh, I know it can," said the man bitterly, "but theer's Jim as well. Jessie and Ciss must have th' attic to theirselves; 'tain't decent fer a girl goin' in fourteen and one twelve to have a boy of nine (goin' ten he is) to sleep with 'em. 'T's bad enough 'aving him with us, as tha knows; and with Jim in our room and this 'ere baby 's well, they'll be summonsing us fer overcrowding. Not but wot I don't love th' little 'uns, God knows," he added in lower tones, "I was fair hit hard when our Alfie died—see, wot age 'd he be now?"

"Five," answered his wife; "and th' one between Ciss and Jim 'ud 'ave been eleven."

"Thank th' Lord 'as we buried it," said the man fervently; "wot chanst 'as a cripple in a place like this?" He looked round the cramped living room as he spoke, with its dirty ceiling and paper peeling off the walls, with its broken brick floor and small low window looking into a sooty yard. "But Alfie," he added musingly, "little Alfie, 'e 'ud a' been a real stunner by now, 'e would."

Slow tears fell from the woman's eyes on to her work:—"P'raps wheer 'e is now theer's more room fer 'im to play," she said. "'E couldn't never content 'isself with th' yard; an' if I 'adn't bin washin', and 'e 'adn't a went down th' entry into the road, th' tram wouldn't never a knocked 'im down."

There was silence awhile in the dim little room; the clock had long ceased to go, and the bitter cold had driven the most adventurous frequenters of the little court indoors, so an unusual stillness brooded over a portion of the town which was generally filled with noises and shouting till after midnight.

The man raised himself from his crouching position and kicked off his wet boots. "It's a long time," he remarked curtly.

The woman understood perfectly. "I know," she said humbly, "I didn't never think I should 'ave another after this long. Oh," she cried despairingly, "why didn't the Lord know as we couldn't do with another, nohow? Not but I wouldn't like me arms full again, which allus feels empty since Alfie were took, but when th' landlord 'ears tell of another comin' 'e'll turn us out for sure. 'E made that fuss over Alfie."

She broke down into uncontrolled sobs.

"Theer, lass, don't tha take on so," said her husband with rough tenderness. "They do say 'ow this 'ere Government is a goin' to build lots o' good houses fer th' working folk, with bathrooms in, an' all."

The woman laughed between her tears. "Barrooms, is it?" she said scornfully. "If they'd give us a sink and a tap o' water, and enough bedrooms fer to sleep us decent-like, and make th' landlords clean th' houses up, I wouldn't mind about no barrooms."

"Well," said the man, "wot I want to know is 'ow us poor folk is goin' to pay fer them sort of 'ouses—we pays a quarter of our wages in rent now, and if they wants more, I reckon th' real working people won't never be able to live in 'em."

But the mind of the woman, exhausted with overwork, poor food, and lack of fresh air, was unequal to speculating on problems so far ahead; her own immediate problem, moreover, was filling her thoughts with anxiety.

"I ain't no little clothes," she said presently.

"Oh, well," said the man, who had not much idea of the cost of "little clothes," "we'll squeeze a bit for them some-ow."

"P'raps it 'ull be a boy and grow up like our Alfie," he added slowly. "I'd sort o' like it to be a little lad, and you allus 'as fine babies, 'ceptin' that one, Meg."

A faint flush rose to the mother's thin cheek at this meed of praise as she folded up her mending and put the wood to dry for lighting the fire in the morning.

That night the snow fell heavily, and even the dreary and sordid slums lay pure and clean under the light of early dawn. But in a few hours the thick covering of snow was churned into a chill, black slush, and the paper boots of the school children and the factory people were sodden through directly they went out in it.

As the day wore on to late afternoon a frost settled down over the land, which in the city was accompanied by a dense grey fog, so that the trains proceeded almost at walking pace, ringing their bells all the time; and in the small back courts, dimly lighted at the best of times, there reigned a thick black darkness.

The children not having returned from school, the mother of Jessie and Ciss and Jim decided that she should just have time to wipe over the kitchen floor, plentifully muddled by their wet boots at dinner time, before tea; and taking her pail in her hand she crossed the court, finding the tap in the wall by the aid of a timely gleam of light from a half-opened door which threw a misty yellow shaft across the fog.

On returning, however, she stepped on a small square trap in the centre of the yard, down which waste water drained. This was covered with frozen snow, and the woman not having seen it or expected it fell full length, upsetting the bucket of icy water all over her. Then the darkness settled down completely, the little shafts of orange light from the small window panes of the houses on the other side went suddenly out, and a great peace settled over the world.

Not for long, though; the voices of the children and the neighbours began to reach her from very far off, and presently light came mistily across the court from many wide-open doors. Presently sharp twisting pain roused her fully to consciousness, and before long the half-stunned and shivering woman was helped to bed; hot bricks were placed to her feet; and a kindly make-shift nurse known as "Jack-at-a-Pinch" was summoned from a neighbouring yard.

The husband was late that night, having been delayed in his work by the fog, and when at last he got home he was told by his daughter Jessie, who was frying a kipper for his tea-supper, that her mother was quite comfortable now, and Jack-at-a-Pinch, alias Mrs. Simmons, would "look in again last thing."

The man went up into the little cold, stuffy bedroom, which was filled with the fog that percolated through the ill-fitting window frame, and drawing the one thin blanket from his wife's face called her by name. Rousing herself from a doze of exhaustion, she lifted eyes still dark with pain to his.

"Th' landlord won't turn us out now," she said faintly, "'cos there ain't goin' to be no little new baby, which my arms has felt empty-like since Alfie went." A few sobs shook her thin frame, while her husband passed the back of his hand over his eyes without speaking.

Then the wife looked up again. "Mebbe th' Lord knowed arter all as we hedn't got room fer another," she said with a little tremulous smile to encourage her man, though her own eyes were full of tears.

CAROL RING.

Reviews.

The Women Novelists. By R. Brimley Johnson. (London: 48, Pall Mall. W. Collins, Sons & Co., Ltd., Glasgow, Melbourne, Auckland. 6s. net.)

This interesting book is a collection of essays, and consequently is without that symmetry or direct message which we are certain that Mr. Brimley Johnson could have provided if he had written round some central theme or with some central object. The women novelists of whom he treats are all English novelists, and he starts with the statement, which is really an assumption, that Fanny Burney was the first woman novelist. This, of course, is to omit much first-class French work, and to dismiss the *Princesse de Clèves* as if it had never been written. Again, in a book, planned as a whole, a sense of proportion would have been preserved, especially by so capable a writer as Mr. Brimley Johnson, which is absent in this collection. No two critics—and Mr. Johnson is an admirable critic—would be expected to think entirely the same things. They would not be expected to make out lists in order of merit which would be identical; but on the other hand, the space in this book devoted to Fanny Burney and Jane Austen compared to that given to Charlotte Brontë and Mrs. Oliphant is a little extraordinary. Mr. Johnson, however, can discount all such comments on what he has not done by saying that he has not attempted to do it; he may have recognised the impossibility of being all inclusive and the invidiousness of any scheme for allotting length of notice to particular writers proportional to their importance.

There are obviously two ways of treating the subject of women novelists, the first being to point out the essential difference between novels as written by men and novels as written by women, and the other to deal with fiction as a whole, dwelling on those fine writers who, while being leaders of fiction, were also women. Mr. Brimley Johnson's collection of essays on women novelists does not conform to either pattern. Nor is there any actual attempt to arrive at general views as to the position of women novelists as recorders, critics, or prophets from the sex, family, or domestic point of view; nor do his able

sketches exactly show on what grounds some writers are exalted above others, some treated at length, and some with remarkable brevity, some mentioned and some not mentioned at all. Mrs. Henry Wood's name appears in an appendix where we cannot find the name of Ouida or Miss Braddon.

Any how, the result is an interesting and informing one, and has the merit of causing no annoyance to readers of either sex, as all suggestions that here the hand of man or there the touch of woman would have rendered the desired effect with greater sincerity are omitted.

The best chapters in the book seem to us to be the second of the three dealing with Miss Burney, entitled "A Study of Youth," the charming essay on Jane Austen, "A Study in Fine Art," and a sound summary of George Eliot's accomplishment. In each case Mr. Johnson puts before us in a clear and penetrating way the intentions and ideals of the writers as they may be judged by their performances, and he is eulogistic without being effusive; in each case he shows perfect acquaintance with his subject. He analyses *Camilla* with as great fullness as *Evelina*; he talks at length of *Lady Susan*, which probably has only one reader for a hundred claimed by *Pride and Prejudice*; he knows George Eliot's characters to speak to. These three writers make, with Charlotte Brontë, what he terms "The Great Four," and he draws interesting contrasts as to their capacity to amuse, finding Fanny Burney to have an eye for comedy, Jane Austen dependent on the humorous phrase, George Eliot on the study of wit, and Charlotte Brontë to have neither humour nor wit—and these are true generalities.

Mr. Brimley Johnson is to be congratulated on a timely book; and the careful way in which all his facts are dated render his work very useful for reference.

S. S. S.

Recent Verse.

Oxford Poetry, 1918. (Blackwell, Oxford, 1s. 6d.).
Wine and Gall. By L. & R. (Blackwell, 1s. 6d.).
Catholic Tales. By Dorothy L. Sayers. (Blackwell, 3s.).

The annual publication of *Oxford Poetry* is one of the most valuable of Mr. Blackwell's many enterprises: it serves, not only as a sort of barometer of the young-poetic atmosphere, but also as an astronomical chart for the use of those who are continually on the watch for new stars of poetry. In the latter rôle *Oxford Poetry* is not to be sneezed at: it has given us Sherard Vines' "Mud," "Hotel," and "Tod Als Freund"; Miss Sayers' "Lays," and several delightful and promising poems by Godfrey Elton (for a volume of whose work certain of us are still hopefully waiting), T. W. Earp, and one or two young men since dead. It has also enabled us to follow the development or the decline, of our favourites. For these reasons, the appearance of *Oxford Poetry*, 1918, is an event of importance.

The general level of technical skill is good this year; there is also a satisfactory absence of sentimental wordy effusions concerning apple-blossom and unrequited passion, probably entitled "To —," which marred the earlier volumes. There is nothing however, as striking as the poems referred to by name above; there is fancy but not much imagination; feeling for words and images, but not much emotion. Even Mr. Vines seems temporarily to have surrendered his passion; though he cannot be dull: his "Permission" is one of the two best poems in the book. The other, Russell Green's lyric, "Faith," is marred by an uneasy last line. By replacing the word "constancy" by another which will repeat the rhythm of "summer" he will make the end worthy of this exquisite beginning:—

"When a foam of snow is hurled
Under the bare, black trees,
And rain is on the seas,
And winter on the world,
Yet when I think of her,
I know where summer is."

The other poems worthy of remembrance are Gerald Crow's "Madhouse Garden," which recalls a poem by Dowson similar in subject and treatment; Aldous Huxley's "Song of Poplars"; H. C. Harwood's "Incompatibility," which includes two clichés apparently indispensable to rhymesters: "Suns that are set," and "I love you yet"; and Luisa Hewitt's workmanlike sonnet "Ave Atque Vale," which is, we regret, omitted from *Wine and Gall*.

It did not need the faculties of a Holmes to discover the identity of "L. & R." If they wished to remain anonymous they should have called themselves "Nuts and May." And as we are on the subject, we suggest that *Oranges and Lemons* would have been a more appropriate title for this

diminutive and attractive volume. There is little of heady in it; and what there is of bitter has not the tragic implications of the title. Indeed, "L. & R." seems to be rather scared of making sillies of themselves—specially "L.," who has a laudable determination to keep her sense of humour intact. Her "Resolve" is charming; and the same consideration for her beloved's comfort is shown by the poem beginning:—

"When I forget my promised part,
Growing intense or deep,
Confusing fun with tragic art—
Shut eyes and go to sleep."

Some of her pain emerges in "Ægrotat," but even pain does not interfere with her sense of proportion; and though it lacks the irony of "O, when I was in love with you," the last stanza has some of the fine simplicity of *The Shropshire Lad*:—

"Heart is heavy and soul is sick,
There is no more to tell,
But kiss me better and love me quick,
And I may yet be well."

If "R." reminds us of anyone in particular, it is of Browning. The end of "Iter Persicum," with a reference to "the truest poet I ever knew" (Flecker?) recalls "And did you once see Shelley plain?" and "What porridge had John Keats?" On the whole, "R's" verses are insignificant; rather tasteless oranges. "The curious hidden things" and "Gaudium in Coelo" are pleasant.

Miss Sayers, who is represented in *Oxford Poetry*, 1918, by a laborious and deadly essay on "Pygmalion," has taken the title of her new volume from Belloc; and indeed, it seems to be chiefly inspired by the breezy heartiness of Belloc and Chesterton's verses; only that for Sussex beer she substitutes sacred wine. Indeed, it is this affectation of profanity that we find so nauseating. To do Belloc and Chesterton justice, they have never been mawkish in their familiarity concerning religious matters. Neither of them could have descended to writing "Christ the Companion," which makes the unfortunate reader squirm and blush angrily. There are, however, traces in these poems of the beauty and passion that made some pages of Miss Sayers, *Op. I.*, glow for us. These are to be found in "The Drunkard" (whose fifth stanza is pure Chesterton but whose beginning and end are pure Sayers) and in "The House of the Soul" which, though not religious in subject, has some of the religious emotion that made the *Oxford Lay* remarkable. The following, from "The House of the Soul," Section X., shows Miss Sayers' sure handling of words and rhythm, and her gift for fine picturesque description:—

"Yesterday, looking through my window-bars,
The whole sad sea was changed resplendently
By one great ship that sailed with raking spars
Into the sunshine; and her masts were three,
Red, splendid banners in the wind blew free,
Her blown white sails were thick with tempest-scars,
Twelve rounded shields along her sides had she,
And round about her prow, the name of the Trinity."

The *Englishwoman*. (11, Haymarket, 1s. Monthly.)
The January *Englishwoman* devotes a good deal of space to some aspects of industrial life. A. H. M. Fairbanks writes on "Women's Position in Industry," Ernestine Mills on "Mothers in Factories," and an anonymous writer contributes, "Sane Thoughts on Factory Life." The *Thoughts* are those of a woman of independent means who entered a factory for war service; there is, in her manner of writing, a certain snobbery; she emphasises the good influence of those "gently born" on the rough, coarse, and familiar factory hands, and though we do not doubt that such influence is often good, the attitude suggested by the article belongs to the days of dole and patronage, when the "lower classes" were regarded as strange animals, evil, but open to conversion. "The Women's Battalion," (first instalment), by a member of the Petrograd Town Council, is an extremely interesting account of the Russian Women Soldiers, and their part in the beginning of the Revolution.

"The Drama of the Day" is, as usual, most entertainingly written.

Correspondence.

WOMEN CANDIDATES.

MADAM.—The chief cause of the very disappointing result *re* women candidates is certainly lack of organisation, secondly, all of them lacked the coupon, and thirdly, prejudice. The lack of organisation was mainly due to the abnormal situation and the short time between women being eligible and appearing actually as candidates, but it ought to prove a very wholesome lesson and urge us on without delay to remedy the defect. Most probably the Khaki election sequence will follow, and the present Government will outstay its welcome with the result that the present Government will be defeated by a large Majority as was Mr. Balfour's government, but it may not; and we ought, at the next election, to be well prepared to fight a reasonable number of constituencies for women, and assistant in returning back to Parliament the friends of the women's cause who have this time fallen, such as Mr. Chancellor to mention one only.

To my mind the most practical way would be to form a special fund the object of which was to pay half of the salary of a political full time

agent, getting the political Association to pay the other half in every constituency where the candidate was officially supported by the National Union, and in the main this should mean all of the lady candidates who stood at this election who were members of the Union, and, say, an equal number of male friends who have helped the cause in the House of Commons in the past. We could by this means do the spade work by which alone the success will come, and if we get early on the job it will be possible to get all of the prospective candidates appointed and officially recognised by the party of their convictions in constituencies that do offer a really good prospect for such clever and otherwise desirable representatives as are, perhaps without exception, the lady candidates and the gentlemen to whom I have referred.

H. M. THEEDAM.

Reports, Notices, etc.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Betham-Edwards, a well-known writer, a friend of Madame Bodichon, and of George Eliot. She is best known for her books about France, in which country she travelled a great deal, and whose interest and beauty she proclaimed in "East of Paris," "Literary Rambles in France," &c.

The death in New York of Miss Rose Sidgwick is a great loss to the cause of the higher education of women. She was history lecturer at Birmingham University; and her death, which many will regret, occurred while she was with the British University Mission to U.S.A.

A SECOND WOMAN COUNCILLOR FOR CAMBRIDGE.

Mrs. Alan Gray will be returned unopposed to the Cambridge Borough Council, as a non-party representative of Fitzwilliam Ward. Next to Mrs. Gray's personal qualifications, this happy result may be ascribed to the Cambridge and District Women Citizens' Association who induced Mrs. Gray to stand, and who energetically supported her candidature. This is the first occasion that a vacancy on the Town Council has occurred since the embargo on such municipal contests was removed; and the Council, notwithstanding the splendid work done by its sole woman member, Mrs. Keynes, had refused to co-opt Mrs. Gray or any other woman. The Women Citizens' Association was therefore resolved to put an end to this state of things. The Hon. Secretary of the Local Government Committee of the Association, Miss G. M. Johnson, quickly got the nomination forms filled up, as some of the leading residents in the ward, including two heads of colleges and several well-known medical men, willingly supported a candidate who has done much to promote the physical and educational welfare of the children. An active ward committee of the association also prepared for the labours of a contest. The recognition of Mrs. Gray's claims, however, was so widespread that no candidate wished to fight for the seat. Mrs. Alan Gray has served on many important local committees, including the Borough Education Committee; and the establishment of an open-air school owes much to her efforts. Of the Cambridge Council of Women (formerly known as the local branch of the N.U.W.W.) she has been Hon. Secretary ever since its formation. Like the majority of women engaged in public work, she is a strong suffragist, and she has been for many years a member of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association. Cambridge has reason to be proud of two such women councillors as Mrs. Keynes and Mrs. Gray; but the Women Citizens' Association will not be content until there is at least one woman councillor for each ward. This would still leave men in the majority of two councillors to one in each ward, exclusive of aldermen and university representatives.

RAISING OF NURSES' PAY.

The Committee of Management of the Great Northern Central Hospital has revised the scale of remuneration to Sisters as from the 1st inst. Night and Theatre Sisters will receive £50 per annum, increasing to £60; Ward and Casualty Sisters £42, rising to £55. All Sisters with six years' service will receive an additional £10 per annum. Staff Nurses will be paid £40 per annum. The salaries of Nurses were increased some time ago, the rates now being—first year nurses £16 per annum, second year £18, third year £20, and fourth year £28.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, L.L.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS MARGARET JONES, MRS. OLIVER STRACHY (Parliamentary).
Hon. Treasurers: MRS. H. A. L. FISHER and MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.
Secretary: MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS. HUBBACK (Information and Parliamentary).
Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarter Notes.

Mrs. Fawcett.

Mrs. Fawcett has sent the following letter to the Hon. Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S.:—

DEAR MISS MARGARET JONES.—It is with feelings of true affection for the N.U.W.S.S. and of deep appreciation of its continued value to the women's cause, that I write to ask you to let all societies know that I am not offering myself for re-election as President or as a member of the Executive Committee.

My reason is to be found in my age. I feel that the time has come when younger women should lead the N.U.

It has been my good fortune to remain at my post until the victorious end of the war and until the great victory also for the cause of women's freedom. You know how intimately associated together I have always felt these two great events to be.

I am, and shall remain, a loyal and devoted member of the N.U.W.S.S., my membership of the London Society ensures this for me. I highly value the political work of the N.U., more effective now than ever before in consequence of our having won the vote. I also particularly value its non-party character, which you know we have always interpreted as meaning no Laodicean indifference, but that the N.U. includes and embraces members of every political party. Much of the value of our work has depended on this. I mention these things that you and all the Societies may see that I am not retiring because I am dissatisfied or because I think the work of the N.U. is accomplished and its organisation can be fitly brought to an end, but really on account of my more than three score and ten years.

If at any time I can be of use or assistance to the N.U. as an ex-President you know how very gladly I shall do whatever is in my power.

With all good wishes for Christmas.

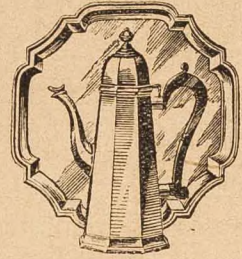
Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Literature Department.

The Literature Department is issuing a new series of pamphlets upon the different points in the programme of this Union. The first of these—"Women and the Peace Conference," by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, price 2d.—will be on sale in the office within a few days. Particulars of other numbers in the series will be issued as they are ready.

The following are the Pamphlets, Books, &c., stocked by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies:—

CITIZENSHIP AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE VOTE.	
Women and the Sovereign State. (A. Maude Royden) ...	s. d. 2 6
Specimens of Newspaper and Citizenship Classes. (National Organisation of Girls' Clubs) ...	6
Citizenship. (Cecile Matheson) ...	2 0
Primer of English Citizenship. (Frederick Swann) ...	2 6
Woman: A Citizen. (A. E. Metcalfe) ...	2 6
The Rights and Duties of the English Citizen. (H. Elliot Malden) ...	3 6
Civics. J. L. Sparkes ...	1 6
Women Citizens' Associations Handbook. (Violet Eustace) ...	1 6
Women Citizens' Diary ... cloth 1s. 6d., leather ...	2 0
What is a W.C.A.? ...	1 0
Ten Reasons for Joining a Women Citizens' Association ...	1 0
Votes and Responsibilities ...	1 0
Mothers, You Must Vote ...	1 6
To Women in the Teaching Profession ...	1 6
" " " Engineering Trades ...	1 6
" " " Business ...	1 6
The Making of Women. (Edited by Victor Gollancz) ...	6 0
Problems of the Vote. (National Adult School Union) ...	1 1/2
A Woman Voter Makes Up Her Mind ...	1 1/2
PARLIAMENTARY, GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FRANCHISES, &c.	
Registration of Voters. (J. Renwick Seager) ...	5 0
And Shall I Have a Parliamentary Vote? (Chrystal Macmillan) ...	3
Qualifications of Women Voters ...	1 1/2
Handbook on Local Government. (Women's Municipal Party) ...	1 6
Outlines of Local Government. (J. S. Clarke) ...	1 6
Third Annual Report of Women's Local Government Society ...	2
Representation of the People Act ...	1 6
Women's Local Government Society Leaflets ... each	1/2
Why Women are Wanted on London Borough Councils ...	1/2
" " " " County Councils ...	1/2
" " " " Urban District Councils ...	1/2
" " " " Boards of Guardians ...	1/2
The Work of a Public Health Committee ...	1/2
Cinemas ...	1/2
WOMEN IN INDUSTRY. INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION.	
Women in the Engineering Trade. (Barbara Drake) ...	1
Women and War Work. (Helen Fraser) ...	4 6
Married Women's Work. (Clementina Black) ...	3 0
Conflicting Ideals of Women's Work. (Hutchins) ...	1 0
Position of Women after the War. (Report of Conference at Bristol) ...	6
Labour and the New Social Order. (Labour Party) ...	2
When Peace Comes. (Sidney Webb, Fabian Society) ...	2
Industrial Reconstruction Council ...	1
The Position of Women after the War. (Report of the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations) ...	2
Women in the Labour Market. (Women's War Interests Committee) ...	2
Women in Industry after the War. (B./L. Hutchins) ...	6
Reconstruction Problems—1. Aims of Reconstruction ...	2
2. Housing ...	2
Memorandum on War Aims. (Labour Party) ...	1
The Meaning of Industrial Freedom. (G. D. Cole) ...	1 0
The Working Life of Women. (Hutchins, Fabian Society) ...	1
Works Committees. (Ministry of Labour) ...	6
Industrial Councils and Trade Boards. (Labour Party) ...	2
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7. Guide to Work and Benefits for Soldiers and Civilian Workers ... 2
8. Resettlement of Civil War Workers ... 2
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Report on the Cost of Living ... 3

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Health Lecture for Village Mothers. (Margaret Vernon) ... 1
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NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Objects and Programme of N.U.W.S.S. as passed March, 1918 ... per 100 3 0
The New N.U.W.S.S. ... 3 0
National Union and Reconstruction ... 2

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Miss Beaumont, Hon. Treasurer of the West Riding Federation, has sent £49 12s. to Headquarters towards the salary of the Organiser working in Yorkshire. Nearly £50 has already been contributed for this purpose by Societies in the West Riding Federation. A detailed list of the sum collected by Miss Beaumont is given below.—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, J. R. Cross, Esq., Lady Lawson Tancred, etc.

£49 12 0

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

The Equipment Committee gratefully acknowledge the gift of twelve flannel night-shirts, six flannel night-shirts for helpless cases, nineteen pairs of socks, twelve treasure bags, nine bottle covers, received from the Newport and District Women's Suffrage Society. The Committee will be glad of any further gifts from the supporters of the Hospitals, as the population of Serbia is practically destitute. There is much illness, and food and clothing are almost unobtainable.

"ELSIE INGLIS" MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN SALLANCHES, HAUTE SAVOIE. The "Elsie Inglis" Memorial Hospital in Sallanches, which was opened last February for the treatment of Tubercular Serbs in France, has proved of very great value to the many young Serbian students who have fallen victims to this fell disease. The American Red Cross Tuberculosis Bureau in Paris has shown a great interest in the Hospital, and lately asked the Committee to increase the accommodation by fifty beds for which they would be responsible. Further accommodation has been taken, and is almost ready for these additional patients. The Committee of the S.W.H. have now received from the Bureau in Paris of the American Red Cross, per Professor Woolston, a gift of 100,000 francs (£4,000) towards the initial expenses and upkeep of these extra Serbian patients, for which they are most grateful.

AMERICAN RED CROSS AND SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

It is with much gratification the Headquarters' Committee of the S.W.H. have received a further grant of 50,000 dollars, forwarded this week to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Women's Hospitals from Major Endicott, Red Cross Commissioner in Britain, acting for the American Red Cross, Washington. The donation was sent through Sir Robert A. Hudson, G.B.E. Chairman of the Finance Committee of the British Red Cross.

This further magnificent donation is the third instalment of the new War Grant of 150,000 dollars, made to the Scottish Women's Hospitals, at the instance of Miss Kathleen Burke, and marks the continued interest, and esteem in which the work of the Hospitals is held by the American Red Cross.

This gift has been received at a most opportune moment as, although the Armistice has brought a cessation of hostilities, there are still many sick and wounded in Serbia. Our Hospital at Vrenya, near Uskub is dealing with 500 patients. The wards are full of soldiers of all nationalities. A large ward of British Tommies who are delighted to have their own fellow-countrywomen to look after them; French, Africans, Russians, Serbs, Austrians, and Greeks are amongst the other occupants of the wards. There are no doctors in the town, clothing and food are not to be got. The Germans have swept the country bare, Spanish influenza is raging, and after hospital hours the Staff try to do all they can for the women and children who so badly need attention.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Peace has now been declared, but the Sick and Wounded are still on our hands and will need to be cared for. The Committee therefore urge the necessity of even greater support from the public to meet the many demands that are still coming from the various Units. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units should be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

Forward as per list to December 12th, 1918 ... £ s. d. 371.521 16 0

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount. Includes Scott & Co. Ltd., Station Iron Works, Laurie, Esq., Hon. Treas., S.W.H. Fund, etc.

DICKINS & JONES GREAT Two Weeks Sale NOW PROCEEDING. The goods illustrated herewith are selected from our immense stock of "Deeanjay" make, which is the "Hallmark" of good quality. Includes illustrations of various clothing items like a travelling wrapper, a jumper, and household linens.

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ADDRESS.....

Extract from THE TIMES Dec. 10, 1918
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Subscriptions received in response to "Special Appeal": Mrs. E. Himmers (5s. 5s.), Miss C. B. Hill (5s.) Per Miss J. England Smith, Hon. Sec. Wellington W.S.S.: Mrs. A. Graneby (15s.), Mrs. T. Graneby (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Jessop (10s.), Mrs. G. H. Woolston (10s.), Miss J. England Smith (4s. 6d.) (£2); Mrs. Davis Calderbridge (£1 1s.); Per Mrs. McKinnon, Hon. Sec., Dunfermline W.S.S.: Mrs. H. Reid (5s.), Miss H. Macrae (5s.), Miss Simpson (2s.), Miss E. Simpson (2s.), Mrs. Adams (2s.), Miss McGeehan (1s.), M. McK. (1s.), (£1); Miss L. Crombie (2s. 6d.) ...	14 8 6	From Some Lanecroft Women," per Mrs. Morshead ...	8 7 6
Per Miss Jacobsen, Organiser, S.W.H.: Mrs. Hope (£3), Wm. Younger, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Norman, Teacher (£1), Miss Corse Scott (10s.), Miss Baillie (5s.), Mrs. Cullen (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Robertson (2s. 6d.), Collected at St. Publicwell's Cattle Market on December 9th, 1918 (5s. 6s. 11d.) ...	14 17 0	Further donations received to December 20th, 1918:—	357,973 3 0
Clerks in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, to continue Claims and Record Office, Kew" Bed ...	4 15 6	Per Corp'l. Charles Crabb, Balance of "Volunteer Corps Fund" ...	6 0 0
Peter Latt, Esq., Junr. ...	2 0 0	Further donations received to December 30th, 1918:—	358,956 7 7
Further subscriptions from America, Red Cross, Wellington, per Miss Kathleen Burke: 3rd instalment from new grant of War Council of American Red Cross, per Sir Robert Hudson, G.B.E., Chairman of the Finance Committee, British Red Cross Society, per Lieut.-Col. W. Endicott, American Red Cross Commissioner (\$50,000) ...	10,502 1 11	Miss E. H. Lang ...	10 0 0
Miss B. L. Hutchins ...	1 0 0	Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees, Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co. Ltd. (32nd contribution) ...	4 3 2
Staff and Pupils, Finnart School, Greenock, per Wm. B. Ingram, Esq., Headmaster, per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., for upkeep of School ...	2 10 0	Per Miss Walker, S. Lamb, Esq. (for Lecture in Elland (£4 15s.), S. Lamb, Esq. (donation) (£1), Wm. H. Macphail, Esq. (£1), Miss Thornby (10s.) ...	7 5 0
Headmistress, Girls and Staff, Ware Grammar School for Girls, Ware, per Miss M. E. Brough, Headmistress ...	14 0 0	Mrs. Harvey, to continue "A. Harvey, Belhelvie" Bed (Salonica) ...	25 0 0
Pupils, Ardrossan School, Greenock, per John Davies, Esq., Jr., for upkeep of School Bed, per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H. ...	1 0 0	Proceeds of Entertainment held by the Vth Form of Barnsley Girls' High School, on December 12th, 1918, per Miss Nora Everett ...	2 0 0
Dr. Mary de Garis (late C.M.O. of America Unit) (for Serbian Work) ...	21 0 0	Miss Annie H. Handley ...	10 0 0
Mrs. McKenna, per Miss Saunders ...	5 5 0	H. Drummond, Esq. (Serbia) ...	5 0 0
Stand Grammar School, Whitefield, nr. Manchester, per Miss Bickett ...	12 10 0	Miss Talconer ...	10 0 0
Manchester Federation Field Hospital, per D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas. (Corsica) ...	100 0 0	Miss Harriet S. Grant ...	1 0 0
Per Miss Isabelle Kerr, Local Hon. Sec., S.W.H., Greenock, part proceeds of "Metal Week" in Greenock ...	100 0 0	United Services in London, per Rev. W. W. Dawson ...	5 0 0
John O'Groat W.S.S., per Mrs. Neil Macdonald, Hon. Treas., for further upkeep of "John O'Groat" Bed (Corsica) ...	50 0 0	Anonymous ...	2 6
Banbury W.S.S., per Miss Gillett, Hon. Sec. ...	9 0 0	Edinburgh Ladies' College, Former Pupils French Club, per D. C. McIntosh, Hon. Treas., E.L.C. War Fund, for upkeep of bed in Roayamont ...	25 0 0
Colonel James Davidson ...	1 1 0	Further donations in response to "Special Appeal": Staff, Arbroath High School, per D. Drysdale, Esq. (£10), Mrs. D. Clark, per Miss Etta Shankland (£2), Rev. Joseph Mitchell, M.D. (2s. 6d.) ...	12 2 6
Glenfarg W.S.S., per Miss J. Seaton ...	1 14 2	Per Miss Geraldine Cooke: Garrel School, Lockerbie, per Miss Alice Allan, Proceeds of Whist Drive (£17 12s. 6d.), Falkirk Iron Co. Ltd., per Mrs. Moir Sadler, per Miss Menzies, for Serbian Hospitals (£12 10s.) ...	30 2 6
From Form V. and Upper V. of Halifax High School for Girls, Result of Lecture on Serbia Subscriptions received in response to "Special Appeal": Mrs. R. Eleanor Clarke (£10), Mrs. Richard Winkley (£10), Subscriptions from Directors of Newbattle Collieries, Newtongrange, Midlothian, per James C. Murray, Esq., Sec. (£5), Miss Helen Baird (£3), T. S. Ronaldson, Esq. (£2) ...	22 6 9	Per Miss E. Rachel Jamieson, Organiser, S.W.H.: Workmen's Scheme: Falkirk Iron Co. Ltd., per Mrs. Sadler, per Miss Menzies (£12 10s.), Employees, Marwick Bros., Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, per Mr. C. A. Gunn (£4), Dundas School, Grangemonth, per Miss Menzies (£2 2s.), Employees, Messrs. Mac Taggart, Scott & Co., Station Iron Works, Loanhead (£2 17s. 1d.), National Union of Railwaymen, Portobello Branch, per W. E. Alcorn, Esq. (17s. 8d.) ...	22 6 9
	£369,122 15 0		

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.
Names of Beds. Doctors.
"John O'Groat" (Corsica), further Per Mrs. Neil Macdonald, Hon. Treas., 1 year) John O'Groat W.S.S.

"Margaret Mitchell" (Salonica, further 6 months) ... Mrs. Mitchell, Biggar.
"Armitage Hewitt" (Roayamont, further 6 months) ... Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt.
"A. Harvey, Belhelvie" (Salonica, further donation, 6 months) ... Mrs. Harvey, "Ardo," Whitecains.
"Edinburgh Ladies' College, Former Pupils French Club" (Roayamont, further 6 months) ... Edinburgh Ladies' College War Fund, per D. C. McIntosh.

News from Societies.

SEAFORTH AND WATERLOO, LIVERPOOL.—The second meeting of the season was held at "Ratho," Blundellsands, on Friday, November 22nd, by kind invitation of Mrs. Norman Thomas, President of the Society. Miss Hilston addressed a good audience upon "Pressing Questions of the Hour." Animated discussion followed, and three new members were

ASCOT.—The fifth Annual Sale of the Ascot W.S.S. in aid of the S.W.H. took place on December 10th and 11th, but shorn of some of its glory by being transferred to a private house, on account of the prevailing epidemic, where on two successive days the general public and the members of the local Society were gathered by invitation. Financially the sale was very successful, and the Society will be able to send £125 to the Dr. Elsie Inglis Unit, the five "Ascot" beds being already paid for until July, 1919. On the following Saturday shops were opened in Ascot and Sunninghill where the remainder of the wares were disposed of.

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

FEBRUARY 4.
Bournemouth—Speaker: Miss Margaret Jones 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

JANUARY 8.
Bradford—Girls' Patriotic Club—Speaker: Miss Hartop—Subject: "The Woman Worker" 7 p.m.

JANUARY 15.
Bradford—Girls' Patriotic Club—Speaker: Miss Hartop—Subject: "The Woman in the Home" 7 p.m.

JANUARY 22.
Bradford—Girls' Patriotic Club—Speaker: Miss Hartop—Subject: "The Equal Moral Standard" 7 p.m.

JANUARY 29.
Bradford—Girls' Patriotic Club—Speaker: Miss Hartop—Subject: "The Work of the National Union in Peace and War" 7 p.m.

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RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.
In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

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JANUARY 20.
Charing Cross—Georgian Restaurant, 43, Chandos Street—Ninth Luncheon of the B.D.W.C.U. (two-monthly) will be held to meet Mr. Homer Lane (of the Little Commonwealth)—Chair: Miss Fairbridge (S. Africa)—Tickets 2s. 6d., to be obtained from Miss D. Pethwick, Hon. Treasurer, B.D.W.C.U., 39, Meadway Court, N.W. 12.45 for 1 p.m.—2.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 5.
Leytonstone—The Forum—Speaker: Miss Margaret Jones—Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

FEBRUARY 21.
Holborn—144, High Holborn—Women Writers' Suffrage League—Annual Meeting.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday at the 6.30 p.m. service. Subject: "The Kind of World We Want: II.—The Purpose of God."

Y.W.C.A.

We have received an interesting letter from Miss Moberley, written in Boston early in November. After her work as Administrator of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia, Miss Moberley worked for a long time in France under the auspices of the Y.W.C.A., so that she had a wide and varied experience of war conditions in the countries of our Allies.

When the American Y.W.C.A. asked for English speakers for their United War Work Campaign, Miss Moberley was one of those appointed to go to tell about Englishwomen's work for the war, and she sailed from Liverpool in October. After a stormy and uncomfortable voyage, she reached New York safely, and was at once assigned to the North-Eastern Military Department, making Boston her headquarters. Her letter was written before the actual campaign work had opened, but she was already speaking three or four times a day to audiences who wanted to hear "all about France and Russia" (but particularly Russia), in thirty minutes or an hour! We have not yet heard whether the signing of the Armistice put an end to the projected War Work Campaign Week, but feel confident that Miss Moberley's interesting speeches and her quiet, attractive personality will have done much already to promote goodwill and friendly understanding between American women and Englishwomen.

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THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
 An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN
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WANTED immediately.—Assistant to lady gardener for small market garden near Hitchin; training or experience required; state salary.—Miss Tukey, Bedford College, London, N.W. 1.

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WOMEN'S WORK FOR GOD IN HIS CHURCH. VARIOUS COURSES of training and many opportunities for work offered to educated young women; terms by arrangement.—Apply The Head, Birmingham Diocesan Women Workers' Training Home, Bethany, Loveday-street, Birmingham.

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 SPECIAL experience in treatment of delicate S and weak throats. Mr. Israel Zangwill writes: "Thanks to your teaching, I spoke nearly an hour at the Albert Hall without weariness, while my voice carried to every part of the hall."—For terms apply: 45, Ashworth Mansions, Elgin-avenue, W. 9.

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LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards).

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Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS
 Direct from the Makers. Special light weights for Ladies wear—all shades. Patterns and Prices on Application. **S. A. NEWALL & SONS, Stornoway, Scotland.** State shade desired and whether for Gent's or Ladies' wear.

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