

# The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY.]

VOL. VIII., No. 384.]

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1916.

[PRICE 1D.  
Registered as a Newspaper.]

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The Story of Suffrage Planks in the U.S.A. . . . .	234
The Next Step in Housekeeping. II.—Why not Organise? By Miss Clementina Black . . . . .	235
Hospital Work of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies . . . . .	236
The Political Sacrifice of Women . . . . .	238
Women's Suffrage and the Press . . . . .	239
Notes from Headquarters . . . . .	241

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

## Notes and News.

### The Special Register Bill.

A Parliamentary measure was introduced by the Prime Minister on August 14th for framing a special register of electors, to come into force on May 31st, 1917. It provides among other things for the removal of electoral disabilities in the case of certain persons absent on naval or military service, and of "war workers," who are defined as persons engaged in circumstances to which the Injuries in War (Compensation) Act, applies; (2) engaged in Red Cross, Ambulance, or similar work; (3) prisoners in enemy countries; or (4) on active service or munition work.

### Mr. Asquith on Women's Claims.

The principal one among various amendments which may conceivably be brought forward is Sir Edward Carson's proposal to confer the vote on all sailors and soldiers on the ground of their services to the country. If enfranchisement is to be based upon national service, it is impossible, as we have pointed out week by week in THE COMMON CAUSE, to overlook the claim of women. The Prime Minister, in fact, admitted this in a memorable speech, on which comment is made in this week's leading article (page 238). He said:—

"The moment you begin a general enfranchisement on these lines of State service you are brought face to face with another most formidable proposition: What are you to do with the women?"

"I do not think I shall be suspected—my record in the matter is clear—of having any special desire or predisposition to bring women within the pale of the franchise, but I have received a great many representations from those who are authorised to speak for them, and I am bound to say that they presented to me not only a reasonable, but, I think, from their point of view, an unanswerable case. They say they are perfectly content, if we do not change the qualification of the franchise, to abide by the existing state of things, but that if we are going to bring in a new class of electors, on whatever ground of State service, they point out—and we cannot possibly deny their claim—that

during this war the women of this country have rendered as effective service in the prosecution of the war as any other class of the community. It is true they cannot fight, in the gross material sense of going out with rifles and so forth, but they fill our munition factories, they are doing the work which the men who are fighting had to perform before; they have taken their places, they are the servants of the State, and they have aided, in the most effective way, in the prosecution of the war. What is more, and this is a point which makes a special appeal to me, they say when the war comes to an end, and when these abnormal and, of course, to a large extent transient, conditions have to be revised, and when the process of industrial reconstruction has to be set on foot, have not the women a special claim to be heard on the many questions which will arise directly affecting their interests, and possibly mean for them large displacements of labour? I cannot think that the House will deny that, and I say quite frankly that I cannot deny that claim."

### Pedantry?

One registration problem is raised over the munition workers who have lost their votes by shifting their place of residence. The suggestion that their case may be met by cutting down the qualifying period of residence from one year to three months is a plan which finds favour in certain quarters. Indeed, it is urged by an ingenious writer in *The Daily Chronicle* that "as such a change would involve no alteration in the basis of the present franchise, which is household franchise (*sic*)" any demur to it on the part of Women Suffragists would be "pedantic." Exactly what numbers of the elusive "lodger" remain in the land none but experts can compute. But it is pretty certain that no measure short of out-and-out manhood Suffrage could add so many names of male voters to the Register. Practically no man who takes the least amount of interest in his citizenship would be excluded from the franchise, and only the residue—consisting of the few who are so careless or indifferent that they could not be got to take the trouble to qualify, would be voteless, together with *all* women, no matter what their intelligence or their services to the community. Some hundreds of thousands of additional voters, apparently, according to these theorists, make no difference to the position of women with regard to the Suffrage, so long as the "basis of the franchise" is not altered! This is not the opinion of the men who most of all might be expected to benefit by any such measure—the working men who only just before the outbreak of war declined to consider any proposals for extending the franchise in which women were not included.

### Limited to the Duration of the War.

On Tuesday, 15th, an informal Conference was held at the House of Commons between the N.U.W.S.S., accompanied by representatives of some of the leading Constitutional Societies and a group of Suffragist M.P.'s. Mr. Dickinson took the chair, and other M.P.'s present were: Sir Agg Gardner, Mr. Leif Jones, Sir John Simon, Sir George Toulmin, Mr. Jacobsen, Mr. E. Craig, Mr. Bliss, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, Mr. Arthur Ponsonby, Mr. J. King, and Mr. Goldstone. Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck came to apologise for not being able to attend, as he had to speak in the House.

The representatives of Women's Suffrage Societies were: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Miss Rathbone, Miss Atkinson, Miss Eustace, Mr. Strachey, and Mrs. Annot Robinson, representing the N.U.W.S.S.; Lady Selborne, representing the C. and V.W.F.A.; Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, London Graduates' Union; Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Liberal Women's Suffrage Union; Mrs. Spring Rice, Irish Women's Suffrage Federation; Mrs. Cecil Chapman, New Constitutional Society for W.S.; Mr. Nevinston, United Suffragists; and Mr. Jacobs, Men's Union for W.S.

It was strongly urged on all sides that if the Government Registration Bill went through without amendment (in which case it would not be opposed by the majority of Suffrage Societies), every effort should be made to secure a new franchise, including women, before any legislation dealing with problems of reconstruction could be undertaken after the war. The M.P.'s present fully realised the danger that this might happen unless the present Bill were limited to the duration of the war or shortly after, and resolved that all energies should be concentrated on securing a new franchise as soon as possible after the war, which should include votes for women.

#### Mr. Montagu on Women's Civil Rights.

The Minister of Munitions (Mr. Montagu) paid a splendid tribute to the women of Great Britain in the House of Commons on August 15th:—

"I want to say a word about women. Women, in every station, with or without previous experience of the difficulties, the strain and monotony of munition work, have proved themselves able to undertake work which before the war was regarded as solely

the province of men, and often of skilled men alone. Indeed, it is not too much to say that our Armies have been saved and victory assured largely by the women in the munition factories. There are, I believe, some 500 different munition processes upon which women are now engaged, two-thirds of which had never been performed by a woman previous to eighteen months ago. I ask the House to consider this, together with the work done by women in hospitals, in agriculture, in transport trades, and in every type of clerical occupation. I would respectfully submit that when time and opportunity offer it will be opportune to ask, 'Where is the man now who would deny to woman the civil rights which she has earned by hard work?'"

#### Order 447 Will Not Do.

The question of the wages of women munition workers is not being allowed to drop, and efforts are being made to obtain more satisfactory conditions than those laid down in Order 447, which is profoundly disappointing to the Women's Organisations. In an article in *The Daily News*, Miss Mary MacArthur, of the Women's Trade Union League, urges that "Parliament itself must intervene to see justice done to the women upon whose exertions such stupendous issues depend. Pledges solemnly given must not be carelessly broken; they must be fulfilled in the letter and the spirit. It has been stated officially," she continues, "that after all the Order will considerably improve the wages of the worst paid women war workers; and the Ministry does not seem to realise the damaging effect of such an admission! Further examination, however, reveals that it is precisely the worst-paid women-workers, and those who would stand to gain most from the Order, who are not yet covered by it."

### The Story of Suffrage Planks.

The first idea of asking for Suffrage recognition from a national political convention occurred in 1868. Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Abby Hopper Gibbons (daughter of Isaac T. Hopper), and Elizabeth Smith Miller (daughter of Gerrit Smith), sent a letter to the Republican National Convention Meeting in Chicago, in June, asking for a plank in their platform in the name of the women who had rendered the party such faithful service during the Civil War. The letter received no answer whatever. Republican leaders, however, angered by the protests of Miss Anthony and Mrs. Stanton against the word "male" in the XIVth Federal Amendment, advised these women to apply to the Democrats for endorsement. These two women did appear before that body in Tammany Hall, New York, on July 4th, 1868, and their memorial was handed to the Secretary, who read it "amid jeers and laughter." "It was then referred to the Resolutions Committee, where it slept the sleep of death." From that year until now a committee of women has attended every National Convention, asking for an endorsement, or at least commendation, of their appeal for the cause. In Cincinnati, in 1876, women were permitted to address the Republican Convention. At St. Louis, in 1876, and at Cincinnati, in 1880, like privileges were extended by Democrats.

Three National Conventions of the Republicans have considered the advisability of giving women the ballot. The platform adopted at Philadelphia, in 1872, "expresses gratification that wider avenues of employment have been opened to women, and it further declares that her demand for additional rights should be treated with respectful consideration." The 1876 platform recognises with approval the substantial advance recently made toward the establishment of equal rights for women, and recommends that their "honest demands for additional rights, privileges, and immunities should be treated with respectful consideration." At St. Louis, in 1896, the platform endorsed "equal opportunity, equal pay for equal work," and favoured "the admission of women to wider spheres of usefulness."

In 1888, the following plank in the Republican platform gave women some hope that their hour had struck:—

"We recognise the supreme and sovereign right of every lawful citizen to cast one free ballot in all public elections, and to have that ballot counted."

This was "not construed" as including women. In 1892, Miss Anthony appeared before the Resolutions Committee in Minneapolis and pleaded for recognition in its platform. At

the close, many of the members assured her of their thorough belief in the justice of Woman Suffrage, but said frankly that "the party could not carry the load." Many of the two score of the most prominent men in the Republican Party who heard her, crowded about Miss Anthony after her speech, giving her earnest assurance of their belief in the justice of her cause.

The Populists, at the beginning of their career in 1892, sounded the slogan "Equal rights to all, special privileges to none," which filled the hearts of Suffragists with hope; but their pleas to have a Suffrage plank included in the platform fell on deaf ears. However, it must be admitted that during its brief existence women received more recognition in general than they ever had from either of the old political parties.

The Greenback Party, the Labour Party, the various Socialist Parties, and the Prohibition Party have made unequivocal declarations in favour of Woman Suffrage, but the first party which really had a chance to win and yet was brave enough to take the plunge was the Progressive Party. In August, 1912, at its first National Convention, this was its Suffrage plank:—

"The Progressive Party, believing that no people can justly claim to be a true democracy which denies political rights on account of sex, pledges itself to the task of securing equal suffrage to men and women alike."

In 1916, a famous year for Suffrage planks, the Progressive Party further strengthened its demand, which now reads:—

"We believe that the women of the country, who share with the men the burdens of government in times of peace and make equal sacrifices in time of war, should be given the full political right of Suffrage both by State and federal action."

For the first time the Republicans passed a Suffrage resolution, on June 8th also, which reads:—

"The Republican Party, reaffirming its faith in government of the people by the people for the people, favours the extension of the Suffrage to women as a measure of justice to one-half the adult people of this country, but recognises the right of each State to settle this question for itself."

The Democrats, not to be outdone, made the following declaration on June 16th:—

"We recommend the extension of the franchise to the women of the country by the States upon the same terms as to men."

The cause has obviously advanced into the forefront of politics. Although neither the Republican nor Democratic planks are entirely satisfactory, they indicate the fact that the question can no longer be ignored. The great spirit of Susan B. Anthony, which, like all leaders, "goes marching on," must rejoice at this latest fruit of her works.

[From the Bulletin Service of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party.]

## The Next Step in Housekeeping.

### II.—WHY NOT ORGANISE?

By MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK.

Last week's article endeavoured to show that the present unsatisfactoriness of domestic service arises principally from the continuance of conditions formerly existing in other industries but not outgrown. This week's will go on to suggest that, for the same reason, all our domestic processes, our buying and our cooking, are carried on wastefully and unsuccessfully.

At one time every woman was expected to spin and weave—as the word "spinster" remains to remind us; Healing, like pickling, preserving, and brewing, belonged to the Home and the Sphere of Woman, as cooking is still supposed to do; and no doubt the earliest, innovating women, who began ordering fabrics from a professional weaver, were reproached, as having a desire to "break up the home," exactly as I was reproached, the other day, when I suggested to a group of ladies that cleaning and cooking would be better done on a large scale under the control of one highly-trained expert than under that of fifty separate mistresses, not one of whom had devoted whole years of her youth to the intensive study and practice of domesticity—who were, in short, amateurs.

Technical skill belongs always to a trained group; never to a whole population. Not only did the professional weaver produce better textiles than the woman at home, who wove in the odd hours left by her dozen or so of other trades; but his work had in it—as the unprofessional weaver's could never have had—the germ of that evolution which has brought us those beautiful (and cheap) fine cotton stuffs that come from Lancashire and that most of us are wearing this August. Within the memory of people still alive, sick-nursing, also, was practically a universal—and therefore an untrained—calling, every woman being supposed able to produce on demand all the qualities requisite for the tendance of a sick person. There were, no doubt, better nurses than Mrs. Gamp, but it is noteworthy that Mrs. Gamp's contemporaries accepted her as typical. A war came—and Florence Nightingale came. She did not win the approval of ordinary officials, one of whom immortalised himself by writing that it was necessary to crush Miss Nightingale, and certain newspapers declared themselves shocked at her unfeminine proceedings. But the untrained nurse disappeared before her, and death-rates diminished. Instead of Mrs. Gamp and Mrs. Prig we have an army of women who know the use of the clinical thermometer and understand the meaning of medical cleanliness. Will any person now living deny that the public health has gained immensely by the change? or that the efficiency of the average sick nurse is not immeasurably higher than that of the average domestic servant?

Our household purchasing and cooking and cleaning are still at the stage in which sick-nursing was before the Crimean War. Each single house has its separate kitchen, its separate tools, its separate fire; each mistress orders her milk, bread, groceries, and all the rest separately, from some tradesman, and each lot is delivered and received separately at some house-door. On every single transaction there is an individual expenditure of thought, trouble, time, and book-keeping; and on many articles, such as meat and milk, an actual wastage—small, indeed, on each transaction, but very considerable in the aggregate. Amongst us we must waste in this manner enough to feed many scores more persons every day.

Nor is waste, bad as that is, the worst evil that attends our excessively individualist manner of buying our food. The single purchasing householder is a customer neither of sufficient power nor of sufficient knowledge to enforce a demand for unadulterated food, or to resist the imposition of inflated prices. Roughly speaking, we all pay more than we need for our food (and for our money worse goods than we ask for. But if fifty neighbouring households, let us say, could lump together their purchases of milk, butter, and cheese, they could at once obtain a contract, giving them both a considerable reduction in prices and a guarantee of quality. So with meat, with potatoes, fish, bacon, bread, and groceries. It would be exactly fifty times easier and cheaper to test the goods, while any complaint to a purveyor would appear to him fifty times as important. Moreover, his own position would be easier; he would be helped towards the great desideratum of all traders—i.e., steadiness of demand. Cost of transit would be diminished, labour would be lessened at both ends; the whole organisation of that little section of commerce would have moved one step forward.

The cooking, like the purchasing, of food is, in middle-class English families, wasteful and troublesome out of all proportion to the goodness of the results; nor is it easy to see how the general level can be much raised, unless by some radical change of machinery and methods. Every avenue of consideration brings us out at the same point: the domestic industry, in its various branches, has not followed the advance of other industries towards organisation, specialisation, group-employment, and highly developed machinery. It is still regarded as the occupation, not of selected persons, but of an entire sex; and almost the whole younger generation, both of employers and employed, is in revolt against its conditions. It certainly looks as though the household industry were being driven to follow the brewing, the laundry, the spinning and weaving, the tailoring and dress-making industries.

Such a change will be great, but not so great as some would-be reformers have been ready to assume. It will not mean that the householders who now dwell in separate abodes will be obliged to merge those abodes and dwell together for the future in a magnified barrack-household. The other industries, in leaving the home for the workshop, have not drawn the family after them, nor need this. Assuredly, most British people are entirely unprepared to pool their existences in any scheme of communal domesticity, and would steadily abstain from taking part in it.

The wholesale purchasing of food, however, would probably be more widely approved, especially by men, who are apt to view so many other domestic innovations with distrust. But when we step from theory to practice we perceive difficulties. Who will gather together the threads, undertake the correspondence, and superintend the distribution? If this one instalment of combined housekeeping is to stand alone, we shall hardly find a satisfactory answer, because the job would be one employing but a portion of any person's working hours, and therefore not carrying a full-time salary, while it would yet require a degree of business knowledge and exact punctuality scarcely to be expected from an amateur worker. As part of a highly skilled and highly paid expert's functions the duty would come, as the phrase is, all in the day's work, and be easily enough performed. And since service, no less than the management of food, needs reorganisation, the expert who supervises the one department might supervise also the other.

Some critical reader will probably remark that efforts at co-operative housekeeping for middle-class residents—generally in the form of common meals, but sometimes of a more far-reaching character—have frequently been tried and have failed. This is perfectly true; and an examination of the whole series of failures would probably indicate unmistakably the pitfalls necessary to be avoided on the path to success. I have observed a sufficient number of such experiments to be sure that they mostly split upon one of three rocks:

(a) Control of the catering, not by the residents for their own benefit, but by some *entrepreneur* for personal profit.

Again and again has some lady begun by supplying meals to a block of flats, has then, either from greed or negligence, or, more often, from lack of business knowledge, begun to supply worse ones, and has lost her customers and her capital. There must be no conflicting interests, nobody who could profit by the provision of inferior food, scantier meals, or worrying regulations.

(b) Management by amateurs instead of professionals. It has not always been recognised that domestic management on a large scale requires as much training and capacity as commercial management; that it is, in short, a complicated and highly technical business demanding a good salary, and quite beyond the scope of an untrained person.

(c) Too much community of life. People do not want to live together; they only want to have their food and service organised for them. It is evident that to be successful any experiment must steer clear of these three errors at least.

(To be continued.)

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### The Hospital Work of the N.U.W.S.S.

A cablegram has been received from Dr. Agnes Bennett and Mrs. Harley to say that their whole party has arrived safely in Salonica. Dr. Bennett, it will be remembered, took out a new Unit of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, consisting of two hundred beds, fully staffed and equipped, to work for the Serbian Army; and Mrs. Harley started at the same time in charge of a Transport Column, with ambulance and motor-kitchen. The Unit already at Salonica, under the French military authorities, is kept very busy, and the Hospital at Royaumont is working at high pressure.

Some of the patients at Royaumont have been amusing themselves by writing an account of their experiences. The following is from Marius Pelissier, a farmer in civil life, aged twenty-four, occupant of the Burma Bed:—

"We left Briancon on August 14th, 1914, to fight in Alsace, and arrived at Altkirch, where we were under fire for the first time. On the morning of August 19th, at the first shots we were told to advance, and we repulsed the enemy. We fought without ever stopping for six days, and ended by making the enemy retreat. We had great battles, and though the enemy were stronger than we, we forced them back to the Rhine and inflicted great losses on them. We left some troops to guard the position, and left Alsace on September 3rd to fight in the Vosges. There we fought many great battles, but we always held our ground and caused great losses to the enemy. Round about Senones we fought with great fury, we spent thirteen days in the woods without seeing a single house. There we took many prisoners; by springing suddenly out of the wood and charging through in a hand-to-hand fight, we reached and held a village beyond, which we found on fire. On September 27th we left the Vosges, and on October 1st fought a great battle at Arras, where I was wounded as we retreated from Monchy le Puits. I wasn't depressed by my wound; I got out of the line of fire, creeping along the walls, further and further away. I came back to the fighting on November 3rd and joined my regiment again, and we went back to the trenches in front of Neuville St. Vaast and were there all the winter, with lots of water in the trenches. We made an attack on May 9th, 1915, and I was wounded for the second time; but again I wasn't depressed. I was treated in a hospital at Morlaix, in Brittany, for my first wound, and for the second in the Hospital of St. Lazare; at the end of my little 'convalescence' I went back to my dépôt at Briancon, and then I went back to the front and rejoined my regiment at Trebillen, and we took the trenches on Cote 140. There we were in several bombardments, and after a battle fought with the greatest fury for five days, we took some of the trenches and returned to Villiers au Bois, which we left to return to the trenches. We were withdrawn soon after to Trebillen, and I was sent from there to the Hospital of Royaumont."

The occupant of the Scotsman "Edith Cavell" Bed, Eugene Boutet, a farmer, writes:—

"It was in the month of September, 1915, that I arrived at the front for the first time; I had not yet heard the thunder of the guns. At last, on the evening of the 26th, with several of my companions, we buried many of the unfortunates who had been killed on the 25th—they were all either without arms or legs, or their chests torn open—it was frightful. This was my first experience of the Labyrinth trenches. After, we rejoined our companions behind the lines for a short time. During the month of November we suffered many privations, bad weather (every day it poured), shells, mud and water up to our waists, at night we were frozen; it was, indeed, agreeable! On January 12th, about four o'clock in the evening, we exploded three mines, and then a violent bombardment began on both sides, so violent that it was like a perfect hailstorm all round us. The 63rd Infantry came to our relief that evening, as we were afraid of further attacks. After forcing the Germans to retire for several yards, they finally became masters of the conquered positions, but we inflicted heavy losses upon them. Later, we were relieved by a Scottish regiment, and I was sent to Royaumont, suffering from general debility. I hope soon to be able to continue my campaign."

The following is from a middle-aged peasant, Eugene Guedon, occupant of the Emma Curtis Bed:—

"I was called to the colours on the third day of the war, and left for the front on September 10th, and on the 26th was my first engagement at Ramponne, where our old Territorial's drove back the Boches, fighting them like devils, and at the end of

the day, when we were lying on the ground for two hours and the Boches could not advance any more, my corporal and I were lying down when we were covered by earth by a shell which burst just in front of us, and I found I was wounded in my left hand, but I went on fighting coolly in spite of my hurt, and on October 10th I was sent to the rear by the doctor and afterwards to another hospital at Doullens (Doullens) and then to my dépôt at Roche-sur-Yon, and I returned to the front on December 18th, 1915, and I was invalided again for the second time, and arrived at the English Hospital at Royaumont, where I am very well looked after, and I shall always think gratefully of these good English ladies.

"Vive la France et nos Alliés—and may our troops repulse the enemy at every point, with the help of God, who will give us peace and victory."

Georges Cailloux, occupant of the Ganfield Bed, writes:—

"When the war broke out I was doing my term of military service in the 23rd Section of the Army Service Corps, stationed at Nancy (Neurth et Moselle). I stayed at Nancy till September 10th, the day when Nancy was bombarded for the first time. Then I and my comrades were sent to Nantes to work in the military bakery and the Army Supply Dépôt. We worked there during fourteen months, often by night as well as by day. After that the officials in charge of the army bread supply decided that our bakery was too expensive because of its distance from the front, and moved it nearer to the firing line. So on November 1st we were sent to Boran (Oise) to enlarge No. 4 Field Bakery. Then, later on, I left Boran for the hospital at Royaumont, where I am at present under treatment. From the age of thirteen I have followed the trade of a baker at home with my parents."

### The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units in Russia.

The work of the N.U.W.S.S. in Russia is increasing in importance daily. In Petrograd, the Maternity Hospital, which is the starting-point for all Units, is always busy, and the Convalescent Home at Souida, established in connection with it, is proving of great value to members of our own personnel, as well as to women and children from the Hospitals. Dr. Stepany, who is in charge of the Children's Hospital in Kazan, has also been appointed as visiting doctor to two Polish refugees, which work, in conjunction with that in our own infectious and non-infectious wards, makes up a varied and interesting programme. The Galician Unit has arrived at Zaleschekiki, where they are rapidly "settling in" to a "large house in a huge fruit garden," formerly an Agricultural College and now a Military Hospital. The Austrians only left the district a few weeks ago. The motor ambulance which was despatched to Russia on August 4th with a cargo of clothing for the refugees will be attached to the Galician Unit, and promises to be of very great assistance in dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease in scattered places. At Tchistopol, where splendidly-equipped hospitals have been prepared for us, work is being rapidly organised, while at Isgara the out-patients' department has been dealing with 300 cases a day. Everywhere our work and those responsible for it are received with the greatest respect and admiration, while the Russian authorities with whom we are co-operating show their gratitude by doing all in their power to give us every possible assistance.

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### Correspondence.

#### ACTIONS: NOT DELAYS.

MADAM,—It is evident there can be no recess until these very important questions of franchise and registration are settled. Many people are becoming quite curious about what is going to happen. The Government is pledged to bring forward proposals which deal with these problems when they introduce their Bill for the prolongation of Parliament. If the Government can possibly adjourn these questions, they will do so, and it will need all the devotion and energy of people who believe in a real democratic franchise to see that these questions have their right and proper attention. Procrastination is very handy when serious problems have to be faced, especially when there are differences of opinion. The Government have been plainly told for a long time that what is required of them is actions, not delays and excuses. Attempts are being made to place the franchise upon a military basis, and once again leave the women outside. It has been promised when franchise changes were under discussion, the women's claims will have their right consideration. During the crisis, all kinds of nice things are being said about women and their adaptability. They have entered into many spheres of life and shown by their abilities that they are capable of doing great things. In the future there will be great problems, and without the co-operation of women many of the problems will never be solved at all. The present time is opportune for giving women (whose claims are long overdue) the human rights of citizenship and political equality. Every effort should be made to remind M.P.'s and Cabinet Ministers of their promises; also by getting resolutions adopted and sent along as early as possible. There is no time for delay; strange things are happening nowadays, which require vigilance.

E. TOWNLEY.

#### THE WISE COURSE FOR ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS.

MADAM,—The *Morning Post* of August 15th is somewhat fulsome in its flattery of the women of this country. Thinking nobly of the women of this country—as after the experience of the last two years, they have deserved more than ever to be thought of—we decline altogether to believe that they would make their claims to the vote a bar to the enfranchisement of the men who have been risking life and enduring privation and suffering for them. To believe that would be to ignore all the sacrifices that the women have so cheerfully and splendidly made. But Suffragists are only human, and would naturally resent an extension of the register that did not now include them, as a very unfair and illogical proceeding. As to raising "dangerous controversies," which *The Morning Post* dreads so much, is it not more than probable that the Anti-suffragists will now feel they do wisely to keep out of further controversy? The Suffragists, for their part, must rejoice that the "Antis" have after all proved themselves educable with regard to the capacities of women, and they may be forgiven some amusement at the *naïveté* of the confession made by "Antis" on every hand that the change of opinion is the result of the last two years' experience!

It is an open secret that many Members of Parliament who formerly voted against the Bill for the enfranchisement of women are now wholly on the side of the women's cause, and not all the sophistries of *The Morning Post* shall prevail against this.

C. B. M.

#### WHY NOT CANVASS WOMEN "SLACKERS"?

MADAM,—In *The Times*, a few days ago, a woman correspondent makes the suggestion that the National Register should be used for the purpose of conscripting women on somewhat the same lines as the Military Service Act. The majority of women would, I am sure, welcome such conscription. Many are hesitating between conflicting claims. They read every day appeals to educated women to come forward for hospital work, labour on the land, the manufacture of munitions, or clerical work in Government offices; but they have their living to earn—often, too, relatives to support—and the work women are being called upon to do is, for the most part, badly paid. As *The Times* correspondent puts it, the supply of girls who can count on allowances from home to eke out their earnings seems to be exhausted. In thousands of families the women are now the chief or only bread-winners. They are helping to educate younger brothers and sisters; they may have to assist older brothers, fathers, or husbands injured in the war. Glad though they would be to nurse our wounded or help to increase our food supply, they do not feel it just that they should have to give up better paid work in order to undertake these duties while other women who have fewer claims upon them are not doing their share. They ask themselves, with a troubled spirit: "Am I really needed, or are there plenty to 'carry on'?"

How many women "slackers" there are it is difficult to tell. Certainly, one sees a fair number of women about who have an air of doing nothing in particular, and whose dress denotes the woman of leisure; but some of these may in reality be devoting a large part of their time to voluntary work. The number of women voluntary workers must run into thousands—perhaps over a million. There is no means of forming even an approximate estimate. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Associations, Charity Organisation Society, Infant Welfare Centres, Schools for Mothers, War Supply Depôts, Canteens for Soldiers and Munition Workers all have their contingent of unpaid helpers—to name but a few among many bodies doing national service—and women are also doing voluntary work in connection with the administration of the National Service Act, and in other ways less obviously a "woman's job" than those mentioned above.

Why should not a canvass of women be organised on the lines of the measures taken to bring in recruits for the Army before the passing of the Military Service Act? It would then be ascertained how many women are really free to undertake national work, and many who are at present shirking might be awakened to a sense of duty. If such a canvass revealed the fact that there really are a number of "slackers," we could then have recourse to compulsion; and women, like their brothers, would have to "do their bit" or show good reason to claim exemption.

A. M.

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### The Political Sacrifice of Women.

By MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE.

The cause of Women's Suffrage has made a step forward during the past week. It is something—no one who knows the record of the Prime Minister on Women's Suffrage can deny that it is something—to have brought him to the point of declaring to the House of Commons and to the nation that the women have made out "not only a reasonable, but, I think, from their point of view, an unanswerable case" for being included in any franchise that is based on war service, and that they have a special claim to be heard upon the problems of industrial reconstruction after the war which so vitally affect their interests. "I cannot think that the House will deny that, and I say quite frankly that I cannot deny that claim."

That is a significant admission, and we are grateful to Mr. Asquith for the generous terms in which he acknowledged that women, so far as opportunity has been accorded to them, have rendered "as effective service in the prosecution of the war as any other class of the community." But he was giving fresh proof of what women have always noted, his failure to enter into the minds of women and to understand their point of view, when he committed himself to the statement that women are "perfectly content, if we do not change the qualification of the franchise, to abide by the existing state of things." It is true that we—we of the National Union and of the Societies acting in co-operation with us—have consented, not only in relation to the particular problem which has arisen this week, but ever since the beginning of the war, to "postpone to our sense of the national need of unity our undiminished resolve to obtain for women the full rights of citizenship, which are more than ever necessary, having regard to the problems of reconstruction after the war." But "perfectly content"! In what position, in effect, does the announcement of the Government's intentions with regard to the Registration Bill leave us? We have won from the Prime Minister the acknowledgment that the claim of women to be heard in the problems of the reconstruction is unanswerable, and we may take it that this represents the almost, if not quite, unanimous sense of the Coalition Government and of the House of Commons, certainly of the political party in it to which the Prime Minister belongs. But, as the matter is now left, we have not only no security that this unanswerable claim will not be indefinitely set aside, but there is, in fact, a grave danger that the end of the war will leave the question of reconstruction in the hands of a Parliament which has no women amongst its constituents, while it is keenly sensitive to the influence both of the capitalist class and of the trade unions. How can we forget that the former have never scrupled to exploit to the utmost of their power the labour of women, and that the latter have hitherto been so successful in securing the exclusion of women from nearly all the more skilled and better paid occupations that only the great emergencies of the war have revealed to the country the value of the reserve of labour and ability which it has hitherto wasted. The war will be no sooner over than the question will arise: What is to become of the hundreds of thousands of women now engaged in occupations regarded before the war as the exclusive preserve of men? Is the solution of that question to be referred to a tribunal upon which only two of the three disputants are represented.

Nor is it only upon questions specially affecting their sex that women have a right to be heard. Are they not as deeply concerned as men in securing the conditions of a stable peace? Have they no interest in the future economic and fiscal system of the country, in its relations with its colonies, with those who are now its allies, and, not least, with those who are now its enemies? Must the influence of women, the traditional qualities of women, count for nothing in repressing any spirit of national vindictiveness and in bringing about saner and sweeter relations between

the men, women, and children of the earth who acknowledge a common brotherhood. We live in times when sacrifice is demanded from every member of the nation, and we think that women have shown their willingness to bear their share of the common burden of sacrifice, not only in personal matters, but in their politics and their public life. But we cannot forget that we have a cause to keep which is not ours alone, but is the cause

of generations of women and children yet unborn. We must not jeopardise the future of that cause, and while we may for the moment consent to step aside, we have a right to demand that the postponement of our claim shall not be indefinite, but that assurance shall be given us, that it shall be settled at the earliest possible moment, and, at the latest, before the problems of final settlement and reconstruction are entered upon by the nation.

## Women's Suffrage and the Press.

We believe that our readers will be glad to have for future reference a survey of the press comments on women's claim to citizen rights, made during a momentous week. Several articles of special interest, which have been unavoidably held over, will appear in our next issue.

### The Future Basis of the Franchise.

[The following leading article, reprinted, by kind permission, from "The Observer" of August 13th, 1916, is given almost in extenso for those of our readers who have not the opportunity of seeing this paper, one of the most important of London weekly journals.]

The Government propose, it is said, to carry their Bill extending the life of the present Parliament while content merely to "table" their proposals dealing with Registration. So long as the Coalition will shoulder definite responsibility and deal with the whole question of the franchise thoroughly, soundly, and promptly, we would give them, subject to a time-limit, a period to mature their measure. An indispensable condition would be that the present practical disfranchisement of a large part of the nation should be remedied well in time to prevent any possible danger of an election in connection with the terms of peace being taken on a defective register. There must be no resort to the weak device of handing the matter over to a committee. Mr. Asquith and his colleagues must have courage, faith, and insight; they must banish outworn prejudices; they must set themselves to find for the Constitution a basis which shall realise a full, sane theory of that democracy which has become the only possible form of government for this country.

There never can be a more favourable opportunity. The old issues which divided us have shrunk into insignificance. Though, doubtless, there will be broad divisions of opinion among us in the future, the lines will not be drawn as in the past. Any attempt therefore to "gerrymander" the franchise on lines of party advantage would be manifestly futile. That being the case, the existence of an Administration which contains members of both whilom parties affords an unequalled opportunity to broaden the basis upon which government in this country rests and to call in the assistance of those in the field and at home whose right to be consulted has been proved by the war, which is a war not of armies only but of nations. We need to invoke the fresh forces without whom the present struggle could not be waged and won to aid in the settlement of the many new problems which will confront us in the future.

Only a few puzzle-headed people can imagine that we are going back to where we stood in August, 1914, and to take up our national life again at that point. To begin with, the whole relation between the moral and material side of life has been altered. In Imperial affairs, international affairs, social, industrial, political matters, our standard of values has changed. The havoc wrought by war among our young men; the noble response of our women to the calls made upon them; the paramount need of attention to the care and education of children—all these things teach us that there can be no going back to the sleepy and selfish days of laissez-faire if the candlestick of our nation is not to be removed from its place. To deal with these grave questions aright we want the brain-power, the will-power, the moral force of the whole nation behind the Government, not those of a section only. And, moreover, these questions will not wait for settlement. We must set to work upon them the very moment the world returns to the ways of peace.

We cannot then begin to overhaul the constitutional system and spend months, perhaps years, in haggling over the precise degree of worldly prosperity and house tenure which make a man a reliable citizen. We do not want to have to mend the legislative machine after hostilities. We shall require the machine to be in smooth running order by the end of the war. We shall want it to work at top load. The war has pointed out

to us the way we should go. The nation has found its soul. It has stood forth a true democracy in action, impelled by the call of right and justice. It has proved itself collectively far greater and nobler, on the whole, than those it elected, to speak in its name before the old world was overturned. These, perhaps with some excuse, have had the old shibboleths ever ringing in their ears. Away with the "obese, unchallenged old things which stifle and overlie us"! It is a new world on which the dawn is breaking, and in this new world the nation, which has proved itself sound at heart, must forge its own destiny.

Some of the questions which will arise are already being asked. It is very astonishing that the first of these should concern the right of sailors and soldiers to vote. As to that point we cannot easily understand how any thinking man can for one moment hazard objection. The nation is in arms. Its best and worthiest are in the field. Are they to be prevented from making their voices heard on questions which concern them more vitally than anyone else because they have broken their occupation, or because they may not be able to comply with all the requirements of the Ballot Act? They are buying the future of the Empire and the nation with their blood. Who has so much right to decide what the future shall be, so far as it is in human power to decide it? No decision arrived at without the votes of the men in arms could be regarded for one single moment as a national decision, and a Parliament so elected would be rightly subjected to a Pride's Purge when the hosts return once more to "Blighty." If politicians at home should monopolise for a critical season the trust which they hold for the absent manhood of the nation, they would be brought to a more drastic revision and a deeper downfall than they think. The soldiers and sailors have not only an equal right to the franchise. They have the first right. This is irrespective of age. Whoever is old enough to fight is old enough to vote.

That, however, is a passing issue, though it is one of the gravest importance. Of greater permanent importance is the question of the right of women to vote. They have earned it. We say so frankly. In the past we have opposed the claim on one ground, and one ground alone—namely, that women, by the fact of her sex, were debarred from bearing a share in national defence. We were wrong. Women have borne, and are bearing, their full share, in the hospitals, in the munition factories, in all the departments of life in which they have taken men's burdens upon their shoulders in order to release men for the war. And more yet in the deep, uncomplaining heroism with which they are bearing their sorrows and giving their all. Then can we any longer deny to the women who have wrought and suffered, and who have worked well, even if they have not suffered, the right to share in the future of the nation whose fate is entwined with their very heart-strings? We cannot. The State needs their aid, and they have proved their capacity to give it. The time has come to give a new meaning to Democracy; to make it a real thing, the true voice of the nation, and not of a part, more or less arbitrarily and often foolishly selected. Once for all, let us simplify the thing. Let the right to vote be given to every man and woman who has attained years of responsibility: let us say, five-and-twenty, for then they have arrived at an age to put away childish things. The nation, by its bearing in two years of war, has earned this right to be trusted with its own destinies.

### Women's Co-operation Absolutely Needed.

"The Woman's Question," writes Mr. A. P. Nicholson in *The Daily News* of August 11th, "has not been overlaid by

the war, as some of our statesmen are too prone to think. On the contrary, I hold that the war is making it an issue vital to the nation.

"Many problems, we are daily reminded, will have to be settled in the war's aftermath, and not a few of these directly concern the employment of women and their relations to the men's trade unions. Even if, by a development of women's trade unions, the women who have been drawn into industry to help the nation could be organised in sufficient strength to hold their own against the men's trade unions, we should not want to see this fight between the sexes. What power behind, legislative or administrative, will have due authority to settle what may be unprecedented industrial disputes between men and women, if our Government does not rest on women's votes as well as men's? Whatever arguments in favour of enfranchising women had force before the war will have more than double the force after.

"To rebuild, to restore, to re-create our society—for that all must co-operate, freely and generously. We shall need absolutely the sincere co-operation of our women in this national effort. Industrial and political questions affecting women will arise at every turn, at once, on the cessation of war. The loyal co-operation of many women cannot be expected if, after all that has now taken place, they are flouted. A grudging spirit will be useless on either side. The women must have votes, and enter our political and administrative life. Those to whom once this seemed a revolution to be feared, have seen a good many revolutions more affrighting in the world since August, 1914. We are used to upheavals, and we shall have to accustom ourselves to greater changes in society than this."

Mr. Nicholson urges that women must be enfranchised before the work of reorganisation after the war actually begins, in order that they may be in a position to help in it, and that the franchise must not be given in a haggling spirit, "weighed out like pounds of cheese," but on a democratic basis. "It is the duty of the Government," he declares, "to appoint a proper inquiry to take counsel with Mrs. Fawcett and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and with others, as to this part of the social reconstruction. It is linked up with the question of the Register, which the Government will probably postpone for a time. The Register, when made, should be a Register of men and women, and it is work for the winter meeting of Parliament. The Cabinet's centre of gravity is, and has to be, the War Council; but this fact is not considered a bar to other work of social reconstruction, and it should be no bar to the women."

#### The House Cannot Tolerate any Evasion of Women's Claims.

In a letter to the editor of *The Daily Chronicle*, published on August 12th, Mr. H. W. Massingham expresses a hope that *The Chronicle* will use its influence "to save the Government from the great act of injustice and unwisdom it will commit if, in the form of a Registration Bill, giving some facilities to existing soldier-voters, it adds a new element of men-voters without enfranchising women."

"We all know," continues Mr. Massingham, "that Franchise Bills settle franchise questions for some years. Such problems cannot be re-opened every Session or so. Parties are not prepared for continued re-adjustments of the suffrage. If we establish a substantially new suffrage now, the question will slumber again. And this we shall do if the Government are preparing to act in the sense of Mr. Law's hint of a reduction in the qualifying period to three months.

"But this will be a cruel wrong to women, and a great offence to that large body of men who are converted to the suffrage. This House of Commons has always been a suffrage House of Commons. It could not come to a settlement because the Government gave it no help in that direction. But its general view was clear. It would never now tolerate a fresh postponement and evasion of the claim that it has always considered to be just.

"Such a Bill therefore is not practical. But it would also be a piece of petty and perverse statesmanship. National service has been decreed for the period of the war. Without the women's contribution to that service it could never have been effectual. The links of war-service are unbroken; women are part of our armies; and they have shown just the kind of ability which their critics denied to them, and which may fairly be held to constitute a good claim to political rights. The women's cause has been completely vindicated. They have won the badge of capable citizenship. It is for the State formally to satisfy the demand for the strengthening of democracy which most of us can now see must come as the result of woman suffrage.

"The one argument for the Coalition which really appeals

to the people is that it unites them. The argument has not the strength it once possessed. But it would be entirely defeated by an unfair and uncandid dealing with the women's claim."

#### From the "Manchester Guardian."

*The Manchester Guardian* suggests that every soldier and sailor and every munition worker might have a right to be registered as a voter in the place of his last or usual residence in the United Kingdom, and that voting papers could be issued and a vote taken in the trenches, but that proposals for altering the basis of the franchise "would at once raise in its most acute form the question of women's suffrage":—

"To give votes to all soldiers and sailors is in effect to introduce manhood suffrage and something more, since many of them are under age. Moreover, it would be obviously unjust to limit this extension of the franchise to men actually serving. Why should a short-sighted man or one suffering from some slight physical defect who has volunteered and been rejected, and is perhaps doing more important war work at home, be refused a vote which must be given not only to the volunteer soldier but to the pressed man? And why are women workers for the war, whose service has been whole-hearted and invaluable, to be refused a like privilege? The same difficulties arise in only a less degree in connection with the proposed three months' qualification. This would have to be applied all round, and would bring in millions of new voters. We have no objection, provided the women are included. . . . Why should military service, which is only one of the functions of a citizen, be differentiated from all others as carrying with it the right to a vote? Were military service still voluntary the vote might be regarded as its appropriate reward. But military service is no longer voluntary."

#### From the "Daily News."

A leading article in *The Daily News*, August 14th, on the "Right to Vote" urges that discussion of the Registration Bill must stand over till after the recess; "for to attempt to rush so controversial a measure into law at this stage of the session would be intolerable. Among the questions to be considered are the claims of the women:—

"That factor in itself provides a valid reason for postponing any final conclusions on the Register till after the war, unless, indeed, so happy a solution can be contemplated as a general recognition of the title women have earned by the share they have borne of national service and national sacrifice. Even if that is too much to hope, there is no contesting the logic of the protest against a franchise reform which by adding some millions of men, and of men only, to the Register would accentuate the grave sense of injustice under which women are already labouring."

#### From the "Daily Chronicle."

*The Daily Chronicle*, August 14th, contends that "extensive innovation should be avoided till the war is over."

"If Parliament decreed any large extension of the franchise to men without dealing with Women's Suffrage or redistribution, it would make it much more difficult for the advocates of Women's Suffrage or redistribution to get the existing order of things settled in their favour after the war. Consequently, no Bill which makes serious innovations in one of these subjects, can avoid being one-sided unless it innovates in all three. And the hedge of controversies with which all three are surrounded makes that almost certainly impracticable. The proposal to give a vote to every man who had joined the Army or Navy may be most praiseworthy in itself. So may be the proposal to reduce the qualification period from twelve months to three in the interest of the munition workers. But the friends of Women's Suffrage are clearly right in contending that to adopt either course (or any course making an enormous addition to the male electorate) in a Bill from which Women's Suffrage was excluded, would in effect be an anti-Suffragist policy, which Suffragists would be bound to fight."

#### From the "Westminster Gazette."

"We take it as the basis of any discussion that may take place on the Registration Bill now to be presented that there will be no extension of the franchise while the war lasts," says *The Westminster Gazette*, of August 15th. "The Prime Minister definitely takes this position, and he admits that the claim of women to be considered, if the basis is altered for the male voter, is not only 'reasonable' but 'unanswerable.' It would be premature to take this as an announcement of Mr. Asquith's personal conversion, but undoubtedly he uses language upon the war services of women which suggests that he and large numbers of those who think with him will approach this question

with a new mind when the war is over. Herein we think he expresses the prevailing sentiment."

*The Daily Mail*, August 15th, holds that the Government should have forced the whole question of the franchise boldly. "A great opportunity has been missed. A grave injustice to our soldiers and sailors and to the war workers of both sexes has been committed."

*The Daily Express*, under the heading "Votes Deferred," says it may be taken as a hopeful sign from the woman's standpoint, that a Prime Minister who has been a life-long opponent of their cause should admit the justice of their claim. . . . We think a great deal more of Votes for Women than we did three years ago. . . . When the war is over, there will be, we hope, a better understanding of aspirations which have our free sympathy.—*The Daily Graphic* calls Mr. Asquith's statement with regard to the women's position "indeed a remarkable admission from so strong an opponent of woman's suffrage as Mr. Asquith." "But," it continues, "there can be little doubt that he expressed the general opinion of the country."—*The Daily Sketch* argues that the Prime Minister's statement "is a striking expression of opinion from so formidable an anti-suffragist as the Premier."

*The Northern Daily Telegraph*, in an article, "Registration and Representation," says:—The women's claim to the Parliamentary franchise has been strong all the time; it is made perfect by reason of the splendid service rendered during the war. One of the strangest of anomalies is that women who can vote for Town Councillors are denied the right to vote for a Member of Parliament. It is not easy to be patient with men, Cabinet Ministers or party politicians, who obstruct an act of simple justice and proved expediency. Parliament taxes women just as it taxes men, and expects and exacts service from women just the same as it does from men. The duties of citizenship are fulfilled by women to the uttermost. The continuance of the sex disqualification would be a cruel crime, and blind folly as well."

*The Liverpool Daily Courier* says: "The final proof that women will be included in any new Franchise Bill was offered yesterday when he admitted that the suffrage deputations had presented an 'unanswerable case.' It is now impossible to extend the franchise without admitting women."—*The Nottingham Daily Express*: "Not only by their war-work, but by their patience in suffering and their endurance in self-denial, the women of this country have more than proved their case for the extension of the franchise to them."—*The Ulster Guardian* says: "It is to be hoped that a service franchise which overlooks the services of women will not be sanctioned by the House of Commons."

#### Northern Men ask Mr. Asquith to Receive a Deputation on Women's Suffrage.

The following letter was sent to the Prime Minister by the Executive of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage:—

"We shall be glad to know if you could make it convenient to receive a small deputation of men from the North who represent a very large body of public opinion which desires to see the women of the nation placed on political equality with men. We think that as the electorate is not in a position to vote upon the question and give its mandate at the polls, that you are probably unaware what a complete turnover of public opinion in favour of women's suffrage has taken place among former opponents to the enfranchisement of women. We know of no other way of getting a hearing except by laying our views as responsible citizens before you, and hope that, as you are receiving various deputations on other subjects, you will kindly accord us a like privilege."

In answer to this request the Prime Minister replied, regretting that in the present pressure of business he could not find time to receive a deputation, but expressing willingness to have an expression of the Federation's views in writing. The Federation, in a further letter to Mr. Asquith, points out that the time is ripe for Woman's Suffrage, and that a delegation has already journeyed twice from Scotland and been denied a hearing on both occasions. The letter concludes: "We feel sure you would not wish to treat citizens of Scotland with less respect than you accord to others, and a deputation of Northern men will journey South next week and hold themselves in readiness to call upon you at any time you care to mention."

[Owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over a letter to Mr. R. K. Gaul, Hon. Sec. of the Berwick-on-Tweed Branch of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, from Sir Francis Blake, in which he states that if he becomes member for the Berwick-on-Tweed Division of Northumberland, he will not lose sight of the question of Women's Suffrage, of which he is now more than ever in favour.]

## Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.  
President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
Hon. Secretaries: MRS EVELYN ATKINSON, MRS OLIVER STRACHBY (Parliamentary), MRS. E. WILSON.  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS AUERBACH.  
Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.  
Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.  
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4674 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

The following resolution was passed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Union on August 15th, after hearing Mr. Asquith's statement on the Registration Bill:—

"That in view of the national position as set forth by the Prime Minister in his speech of August 14th, 1916, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies will abstain from pressing for an amendment to include women in the new Registration Bill, provided that the question of altering the basis of the franchise be not raised by other amendments or alterations to the Bill.

"In deciding on this course the National Union is postponing to its sense of the urgent national need of unity, its undiminished resolve to obtain for women the full rights of citizenship, which are more than ever necessary, having regard to the problems of reconstruction bound to arise after the war."

#### Contributions to the General Fund.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	2,208 9 3	Mrs. E. Slater	5 0
Received from August 7th to August 12th, 1916:—		Solihull W.S.S., earmarked for Maternity work (add.)	10 6
SUBSCRIPTIONS.		Miss Maud Morin	2 6
Miss Florence G. Fidler	5 0	Mrs. L. A. Littleboy	3 0 0
Miss I. M. Blake	1 0 0	Miss Edith Bryant	10 0
Mrs. C. M. Radford	3 6	Mrs. F. W. Wilson	10 0
AFFILIATION FEES.		Miss L. W. Clibran	10 0
Dornoch W.S.S.	13 0	Mrs. Graham L. Reid	2 6
East Cambs. W.S.S.	5 0	Miss E. M. Lancaster	5 0 0
St. Albans W.S.S.	7 0	Miss L. M. Evans (2 months)	5 0
Gt. Yarmouth W.S.S.	6 6	Miss Gertrude M. Johnson	5 0
GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS.		Mr. R. D. Pullar	5 5 0
Mrs. George Arbutnot	10 6	Mrs. George Sim	2 0 0
W. Dorset W.S.S.	1 0 0	Mrs. Edward Evershed	1 1 0
Mrs. J. Cockburn	5 0	Miss F. M. P. Mole	5 0
Miss Annie Lane	2 6	Miss Mabel L. Fell	1 0 0
Mrs. Stephen Spring Rice	1 0 0	Mrs. Marion E. Smith	1 1 0
Mrs. S. Renton	5 0	Mrs. Cubitt Sayers	1 0 0
Mrs. J. S. Turner	1 0 0	Mrs. E. Upton	10 0
Miss Elinor H. Leresche	2 6	Mrs. Aukland	10 0
Mrs. L. Stephens	1 0 0	Mrs. Russell Scott	3 3 0
Miss E. M. Greg	1 0 0	Mrs. D. A. Wilson	2 0 0
Mrs. Fennell	5 0	Mrs. Dowson	2 0 0
Mrs. Clement Templeton	1 0 0	Miss L. Bullen Smith	10 0
Rt. Hon. Jonathan Hogg	10 0 0	Mrs. A. Gutteridge	1 0 0
Mrs. Napier Sturt	10 0 0	Miss A. T. Lumsden	1 0 0
Miss G. M. Tolson	5 0 0	Miss Hilaryard	5 0
Mrs. Binns Smith	1 1 0	Mrs. F. Manning Prentice	2 6
Miss E. E. Webster	10 0	Mrs. P. M. Stevenson	2 0 0
Mrs. Osmaston	3 0 0	Miss A. R. Bonham	5 0
Miss Elizabeth Woods	3 0 0	Mrs. Abernethy Williams	3 3 0
Miss Beryl D. Blackman	5 0	Mr. Wm. Henderson	10 0
		St. Albans W.S.S.	13 0
		Mrs. Savery	5 5 0
		Scarborough W.S.S.	5 0
			£2,297 9 9

#### IMPORTANT.

##### Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

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

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

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Brought forward	126,067 12 1/2	C.P.F. (5s.), Kettering W.S.S.	
Per Mrs. Craigie	20 0 0	(43 3s.), Mrs. Carpenter	
(Ambulance Fund)	10 0 0	(10s.), Mrs. J. Suttill (7s. 6d.)	
Anon.	10 0 0	Mrs. Auerbach (4s.)	21 17 0
*Per Mrs. Gunn - Miss Stewart	1 4 6	*Per Miss Bury: Proceeds of	
(18s.), Mrs. J. Hay (6s. 6d.)	1 0 0	Jars and bottles collected by	
The Misses White	1 0 0	children of Earliston Public	
Ramsay Smith, Esq. (Royaumont), towards 2nd year of "Tweeddale" and "Neldrath" Beds	5 0 0	School, per A. A. Burt, Esq., Headmaster (£3 7s.), Employees, Messrs. John Honeyman & Son, Cupar (15s.)	
Miss M. F. Gilmour	10 0 0	*Employees, Messrs. Ireland & Wishart, Abernethy (18s. - Ed.), Munition Workers,	
Miss Margt. E. Hannah (Serbia)	1 0 0	H.M. Naval Ordnance Depot, Dunfermline (£23 18s. 6d.)	28 19 0
*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Messrs. J. P. Young & Co.	10 0 0	*Per Active Service Fund, N.U.W.S.S.: Miss Catherine Davies (21s.) (Serbia), Mrs. Davidson (10s. 6d.) (Royaumont), Mrs. Armitstead (£10) (Royaumont) (not earmarked), A Member of Oxted and Linspheld W.S.S. (15s.), Miss M. I. Pember (5s.),	
		*Newcastle-on-Tyne Com. for S.W.H., per Miss Hunter	10 0 0
		*Per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas., Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S., Joint Com. for S.W.H.: Aldrie Academy,	

per Miss Paterson, proceeds of Entertainment, to name "Ardrie Academy" and "Vigilantibus" Beds (50), (4th Serbian Unit), Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Fyfe, 2nd year of "High and Dry" Bed (£50) (Salonika), Sanitary Inspectors Staff, Glasgow Corporation, per P. Fyfe, Esq. (£21), A. Friend (£20), Receipts of Dr. Hutchison's Meeting at Motherwell, per Mrs. Jackson (£15), Employees of Messrs. Yarrow Ltd., donation to name "Sheela" Bed (Royaumont) (£12 10s.), Anon. (£11 1s. 7d.), Pupils and Staff, Knowetop Public School, per Mrs. Jackson (£10), Miss McOnie (Serbia) (£10), J. Lowden Hume, Esq. (£10), "Ayr and District W.S.S. (monthly) (£7 17s.), Tennis Tournament, Castle Douglas, per Mrs. Campbell (£14 15s.), Receipts of Messrs. Wm. Beattie, Dennistoun Bakery (monthly) (£5 13s. 3d.), Dykehead and Shotts Co-op. Society, Ltd., per D. Crichton, Esq. (£5 5s.), Employees, Drimlithie Station and Friends, per W. Smith, Esq. (£5 4s. 4d.), Employees, Jas. McHaffie & Sons, Ltd. (£5), And. Bain, Esq. (£5), "Thos. McConnell, Esq., U.S.A. per Messrs. Robb & Cross, (£5), Railway Employees, Motherwell District, per Mr. Hathorn (£4 15s. 6d.), Office and Warehouse Staff and Yard Employees, Messrs. P. & W. McLellan Ltd. (monthly) (£4 9s. 6d.), Employees and Friends, Brodie & Co., per Mr. Wm. Inglis (£3 5s. 7d.), Miss Keith (£3 3s.), Employees, Messrs. Wm. Simons Ltd., Renfrew (weekly) (£4 14s. 11d.), Employees, Messrs. H. Archibald & Co., Wishaw (£2 2s.), Golf Competition, (£2 1s. 6d.), John Scott, Esq. (£2), Employees, Scottish Tubal Co., Ltd., Gannkirk (£2), Employees, Perth Station (Caly. Ry. (£1 18s.), Employees, Hyde Park Foundry Co., Finnieston (£1 15s. 1d.), Proceeds of Cookery Classes in Alloway, Prestwick, per Mrs. Cochran (£1 12s.), Employees, Messrs. Arch. Baird & Son, Ltd. (£1 11s.), Employees, Kilmarnock G. & S.W. Ry., Goods Dept. (£1 10s.), Staff at Dumfries Station, G. & S.W. Ry. (£1 8s. 8d.), Staff at Ardrie Station, per Jas. Frame, Esq. (£1 5s. 6d.), Mrs. Parker (£1), Scottish Malt Distillers, Ltd. (£1), Mrs. McCance (£1), J. Kirkwood, Esq. (£1) (Serbia), J. M. (£1), Messrs. Gemmill & Co. (£1), Girvan Station (G. & S.W. Ry.), Dundee Station (Passenger Dept., Caly.) (£1), Miss Fulton (£1), Employees, Messrs. Alex. Jack & Co. (£1), G. & S.W. Ry., Kilkerran Station (£1), Caly. Ry. Glenboig Station (£1), Mrs. Mathew Mitchell (£1), Miss J. Turnbull (£1), Mr. Hume (£1), G. & S.W. Ry. Prestwick Station (£1), G. & S.W. Station, Port-Glasgow (£1), Employees, Frew's Foundry (£1), Miss Shaw (£1), (Serbia), Caly. Ry. Banknock Station (Goods) (£1), Calderbank Station (£1), G. & S.W. Cook Street Station (£1), Cunninghamhead Station (£1), Callander Station (£1), Kilmarnock Station (£1), Employees, Galvanisers, Ltd. (£1), A. Friend (£1), Rankin Station (£1), Cumnock Station (£1), Dalmellington Station (£1), Rev. W. A. Kyd (£1), Messrs. Adam Knox & Sons (£1), Craighall Iron Works (£1), Kin-buck Station (£1), Backs Station (£1), Kirkcaldy Station (£1), Kinfauns Station (£1), Kinfauns Station (£1), Addwell Station (£1), Nurse McGhie (£1), Lub Station (£1), Donations earmarked for Miss McIlroy's Motor Kitchen: Mrs. McGregor (£10), Miss Edith McIlroy (£8), Mrs. Spiers (£5), Prof. J. H. Teacher (£5), Head Office Staff, Nobels Ltd. (£2 15s. 10d.), Misses Laurie (£2), Miss M. C. Morrison (£2), Miss Scott (£1 1s.), Dr. Janet Higgins (£1), Mrs. Ross (£1), Mrs. Patterson (£1), Chas. R. Milligan, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Jas. Taylor (10s.),

Miss Kate Comrie (2s.)— (£38 7s. 10d.), Total (£255 6s. 6d.); less expenses (£18 5s.) ... 337 0 6  
 Proceeds of Concert by Pupils of Findeochy Public School, per J. Yuill, Esq. ... 3 10 0  
 \*Per Mrs. Young, further for Trinity Heroes "Bed from Trinity shopkeepers ... 2 2 6  
 Per Miss Flora Welch, from sale of flowers ... 1 0 0  
 \*Per Miss Etta Shankland: Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Paisley ... 2 2 0  
 \*Per Mrs. Robertson: "Employees of Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy" (£16 7s. 6d.), \*Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 2s. 5d.), M.H. (£1) ... 19 10 2  
 \*Per Mrs. Wood: Mrs. Parker, for 2nd "Cloveley" Bed (£25), Lady Maclay (£5), Staff at Kilmacolm Station (10s.) ... 30 10 0  
 \*Per Miss Etta Shankland, further instalment to name "Greenock Girl Guides" Bed: Flowers sold in July, per Mrs. Edward Wilson (£18s. 6d.), per Miss Marion Stewart (£1 8s. 3d.), per Miss Nan Fisher (£1 10s. 2d.), Flowers sold in Y.M.C.A. Rooms, July 22nd (£3 17s. 8d.), Flowers sold in Y.M.C.A. Rooms, July 23rd (£5 12s. 6d.)—Total (£13 10s.); less expenses (18s.) ... 13 2 0  
 \*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas. Edinburgh W.S.S.: Employees, Messrs. John Cran (£2 4s.), Part proceeds of Infant Room Concert in Corporation Public School (£5) (Serbia), \*Employees, Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co. (3rd and 4th subs.) (£10), Employees, Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott & Co. (10th and 11th subs.) (£4 10s. 1d.), \*Women Clerks Accountants Dept., G.P.O. (£2 6s.), Portobello Co-op. Society (£1), Edinburgh-Leith Gas Commissioners (£2 12s. 4d.), Messrs. Munro & Co., Restalrig (£2 10s. 7d.), Levens Industrial Co-op. Soc. (£1), \*Employees, Messrs. McVitie & Price (£10), Employees, Messrs. Peebles & Co., Ltd. (£2 5s. 3d.), Messrs. J. J. and E. J. Walker (£2 2s.), \*Employees, Messrs. Bertrams Ltd. (£4 14s.), Berwick-on-Tweed Branch N.U. Railwaymen (£1 10s. 3d.), Merchiston Tennis and Bowling Club (10s.), Miss Beck (£1), \*Messrs. Brown Bros., Ltd. (£5 17s. 3d.), Mid-Caldor Branch, N.U. Railwaymen (£1 13s.), Proceeds of Newtongrange Prize Band Performance (£15 10s. 8d.), \*Glenclinton (£1) (Serbia), Miss Stirling (£5) (Dr. Inglis Unit), Maj. Robert Stirling, R.A.M.C.T. (£5) (Ambulance Column) ... 77 19 4  
 \*Per Mrs. Middlemass: Proceeds of sale of fruit and flowers ... 61 5 4  
 \*Per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec. Manchester and Dist. Fed. and D. Drummond Fraser, Esq., Hon. Treas., Withington and Disbury Committee, to name bed (£55 11s. 6d.), Manchester Civil Servants (£10), Miss Violet Hewit (£2), Mrs. Webb-Peplow (£1 1s.), (£58 12s. 6d.) ... 225 0 0  
 Kossovo Day collections in Dirleton and Kingston Schools, per A. D. Wallace, Esq. ... 19 6  
 \*Per Miss Isabella Kerr, Sec., Greenock Committee for S.W.H., St. John's Church (£3 5s., collection for Kossovo Day), A Friend (5s.) ... 3 10 0  
 C. and A. L. ... 2 0 0  
 G. C. L. ... 1 0 0  
 \*Sheffield W.S.S. per Mrs. Helliwell, Hon. Treas. (Serbian Units) ... 2 10 0  
 Miss Crichton ... 10 0  
 Per Miss E. M. Major, King Edward's High School for Girls, Birmingham (£20), being proceeds of Musical Play (Serbian) ... 50 0 0  
 A. J. Heatley, Esq. ... 1 0 0  
 \*Lady J. G. Murray ... 1 0 0  
 \*Domestic Staff, St. Mary's School, Melrose ... 10 0  
 Miss M. E. Thomson ... 2 0 0  
 \*Blackwater, Blairgowrie ... 1 0 0  
 \*Hugh Roberts ... 10 10 0  
 Miss Wright ... 1 0 0  
 Mrs. McLintock ... 2 0 0  
 Mrs. Gillespie ... 1 0 0  
 \*Per Miss Bury: Miss Ramage ... 2 6  
 \*Per Mrs. Blair: "War Guest" further towards "Mak Merry" Beds ... 4 0 0  
 Mrs. A. W. Black ... 10 0 0  
 Further Donations from Kossovo Day Collections sent to Headquarters: £ s. d.  
 Throran Side School, Mull (10s.), Glenhead School, Lochwinnoch (14s.), Torrison School, S. Ronaldshay (5s. 3d.), Gleneagles and Tullibardine Schools (11s. 8d.), Saughaire School, New-castleton (8s.), Kirkston School, by Hawick (£1), 3 Members of Hillhead Ch. (£3), Invershin Public School (£4 12s. 6d.), Pittenweem School, Kelso (£1 12s. 1d.), Wallacestone School, Carnwath (£1 15s. 2d.), Dunipare Public School (£2 10s. 11d.), Academy, Kilsyth (£1 6s.), Sunnyside School, Alloa (£3 9s.) Langerfort Public School (£2 8s.), Pitteven School (13s. 3d.), New Lanark School (18s. 9d.), Marybank School, Muir of Ord (8s.), Monkquhiten School (12s. 6d.), Public School, Bridge of Allan (10s. 4d.), Collection in Whitburn Parish Church (£2 10s.), Neckerdale School (2s.), Public School, Fettercairn (10s.), Dull School Board (£3 17s. 2d.), Aberdeen Higher Grade School (£1 15s. 14d.), Westhill Public School, Skene (10s. 9d.), Clarkston Parish Church (£2 18s. 3d.), Public School, Kinloch, Rannoch, Pitlochry (2s. 6d.), East Kilbride School Board (£2 16s. 9d.), South School, Paisley (£5 4s. 9d.), Killeochan School, Rannoch Station (5s. 6d.), Collected, Pitlochry Parish (£4 7s. 9d.), Braxiatel School, Perth (10s.), Neckerdale School, Waterish, Skye (£2 15s.), Inkersmann School, by Paisley (3s.), Newbridge Public School, Ratho (16s. 3d.), Liff, Barvie, and Invergowrie (£4 17s. 6d.), Tarland and Migrie Churches (£4 1s. 9d.), Gartloch Public School, Skene (4s. 3d.), Upper Cabrack Public School, by Rhyne (£2), Tarradale School Pupils (£1 10s.), Bracknagh-hill Public School, Stonehaven (£2 5s. 6d.), Kirriemuir School Board (8s. 10d.), Guardbridge Public School (15s.), Haywood School, Lanark (16s. 6d.), Pencaitland School (£5 2s. 9d.), West Public School, Prestonpans (16s.), Tarbet School Board (£2 12s.), Midcaldor Public School (10s. 10d.), Bank of Dalgleigh Schools (19s. 6d.), Teachers and Pupils, Burgh and Grange Schools, Alloa (£15 10s. 2d.), Denny Public School (£4 6s. 3d.), Braidwood Public School (11s.), Crossroads School, Dunnet, Thurso (10s.), Whitekirk School (7s. 6d.), per Rev. W. Paterson, Manse, Strathmiglo (£2 13s. 5d.), Public School, Selkirk (7s.), Uphall School (£4 5s.)—Per Glasgow W.S.S. Park School Children in Oxford Hostel (£15), Bellahouston Parish Church (£10), Aldridge Academy (£9 8s. 6d.), Belmont Parish Church (£6 18s. 2d.), John Morrison, Esq. (£5), Laurie-ston Parish Church (£4 4s. 6d.), Greenfield Public School (£3 10s.), Hills Trust Public School (£2 6s.), Victoria School (£2 12s.), Kelvinista Academy (£1 10s. 6d.), Sale of Goods (£1 9s. 6d.), A Friend (£1 1s.), Rt. Rev. Bishop Campbell (10s.), Rev. W. A. Kyd (5s.), £63 15s. 2d.), Wallacestone School, Carnwath (14s. 8d.), Bristo Public School (2s. 6d.), Tullinourthy School (£1 17s. 10d.), Public School, Auchincleek (£2), Springside School, Kilmarnock (£1 12s. 9d.), Howwood School, Renfrewshire (£5), Larkhall Schools (£5 19s. 9d.), Carnwath Parish Church (£4 13s.), Carnwath School (11s. 6d.), S. Queensferry Public School (£9), Schools in Dornoch District (£12s. 0d.), Exhibition and Sale, Auchincleek (£20 8s. 6d.), Anon. (6s. 5d.), Sent to Hon. Treas., less expenses (£27 7s. 9d.) ... 700 14 5  
 \*Gallen ... 5 0 0  
 \*Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Paris, per Miss Hamilton, S.W.H. Royaumont, to name "Stevenson" Bed (Royaumont) (£25 in Paris bank) ... 25 0 0  
 \*Per Miss E. H. Brown: Thomas Black, Esq. (£1), Employees, Messrs. Thos. Black & Sons (£4 4s.), \*Staff Smith's Warehouse (£3 10s.) ... 8 14 0  
 Supplementary List of further Donations, per Manchester and District Federation, per Mrs. Chapman, Hon. Sec. for Corsica:— £ s. d.  
 Women of Hyde (per Flag Day) (£94 5s.), to name one Bed for 12 months and one for 6 months: Buxton W.S.S. (£32 4s. 8d.), H. M. Gray, Esq. (£20), Manchester Women Civil Servants (£20) (to complete 2nd 6 months Bed), Chintley and Chapel-en-le-Grith W.S.S. (per Jumble Sale) (£15), to name Bed for 6 months; Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme W.S.S. (£13 11s.), Salford Corporation Tramways (£10 15s. 9d.), \*Manchester (£8 6s.), Oldham W.S.S., to complete Bed for 6 months (£5 12s. 8d.), Overseers of South Manchester (£5), \*F. A. Bruton, Esq. (£5), Miss A. J. Partridge (£5), Miss Jane Partridge (£5), Romiley W.S.S. (£5 4s. 6d.), Marple W.S.S. (£2 11s.), Staff of Salford Secondary School (girls) (£1 10s. 3d.), Mrs. S. E. Childs (15s.), \*Manchester University Sale (£13s. 6d.), Anon. (9s.), Mrs. Dean (5s.), Leigh W.S.S., per Miss Naylor (5s.), Withington and Didsbury Committee (£55 11s. 6d.), to name Bed; \*Manchester Women Civil Servants (£10), Miss Violet Hewit (£2), Mrs. Webb-Peplow (£1 1s.), Previously acknowledged (£2,752 2s.) ... 225 0 0  
 Total ... £127,760 6 10 4

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further donations to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

(Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over the remainder of this week's list of donations, bringing the total up to £128,283 2s. 0d., and also the latest list of Beds named.)

# The only Real Insurance against Ill-health

is to learn the most important facts about the body and its needs; much suffering can thus be prevented. Simple and concise information is given in Dr. H. V. Knaggs' book, "Indigestion: Its Cause and Cure" (1s. net, postage 3d.). It is a truly enlightening book and throws a flood of light on many ailments not generally associated with indigestion. It is now in its Fourth Edition.

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## What Some of our Societies are Doing.

### West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales.

CHESTER.—On July 25th a small meeting of members and friends was held at the Holborn Café, under the presidency of Mrs. Thomas. Mrs. E. V. Burns (Liverpool W.S.S.) spoke on the present critical position of Women's Suffrage, and explained the necessity for action in view of the proposed alteration in the basis of the franchise. A resolution has been sent up by the Chester W.S.S. to their member, Sir Owen Philipps, to this effect: "That any alteration of the basis of the franchise, whether founded upon services rendered to the country by soldiers and sailors and munition workers, or on any other grounds, must include the removal of the sex disability and the granting of the vote to women, in recognition of the spirit and competence with which women have successfully discharged their full share of the national obligation."

### Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL.—In conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Suffrage Society, the Church League, and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, a very successful public meeting was held at the Picton Hall, on July 27th, in support of women's claim to the Parliamentary vote after the war, and greater representation on local bodies. Mrs. E. Stewart Brown presided. Mrs. Fawcett, after referring to the valuable work which was being done by Units organised by the National Union, proposed a resolution: "That this meeting, holding that a Parliament elected upon a register from which women are excluded, is wanting in moral authority, and does not represent the authority of the nation at large, urges Parliament, if called upon by the Government, to alter the basis of the franchise to include women in the electorate."

She pointed out that women would not have raised the question of Suffrage had not the immediate enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors, on the ground of service to their country, been suggested; but that women could not allow their service to the country, widely acknowledged as it had been, to pass unrecognised, politically. There was a change in public opinion on the point. Many public men—amongst them Lord Derby, who had been formerly "anti"—were now in favour of Women's Suffrage.

In seconding the resolution, Miss Eleanor Rathbone called attention to the part played by women during the war, and pointed out that without Women's Suffrage only one side in the industrial questions arising between men and women would receive political expression, and that also the widows of our soldiers dead for their country would have no political representation whatever. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Allan Bright then proposed the further resolution: "That as women are vitally concerned in the problems of reconstruction after the war, this meeting demands the adequate representation of women upon all local authorities and all bodies dealing with questions of reconstruction." This resolution was seconded by Mrs. Raffles Bulley. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Fawcett, proposed by Mrs. Macdonald (Catholic Women's Suffrage Society) and seconded by Mrs. Wallace, of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, was passed. Copies of the resolutions have been sent to the Prime Minister, the President of the Local Government Board, and the local members.

### Oxon, Bucks, and Berks.

ASCOT.—A Flag Day was held on July 1st in Ascot and neighbourhood (including Sunninghill, Sunningdale, Winkfield, and Cheapside), and was a great success, enabling the Society to send £100 to the Serbian Relief Fund and £50 for the further upkeep of the "Ascot" Bed with the Serbian Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals now in Corsica. One of the members of the Executive Committee opened a shop in High Street, Ascot, for the day, where "Serbian" sweetmeats, &c., were sold, and also an interesting loan collection of curios from the Balkan States was shown. The shop realised £25, and was the centre of an interested crowd of spectators and purchasers all the day. Among the attractions of the day were children, who paraded with their decorated pets: a donkey, two Shetland ponies, and a rough-haired terrier. All worked hard for the cause with great success. Lessons on Serbia were given in the National and many of the private schools of the district,

and the latter were visited by the flag-sellers with very satisfactory results, as were also the Military Hospital, the Ascot War Hospital Supply Depot, and the Victoria Nursing Home.

MAIDENHEAD.—On Tuesday, July 11th, a garden meeting was held at Elindene, Cookham-road, by kind permission of Dr. and Mrs. Underhill. The chair was taken by Mrs. St. Hill, and a most interesting and inspiring address was given by Mrs. Robie Uniacke on "War-time Problems and How they Affect Women." After touching on the widespread activities of the various Suffrage Societies throughout the war, the speaker impressed on her hearers how necessary it was that women-Suffragists should use their influence and powers in order that the next electoral campaign should find them included in the political Register. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Stepany Rawson. Tea was served in the garden, and six new members were enrolled.

### West Riding Federation.

BRADFORD.—The annual meeting of this Society was held on the evening of June 30th, at the Girls' Patriotic Club. There was a very good attendance of members. Mrs. Burnham was in the chair, and Miss Geraldine Cooke spoke to us on the "Importance of Suffrage Work," and reminded us that our Suffrage aims must not be lost sight of, even in war time and while working on relief schemes. The balance-sheet and report of the Society showed that we were in a very flourishing condition, and practically we had lost very few members, except by removals. We ended a very pleasant evening by a concert and a play, acted by the Suffrage League of Honour members, who meet weekly at the office. The collection amounted to £2, and it was decided to send £1 10s. to THE COMMON CAUSE FUND.

SHEFFIELD.—A successful garden party was held (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. J. Wycliffe Wilson) at East Hill, on Saturday, July 22nd. The speakers were Dr. Lilian Chesney, who gave a graphic and racy description of her experiences with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia; and Mrs. Leathers, who spoke eloquently on the general Suffrage question. An unusual piquancy was lent to the proceedings by the fact that Dr. Chesney is (or calls herself) "a rabid Anti."

A large number of members and friends were present. A collection was taken on behalf of the Scottish Hospitals and for general expenses; and several new members were enrolled.

Huddersfield.—The Monthly Executive meeting was held yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Josiah Lockwood presided, in the unavoidable absence of Miss Siddon. Letters were read from the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, and Sir Edward Grey acknowledging the receipt of a resolution on the proposed Registration Bill.

After the business, a study-circle was led by Mrs. Lockwood, who read a paper on "War and the Woman's Movement." The paper dealt with the attitude of the feminists against all war, urging that arbitration should in all cases take the place of arms. Women were always against armed forces, and should be heard in the settlement after the war.

Mrs. Studdard proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lockwood for her paper, and to Mrs. Rennards for her hospitality. This was seconded by Mrs. Laycock, and supported by Mrs. Bates, and carried unanimously. It was arranged to hold the study-circle meetings monthly.

### Kentish Federation.

HERNE BAY.—On Saturday, July 15th, a Lamp Day was held in this locality, organised by Mrs. Cowper Field. Some sixty collectors were in the streets, and they sold little lamps similar to those sold in London. The result of their efforts was £27 15s. 10d. Several donations were received by the Treasurer, Mr. George Cursons, J.P., who is a member of the Herne Bay Women's Suffrage Society, which brought the total up to £42 0s. 8d. Taking into consideration the smallness of the population, the amount realised was thought very satisfactory. The proceeds were in aid of the local work-parties and work-meetings, organised by the members of the Herne Bay W.S.S., who have supplied large quantities of garments, comforts, and hospital appliances to various hospitals, among whom are the Scottish Women's Hospitals in France, Serbia, and Russia.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—An attempt to promote some cohesion amongst the Friends of Women's

Suffrage has been made by asking them to join in a vegetable-growing competition, which included potential members. The entrance-fee was one penny. The entries were not very numerous, and many seeds, especially onions, failed. Still, through the kindness of Mrs. Salter Davies, Hon. Sec. of F.W.S., a pleasant little function took place in her pretty garden on August 2nd. Some really fine potatoes, turnips, lettuce, and radishes were exhibited, judged by an experienced gardener, and small prizes were awarded. Those specimens, such as beans and beet, that were not ready, will be adjudged later on.

The occasion was furnished for a little Suffrage talk, as the women sat round the tea-tables on the lawn; several Friends' cards were signed, and the new leaflet introduced. It served also to emphasise the national need of the cultivation of vegetables and medicinal herbs, to which Miss Mosely, Hon. Sec. of the Kentish Federation, referred in presenting the prizes. Miss Alice Jones, Hon. Sec. of the Suffrage Clothing Depot, 18, Crescent Road, entertained the gathering with recitations; and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Davies for her hospitality.

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ENTLEWOMEN interested in Poultry Farming can receive short course at up-to-date Poultry Farm in Surrey; comfortable board-residence in modern cottage; reduction two shilling room; vacancy first week September; inclusive terms.—Write, Box 6,011, COMMON CAUSE OFFICE.

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GOOD GENERAL SERVANT for Berkshire Vicarage; September 1st; might suit widow with one child.—Apply N., Bedford Cottage, Uckfield, Sussex.

WANTED, lady as servant for 1 lady; country cottage; some knowledge cooking essential; vegetarian would suit; help for roughest work; fullest particulars, references, salary.—Miss Wilson, The Hatch, Padworth Common, Beenham.

YOUNG GIRL, about 16, for work in THE COMMON CAUSE Office; previous experience not essential.—THE COMMON CAUSE Office, 14, Great Smith-st., S.W.

**NURSERY TRAINING.**

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INFANT CARE.—Probations received for training at Whitefield Day Nursery, 53 and 55, Whitefield-st., W. Vacancies in October and November.—Apply Miss Robertson, 16, Portland-pl., W.

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

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at 14, Great Smith St., Westminster. London: George Vickers. Manchester: John Heywood, The COMMON Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. H. Smith & Son. Edinburgh and Glasgow: J. Menzies & Co. Dublin and Belfast: Eason & Son.