

THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY.

Societies and Branches in the Union
602.

LAW-ABIDING.

Vol. VI., No. 297.]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1914.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?



HIS PATRIOTIC SACRIFICE !

PUBLICAN (Tenant of Tied House): "Sorry; but I can't serve you ladies before 11.30. At a time like this *some* of us must make a sacrifice.

Notes and News.

The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Our Serbian unit has started, after weeks of "sitting on their boxes, with their umbrellas in their hands!" They left on Saturday morning (December 12th), and all our good wishes go with them. We publish a photograph of the nurses on another page.

Trained Nurses at the Front.

Lord Kitchener is asking for definite information about the statements very generally made to the effect that many practically untrained women have been permitted to go to our hospitals in France. There is certainly a very widespread suspicion that influence has been allowed too large a part, and efficiency too small, in this matter, and it will be a very great relief to know the facts. Lord Kitchener can be trusted to put right whatever is lacking in efficient organisation, and we are all naturally anxious that our men shall have the very best their country can give. At the same time, we deeply regret that any personal bitterness should be imported into an entirely impersonal matter by the writing of letters so unnecessarily discourteous as that of Lord Knutsford in *The Times* of December 14th. The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland has at least as good a right as the Chairman of the London Hospital to express an opinion about the way in which British soldiers are being nursed; nor do we perceive any "vast assurance" in their doing so. We are, on the contrary, inclined to think that it requires more vast assurance on the part of a man (who, after all, is not a nurse) to write with such flippant discourtesy of an organisation of some 6,000 nurses.

Soldiers' Wives.

We suspect that the War Office is heartily sorry that it ever made the astounding proposal that soldiers' wives should be placed under police surveillance. The very idea of such an indignity has raised a storm of protest from all over the country; the War Office does not, perhaps, like to withdraw, but it has very obviously climbed down. According to the official statement quoted in *The Times* of December 12th, no lists of soldiers' wives are necessary on the part of the police, but if it is discovered that a woman who has been arrested for being drunk and disorderly is a soldier's wife, she will not be prosecuted in the case of a first offence but warned and admonished. This discrimination is in one sense undoubtedly in favour of the soldier's wife, but is there any reason why she should be the recipient of such favours? The only possible answer would be that, as the War Office has taken away her husband and upset her domestic arrangements by making her in some cases better off, and in other cases much worse off, than she was before, it ought in return to show her some special consideration. But if there is to be any such consideration, or any special protection extended to soldiers' children, it is surely of the utmost importance that it should be taken entirely out of the hands of the police and the Poor Law and private philanthropy, and put into the hands of local authorities, acting through their education or health or pensions committees. Meantime, we rejoice to know that the women of Preston took the matter into their own hands, formed a committee, inquired into the sweeping charges brought against "soldiers' dependents," disproved them, and compelled an apology.

Married Women Workers.

The Daily Citizen of December 9th reported that the Post Office was calling up married women employees, to take the posts they lost on marriage, as telegraphists, in place of men who had gone to the front. These women, said Mr. Stuart, Secretary of the Postmen's Federation, had in some cases been getting £2 a week when compulsorily retired; they are now getting 25s. We now learn from a reliable source that the same economy is being practised with regard to shorthand writers and typists. The maximum pay of a shorthand typist is 31s. a week, and of a typist 26s. "Nevertheless," says our correspondent, "there are cases in which specially competent typists have been invited to return to duty and have received only £1 a week for their work. . . . The official explanation (I do not say justification!) is that no married woman or widow who has received a gratuity on marriage can be placed on the 'establishment'; she can, therefore, only be employed in a temporary capacity, and the rate of pay fixed for a temporary typist is the minimum of the scale in each case." We believed that the "gratuity"

was some kind of compensation to women for the insecurity of tenure forced on them by compulsory retirement. It is certainly an amazing idea that when necessity compels an employer to recall a specially competent worker for a temporary engagement, he is at liberty to offer a much lower rate than she was worth to him before her marriage!

Compensations.

Among the compensations of the great catastrophe of war is the lovely spirit of generosity and unselfishness it reveals in many unexpected places. A working woman has nine children, the two eldest girls of whom alone are at work, or were, rather, for as soon as the war broke out their factory closed down. The woman's husband and one boy are both consumptive, and the husband is never able to do very much; just now, owing to the war, he is doing nothing at all. It so happened that next to the two eldest girls in the factory worked a young German woman who has no relations in England; she lived in lodgings, and when her work failed she had to leave because she could not pay the rent.

Then the mother of the nine children, all of whom were then on her hands in addition to the semi-invalid father, opened her doors to the stranded German girl and let her "take her bit with the rest." "You see," she explained, "when a body has nine of their own they has got feelings, and specially when its a girl an' all! I couldn't turn the likes of her into the street."

We hear that, through the efforts of a Suffrage Society, the two girls have now obtained other good work, and there is a prospect of the consumptive boy going to a sanatorium almost at once while every means are being taken to find work or a home for the German girl. The most wonderful and beautiful thing about the whole story is the utter unconsciousness of the woman that she has done anything at all unusual in providing a home for the helpless "stranger at the gates."

"It's for the Soldiers."

Here is another story, showing another side, but as lovely a one, of human nature. Said a woman to another woman—a shirt-maker—"What do you get for 'finishing'?" "On being told the terribly scanty sum—"Well, I shouldn't think they got much 'finishing' for that!" "Oh, yes, they do," said the shirt-maker. "We're bound to sew the buttons on tight. You see, it's for the soldiers."

Intercession at St. Paul's.

We cannot sufficiently regret the ill-advised action of those persons in authority who decided that women should not be allowed to take part in the continuous intercession to be offered in St. Paul's during twenty-four hours of this week (December 16th, from 8 a.m., to December 17th, 8 a.m.), after 9 p.m. on the 16th. We understand that the Church League took the matter up at once, but was informed (a) by the Dean, that the Bishop of London's Evangelistic Council was responsible; (b) by the Chairman of this Council that the Dean and Chapter were responsible. We have ourselves gathered from the Press and other sources (a) that the sole reason for the decision of those responsible was the necessity of excluding "undesirable women"; (b) that the sole reason was the danger involved in encouraging young girls to make enormous journeys through London in the middle of the night; (c) that the sole reason was the fear that members of the Church League would create a riot. The last "sole reason" is the most impressive of all. It is not explained what the League was going to riot about—whether because women were admitted, or for some other cause. But it does not appear that to refuse to admit women was the best way of convincing them that they had no grievance. On the contrary, it seems the best possible way to convince them that they had. As a matter of fact, we happen to know that the Church League has done all it can to dissuade, not only its own members, who will in no case make a "riot," but other women, some of them not even Suffragists, who are feeling almost intolerably sore at this apparently wanton discrimination against them in a matter so sacred and a duty so dear. We are glad to know before going to press, that the Church League has at least got the hour of admission for women extended to 11 p.m., and has an assurance that no woman who is in the cathedral at that hour will be turned out. The Free Church League also protested strongly against the proposed exclusion of women.

WORK WHERE WORK IS WANTED.

A Practical Scheme for Assisting Professional Women.

When war broke out in August, and the National Union devoted itself to various schemes for relief, Headquarters found itself practically compelled to open workrooms for women who had lost their means of livelihood, and who, always living on the verge of starvation, had nothing to fall back upon when their scanty weekly earnings ceased. The National Union and other voluntary organisations started workrooms some weeks before this was done by any public body, and in this way filled a gap which would have been a terribly serious one for many working women if such voluntary organisations had not existed. Relief workrooms have now been started, both in London and all over the country, either by the Central Committee on Women's Employment or by local relief committees, and the need of employing working women has thus to some extent been met.

The National Union now finds itself called upon to fill another gap which exists in the machinery for assistance and which, so far, no public body seems able to deal with. Professional women have been as hard hit, and in many cases even harder hit, by the war than their working sisters, but no adequate machinery has been set up, either for the prevention or relief of unemployment amongst them. The problem seems one with which public bodies are quite unable to grapple. The Central Committee on Women's Employment intended, we are told, to deal with professional women, and it would, in our opinion, have been the right body to do so, as some national scheme was clearly needed, and the title of the committee does not suggest that it is only to provide for one class of wage-earning women. But, after considerable delay, the Central Committee decided to do nothing beyond helping a certain number of clerks and typists of the lower grades, and the professional women were handed over to the Professional Classes Sub-Committee of the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress.

The National Union, which had been considering a scheme for the relief of professional women, but which, in order to avoid overlapping with the Central Committee on Women's Employment, had taken no steps, then directed its attention to the new Professional Classes Sub-Committee. It appears, however, that this committee does not intend to initiate any schemes of its own, and though it is prepared to consider schemes of other organisations, it cannot recommend for a grant from the National Relief Fund any proposal which involves payment of salaries.

The Executive of the National Union feels, therefore, that the moment has come for appealing to the public for assistance in providing work for professional women. These women do not wish for relief in the form of doles. They are as anxious as everyone else to serve their country at this time, but they cannot do so without a salary, as their livelihood depends on what they earn. In the meantime, many patriotic societies and relief organisations are calling out for voluntary workers, and the supply of competent voluntary workers able to give all the time that is needed is not adequate. Such organisations would be thankful for the services of a competent trained worker, but they have no means with which to pay her. Thus we have, on the one hand, women fitted for the work, but unable to undertake it without salary, and on the other, organisations needing work and equally unable to obtain it because they cannot pay for it. Does it not seem obvious that a fund is needed which shall bring the work and the worker together? The N.U.W.S.S. has decided to raise such a fund, to be called the Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund, and we appeal to all those

who sympathise with the professional woman who has lost her work or her income owing to the war to give a subscription or donation towards it. The money thus given will be twice blessed, as it will not only enable the professional woman to keep her home together, but will provide a competent worker for one of the patriotic or relief organisations in need of such assistance.

A small special committee will be formed to assist in administering this Fund, which will be expended according to certain definite principles. It should be clearly understood that it is not intended for the assistance of "unemployables," but of competent women who are suitable for the employment suggested. It should be further understood that help can only be offered to well recognised organisations which are believed to be carrying on genuinely patriotic work. Finally, any organisation desiring the services of a worker provided by the Fund will, of course, be offered a choice of suitable applicants, from whom it will be able to select. The worker would thus be definitely the employee of the organisation engaging her, although her salary would be paid out of the fund.

As regards the principle on which the scheme is to be worked, we desire to call attention to the fact that, although it is not approved for purposes of a grant by the Government Professional Classes Sub-Committee, it is precisely the same principle as that which has governed the administration of the Queen's Work for Women Fund. It was laid down in regard to this Fund that the women employed in relief workrooms were to receive certain standard wages per hour, the standard being the minimum trade union rate for the same type of work, and that the articles made were to be distributed to those who needed them, but who had no purchasing power. It is proposed in the case of professional women to employ them in their own work at the standard rate of pay already existing in the profession, and to supply their work to organisations which have no purchasing power. Not only is the principle the same, but it has actually been applied by the Central Committee on Women's Employment in the case of a certain number of clerks and typists who are being supplied to the S. & S. F. A., and whose wages are being paid out of the Queen's Work for Women Fund. We would further call attention to the fact that in providing needlework or other handiwork for unemployed manual workers, the cost of material as well as administrative expenses have to be added to the cost in wages. Thus not only does every woman receive 10s. a week for forty hours' work, but the Fund has also to provide and pay for the materials with which she works, so that the expense of employing the women amounts to considerably more than 10s. a week per head. The scheme for professional women which we are proposing will incur no expense whatever in material. Every penny that is subscribed will be expended in paying the salaries at the standard rates. There will not even be any cost of administration, as the N.U.W.S.S. is able to provide office accommodation and also sufficient staff and equipment to carry out the work. The extent of the work will only be limited by the funds received, and we feel sure that so useful and practical an object will be well supported by members of the N.U.W.S.S. and by the public generally.

It only remains to add that we have not forgotten that some of the professions are already being dealt with to some extent on these or similar lines; but there will be no danger of overlapping, as individuals applying for work can always be referred in the first instance to a society, if there is one, which deals with members of her profession.

THE REFORM OF PUBLIC-HOUSES.

ABOLITION OF THE "TIED" HOUSE.

In many parts of the country the hours during which public-houses may remain open have been greatly curtailed, and further restrictions are being advocated in many quarters. But better than a drastic limitation of hours—through which publicans who conduct their business on good lines would suffer as much as those who encourage drunkenness—would be reform of the whole public-house system. To close public-houses would inflict great hardship upon the poor; for at the present time people are particularly in need of some place where they can gather together for sympathy and discussion, and many look upon the neighbouring public-house as their club, where they can meet

their friends and feel at home. It is against the abuse of the public-house that legislation should be aimed—not against its legitimate use. "Tied" houses should be freed, the sale of impure liquor prohibited, and every encouragement given to the sale of non-intoxicants and wholesome food.

THE TIED HOUSE SYSTEM.

A great factor in excessive drinking is the "tied house" system. Some 90 per cent. of public-houses are run in the interests of a particular firm of brewers or distillers, and are tied to get their supply of beer or spirits from that firm, the tenant being often a tenant only in name, liable to be turned out at short notice if he does not push the owners' wares. Often

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the owner takes no interest whatever in the success of an inn as a victualling house or hostelry; it is in his capacity of manufacturer only that he looks upon it, as a place where his particular commodities are consumed. In many cases tenants or managers are under an obligation to take a certain quantity weekly, with the result that they often either become ruined or take to dishonest ways of increasing their profits. There is usually every encouragement for them to push the sale of alcohol, and none at all to provide other refreshments. In a public-house conducted on right lines, it is quite as profitable to provide teas as to sell beer or spirits. But in a tied house this is frequently not the case, while in some it is impossible to get a good cup of tea or coffee or anything fit to eat. Nor is the customer who is content to drink a modest pint looked upon with much favour. The most cherished customers are the seasoned drinkers who can consume large quantities without becoming noisy and excited.

HUMBUG OF THE "TRADE."

The "Trade," therefore, showed no great magnanimity when they met together and decided to forbid the sale of liquor to women before a certain hour. Indeed, this step was taken, as one of their organs naively confessed, in order to avoid "a disastrous probability"—drastic restrictions for men. The majority of women are customers whom a publican can well afford to lose, and especially is this the case with most of those who have lately taken to drink through stress of excitement; for, being unused to such indulgence, they quickly lose their self-control and create a scene. Not only do they, on an average, consume less per head than men customers, but they tend to keep away some of the regular habitués—the seasoned toppers—who do not welcome feminine intrusion. Moreover, a house much frequented by women is likely to get a bad name, for many people who think nothing of seeing half a dozen men reeling uproariously homeward at closing time—and indeed regard an occasional drinking bout as a masculine privilege—hold up their hands in scandalised horror at the sight of a single woman the worse for liquor.

Outside many licensed houses placards are hung warning the public against intemperance, while numerous notices have been sent round warning publicans to discourage excessive drinking among women, or among soldiers. But how many owners have informed their tenants that the usual obligations with regard to the quantity of liquor disposed of during the week will be dispensed with till after the war? No doubt some owners have genuinely done their best to discourage intemperance, but the Trade as a whole has yet to show that it is actuated by any patriotic spirit.

So long as a man's living depends upon pushing the sale of alcohol the temptation to serve customers who have already had enough is very strong. As an illustration of the way in which the sale of liquor is pushed, a writer in *The Manchester Guardian* tells the following tale:—

"One of the most respected licence-holders in Manchester told me some time ago of how, when he and two friends had had a glass of beer each in a public bar in the West of London the barmaid said, as they were preparing to leave, 'Oh, come gentlemen, you're not going yet, surely? Now, then, who's going to stand glasses round?' He remonstrated with the girl, and said that he should not allow such things in his own house, but she only replied, 'Oh, I expect you're getting old-fashioned, dad. We keep moving in London.'"

THE REFORMED PUBLIC-HOUSE.

If, instead of being encouraged to push the sale of alcohol, the manager of a licensed house were given a percentage on the profits from other refreshments it would make a wonderful difference in the amount of drunkenness. It is a favourite argument of those who oppose any attempt at temperance reform that you cannot prevent a man from getting drunk if he wants to. He obtains drink somehow—even in countries where the sale of alcohol is forbidden by law. This may be true as regards the confirmed alcoholic. But how many people get drunk with deliberate intention, and would go out of their way to do so? The majority of people who take more than is good for them do so because the temptation meets them at every turn, and, in many cases, because they cannot get good non-alcoholic refreshments in bright and sociable surroundings.

That there is a demand for other refreshments, where these are of good quality, is shown by the success of the many temperance canteens being run all over the country at the present time, and of the Home Counties Trust Public-Houses, started by Earl Grey. These are run on the co-partnership system, the manager receiving a commission on all refreshments other than alcoholic beverages, in addition to a regular salary, and this has worked so well that, though more than eleven million persons have been served, not a single prosecution has resulted.

A. M. M.

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

AN EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

MADAM,—I am very glad to see that the minds of some leaders in the Women's Movement are turning steadily towards an educational policy. Our hearts are all right, and our souls are aflame for the cause of justice and freedom, but we lack that "mental breadth" as a sex, which is the due complement of the others, and without which their divine fire may be foolishly wasted.

When the immediate needs of Relief Work, and work among Women and Girls are served, there ought to be in every branch, a nucleus whose contribution must be that of the keen, well-informed mind, and whose spare time should be given to the study of causes and facts for the benefit of the group, and for the guidance of the movement when the time for Peace Proposals is at hand. If, as Dr. Saleeby points out, the future physical welfare of the belligerent nations will lie in the hands of the best-bodied women, can we doubt that the best moral and spiritual qualities of the race will rest there also, and is this not the time to lay our plans for the future? Each branch might well become a real centre of women's education, not only for the immediate purpose of the vote, but for the common cause of humanity; otherwise I can see the women of the future, even with the weapon of the vote, with their hands tied in a fight of even more moment to them, through lack of mental equipment. I am not pleading for intellectualism, "she is the second, not the first," but for a balanced union of heart and head and soul, which will give the world a greater lead than it has ever had.

Let us make a speciality of women's education on every conceivable subject as opportunity arises, as our contribution to National Service, and the present extended work of the movement points the way. I speak with a wide experience of the wish there is on the part of many working and lower middle class women, in Guilds, Adult Schools, and Workers' Education Association branches, for equipment denied to them by a scanty schooling. These women may not be conscious of their need for a vote at present, but they long for a larger life. They want comradeship in the best things, and the fine education of many of the middle and upper class women in the Suffrage movement can only be used worthily when it is freely given to these other women. A very large place waits for us here, and perhaps Miss I. O. Ford means that this is the work we ought to be doing in addition to Relief Work. I can think of no mightier force for a lasting peace than a womanhood with "the larger mind" at work on National and international concerns.

BARBARA MCKENZIE.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

MADAM,—In the correspondence on the subject of pensions for widows and children of soldiers and sailors, I have not come across any reference to the great difference in wages in different rural districts. In Cambridgeshire 14s. and 15s. are ordinary weekly wages for a labourer. His "harvest-money" brings it up to 16s. and 17s. weekly; if the sum of money he receives for harvest work is spread over the year, a pension of £1 a week for a soldier's widow in these counties seems disproportionate. Some of your readers may wonder how a man can keep a wife and family on such a sum as 16s. Rents are exceedingly low; and living is, in other ways, very different from what it is in any town.

I wonder if it would not be possible for a pension to be in some way proportionate to the wage the husband had been receiving? If the Old Age Pensions Committee, or some other authority familiar with the people and conditions of their own districts could undertake the investigation, there need be no harshness about the matter, any more than there is now about an Old Age Pension. I am sure we are all anxious that the widows of those who fall in our defence should be liberally treated in the matter of pensions; but it seems hardly just to give a sum of money so very much larger than a woman has ever had before, when we remember how heavily taxation will fall on the struggling middle-classes—widows and others. On the other hand, a pension bearing some relation to the amount of the husband's earnings—with an upward limit of perhaps £200—would be an untold boon to many a widow who is not of the labouring class. Is it too late to induce the Government to include women on a Committee which is to consider this veritable woman's question?

E. BRISCOE.

[A "Select Committee" is necessarily composed of M.P.'s, and this, we agree, constitutes a grave injustice to the women who, after all, are chiefly concerned. A "Departmental Committee" would have allowed women to serve.—ED., "C.C."]

WAR AND THE BIRTH-RATE.

MADAM,—My attention has been called to a letter headed "War and the Birth-rate," in your issue of November 27th, signed "Hugo." I can only imagine that it is by an inadvertence that such a letter has been inserted.

It encourages immorality, fornication, if by such practise at the present juncture the number of births may be increased. We repudiate this suggestion absolutely, and are astonished that anyone who has any respect for women could dare to put such an idea into words. It would justify what some of our antagonists have said when protesting against the extension of the franchise to women.

The signature "Hugo," though anonymous, suggests that the letter is written by a man, and for the honour of women we hope it is so. Evidently the writer is one who has had little experience of the unfortunate products of such fugitive connections. One would expect no other when the ideal in union of man and woman is thus debased.

There is a movement, I see, for supplying THE COMMON CAUSE to military camp reading rooms; but if such letters as that signed by "Hugo" are to be admitted we trust that the circulation will be prohibited.

MARY H. L. BUNTING
(Hon. Treasurer, Criminal Law Amendment Committee,
19, Tothill Street, S.W.).

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[We find no suggestion that the "union" spoken of by Hugo is necessarily a "fugitive" one, and though we disagree with much that is suggested in his letter we feel very strongly that those who are most desirous, as Lady Bunting is, and as we are, to uphold a high standard of sexual morality, should endeavour to realise why, and to what extent, many people quite as moral as ourselves are rejecting the legal conditions attached by legislation to marriage.—ED., "C.C."]

A UNIFORM FOR PATROLS.

MADAM,—While quite agreeing with your note in a previous number of THE COMMON CAUSE, that it is a matter of regret that the Patrols appointed by the N.U.W.W. do not wear uniform, might I point out that the one you suggest, viz., a dark blue coat and skirt, and a felt hat is that already worn by the Women Police Volunteers. To wear this, members would have to be properly enrolled and trained as Volunteers in our Corps.

D. MEESON COATES, Inspector, W.P.V.

[We were not aware that the uniform we suggested had been already adopted by the W.P.V. and offer our apologies to that excellent body of workers. The Patrols should of course have a uniform of their own.—ED., "C.C."]

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

"A Pardonable Slip."

The Manchester Guardian of December 14th urges us all to regard the War Office order, putting all soldiers' dependents under police surveillance, as a "pardonable slip," and to assume that the peccant circular is "dead." In the same issue is published a letter in which it is stated that the Chief Constable in Manchester has already received a list of "some 20,000 wives and dependents, with a statement of the incomes of each." We agree with the writer that, in these circumstances, the circular can hardly be regarded as "dead," or relegated to the limbo of "pardonable slips."

We desire to call attention to the fact that in Preston, where the women concerned formed a committee to inquire into the charges brought so freely against them, the inspectors of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children reported "that they had given special attention to the homes of soldiers' wives, and had found no evidence at all of the alleged demoralisation." (The Nation, December 12th.) The President of the Society said, "they could not prove one real case in which a woman had been swept off her feet in the great rush of excitement, and had taken to drink." (Daily Citizen, December 7th.)

Miss Isabella Ford sends us the following testimony from the Visiting Committee of the Prince of Wales' Fund in Leeds:—

"Communications and rumours have caused me to look carefully into the alleged prevalence of drinking amongst soldiers' wives, and I have no hesitation in reporting that, so far as Leeds is concerned, such charges are unfounded. Out of seven thousand families registered, I have not had occasion to warn more than twenty women; of three hundred families which were carefully inquired into, in one of the poorest districts in the city, there were only two doubtful cases of drinking, and these were cases of suspicion only. On the other hand, cases have been numerous where the women, on receipt of separation pay and arrears of pay, have used the money judiciously to provide suitable clothing and footwear for their children, to pay arrears of rent, and to straighten up their affairs, while some are endeavouring to build up a bank balance which shall be in the nature of a surprise for the husband when he returns from the war. Further, the children in the schools are the barometer of the home and its conditions. The teachers at the outbreak of the war promised to notify me of all cases of apparent neglect of children of soldiers in their schools. Up to the present time one such case only has been reported to me. It is due to the Leeds men who are fighting our battles that they should know that their wives during their absence are not only a credit to them, but an example to their children and to the rest of the community."

Why, then, are soldiers' wives to be listed in police-stations, like convicts on leave, or persons "wanted" by the police? Simply because the War Office—or that mysterious body, the "Army Council"—has made an idiotic mistake, and cannot find courage to admit the fact? Then we hope that the women of this country will follow the example of the women of Preston, who compelled their accusers to "explain that their observations applied to other places than Preston." In process of time, there will be found no "other places" to apply them to, and then we may hope that the circular will be "dead" indeed. It originated, no doubt, out of that extraordinarily mistaken sort of "kindness" which makes it impossible for one set of people, however well-meaning, to manage the affairs of an entirely different set of people without consulting them.

International Arbitration and Conciliation.

Problems of War and Peace are discussed in THE COMMON CAUSE in a series of articles by well-known writers. Contributors are left free to express their own opinions, as we believe it to be in the public interest that such questions should be freely discussed. The articles are all signed and must not be assumed to represent the official views of the N.U.W.S.S.

Whatever may be the result of the war, it will not put an end to the movement for international organisation. On the contrary, it will be found to have stimulated it; for it will have brought home to more people than ever before, in a more vivid form, the incomparable disaster that war is. The war, it is true, will not end war, except by producing the will to end it. But that will must have been produced, and will be increasingly produced, in masses of people of all nations. What is required is to give it the enlightenment that may direct it to a definite and feasible policy. It cannot be too soon to begin thinking about a matter of such importance, though it is certainly too soon to begin dogmatising. And the remarks that follow, it is hoped, may start some thinking, though they do not pretend to suggest a cut-and-dried solution. War can only be stopped by an agreement between the nations to settle their disputes by some other method than force. Such an agreement, it would seem, must precede disarmament. For no nation will disarm while it has reason to fear an attack. On the other hand, once experience had shown that disputes can and will be settled without force, disarmament would follow as a matter of course. We have, then, to consider what alternatives there are to war. There are two: Arbitration and Conciliation. And these are different processes, and apply to different cases.

Arbitration is a judicial process and implies that the dispute is what is called "justiciable." The interpretation of a treaty is a case in point. The terms of the treaty are there to guide the arbitrator; it is his business only to determine their plain and natural sense, and if both parties have a good will to abide by the treaty, they will accept the award. To go to war about a question of language would be preposterous. We find, accordingly, that arbitration is a well-recognised method of settling some kinds of international disputes. The machinery has been provided in the Hague court. And at the Hague Conference of 1907 the Powers unanimously accepted the principle of arbitration, and even of obligatory arbitration, as applicable particularly to the interpretation of treaties. This declaration, it is true, was not accompanied by a convention for putting it into effect. But this, it is permitted to hope, will be carried through at the next conference. In any case, a good many disputes which might easily have led to war have been settled, in recent years, by arbitration. I may mention, particularly, the very dangerous "Dogger Bank" episode, when the Russian fleet fired, under a misapprehension, on the British fishing fleet, and the very thorny questions that were long at issue between this country and the United States, such as that of the Newfoundland fisheries and of the Alaska boundary. A treaty, indeed, was actually agreed to between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, whereby they would have referred every dispute that might arise between them to arbitration. This treaty, it is true, was thrown out by the Senate of the United States, but rather because the Senate was jealous of parting with its control over foreign issues than from any objection in principle.

International arbitration is thus not a chimera, but an actual fact of great and growing importance. And it should be noticed that the award of an arbitration tribunal has always been accepted. This fact alone shows that States do recognise the binding force of agreements, in spite of a scepticism on that point which recent events have not unnaturally engendered. The hesitation of States to commit themselves beforehand to submitting to arbitration whole classes of cases is indeed due to their feeling that they would be bound to give effect to such agreement, even if it should seem contrary to their interest. They are reluctant to bind themselves, just because they would not care to repudiate their obligations. At the same time, the applicability of arbitration seems to be limited. It presupposes judicial methods and "justiciable" subject matter. The business of the court must be to ascertain facts and to apply to them clear and recognised principles of law. The competition of national interests and ambitions has no place here. And it is, of course, this competition that leads to most wars. If, therefore, such issues are to be adjusted without recourse to force, some other machinery must be applied than that of a judicial tribunal. What can this machinery be?

The common answer will be that no such machinery is

possible. States, it is held, are naturally enemies; one or other of them will always be trying to get the better of the rest, and will always have recourse to war when it sees an advantage in doing so. Each deprecates the ambition of its neighbours, but each cherishes its own; and the clash of ambitions can only be settled by force. I cannot here go into this controversy at length. But I will say, briefly, that the affairs of men and States are not governed by fate, but by their own desires and wills. To say that war is "inevitable" is merely to say that most men or most nations desire to have it so, or do not desire strongly enough not to have it so. Or that they are too ignorant, too lazy, or too unintelligent to seek and apply a way out. What we have to consider is whether we do or do not desire that war shall continue. If we do, we shall, of course, oppose all efforts to put an end to it. If we do not, we shall co-operate with such efforts. Whether we shall be successful or not, we cannot say, but that consideration will not affect our action. What we have to meet is, not fate but ignorance, passion, and bad will. These are formidable opponents. But they are not insuperable.

The method to be applied in the endeavour to settle, otherwise than by force, those disputes between States which are not "justiciable," and which concern what they regard as their vital interests, cannot be arbitration. It must be conciliation. And we have to ask what method of conciliation will be most likely to succeed, granting, as we must, a measure of good will. It should be noticed, first, that there has been in existence in Europe, ever since 1814, what may be called a rudimentary organ of conciliation, the Concert of the Powers. This means a meeting of diplomatic representatives of the chief Powers to discuss and adjust critical questions. It has had a long and checkered history. Its composition and its purposes have varied. It has adjusted peacefully a good many dangerous questions; that arising, for instance, from the separation of Belgium from Holland in 1830; the Eastern question, again and again; the Morocco question quite recently. But it failed to prevent the Crimean War, the wars of 1859, 1866, 1870, and the present war, the most terrible in all history. Clearly the Concert is a very imperfect instrument. Let us consider its chief defects, and, whether and how they might be remedied.

First, there is no obligation on any Power to refer a matter in dispute to the Concert. It was the refusal of Austria-Hungary, backed by Germany, to refer her quarrel with Serbia that led to the present war. And, similarly, any Power that stands upon its right to act independently of the others can always bring about a European war. That is the first great defect in the system.

Secondly, the business of the delegates who conduct the discussions of the Concert is primarily to support the interests of their respective Governments, not to maintain the peace of Europe. If the Concert has, in fact, prevented wars, that has been because it has enabled the Powers to understand one another's point of view, to see which of them will support what policy, and so to calculate the probable consequences of this or that action. Where war has been avoided, it has been rather because all the Powers concerned were convinced that for the moment none of them could hope to profit by a war, in the existing disposition of forces, than because all or even any of them held that war is so great an evil that it must be avoided at all cost. We need not, for that reason, under-estimate the services rendered by the Concert. They have been, at certain crises, very great. But since the representatives of the Powers do not and cannot look at questions with a European mind, but each with a mind intent on his own country and its supposed interests, there is no guarantee that they will keep the peace. They will do so only when, under all the circumstances, it seems to each Power to be its own interest to do so.

Further, of late years the Concert has been divided into two groups, the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente. And this must have made their proceedings much less hopeful than would otherwise have been the case. For there must have been private understandings between the representatives of each group, and the atmosphere rather of a diplomatic battle than of a free and frank discussion.

Lastly, the representatives of the Powers debate in secret, and present their results, whether they be peace or war, already finally determined to the Parliaments and the public opinion of the nations. In no country, not in England or in France any more than in Germany or in Russia, is there any effective control by the public over foreign policy. There is probably less in England now than there has been at any time in the recent past.

The war in which we are involved was rendered inevitable by a course of policy which, whether it were wise or unwise, was unknown to the public and uncontrolled by it.

This short analysis of the defects of the Concert as an agency for keeping the peace may lead us to useful positive proposals. In making these we ought not to be more revolutionary than we need be. But neither ought we to be too timid. For we are involved in the greatest catastrophe of all history, and if the shock does not startle us and our governments out of the traditional methods that have brought us where we are, and compel drastic remedies, then certainly nothing ever will.

First, then, I propose that the Powers, with the public opinion of the nations behind them, should bind themselves by treaty never to threaten or take military measures in reference to any dispute, until they have referred it to arbitration or conciliation. If such a treaty had existed before the outbreak of the present war, and had been observed, then Austria-Hungary would not have sent her ultimatum, and war would have been, at any rate, postponed until after an inquiry into the circumstances of the Archduke's murder, and, in that case, might probably have been avoided. All that was wanted was time, and that the German Power refused. Suppose, however, that the treaty had not been observed, and that Austria-Hungary and Germany had taken military measures in defiance of it. To meet this case, it should, I think, be a condition of the treaty that the other signatories should combine to make war on the offender. In that case, Austria and Germany would have had to face not only the Triple Entente, for certain, but the other Powers of Europe, and the United States, if, as we may hope, she were a signatory. They would never have faced such a combination, and there would have been no war. If it be urged that, in fact, the German Powers would have taken the risk, and the other Powers would not have acted, then at worst we should have been as we are. But I think the risk would not have been taken, or that, if it were, the Powers would have acted.

Suppose, next, that war had been, in the first instance, avoided and the dispute referred for conciliation. The actual question of what the facts were in regard to the murder of the Archduke, being purely one of evidence, would have been referred to an international Commission of Inquiry, by a procedure already laid down in a Hague Convention. The Commission would have ascertained whether or no the Serbian Government were privy to the murder, and the Concert could then have decided, with the facts before it, what penalty Austria was justified in exacting. That method of procedure is clearly the only sensible one as far as that particular issue is concerned.

But, of course, it will be replied, and with truth, that the murder of the Archduke was not the real issue. That it was an occasion, not the true cause of the war. Behind the murder lay the whole question of the Balkan States, and of the rivalry between Russia and Austria, Slav and Teuton, in south-east Europe. An issue of that kind is not simple and is not justiciable. It would have had to be referred, if war were to be avoided, not to a judicial commission of inquiry, but to a Council of Conciliation. The Balkan question, in fact, has again and again been referred to the Concert. But the Concert, finally, was unable to find or impose a satisfactory settlement. Could any better machinery be devised that might be more successful? Two alternatives occur to me.

The first, and more revolutionary, is to create a new body of experienced statesmen and international lawyers of all nations, with a permanent constitution, to take cognisance and suggest solutions of all international questions that have proved incapable of solution by the ordinary diplomatic means. Such a body would not be an assembly of lawyers; its function would be to conciliate, not to judge, but it would act more impartially and with a more "European" mind than a body of diplomats acting under constant instructions from their Governments, and thinking each only of his Government's point of view. Had the Balkan question, for example, been referred to such a body, they would, we may suppose, have worked out a settlement of the Balkan States on a basis of nationality and religion, and proposed a federation of them which would exclude aggression either from Russia or Austria-Hungary. The suggestion would have been published, so as to be accessible to the public opinion of all nations. And if it were in itself just and reasonable, it would have had much weight. It would then have been submitted to the Concert, for the Powers to consider whether or no they would agree to put it through. Some of the States concerned would presumably oppose it. But those who favoured it would have with them the public opinion of the world. The recalcitrant members would be held responsible for a breach of the peace, should one occur. And the

chances of keeping the peace would, I think, be very much greater than they are under existing arrangements. If this idea of a distinct International Council of Conciliation be held to be impracticable, we might fall back upon the Concert; but a Concert enlarged by the addition of representatives of the smaller States of Europe, who are not directly interested in most of the issues that divide the great Powers, and of the United States, if they would consent to intervene in European issues. In such a Concert the interests of peace are likely to be more effectively urged and more forcibly backed. For peace is always a vital interest to any Power not seeing immediate advantage in a war. And neutral Powers suffer by war economically as much, or it may be more than, belligerents. The recognition, in a formal organisation, that the quarrels of the great Powers do not concern themselves alone, and ought not to be settled by themselves alone, would be a great gain for the cause of peace. And that is the very least that ought to come out of this war.

Briefly, then, what I propose is this: that the Powers, including, if possible, the United States, bind themselves by treaty to submit to arbitration all justiciable disputes, and to conciliate all non-justiciable disputes, that may arise between them and may have proved incapable of peaceful settlement by the ordinary means of diplomacy; and that a Power breaking this treaty and taking military measures without such reference to arbitration or conciliation, should be regarded by the rest as a public enemy and punished by force. There seems to be nothing impracticable or chimerical about this. The main difficulty is the constitution of the Council of Conciliation. I have made certain suggestions, which are perhaps worth consideration. Very likely others may be forthcoming. Anyhow, it is, I think, along these lines that we must look for our solution. The difficulty is really less a difficulty of machinery than a difficulty of will. A strong will to peace is the pre-condition of any change in the organisation of Europe. The war will have created a will in large numbers of people, and large classes of society. But also it will have given new strength to the will for war. Those who say peace is impossible generally mean, in their hearts, that they think it undesirable. Those of us who think it desirable must do our best to show that it is possible.

G. LOWES DICKINSON.

During the following weeks we shall publish articles on "Disarmament" (by J. A. Hobson); "Conscription," "National Service," &c.

IN CASE OF INVASION.

It is determined that women shall not be found unprepared should England be suddenly invaded, a Women's Volunteer Reserve having been formed which, in case of need, will be ready to assist the authorities in various ways, such as by carrying dispatches, signalling, cooking, motoring, riding, &c. The age limit is eighteen to forty, and a medical examination has to be passed. Branches have already been formed at Reading, Walthamstow, Guildford, Worcester, and Derby, while four companies of women (each company containing about sixty) have started drilling. Lady Castlereagh is Colonel-in-Chief, the Hon. Evelina Haverfield is Hon. Colonel, while Lady French is Hon. Colonel of the Essex and Hereford Battalion. Information can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., 8, York Place, Baker-st., W.

THE QUEEN'S "WORK FOR WOMEN" FUND.

A NEW TRADE FOR WOMEN.

Another new trade for women has now been started through a suggestion from the Central Committee on Women's Employment—that of making doll's tea-sets. This work is especially suitable for those girls whose usual work is in pottery-ware, but who, owing to the war, have been thrown out of work. It is expected that this work will develop considerably, and already the girls are learning to make toy dinner, tea, dessert, and toilet sets, which were formerly all made in Germany.

THE DEMAND FOR MEDICAL WOMEN.

We have received the following important letter from a generous helper of good causes:—

MADAM,—In view of the ever increasing demand for medical women, may I be allowed, through the medium of THE COMMON CAUSE, to give the following information?

It is known that there are many suitable and capable women anxious for a medical career, who are unable to study owing to lack of sufficient means. To them it may be of interest to know that there exists a small fund for helping with necessary expenses. This help is, of course, limited, and only given to those who are not only physically and mentally fit, but whose natural endowments promise special aptitude for the medical profession. Anyone desirous of hearing further particulars is asked to address her application to Medical Education Fund, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

We will very gladly forward all letters sent to us.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

SECOND UNIT OF THE N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL STARTS FOR SERBIA.

The second unit of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital has started. It went on Saturday, Dec. 12th, bound for Serbia, just a week after the first unit left for France, and members will be glad to know that the National Union is now represented at the two fronts. It is not intended, however, that the work shall stop here, and the Scottish Federation will not allow itself a very long rest, after all its labours of the last few months, before setting to work on the third unit. Nothing has as yet been actually settled about this unit, but if required it may possibly go to Chantilly, where the first hospital went.

Meanwhile, help is urgently needed, that this work may not be hindered or set back through lack of funds. The cost of the French unit, which has already gone, will be, roughly, £5,000 for the first six months, the Serbian unit being somewhat less, as it is maintained by the Serbian Government. A donation of £10 will equip a bed in the next unit, while donations of £25 will carry with them the right to name a bed for six months, and £50 for a year. Gifts in kind are also needed. Please send donations to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

AN IRISH CAR FOR THE SECOND SCOTTISH HOSPITAL IN FRANCE.

MADAM,—As your paragraph last week was a little misleading, will you let me explain my scheme?

I tried, and failed, to collect sufficient funds to equip an Irish Ambulance. Now, I have had the offer of a Landulette Humber from one of the National Union's Exhibition supporters, Mr. Hurlin, an automobile engineer. He has offered to let me take this car, which he has been using for private and hire purposes, to France with the next unit if I can indemnify him against the loss of the car to his business. Another of our Woman's Kingdom Exhibitors, Miss C. Griff, the consulting engineer, and one of the Royal Automobile Club's engineer examiners for cars and drivers for the Continent, has carefully examined the car for me, and will pass it for hospital service under a private owner, provided certain small defects are set right. Mr. Hurlin has promised to do this and to hand over the car, complete, for £45, in order to help the cause. In addition, the car would require new tyre covers, which ought to be rubberine filled. This would run into another £20—unless the tyres were given by some other friend.

I appeal, therefore, to every National Union member, and every reader of THE COMMON CAUSE who has a drop of Irish blood in her veins, or a warm corner for Ireland in her heart, to help me raise this money—call it £70—at once, so that I may close with Mr. Hurlin's offer next week, and have the car tuned up and re-tired ready to start with us to France in the New Year.

As the editorial paragraph last week indicated, the car could be used to transport the less serious, or "sitting" cases, or as a soup kitchen on wheels. I know an Irish cook, who speaks French and cooks French bouillon and chocolate like a native, and I want an Irishman to volunteer to take the car out and to drive her for a month, for his expenses.

Irish readers, please help!

V. C. C. COLLUM.

Newport.

A meeting of members of the W.S.S. took place on November 27th when Mrs. Rackham gave an excellent address on "Women's Work in Time of War." The Chairman, Mr. Lyndon Moore, gave a statement of some of the work being done in the town in connection with the war, and the Chairman of the Committee gave a statement of the work done by the Newport Society since war was declared, stating that the Society had collected £10 17s. 6d. for the Women's Suffrage Bed in the Welsh Hospital at Netley and also that members of the Society were on every ward committee in the town for the administering of the National Relief Fund. The Society was working in connection with the local branch of the Y.M. C.A., by sending helpers down each evening to the Y.M.C.A. rooms to serve out refreshments to the soldiers and to help to entertain them.

North-West Ham.

A TIPPERARY CLUB for the wives of Soldiers and Sailors will be opened shortly at 210, High Street, Stratford. Help is much needed towards the furniture, &c., and any offers of gifts (or loans) of money, chairs, food, toys, literature, &c., and especially of a piano, would be gratefully received by the Hon. Sec., Miss H. P. Hudson, 82, Ham Park Road, Forest Gate, E.

Torquay.

THIS OFFICE was opened, shortly after war began, as an Exchange Bureau, and bills were distributed throughout the town announcing that women out of employment could register with us, and that tradespeople whose employees had enlisted could apply to us for temporary substitutes. Plenty of women came, but not a single tradesman. We were, however, able to place a good many of the women, and we afterwards opened a workroom, which gives three hours' employment daily to several women and girls in sewing and knitting. A considerable number of shirts and other comforts have been made for the troops, and several girls have been taught how to machine. We made an effort to give several girls a course of domestic training, and the local education authorities kindly made special arrangements for their benefit, but they could not be induced to attend the classes.

We are just starting toy-making, but on a very small and tentative scale, as it is extremely doubtful if we can make it pay.

"SLICED ANIMALS" FOR SALE.

Our speciality is what the Americans call "Sliced Animals," a picture-puzzle, price 1s. 6d., or 1s. 8d. post free. The drawings, by an American lady, are excellent, and they are hand-coloured by our women. We should be very glad of any orders, or to forward a specimen on approval.

Unemployment among women seems to be decreasing here, but our great difficulty is with the older, untrained women, who are helpless themselves, expect us to do everything for them, and yet will not follow advice or take up work which they find a little distasteful.

The Women's Co-operative Guild asked us to arrange a lecture for them on Child Care, and Mrs. Whally attended and gave an eloquent address, which was followed by an interesting discussion. Several of our members were present, by permission of the Guild, and one of their members is serving on our Workroom Committee, which also includes members of several other organisations for women which are working in the town.

North-Western Federation.

KESWICK.—There is nothing to report of Keswick Society as a whole. Individual members are serving on Soldiers' and Sailors' Allowance Committee, and on Belgian Refugee Committee. So far, only five Belgian civilians have been settled in the town, and four wounded soldiers. Three cottages are inhabited in the district by working-class Belgians.

LANCASTER.—Most of the members are hard at relief work of some sort. The President and Hon. Treasurer are doing V.A.D. work. The Hon. Sec. is also Hon. Sec. of the Ladies' Relief Committee, serves on the Belgian Relief Committee, and also manages the Relief Workrooms for girls out of work, where there are 120 girls weaving halters. Another member is the lady-member serving on the District Committee for Relief and does a great deal of visiting.

MORECAMBE.—Our members are working very hard indeed; some for the Red Cross in Morecambe or Heysham, others sending clothing or money to Belgium. The clothing is collected at the Lupton Hall by Mrs. Lupton, one of the W.S.S. Committee, and friends. Members are also serving on Belgian Relief Committee both at Morecambe and Heysham.

Bournemouth.

The annual general meeting of the Bournemouth Branch was held at Freedom Hall on December 3rd. Dr. Stancombe gave an excellent speech on Woman's Work during and after the war. Miss Decima Moore also spoke. At a subsequent business meeting, Lady Frances Balfour was re-elected local President. The other officers were also re-elected, with the exception of four withdrawals from committee, filled by Mrs. Hamilton Grant, Miss Tarr, and Mrs. Gohlke, Vice-President.

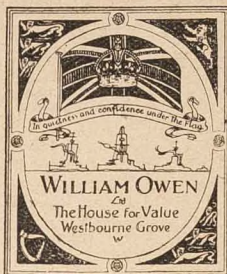
Kilmarnock.

Since October 15th we have held a bi-weekly work party for Red Cross and other relief work at the Suffrage Rooms. Tea is provided and served by members, and all the payments benefit the general funds. The work party now meets every Thursday at 3 o'clock. On Saturday, November 7th, we held a jumble sale at the Temperance Halls. This realised a profit of £10 odd, all of which is to be used for Red Cross and local relief. On December 11th we had a whist party, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Scottish Federation Field Hospital.



Photo by Kate Pragnell.

NURSES OF OUR SERBIAN UNIT.



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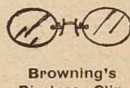
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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Voluntary Workers.

We have been asked to supply workers of all descriptions to the parish of St. Michael's, York Road, N. Owing to the war and the work that is being done for soldiers, sailors, and refugees, work amongst our own poor tends to be neglected. We should be very grateful for offers of voluntary workers in this very poor parish of 10,000 inhabitants.

Hospitality.

Will anyone living near either the Regent's Street or the Battersea Polytechnics give hospitality to a young woman who is anxious to train there?

Mrs. Harley and the Girls' Cadet Corps.

We are asked to announce that, since our article on the Active Service Girls' Cadet Corps, the founder, Mrs. Harley, has been called to France. She feels this call to the post of danger to be imperative, and during her absence, which we trust may not be for long, the A.S.G.C.C. will, we hope, be taken up and developed by many of our Societies. The uniform and badge will be definitely decided on this week, and the whole scheme will be brought before the General Council in February.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Received November 1st to December 12th, 1914.		£ s. d.	
MISS P. G. FAWCETT (Two Instalments)	70 0 0	MISS S. E. S. MAIR	2 2 0
MRS. GIBB	2 6	MRS. LUFF	1 1 0
MRS. J. K. REID	1 0 0	MRS. WALTER WIGRAM	10 6
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MRS. POWEL	2 0	ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE W.S.S.	15 0
MISS FRENCH	1 1 0	DUDLEY W.S.S.	5 0
MRS. SHILLINGTON	10 0	£131 12 0	

Active Service Fund.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED	3,190 18 0	MISS D. M. REVELL (Second Donation)	10 0
MRS. H. T. GILLET	50 0 0	MRS. E. GAMBLE (Tenth Weekly Donation)	1 6
MISS V. PARTINGTON (Third Monthly Donation)	5 0	MISS MARGARET E. SMITH	2 0
MISS J. WIGHT	5 0	MRS. STEPHENS	5 0 0
MISS URSULA M. EDMONDS (Second Donation "Motor Ambulance")	2 6	"J. K. S."	2 6
OXFORD WOMEN STUDENTS	2 6	ANONYMOUS	1 10 0
LADY MARGARET HALL	1 0 0	AT 50, PARLIAMENT-STREET—ONE SHILLING FUND	11 0
OXFORD WOMEN STUDENTS. ST. HILDA'S HALL	1 0 0	MISS D. MACDONALD (Scottish Women's Hospital)	3 3 0
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LIANELLY W.S.S.	11 6	£3,287 3 6	
MRS. HERMON	10 6		

A DOLL FROM QUEEN VICTORIA'S CHRISTMAS TREE.

We have received an offer of £2 for the tiny doll from a Windsor Christmas-tree of thirty-two years ago. We must ask the lady who kindly sent the doll to send us a fuller address, as the one on her letter to us is not sufficient. A letter sent to it has been returned to us by the P.O.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

The next Congress of the International Suffrage Alliance was to have been held in Berlin in June, 1915. This will now, in any case, be impossible; but Dutch suffragists are urging that the Congress should be held, notwithstanding, in some neutral country, preferably Holland. We earnestly hope that, in spite of the obvious and great difficulties, in spite of present unhappy divisions, it may indeed be found possible for women to meet in conference in 1915.

THE LONDON SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the London Society took place at 3 p.m. on December 10th, at the Caxton Hall, Miss Edith Palliser in the chair. In addition to some formal business, the following resolutions were carried:—

"That this meeting endorse the action taken by the Executive Committee, on the declaration of war, in suspending the political work of the Society in order to devote its organisation to the immediate needs of the nation."

"That this annual meeting of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, believing that in the present war the cause of Freedom, and therefore that of Women's Suffrage, is at stake, calls on its members to take their full share of the burden of citizenship and to do all in their power to sustain the vital forces of the nation."

Urgency resolution moved from the chair:—

"That the London Society for Women's Suffrage in annual meeting assembled, protests against the instructions issued to the police by the Army Council to keep the wives and dependents of soldiers engaged on active service under police surveillance, and appreciates the decision of the Chief Commissioner of Metropolitan Police to abstain from issuing the lists of women concerned to the police in the area under his control."

The following are elected as officers and members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:—

The Lady Frances Balfour (President), The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves (Treasurer), Miss N. Baker, Miss H. D. Cockle, Miss Edith Dimock, Miss O. J. Dunlop, Mrs. L. B. Franklin, Mrs. Fyffe, Miss T. Gosse, Miss Haldane, Miss Emily Hill, Mrs. Kinnell, Miss Mary Lowndes, Miss I. O'Malley, Miss Edith Palliser, Miss Rosamund Smith, Mrs. Squire Sprigge, Mrs. Stephen Spring Rice, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Ward.

THE CAMP "COMMON CAUSE" FUND.

We are now able, thanks to our readers, to supply all the Y.M.C.A. rooms near our camps. We have further offers of papers, but have come to the end of our list of addresses, and must ask our kind helpers to forgive us if we keep them waiting for a few days before sending them an address. We desire once more to thank them all most cordially.

Here is an extract from the letter of one of our readers:—

"How nice it would be, if all who bought one (A COMMON CAUSE) would give it to a soldier. I always post mine off. Sometimes to the front, to my nephew, sometimes to New Zealand to a friend, sometimes to Canada and South America, and other times nearer home, as, I must say, the Societies are doing a splendid work. I quite enjoy reading about what they are doing. It is far more interesting than the most fascinating tale."

We have received the following additional donations towards our fund for supplying camps with THE COMMON CAUSE:—Miss M. Gresswell 2s. 6d., Mrs. Ford 2s.

The following have offered to send on their own copies:—

Miss M. R. Courtald, Miss V. Parlington, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Wood Action, Mrs. Bluet, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. Lake, Mrs. Gillet, Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. H. S. Cather, Miss D. M. Zimmerman, Mrs. Platts, Miss E. Prentis, Mrs. Boardman, Miss M. H. Yates, Miss H. Maxwell, Miss Duncan, Miss W. O. Waterson, Miss C. K. McLeod Carey, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Blathway, Mrs. R. Fowler, Mrs. R. Thompson, Mrs. W. O. Woodward, Mrs. Jelford, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Hoggett, Mrs. W. Hanks Jackson, Miss H. Maxwell, Mrs. Reopmaker, Mrs. Ford Smith, Mrs. Lowe, Miss Gray, Miss Basnett, Mrs. C. F. Andrews, Miss Ridley, Miss Pearson, Miss M. C. Fraser, Mrs. Morton-George, Miss Frankland, Miss Barrett, Miss A. M. Sturge. Southport Society has undertaken to supply all the principal soldiers' institutes in that town regularly with the paper.

WHERE HELP IS NEEDED.

We wish to bring THE COMMON CAUSE before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

If you cannot sell yourself please send us some money so that we may employ out of work women to sell the paper. Donations should be sent to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The following additional donations have been received for this purpose:—Miss White 6s. 9d., the Misses Wilson and Miller ros., Miss Jessie W. Scott £1.

Where to Sell.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained from the Lady Clare Annesley, 44 Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Papers will be distributed to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

For meetings arranged see back page.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FOR FOREIGN SERVICE.

£ s. d.		Dornock W.S.S., per hon. Secy., Miss Gunn, 3rd Donation	
FORWARD AS PER LIST	6,070 19 0	FRANCE, Charles T. Mitchell (for France)	11 6
ANON., Edinburgh	5 0 0	GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND COLLEGE OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE, per Miss Dorothy Melvin, hon. Treas., to name a Bed "Glasgow College of Domestic Science" (France or Belgium)	75 0 0
MRS. C. FLUGEL	5 0 0	"From One Whose Grandmother was Scotch"	1 0
MRS. MAISE HUTCHISON	10 0	MEMBERS OF NEWNHAM W.S.S., per hon. Treas., Miss E. M. Chrystal, 2nd Donation	6 0
MRS. EYERES	5 0 0	THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD., Kilwinning, per Treasurer, Robert Caldwell, Esq.,	1 0 0
LIANGOLLEN W.S.S., per hon. Treas., Mrs. Wood	1 11 0	G. H. Lindsay Basse, Esq., per Miss K. Shepherd	25 0 0
MISS MCLEOD	5 0	MRS. NORMAN, per Miss C. M'Millan, London	1 0 0
MRS. NORMAN McLEHOSE	1 1 0	MRS. ADAMS	2 6
THE MISSES STEELE	10 0	MRS. L. SMITH	1 0 0
MRS. HUTCHISON	10 0	MISS A. DAWSON	1 0 0
ART TEACHERS' GUILD, LONDON, per Miss Beatrice Collins	30 0 0	DR. SANDERSON	10 0 0
GEORGE HEYWORTH, Esq., Anon., Montrose	200 0 0	COLLECTED BY MISS NEILL	2 0
MRS. ARKLEY, per Miss Eadie, hon. Secy., Auchterarder W.S.S.	6 0 0	SOLLIHULL W.S.S., per Mrs. Allport, hon. Treas.,	10 0 0
MRS. McNAUGHTEN, per Miss Eadie, hon. Secy., Auchterarder W.S.S.	1 0	MISS C. G. WHITE	10 6
MRS. ARTHUR	1 0 0	MRS. N. BARKLOMOW	2 0
PER MRS. WOOD, hon. Secy., Kilmacoll W.S.S.	1 1 0	PER MRS. WOOD, hon. Treas., Kilmacoll W.S.S., 5th Donation—Total to date, £319 14s. 6d.	5 0 0
PER MRS. SINCLAIR, hon. Secy., Marple W.S.S., 3rd list towards "Marple" Bed: Mr. and Mrs. Penny, 10s., Mrs. Tierney, 10s., Mrs. Winter, £1 is., A. K. Johnstone, Esq., 10s., Mrs. Kershaw, 10s., Mrs. Dixon, 5s., Mrs. W. Taylor, 2s. 6d., Mrs. H. C. Parker, £1 is.	5 11 0	PER MISS M. G. TODD, hon. Secy., and Treas., Paisley W.S.S., to name a second "Paisley" Bed	25 0 0
MRS. LARREL	5 0	M. G. ANON.	5 0
MRS. BARKLOMOW	10 0	PER MRS. SCOTT, further Donation to "Morningside" Bed: Dr. Kenmore Melville	10 0
MISS B. THALLIN HOGG, Washington, U.S.A., per Miss M. Hogg	1 1 0	PER MISS A. NEVILLE, Launceston W.S.S., further Donation: Mrs. Wenn	2 6
M. G. ANON.	5 0	PER MISS BESSIE CURRIE, hon. Secy. of Committee, proceeds of concert at Portnave School, Islay, Argyll	5 0 0
PER MRS. SCOTT, further Donation to "Morningside" Bed: Mrs. Currier, for "Orca-dian" Bed	29 0 0	ORKNEY W.S.S., per hon. Secy., Mrs. Currier, for "Orca-dian" Bed	29 0 0
FALKIRK W.S.S., per Miss Jane Taylor, hon. Treas., for "Falkirk W.S.S." Bed	25 0 0	£6,587 16 6	

Further donations to be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

List of Beds Named (to Dec. 12) in the N. U. W. S. S. "Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service."

Name of Bed.	Donor.
The "Elizabeth Teacher" Bed	Miss Teacher.
"Dunbar" Bed	Dunbar W.S.S. and Friends.
"Newington" Bed	Newington Work Party (Edin.).
"Elizabeth" Bed	Anon.
"Glasgow" Bed	"J. J. S." Glasgow.
"Hawick" Bed	Hawick W.S.S.
"Shropshire" Bed	Shropshire W.S.S.
"Ursula" Bed	F. Hayes, Esq.
"Beauchamp" Bed	Miss A. Beauchamp.
"Johnstone H. Wood" Memorial Bed (France or Belgium)	Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Wood.
"Kilmacoll" (6 Beds)	Kilmacoll W.S.S. and Friends.
"Gourock" Bed (for Serbia)	Gourock W.S.S. and Friends.
"Crieff" Bed (for Serbia)	Crieff W.S.S. and Friends.
"Devon and Cornwall" Bed	S.-W. Federation, N.U.W.S.S.
"Sybil" Bed	Mrs. Church and "Sybils."
"Morningside" Bed	Mrs. Scott and Friends, Edinburgh.
"Liverpool W.S.S." Bed	Liverpool W.S.S. and Friends.
"Margaret Mitchell" Bed	Mrs. Mitchell.
"Olwen" Bed (France)	Miss Olwen Osmond Williams.
"St. Leonard's" Bed	St. Leonard's School.
"Haddington" Bed	Haddington W.S.S. and Friends.
"Emma Sargent" Bed	Miss Sargent Florence.
"Ruadhghair" Bed	The Misses Morrison.
"Bridge of Weir" Bed	Bridge of Weir W.S.S. and Friends.
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"Perth" Bed	Perth W.S.S.
"Malvern Suffrage" Bed	Malvern W.S.S.
"Chelsea Suffrage" Bed	Chelsea W.S.S.
"Holt W.S.S." Bed	Holt W.S.S. and Friends.
"Paisley" Bed (2 beds)	Paisley W.S.S. and Friends.
"Kentish" Bed	"Deal and Walmer" W.S.S., Kentish Federation.
"Tayside Suffrage" Bed	Tayside W.S.S.
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"Marple" Bed	Marple W.S.S. and Friends.
"Dundee W.S.S." Bed	Dundee W.S.S. and Friends.
"Glasgow College of Domestic Science" Bed	Glasgow College of Domestic Science.
"Orca-dian" Bed	Orkney W.S.S.
"Crosby" Bed	Mrs. Parker, Kilmacoll.
"Bellard" Bed	Mrs. Weir, Kilmacoll.
"Women's Educational Union" Bed	W. E. Union, Glasgow.
"Falkirk W.S.S." Bed	Falkirk W.S.S.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

A Training Centre and Hostel for educated girls wishing to be fitted for religious and social work will be opened by the Young Women's Christian Association on January 12th. The need for this is being felt increasingly, and the committee have been constrained to press forward the scheme, despite the many claims which the war has created. Information will be given by the Head of the Hostel, Miss Rickard at 26, George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- DECEMBER 18.**
Bristol—16, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class 6.0
Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—At Home—Miss Pagan on "Astrology and the War" 4.30
- DECEMBER 20.**
Hyde Park—Near Reformer's Tree—Speakers, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss I. O. Ford 3.0
- DECEMBER 21.**
Bristol—42, Montague Street—Women's Club—Open daily until December 25th
Manchester—Temperance Hall, York Street—Hulme Suffrage Club—Meeting 8.0
- DECEMBER 22.**
Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ON Christmas Day a meeting will be held outside Westminster Abbey, at 12.5 p.m., to appeal against the attitude the Churches have taken up in the present war. Speakers, &c. will be announced later.—For particulars apply to Mrs. A. Cunningham, 114, Holmleigh-rd., Stamford Hill, or Miss N. O'Shea, Cosham, Hants.

POSTPONED TILL DECEMBER 18th, 7.30 p.m., Concert by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick, in the Memorial Hall, Manchester; unfamiliar works for two pianofortes.—Tickets available, or money returned by Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126, Deansgate.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, S.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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MORA PUCKLE will make up customers' own material in order to keep her staff of workers together; embroidered dresses, coats and djibbahs, tailored coats and skirts.—399, Oxford-st. (opposite "Times" Book Club), entrance 311bert-st.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest West-End and Paris styles, from 3½ guineas. Patterns sent on application.—H. NELISSEN, Ladies' Tailor, 14, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-st., W. (near Waring's).

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (old) bought; we pay absolutely highest genuine prices—up to 5s. 6d. per tooth pinned on vulcanite; 10s. on silver; 12s. 6d. on gold; 35s. on platinum. Immediate cash. If offer not accepted, we return parcel post free. Satisfaction guaranteed.—S. Cann & Co., 69a, Market-st., Manchester. Bankers, Parrs, Mention "C.C."

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

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description. Parcel sent will be valued and value sent by return. For the duration of the War 10 per cent. profits of all clothes purchased from COMMON CAUSE readers will be handed to the Belgian Relief Fund.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-st., Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

TABLE POULTRY, NEW LAID EGGS.—Best quality; reasonable prices; carriage paid.—Misses DAVIES & JANES, Reed End Farm, Royston, Herts.

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GROUND FLOOR FLAT to let, £50 yearly; good, unattached house off Haverstock-hill, Hampstead; convenient; references.—Box 3,775, COMMON CAUSE Office.

KENSINGTON.—Large bed-sitting-room, ladies, 10s. 6d. weekly.—7, Stratford-rd.

WORKING GENTLEWOMAN desires another to share furnished flat, £20 each yearly; near Belsize-park tube; references exchanged.—Box 3,776, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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FLAT (unfurnished) wanted in W. C. district, near Charing Cross; 1 sitting-room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bath-room. First floor only, unless lift. Moderate rent.—Write, M.L., COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

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