

# 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.**

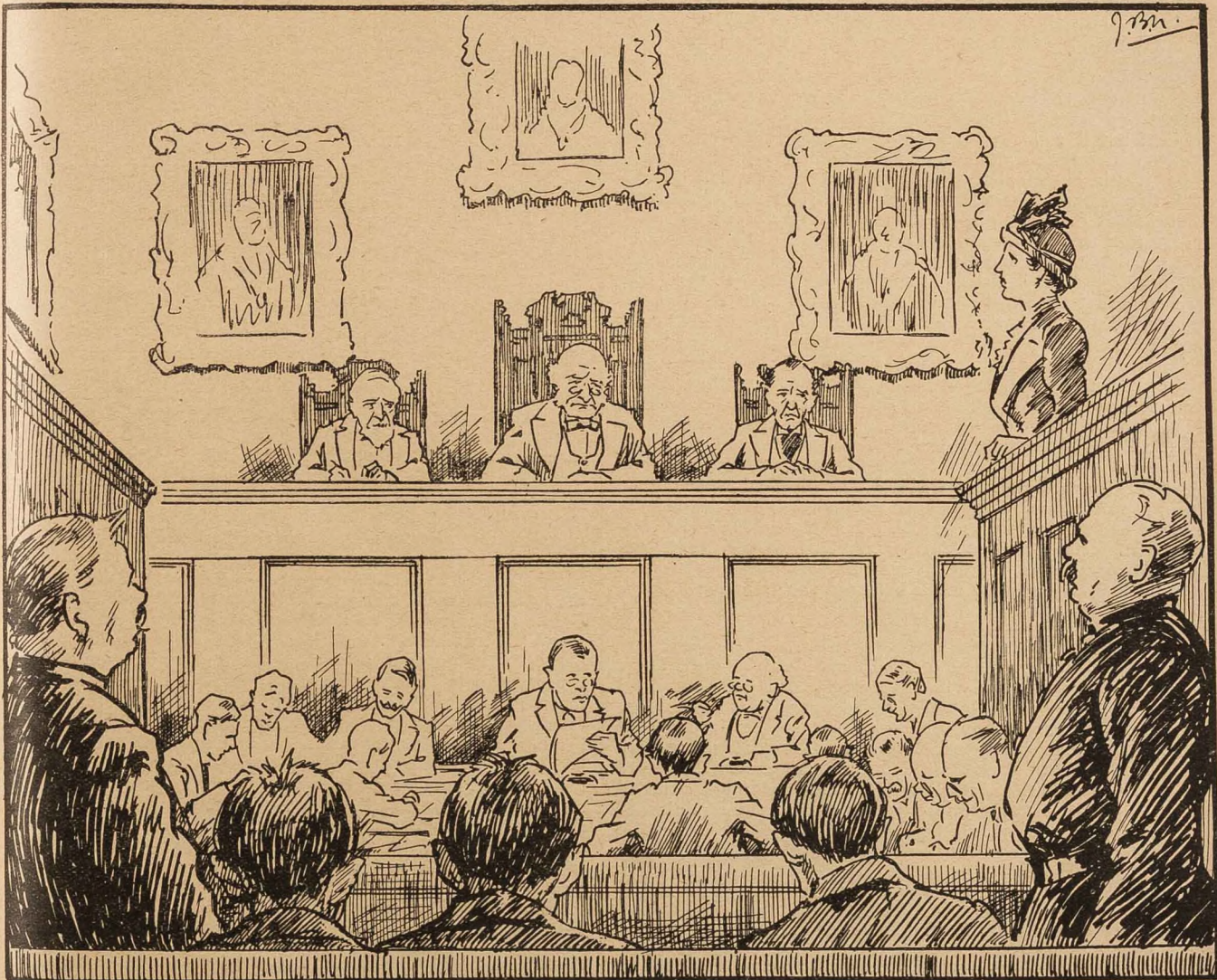
**LAW-ABIDING.**

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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?



## THE CRIME OF BEING A SOLDIER'S WIFE.

MAGISTRATE: Do you confess that your husband is serving his country [at the Front?

SOLDIER'S WIFE: Yes, Sir,

MAGISTRATE: Then you must be put under police surveillance at once.

## Notes and News.

**The Cardiff Case and Martial Law.**

By the Defence of the Realm Act recently passed, the property, the liberty, and even the life of us all are placed at the mercy of a Court Martial. At one stroke, every hard-won guarantee of personal liberty has been swept away, and we are all liable at any moment to be under martial law. It may be that these powers are necessary for the common weal in war time, and especially in view of a possible invasion. But it behoves us to watch that these extraordinary powers are not abused, and especially that the poor and friendless are not subject to arbitrary oppression. An illustration of how the Act may be used came to us last week from Cardiff. Certain women were notified that they were not to be out of doors between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. Nevertheless, they went out. They were arrested, tried by Court Martial, and sentenced to sixty-two days' imprisonment. This is what might happen to any of us, men or women, under the new Act. These women were reputed prostitutes; but the report does not indicate whether the question of their trade was brought up in court: it was sufficient that they had disobeyed a military order. But it was because they were prostitutes that the order was issued. We need say no more about the high-handedness of the proceeding, which is sufficiently apparent. What was the immediate object in view? Not, if we are correctly informed, the suppression of all prostitution, since only certain women had orders served on them; but something very like the regulation of prostitution—and we believed the public mind was thoroughly persuaded of the immorality, injustice, and hygienic futility of regulation.

**The Protection of our Troops.**

Whatever the immediate attempt, the ultimate object was no doubt to protect the troops from venereal disease. It is a good object, but it will never be obtained by oppressive measures, which defeat their own ends. There is only one kind of protection which is complete and always available, and that is chastity. Many of our troops, both old and new, have done well in this matter. The others must be taught: it is understood that lectures on the subject are about to be given in all the training camps, and if they are on the right lines they should do much good. It is also right and necessary to protect the men from flagrant temptation when off duty, for some of them are young, weak-willed, and inexperienced. If the public-houses are closed early, if the police take care to close disorderly houses, to stop solicitation and to move on loiterers, if the younger girls are dealt with by women patrols or, in case of need, by the very complete powers of the Children Act, much could be effected to make the vicinity of a camp a safer place, morally and physically. Other things too are needed—women probation officers to deal with cases brought to court; more ample and more kindly provision for treatment of diseased women (and men) in workhouses, hospitals, or rescue homes; clubs or institutes where men, women, and girls can find social life and wholesome interests. No one measure, however stringent, can succeed alone, and, indeed, it may be surmised that the less compulsion there is in the whole business, the greater will be the success.

**The Need for Temperance.**

Above all, it should be more and more clearly brought home to every man and woman that temperance and self-control go together. Every form of self-imposed restraint is made more difficult—more nearly impossible—by the abuse of alcohol. It is impossible to over-emphasise this fact. If it were fully realised we should cease to regard drunkenness as an excuse, and class it rather as an additional offence. It is bad to commit an offence: but it is worse knowingly to create in oneself the condition of mind and body in which the most hideous offences may be committed because the power of self-control has been thrown away.

**Prohibition in Russia.**

We are informed by Prof. Vinogradoff that the giving up of the State monopoly of the sale of vodka in Russia probably does not involve total prohibition. The private distilleries will continue, but the price will rise and consumption be lessened. Prof. Vinogradoff warns us that it is difficult to get trustworthy information at present, and in any case the enormous sacrifice of revenue from their monopoly remains a magnificent testimony to the sincere desire of the Russian Government to make this a "temperance war." It will interest Suffragists to know that

a measure of "local option" came into force in Russia last year. The towns and villages of the Empire voted on the question, and in many places vodka was "voted out." On this occasion, the women were allowed to vote as well as their husbands, on the ground that they were equally or more affected, in their home life, by the question of the sale of vodka.

**The War Office Circular.**

Quotations from the circular sent by the War Office to the police, practically putting all women dependents of soldiers under supervision, have appeared in the daily press, and some passages are quoted in our leading article this week. We are obliged, however, to quote from quotations, because it is apparently impossible now to obtain a copy of the circular. We wrote to ask for one, and receiving no answer, sent a representative to the War Office. She was told that no copies could be given except to the Army paymasters, and advised that the Home Office had "pamphlets" on the subject which she could have if she called. She called at the Home Office, and was told there were no "pamphlets," and she must have been misinformed. No doubt she was.

**Sir Edward Henry's Decision.**

Meanwhile, we are glad to know that the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Edward Henry, has decided not to carry out the order in his area. No lists of soldiers' dependents will be sent to London police-stations. But, hurrying now to the opposite extreme, the Chief Commissioner orders that "when a woman is arrested for being drunk and disorderly . . . if she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature," &c. Such proceedings really almost make one despair of the "better nature" of those in authority over us. Could we, for the moment, try appealing to their common-sense? If soldiers' and sailors' wives are ever "drunk and disorderly," their conduct is just as bad, and no worse, and no better, than that of other "drunk and disorderlies." They do not want specially good treatment or specially bad treatment. They want to be treated like other ordinary human beings.

**The "Unmarried Wife."**

Resolutions of protest have been sent by the Mothers' Union against the decision of the Government that a woman who has been living with a soldier as his wife, solely dependent on him, and the mother of his children, shall be placed in the same position as a legally married wife, as regards payment of pensions. Women have at heart before all things the good of the race, and we believe that the vast majority of them believe that monogamy is the best form of sex-relationship, having that end in view. But this very fact should make us realise the significance of the undeniable fact revealed by the new order, that a large number of women prefer not to be legally married to the men they live with. Such couples are often entirely faithful to each other. Why then, do they neglect, or even definitely refuse, the legal contract of marriage? "Because they are wicked" is a simple reply, leaving us totally unconvinced. "Because they repudiate the monogamous ideal" is a reply equally far, we believe, from the truth; for these men and women are in many cases perfectly faithful to each other. Is the reason not in marriage itself, but in our marriage laws? We believe that this touches at least part of the truth. An institution will be respected not because people pass resolutions saying that it must be, but because it is respect-worthy. Monogamy is a respect-worthy institution: our marriage laws are not. They are frankly abominable. There are women—sincerely religious women—who would, if they could, be married by the religious and omit the legal ceremony. Can such women be called "immoral," to whom marriage is an indissoluble sacrament, but to whom the position into which our marriage laws force a woman is intolerable? We do not think so; and we hold that it would be more profitable to consider why so many men and women refuse or neglect to marry, than to pass uncomprehending resolutions condemning and seeking to punish them. What is the essence of morality? Does anyone pretend that it lies in a legal contract?

**"How to Help."**

We call the attention of our readers to a letter from Mrs. Fawcett, in our correspondence columns, describing a club for soldiers' wives, on new and interesting lines.

## THE LIBERTY OF THE (WOMAN) SUBJECT.

The recent crop of regulations restricting the liberties of women is a further evidence of the insecurity of an unrepresented class, and of the need of women for the vote to protect their special interests from these special attacks. Apart from the injustice of imposing restrictions on the liberties of women without at the same time limiting those of men, these regulations are of extremely doubtful legality.

First, there is the arrangement between the police and the licensed dealers that women shall not be supplied with drink in London before 11.30 a.m. As drunkenness among women is, and always has been, very much less than among men, if either sex were to have had a restriction imposed on it, surely it should not have been the women. Besides, it is doubtful whether this arrangement between the authorities is legal. Only the House of Commons has the legal power—I do not say right where the unrepresented are concerned—to limit the liberty of the subject. It required special legislation to exclude children under fourteen from public-houses, and to forbid juvenile smoking. The licensing Acts do not explicitly give power to the police, or to the licensing justices, to place conditions on the licenses discriminating between men and women. It is interesting to speculate whether a charge of conspiracy might not be successfully brought against the police and the licensed dealers for having "plotted together" and drawn up an agreement to prevent women exercising the liberties accorded them by law.

The recent attempt of the Plymouth Watch Committee to have reintroduced the discredited C.D. Acts proved a failure, and the Government has officially stated through Mr. Asquith that it has no intention of reintroducing these Acts either in letter or in spirit. Notwithstanding this pronouncement, we find the Commanding Officer at Cardiff issuing, under the Defence of the Realm Act, orders instructing certain individual women to remain indoors between certain hours. Press reports state that his order applies to all prostitutes and is incorrect. The order is directed against certain individual women said to be of the prostitute class.

Does the Defence of the Realm Act give power to the Commanding Officer at Cardiff to issue orders inflicting punishments on individuals who have not been proved guilty? Are these women ordered to stay within doors because they are prostitutes, or because they have committed some offence? If they have been punished because they are prostitutes we have the beginnings of the C.D. Acts. That this is probably the case is to be inferred, otherwise the women might have been left to the civil courts, who have ample powers to imprison prostitutes for offences committed and proved. If they have committed no offence, they should not have a special new form of punishment imposed upon them.

The third attack is that directed against the wives of our soldiers and sailors. Lord Kitchener and the Army Council

"are most anxious that the police should endeavour to prevent . . . such a course of conduct by women receiving allowances as would be likely to lead to loss of the allowance." The allowance is to be liable to forfeiture for drunkenness, immorality, or neglect of children. Official circulars issued to the police authorities throughout England and Wales include the following:—

"When a woman is arrested for being drunk and incapable, drunk and disorderly, or drunk in charge of children, she will be detained at the police station until sober.

"If she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature, warn her of the serious consequences including the loss of separation allowance, that must ensue if she persists in such irregularity of conduct, and urge upon her to prove herself worthy of the husband who is fighting for his country.

"A record will be kept of such admonitions having been given. "Should the wife of a soldier or sailor be convicted in court on a drinking charge after previous warning, or of immorality, or other serious offence, the fact of the conviction will be reported."

In this short extract, exception must, first, be taken to the idea that a woman is to be treated differently from a man receiving a State allowance. We do not hear of instructions issued regarding the special action of the police towards civil servants, Members of Parliament, or Cabinet Ministers, found drunk and incapable, &c. Yet the salaries of these gentlemen also are paid out of the public funds. Secondly, there is the new power given to the police, a power which they are to exercise, not over the whole community, nor even over all women, but over the wives of soldiers and sailors—the implication evidently being that they are of specially bad character. Any policeman is to have the right to admonish the wife of a soldier or sailor. It is not even to be necessary to prove that she has been drunk. A record is to be kept of such admonitions. This means that the mere charge of a single policeman, which has never been proved in court, is to rank as a conviction in a magistrate's court. Even a magistrate has no such power to admonish before an accused person has been proved guilty.

Thirdly, a new offence is created, and the only subject who is to be found guilty of this new offence—immorality—is the wife of the soldier or sailor. Opinions may differ as to whether it is well to make this a punishable offence. There can be no two views, however, that, if such new offence is introduced into our law, it should be applicable not only to the wives of soldiers and sailors but to the whole community.

There are already laws on the statute-book which lay down the conditions on which parents are to be deprived of the care of their children, or civil servants or pensioners to be deprived of their allowances. If these laws are sufficiently severe for the rest of the community, they are sufficiently severe for the wives of our soldiers and sailors who are serving the country at home as bravely as are their husbands at the front.

CRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

## THE NEED FOR MEDICAL WOMEN.

Several letters have lately appeared in the Press calling attention to the shortage of doctors which has already begun to be felt, owing to so many of our physicians and surgeons having gone to the front. Mrs. Scharlieb points out, in *The Times* of December 5th, that medical women are beginning to fill some of the vacancies thus caused in hospitals and other institutions, and are proving themselves equal to their duties, but that the demand for the services of medical women is greatly in excess of the supply. She writes:—

"May we not hope that when this urgent demand for women doctors is realised by the public many women of good birth, education and ability will be desirous of entering the medical profession? It is certain that all such women cannot, and do not, expect to marry, and that in default of this most natural and desirable condition of life some women must seek other spheres of usefulness. From an experience of medical life now verging on forty years, I venture to think that no career could offer greater happiness and satisfaction to a woman, nor greater opportunities of practical usefulness, than medicine. I should like to point out that women medical students need not of necessity be very young. The more mature woman has certain great qualifications for the task; her verbal memory may not be so strong as that of her juniors, but her trained mind, experience of life, and general *savoir faire* are of considerable service to her as a student and still more as a practitioner."

Mr. Howard Marsh, Professor of Surgery in the University of Cambridge, in *The Times* of December 8th, writes:—

"I can confidently endorse Mrs. Scharlieb's opinion that there are many departments in medicine in which qualified women doctors can render perfectly adequate services on a much larger scale than at present

—in public health, in hospitals for women and children, in women's wards of the large general hospitals, in missions, and often in general practice.

"Some years ago nursing was found to provide an opening for a large number of educated and able women, whose work was epoch-making in that profession. I believe another epoch for women is at hand. From an experience exceeding, instead of verging upon, Mrs. Scharlieb's forty years, I beg to say that 'no career can offer greater happiness and satisfaction to a woman nor greater opportunities for practical usefulness than medicine.'"

Unfortunately, however, the opportunities offered to women for training are comparatively few.

THE LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN has just issued an urgent appeal for funds to increase its laboratory accommodation, and provide new research and lecture rooms, in view of the increase of women wishing to study in London. £25,000 are needed for the additional buildings and their equipment, and an adjoining site has been secured.

Excellent work has been done by the school, which was founded forty years ago, when there were only two women on the British Medical Register. There are now about a thousand, of whom over six hundred are former students of the School. The annual entry of students has doubled in the last six years; 212 are now in attendance, and if the present annual entry be maintained this number will soon rise to 300.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. J. Henderson, The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, 8, Hunter Street, W.C.







of his speeches, Mr. Asquith has set his approval to the assertion that it is our aim to abolish "militarism." Regimentation of minds as well as of bodies is the essence of militarism, and the spiritual evil is the greater of the two. If we tolerate the regimentation of minds, we not only abandon all the virtues of difference (or variety), but we make the abolition of militarism more, not less, difficult. War is a military affair: it must be conducted by soldiers, in the military spirit. But policy, a pacifist policy, a policy directed to the "abolition of militarism" is not a military affair: it must be conducted by civilians in the civilian spirit.

Mr. Asquith, in his speech at the Guildhall, said: "We shall never sheathe the sword until Belgium has recovered all, and more than all, that she has sacrificed" (if this were literally true, then we should never sheathe the sword again); "until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression; until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed." He is a careful speaker, and in the last sentence he obviously chose his words carefully: it is the *domination* of Prussia which is to be destroyed, and no Briton will feel disposed to quarrel with that. But there is a serious danger that our British militarists may leave out the essential word and look forward to the destruction not of Prussian domination but of Prussia. We cannot of course destroy Prussia, but we can try to do so, and thereby assuredly destroy all hope of abolishing Prussian militarism.

The truth of this assertion will only appear to those who have made an honest effort to understand different points of view: yes, even the Prussian point of view. For, in so perilous and magnificent an adventure as the abolition of militarism, we must be cunning and wary, and how can we be so, if we refuse to learn all that it is humanly possible to learn about the nation which is the most powerful and philosophic exponent of the militarist creed? Yet many things are being written and said which suggest that it is somehow patriotic to refuse to understand the Germans. This has actually been asserted by a Nonconformist minister writing from Preston to *The Manchester Guardian*, and in a suburban paper a writer has recently fallen foul of Mrs. Creighton, and said she was hindering recruiting because she recited some of the good deeds of Germans.

It was part of the chivalry of the Round Table to "speak no evil, no, nor listen to it." But these twentieth century patriots would have us forget Goethe and Beethoven, and only tell over the beads of the wrongs of Belgium. So should we never understand that German militarism, obscene and evil to our eyes, yet has some rays of a clearer patriotism could we but separate them; so should we sneer, as a leader writer in *The Times* sneers, at "the pacifist enthusiasts who think that they can persuade the disciples of Bernhardt to beat their swords into ploughshares." If indeed we can never do this glorious and difficult deed, we must despair of ever destroying German or any other militarism, and this colossal war will be only one in an endless chain of wars extending to the crack of doom. You cannot destroy militarism by militarism. German militarists have nursed the Napoleonic dream, it is true, and if we conquer that dream will vanish for the time. But fear and the longing for revenge will survive and feed the military spirit, unless by the peace we "dictate," Germany as well as France is "adequately secured against the menace of aggression," and unless the rights of Germany as well as those of smaller nationalities are "placed upon an unassailable foundation." To that aim public opinion should be directed, and our diplomatists should be made to feel that in embodying that aim they are truly representing the essentially pacific British nature and bringing into a treaty the conception of public Right. It is for the victors to declare that they will respect public Right even in the flush of victory. So, only so, can they make their treaty a Treaty of enduring Peace.

H. M. SWANWICK.

Next week: "International Arbitration," by G. Loues Dickenson.

#### WORK IN BRISTOL.

Ever since the war broke out, the Bristol Society has been very busy. A member of our Committee is on each of the Ward Relief Committees, and through them cases are investigated of girls applying for admission to the Training Centre at the University Settlement, and grants are made to very needy cases from the store of jam made by our members in the summer, and from the clothes renovated or made at our weekly working parties. At these we are able to give employment each week to one or two women who are out of work owing to the war. Woolen garments are also made for children in the Mothers' Schools, to be given away at Christmas. Two of these Schools are now becoming Maternity Centres, and a grant of £5 has

been made to each from our funds. Every week there is a first-aid lecture by Dr. Linton, at which there is a large attendance. Each member of the class pays 2s. for six lectures, the fees being given to help our relief work.

#### FRENCH CLASSES FOR SOLDIERS

have been started, which have proved such a success that they are now being held every evening, Mrs. Talbot and the Misses Barnes kindly lending their rooms for three evenings each.

#### A WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC CLUB,

for the wives and mothers of soldiers and sailors, has been started lately, and is proving a great success. Four rooms have been taken in a house in one of the poorest parishes in Bristol, open to women who want news, companionship, and talk. Here there are bright fires and a warm welcome every week-day afternoon and evening. In one room, where there is a piano and a gramophone, the women are entertained, if they like, or can sit quietly and talk; in the writing-room they can write or dictate letters, or read the papers; in the nursery the babies are cared for and amused, and during the evening tea, cocoa, hot lemonade, and cakes may be had at very low prices. Workers in the parish tell us that we are getting just the class of women whom we wished to help, and the women themselves tell us how they have wished for such a club. A second club is being started in another part of Bristol by the New Constitutional Society, and we hope that more will follow. It takes at least eight helpers each day (in two shifts of three hours each) to manage the club, so it brings a large amount of our members into active work, besides bringing non-Suffragists, and even Antis, into co-operation. Besides the work organised by our Society, special work in connection with the war is being done by various members of our Committee:—

Miss Cashmore has gone as Secretary with a Friends' Relief Party to the North of France, to give medical, nursing, ambulance, and sanitary aid to non-combatants.

Miss Pease is Hon. Sec. of the Training Centre at the University Settlement, where girls out of employment owing to the war are taught cooking and dressmaking until they find work, and receive 4s. a week, a good meal daily and occasionally one of the garments made there.

Mrs. Nierenstein is taking French classes at the University in place of the Lecturer, who has joined the French forces, and is also teaching French to soldiers. Miss Baretli manages the French classes already mentioned.

Mrs. Randall Vickers and Miss Meade King are running homes for Belgian Refugees. Miss Gunter is doing Red Cross Hospital Nursing. Dr. Linton and Dr. Lily Baker are both giving First Aid Lectures. Miss E. H. Smith is Chairman of the Patrol Committee, and Miss Clough and the Misses Tanner are acting as Patrols. Miss Sturge is Chairman of the Women's Patriotic Club Committee, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross is Superintendent of a Maternity Centre, and Mrs. Butler, Hon. Sec. of a Mothers' School where Feeding of Mothers is being instituted.

Last week we held a public meeting, when our new County Court Judge—Judge Stanger—made his first appearance on a public Bristol platform. It was cheering to welcome so good a friend to our cause in Bristol. Six years ago he introduced his Bill for abolishing the sex disability from existing franchises in the House of Commons, so his ready help is that of an expert. The other speakers were Miss Geraldine Cooke and Mrs. Whalley.

#### FREE CLUB FOR SOLDIERS.

NEATH SOCIETY has opened a Free Club for Soldiers, to be run on the lines that have proved so successful in Swansea, Cardiff, and elsewhere, at 158, Windsor Road, where excellent premises have been rented for the purpose.

The club will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week-days and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. Newspapers, magazines, writing materials, games, &c., will be provided free of charge, and tea, coffee, and buns at a small charge, the idea being to make a meeting place where all soldiers in uniform will be welcome and can smoke, talk, and foregather under comfortable conditions. No such meeting place at present exists in the town, and the scheme has the approval of the military authorities. Over one hundred men of the 5th (Super-numerary) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment are billeted in Neath, and it is probable that the number will be increased.

The club was opened on Thursday, December 3rd, by His Worship the Mayor, supported by Captain Davey, C.O.

Members of the Neath Women's Suffrage Society have formed a Corps of Volunteers to darn and mend soldiers' clothing free of charge, and to be on duty at the club daily. The club is open every Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. for the inspection of subscribers.

Assistance is earnestly asked to meet the running expenses, and promises of weekly donations (however small) will be especially welcome; also offers of the loan of a piano, easy chairs, small tables, games, &c. Subscriptions and gifts will be gratefully received by Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Cadoxton Lodge (President), and Mrs. Tonner, 22, Rugby Avenue (Hon. Secretary).

#### THE RUNNING OF THE CLUB.

By dividing the time into two-hour shifts it has been possible to secure the presence of a member (or in the case of younger helpers two members together) on the premises during all the time the club is open, except from 12 to 2. That shift is taken by a widow, who desired employment at a small fixed sum per week. The club is open week-days 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

By invitation the Neath W.S.S. has conferred with the Colour Sergeant and arranged that the orderly in barracks for the day shall, as part of his duties, visit the club twice daily. This co-operation is welcomed by the men, and ensures a means of communication between them and the promoters of the club.

The club is emphatically a success, being largely used by the men even in these early days. Here is work to be recommended to other Suffrage Societies in towns where soldiers are stationed.

## OFF AT LAST!

### Departure of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital (First French Unit) to France.

The National Union as a whole, and more particularly the Scottish Federation, may well feel proud. Dr. Hutchison is in Calais, whither her nine remaining nurses have followed her, and our first complete hospital unit has arrived at Chantilly, after many struggles with "red tape." I wonder how many of our readers knew that they were crossing the Channel during that terrific gale last Friday? Those of us who had waited outside the tragic little barrier at Victoria from early morning hours to wish the hospital Godspeed, spent an anxious afternoon, listening to the howls of the tempest, thinking of our unit on its long, weary journey, of the discomforts a little, perhaps of other dangers by sea more than a little. Miss Courtney, Miss Macmillan, and our Editor, all were there, and Dr. Inglis accompanied the party to the boat.

age, and water supply, and electric lighting, procured through the instrumentality of Madame La Vicomtesse de la Panouse, President of the Croix Rouge de France. Here they will be in just the right position to act as a base hospital for that part of the French fighting line extending from Noyon, through Soissons, to Reims.

The personnel of the unit, under Dr. Ivens, of Liverpool, includes three surgeons, two physicians, and an X-ray operator. Ten trained nurses, and nearly as many dressers and orderlies, and two cooks have also gone. Miss Cicely Hamilton, whose name will be especially familiar to Suffragists and to readers of this paper, went out with an advance party of the unit, to serve as clerk, and among the orderlies is at least one National Union organiser, who has worked with the Union and with the Oxford



Photo. by Kate Pragnell.]

#### FIRST UNIT FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE.

I called it a "tragic" barrier. It was, for some. But I spent nearly three hours there, watching, and I came away feeling proud of British women. Of all the wives and mothers and daughters who had passed through to see their menfolk off to the War, not one came back with tears in their eyes. They kept them hidden away in their hearts. They had smiled to the last. And after that I saw our Hospital go, and that, too, made me feel proud of our women. We, of the National Union, are going to feel more and more proud of that quiet, unobtrusive grey uniform as time goes on—quiet and unobtrusive, but with its little splash of green on collar and hatband to tell that the Scots-women who wear the tartan are of the same dogged, staying breed as the men who wear it in the trenches. The English, and Irish, and Welsh members scattered among the staff are proud to wear it too, as a soldier wears the decorations of another nation, out of compliment.

They have gone to the Abbaye Royaumont, Asnières-sur-Oise, in the department of Seine et Oise, some nine miles from Chantilly, a fine house, with ample accommodation, good drain-

Society for four years. Two motor ambulances and one car, given respectively by Mrs. Prys-Owen, Miss Alice Percival, and Mrs. Alice Cohen, are following the unit to serve the hospital—motors, indeed, being a prime necessity for a hospital situated nine miles from the nearest station.

Now there is just one word to say. Mrs. Laurie is asking for more money, and THE COMMON CAUSE wants to endorse her appeal. The prices of almost everything connected with the work have rushed up, and the French Red Cross Societies are almost at the end of their resources. We shall have to support our units, and we want to support them well. Almost the last thing Miss Ivens said as she stood on the platform at Victoria was: "The N.U. will see us through, won't it?" and Miss Royden, thinking of the response that always comes to an appeal in THE COMMON CAUSE, replied, "We are on our honour to you." These women are giving their work and their lives. Let us give our money. Send it to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock.

V.C.C.C.







Forthcoming Meetings.

**DECEMBER 11.**

**Brighton**—Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Mr. Merrifield on "Masculinity: Its Great Predominance in Prussian History" 5.0

**Bristol**—Display at Swedish Gymnasium by Miss Johnson's pupils in aid of Women's Club—Chair, Mrs. Stanger 3.0

40, Park Street—Ambulance Class 7.45

**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Colonel Seton (National Service League), on "The British Army" 4.30

**Knutsford**—King's College House—Councillor Margaret Ashton on "Women and War,"—Mr. P. M. Oliver on "Points Raised in Mr. Asquith's Dublin Speech"—Sept 25th, 1914—Chair, Mrs. S. Woodhouse 8.0

**Leicester**—Higher Cross Coffee House—Members' Meeting to discuss "The Attitude of the Society towards War"—Speaker, Mrs. W. C. Roberts 8.15

**DECEMBER 13.**

**Birmingham**—Ashton Labour Church—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 6.30

**Hyde Park**—Near Reformers' Tree—Speakers, Miss Dawson, Miss I. O. Ford 3.0

**DECEMBER 14.**

**Birmingham**—Town Hall—League of Honour Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Mackenzie—Chair, The Bishop of Birmingham 8.0

**Bristol**—40, Park Street—Working Party 3.0

42, Montague Street—Women's Club—Open daily 3-9

16, Berkeley Square—French Class for Soldiers 6.0

**Manchester**—Gardenwall Street, Oldfield Road—South Salford Club—Meeting 8.0

**DECEMBER 15.**

**Bristol**—5, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class 6.0

**Hyde**—P.S.A. Hall—Public Meeting—Speakers, Miss Ashton, Mr. G. G. Armstrong—Chair, Mrs. T. C. Beeley 8.0

**DECEMBER 16.**

**Birmingham**—Erdington Women's Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Ring, on "Women and War" 8.0

**Bristol**—5, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class 6.0

**London**—Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.—Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Professor Gilbert Murray, LL.D., Sir George Pragnall, Lady Roxburgh, Miss H. Ward, Dr. Florence Willey 8.0

**DECEMBER 17.**

**Birmingham**—Farcroft Avenue Church, Handsworth—Debate on "Women's Suffrage" between Mrs. Ring and Mr. Davis 8.0

**Bristol**—5, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class 6.0

**DECEMBER 18.**

**Bristol**—16, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class 6.0

**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Miss Alice Crompton, M.A., on "Review of the National Union of Work during 1914, with special reference to the War" 4.30

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