

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union 524.*

[NON-PARTY.]

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Notes and News.

Important!

Will delegates to the Council, and all whom it may concern, kindly note? The resolutions referred to in "Election Addresses" are numbered according to the *preliminary agenda*. The numbering is changed on the final agenda, which therefore must not be used for the purpose of this comparison.

Liberals and Conscription.

The National Liberal Federation, at a special meeting held last week, passed a resolution expressing its hope that, "while resolutely prosecuting the war by every legitimate method which will command the support of the whole nation, the Government will not take any course of action that will divide the nation and destroy the national unity which is so essential during the present state of affairs." The reference is clearly to the Conscription campaign which is being conducted with so much energy by one portion of the press. The question bids fair to run into the old party grooves, and to divide the nation as deeply as it would undoubtedly divide that little slice of the nation, the N.U.W.S.S.

Industrial Compulsion.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lloyd George has been working valiantly and tactfully to convince the workers that industrial compulsion is unnecessary, and therefore no one need object to it. It has its uses for people other than ourselves! On one point we are surely unanimous. *All work essential to the nation must get done.* To this end, let us remind ourselves that effects have causes. Unrest among the workers is the outcome of difficulties which need to be removed. There is no other way. Coercion, "discipline," conscription may or may not be advisable. At best, they deal with effects; they cannot remove causes. The workers are discontented owing to their belief (1) that they are exploited by the profit-makers; (2) that their wages are inadequate to meet the rise in prices. These grievances cry out for inquiry and redress. To clothe the men in khaki is no more a solution of their problem than coercion of militant women was a solution of the Suffrage question. Remove the causes of the trouble and automatically you remove the trouble itself.

Women and National Service.

In another column we publish an interesting article from Miss Rathbone, emphasising the necessity for including women in any scheme of industrial organisation. As to the question of "military discipline" possibly involved, we need not point out

that precisely the same principles apply to women as to men. Those Suffragists who desire some form of industrial compulsion for men will certainly desire it equally for women; those who oppose it for men will oppose it for women. Both may unite in securing those just conditions of labour which alone will make it possible to utilise the resources of the country to full advantage.

Women's Share in the National Burden.

A leading article in *The Daily Telegraph* of June 9th adds to the tribute paid by the Press to women's share in bearing the national burden. "We live," says the writer, "in a new age. A miracle of war, rivalling the uprising of the young men of this country, has been the manner in which the young women have realised their opportunities. These are days of service and sacrifice. None have responded to the call of the times with more magnificent spirit than the daughters of cultured and leisurely homes. Responded to the call? Rather should it be said that they themselves made the demand that fields of service should be opened to them, and then filled them—with an enthusiasm and devotion which have never been equalled. Perhaps we hardly yet realise what a revolution has occurred in our midst. . . . The fairest promise, as the days pass and homes are left desolate, lies, perhaps, in this awakening of the women—and particularly the young women—of this country. They are bearing their share of the national burden, either in helping to rob war of something of its terrors, or in assisting to promote that lasting peace which it is the nation's fixed resolve to win in the interests of mankind in general, and of womenkind in particular."

The Pay of Railway Women.

More and more women are now being employed by different railway companies as porters and ticket collectors, while the new Maida Vale Station on the "Bakerloo" Railway is entirely staffed by women. It is therefore disquieting to learn that the President of the National Union of Railwaymen reports that "the women are receiving much less pay than the men, in spite of the fact that rates of pay have been fixed by arbitration." He goes on to say that "this has got to stop, and it is to be hoped that it will be stopped soon, both in the interests of the women themselves and of the men who will, presumably, return to their former work after the war."

Labour and Food Prices.

A manifesto, dealing with the great increase in the price of food and the effects of this increase on the general economic situation, has been issued by the Management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions. The Committee urges the Government to take a decisive line, and regrets the failure of those in authority to deal effectively with food and coal prices and with war profits. Figures are given to show the rise in prices. "It has been stated," runs the manifesto, "that the difference in food prices as between 1915 and 1914 is over 25 per cent.; but this does not reveal the whole of the extra burden borne by the working classes, for since 1899 prices have gradually advanced, and a very moderate estimate of the total rise would be 35 per cent. The manifesto concludes by impressing on the working classes themselves the duty of recognising the public safety as paramount at the present time, and avoiding industrial disputes or "any action which could be held to

justify conscription or the curtailment of those liberties of thought, speech, and action which are as the breath of life to a free people."

Cotton Trade Crisis.

A representative meeting of the Card and Blowing Room Amalgamation have decided not to abandon their claim for a war bonus of 10 per cent. A general stoppage of the trade, directly affecting 300,000 workpeople, is now inevitable unless the Board of Trade can successfully intervene, or the employers concede the demand. It may be remembered that the whole trouble started over a fortnight ago, when the operatives at the Forge Mill, Oldham, struck work because the firm refused to pay a war bonus of 10 per cent. in respect of certain kinds of coarse cotton-spinning. The employers thereupon threatened a lock-out, and the reply was a general demand for the same concession from all the members of the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners. The official reason for the action of the operatives is that abnormal profits are being made in mills at Oldham, Rochdale, and other places.

The Daily Citizen.

The Daily Citizen was issued for the last time on Saturday. It is the fashion to deride the halfpenny press with, perhaps, too little discrimination. *The Daily Citizen* has stood for a social purpose from which women's enfranchisement has not been excluded. It was founded on October 8th, 1912, by a Joint Committee of the Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party, "to be a newspaper, but more than a newspaper—an organ of Trade Union activity, Labour Party policy, and Socialist thought." A new penny weekly paper, called *The Independent*, "in which will be collated and presented Trade Union facts as a whole," will in some measure help to replace it.

The Rise in Infant Mortality.

The Registrar-General's returns of births and deaths disclose facts even more disquieting than in normal times. For the past 13 weeks children have been dying in London at the rate of 200 a week in excess of the number dying during the corresponding weeks of last year, and throughout the country this excess is likewise marked. The causes of this unhappy state of affairs is to some extent traceable to the war, especially to the dearth of doctors and nurses and to the lack of agencies for looking after children whose mothers are industrially employed. Last week we published an article showing the success of an effort made by Reading Suffragists to cope with this grave national need. Much more, we believe, would be done in this direction but for the absorption of capable workers in national service of other kinds; but when the urgent need for such work is understood, further help will no doubt be forthcoming.

Children in Danger.

Miss Damer Dawson, recently addressing a meeting of the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage on the work of women police, informed her audience that there is no place more dangerous for the British child than the public parks, and that it is unsafe to allow a little girl to stray more than a few yards alone, so frequented are these places by men of criminal tendencies. Unhappily, we must expect that they will continue to be so frequented, in spite of the untiring efforts of women, until a radical change takes place in moral standards. Towards that end the recognition of women's political status is the first essential step. So long as women are politically inferior to men, will the "double standard" bring disaster to men and women, and danger to the children playing in the parks.

Soldiers' Wives—a Correction.

We are grateful to Miss Gordon and other correspondents for informing us that the legal disability on which we commented in our last issue has been removed. Miss Gordon writes: "By Royal Warrant dated February 26th, 1915, it is provided 'that the wives and children of all soldiers of our Army who are otherwise entitled shall be eligible for separation allowance and pensions although the marriage of the soldier did not take place till after mobilisation or enlistment.' In cases of marriage after August 13th, 1914, or date of enlistment if later, the issue of allowance will begin from the date of marriage or from February 1st, 1915, whichever is later. In all such cases the usual conditions as to payment of allotment will apply."

In Parliament.

Thursday, June 3rd.

Parliament reassembled, after the adjournment for Whit-suntide, and passed through all its stages a Bill "to make temporary provision for rendering unnecessary the re-election of Members of the House of Commons on acceptance of office." The Home Secretary (Sir John Simon) also introduced a Bill to create a Ministry of Munitions, with a Minister at its head.

Monday, June 7th.

MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS.

SIR JOHN SIMON explained the composition of the new department—to which a number of business men of high standing and great practical experience had volunteered assistance—and urged that this was not a time for survey in debate of the last few months in regard to the supply of munitions, and still less was it a time for "wordy estimates as to future output." We and our Allies, he said, required all the shells that all the organised industry of this country was capable of producing; and no output could be too swift. When the Minister of Munitions took his seat he would make a full statement as to the department he was setting up and the policy it would pursue. In the meantime, he trusted the House would feel that by giving its prompt and unanimous assent to the measure it would best express the single determination of a united people to authorise those who would be charged with the supply of munitions of war to undertake and carry forward without a moment's delay that supreme national task.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn, Lab.) said what he wanted to know was, if the Bill was passed, would it give the Minister power to carry out the policy he had foreshadowed at Manchester by an Order in Council and outside that House. If by any means at all anything was done to fasten forced labour on the working people of this country, he promised it strenuous and incessant opposition.

MR. DILLON (E. Mayo, Nat.) said the House was plainly entitled to have an honest indication from the Government as to the powers they proposed to confer on the new Minister.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich, Lab.) protested strongly against anything in the nature of conscript labour, declaring that it would be a very great mistake to attempt to bully the industrial workers. He warned the Government to take the working man into their confidence, and not to try to coerce him. If the Bill was to confer power to conscript labour, he would be against it from start to finish. If, on the other hand, it was going to lead to the organisation of the workers' output and of the business of the capitalists, he would take a quite different view. This was the nation's war, and whether it was to last for six months or six years, it had to be fought to a finish.

SIR J. SIMON said there was no intention of using the Bill to secure by a side wind what the Bill did not plainly say. If any special powers were needed in respect of labour they must be asked for from the House.

MR. OUTHWAITE (Hanley, L.) urged the Home Secretary to embody his assurance as to compulsion in an amendment to the Bill. Compulsion and the crushing of trade unionism would cause a revolt of labour which would reflect itself in the trenches.

MR. HUME-WILLIAMS (Bassetlaw, U.) said such speeches depressed him. We had failed in the supply of explosives; yet member after member desired to fetter the discretion of the new Government brought into existence to make good the supply.

MR. W. RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby, U.) regretted to hear that the new Ministry was not to have power to deal with labour from a compulsory point of view. He told the House that a certain firm that produced important machinery had been compelled to refuse to deal with urgent orders coming from the Admiralty because the men simply would not work overtime for any consideration.

MR. THOMAS (Derby, Lab.) declared that the right way to deal with this whole question was to show to the workers and the employers that service for the State at home was as essential as service abroad. If the men were assured that any relaxation of trade union rules would only be temporary they would do their best. Let the Government say where the mistakes had been and they would be rectified.

MR. SANDERSON (Westmorland, Appleby, U.) said what the country wanted was a clear lead, and when that had been given he believed there would be an unexampled response.

The Bill was read a second time, and on Tuesday passed its third reading, with considerable criticism from a small section of the House. An amendment, inserted at the instance of Sir John Simon, was passed to remove any doubts as to the power of the new Minister to introduce compulsion.

WOMEN AND NATIONAL SERVICE.

"It is the elementary duty of every citizen to place the whole of his strength and resources at the disposal of his native land in its hour of need. No State can exist except on the basis of a recognition, of a full recognition, of that duty on the part of every man and every woman in the land."—Mr. Lloyd George, at Manchester, June 3rd.

No one can doubt that whatever form it may take, we are on the eve of a much more thorough-going and organised effort than has been made yet to mobilise the resources of the nation in men and in material. It is evident, too, that public opinion not only expects but demands such an effort.

I suggest that a special responsibility rests upon Suffragists to see to it that if there is to be national mobilisation for war service, women shall be allowed and required to take the fullest share possible to them in that service. The principle of this has already in form been partly conceded by the Government and the press. Not only Mr. Lloyd George, but nearly every public man who has written or spoken on this subject has made some more or less fleeting allusion to women as concerned in meeting the national need. The Board of Trade has opened its register for war service for women, and the Local Government Board has issued circulars urging local authorities to employ women, in order to release men, when practicable. But these advances have been, to say the least, half-hearted. Voluntary Societies which responded to the invitation of the Board of Trade to assist them in their scheme, have been chilled and discouraged by the cold water abundantly poured upon their efforts at co-operation by local Labour Exchange officials, and indeed by the Central Authorities. I have no space here to give proofs of this, but instances of it have reached me from many parts of the country. An infinitesimal proportion of the women who have responded to the call have so far been offered employment, and there seems no immediate prospect of any considerable increase in the demand for their services, unless much greater pressure than at present is put upon employers.

The truth appears to be that the habit of ignoring women when questions of national service are concerned is deeply implanted. So, also, are the prejudices against the employment of women shared, though for different reasons, by employers and by trade unions. No force has yet arisen strong enough to break down this ingrained habit and these inveterate prejudices. Members of the Government may assert the principle that the services of women should be used, but they have no leisure to insist that the principle should be carried into action. I believe that it is both the right and the patriotic duty of women themselves to supply this motive force, by asserting their claim to take part in national service, and by pressing it forward by every method of agitation which the experience of the last few years has taught them—by agitation in Parliament, in the press, among organisations both of men and of women, and among the public generally. I believe that if the demand was so made, it would be conceded without a battle, because for once the tide of public sentiment would be with us, and not against us.

The forms of national service for which women should volunteer is a matter for detailed consideration. Three main departments at once suggest themselves.

The first and largest of these embraces all those civilian occupations in which women might be employed either for the purpose of releasing men for enlistment in the Army, or of increasing the national output of munitions of war and of other necessities. The prescribed channel for offering service of this kind is, of course, the Board of Trade War Service Scheme for women. But to register themselves and to encourage other women to register is a very small part of the work that is necessary if this scheme is not to remain the abortive, inchoate, ineffective, feeble thing that it is at present. What is the good of a census of the reserve force of available female labour, if the census is in the first place imperfect, and in the second so badly taken and so sluggishly followed up that it is stale and belated before the reserve really begins to be drawn upon? The first step is to secure that the census shall be complete, and to do this the response must be stimulated by methods much less academic than the Board of Trade is apparently willing to employ. Recruiting stations must be opened in every large centre of population. The Board of Trade thinks that this is unnecessary, and that the Labour Exchanges can do all the work. A small experiment made in Liverpool showed that the effect of opening one such recruiting station was in the first week to double the previous weekly number of registrations, in the second week to treble it, and in the third and subsequent weeks to quadruple it. Secondly, the women, when registered,

must not be left for weeks and months without any response to their offer. During the waiting time until they are called upon, they must be kept in touch with and organised, formed into sections and sub-sections upon some considered plan, drilled, disciplined, and tested, by being occupied in any kind of useful voluntary work, so that when the time comes that they are wanted for paid employment, they can be sent off to fulfil precisely that class of vacancy for which they are best fitted. It is folly to expect that women who may never before have worked for their living, or been subject to any kind of discipline, could be put to work in factories or on the land under ordinary working conditions, as isolated individuals among workers of a totally different class. But it would be perfectly possible for them to do such work if sent out in groups under their own leaders, to be employed perhaps on a system of half-day shifts, and to be housed, controlled, and stimulated by women who command their confidence and who know how to keep alight such a spirit that no work would seem too arduous, or monotonous, or servile, if only it met a national need. Thirdly, the demand of employers for women's labour must be stimulated by appeals from the platform and the press, by systematic canvassing, and by such methods of creating public opinion as the social influence of women enables them to exercise well.*

The second department in which it seems that the work of women might very profitably be employed is that of the Army Commissariat. So far as the Expeditionary Force is concerned, it is quite clear that this department of the army has been incomparably better organised than in any previous war. But it is work that must obviously absorb the energies of a very large number of men, and we have no reason to suppose that these are exclusively above the age of combatants or medically unfit. The capacity of women for cooking, washing, and mending clothes, ordering and overlooking and distributing supplies of food and clothing is beyond question. Why has no use been made of their services? Can nothing be done to demand that use shall be made in the future? As regards the camps at home, both for our own men and for prisoners, there is even less excuse for the waste of male labour now going on. And there is much less reason to be satisfied that the results are good of their kind. We hear on all sides complaints of the appalling waste of bread and food stuffs in some of the camps. It is an exact repetition of the waste that goes on in poor-law institutions, where the dietary is prescribed by man-made regulations, and administered by Boards of Guardians and officials predominantly male. We hear complaints, too, of the unnecessary dirt and messiness of many of the arrangements, of a single camp kettle used indiscriminately for Irish stew, coffee, and linseed poultices. The ways of men in these respects have been the derision of women almost since the world began. When the time and the health of soldiers are alike so precious, why waste them on doing work which women by common consent do better? I have never been able to obtain any answer except first, that it is the invariable tradition of the army that the whole of its work should be done by men, and that there are no "suitable arrangements" for women in the camps. As though women engaged in commissariat work could not be trusted to devise adequate emergency arrangements for themselves!

The third claim, which is in my view the strongest of all for a greatly extended employment of women on national service, is that concerned with army hospitals and field ambulance work. Sixty years ago Florence Nightingale, in the teeth of bitter opposition, broke down the army's tradition of employing none but men, so far as the recognition of the fully trained woman nurse was concerned. One would have thought that *a fortiori*, the employment of women in the less skilled auxiliary duties of hospitals would follow as a matter of course. But it was not so. The work done by probationers and ward-maids in civilian hospitals is still being performed by male orderlies, and only very slowly and reluctantly, in a hospital here and there, are the women of the Voluntary Aid Detachments being granted the privilege of performing these menial domestic duties. The Royal Army Medical Corps has done such magnificent work in the field that one is reluctant to utter a word of criticism. But the reputation of some of its subordinate members engaged in the lesser duties of hospitals is indicated by their field nickname of "Rob all my Comrades."

*It ought not be necessary to explain that I do not intend to suggest that middle-class women should be employed to the detriment of unemployed working-women or that women should be encouraged to permit themselves to be exploited by unscrupulous employers, anxious only to secure a reserve of cheap and docile labour. But these are dangers to which suffragists are already so well awake that I have not thought it necessary to enlarge upon the means necessary for guarding against them.

The claim of women to take part in field ambulance work rests upon a far more terrible fact than the necessity for economising male labour. It seems to be acknowledged that the work of collecting the wounded on the field or in the trenches is now performed with the greatest speed and efficiency that the circumstances permit. But the enemy's habitual practice of firing on the Red Cross has made it necessary as a general rule that this work should be only done after nightfall. Further, apparently it not unfrequently happens after an advance or a retreat that there is a tract of land in dispute which is so hotly contested and under such incessant fire that neither side is able to collect its dead and wounded for a considerable period, so that men who fall may lie untended until hunger and thirst, and exposure and wounds put an end to their sufferings. Even where the delay lasts for a few hours only, until darkness has fallen, must it not often be the cause not only of immeasurable suffering (and anyone who has endured even an hour's acute physical pain knows what an eternity it can seem) but of the forfeiture of a chance of life which may have depended on promptitude of treatment?

Suppose that the experiment were tried of employing women to collect the wounded, of dressing them as conspicuously as possible, and of notifying the enemy that women would be so employed, what would be the result? Some people will assert that the enemy would shoot them down just as ruthlessly as men. I do not believe it. Except when they have been drunk, the ruthlessness of the enemy has been on the whole a calculated and purposeful ruthlessness, not mere lust of cruelty. Their object has been to kill as many combatants as possible. Men stretcher-bearers are all potential combatants. Women are not. They could not be suspected of carrying Maxims instead of men on their stretchers. Surely there is at least a chance that they would sometimes succeed in performing their task where men would fail. But if it were not so, the worst that could happen would be that the first set of women who attempted it would be shot down, and those who followed would have to do the work under the same conditions as men, and would suffer in the same proportion. No woman will doubt for a moment that there are an abundance of women who would be glad and proud to take the risk, and I suggest that it is the duty of Suffragists to insist that they shall be allowed to take it. If there are any really valid practical objections, no doubt we shall be told of them. But if the objection is merely that it is contrary to the whole tradition and sentiment of men that they should permit women to risk their lives on the battlefield, then that is not an argument to which Suffragists ought to yield without a struggle. Let us meet it by another argument that is much in men's mouths just now—that the very existence of the nation is at stake, and every other consideration must give way to the supreme necessity of wasting absolutely none of the nation's resources. Whose lives can the nation best afford to sacrifice just now, those of its able-bodied men, or those of the women, strong and vigorous, but unmarried, childless, and without dependants, who would offer themselves in hundreds for this avenue of service, if only it were opened to them? I should like to see every organisation of women in the country united in making this demand, just as they are united in demanding the vote. In peace-time the vote is the symbol of citizenship. In war-time it should be the right to serve and, if necessary, to suffer in the service of the country.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

News from our Overseas Dominions.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The recent referendum on the subject of early closing of public-houses resulted in a striking victory for the temperance party. Voters were given the option of voting for any hour between six o'clock and eleven o'clock (the hour at which they closed till this month). If the votes for six o'clock did not form an absolute majority, they were to be added to the votes for seven o'clock; if these did not form an absolute majority, they were to be added to the votes for eight o'clock, and so on.

The complete returns were not available when our correspondence wrote, but the totals then obtained were:—

Six o'clock ...	89,585	Nine o'clock ...	8,494
Seven ,, ...	732	Ten ,, ...	1,624
Eight ,, ...	1,771	Eleven ,, ...	53,498

Alcoholic drinks will in future be unobtainable in hotels and clubs after six o'clock. It is admitted, both by those who supported and those who opposed early closing, that the large majority in its favour is due to the women's votes.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

DENMARK.

On June 5th King Christian signed the new constitutional law which abolishes the privileges of the most highly taxed voters and institutes Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Fawcett has received a cable from Frau Münter to this effect, and has also had a letter from her, dated May 29th, expressing the delight of Danish women at the prospect of enfranchisement, and telling of their plans to celebrate the event. It was arranged for all the women to meet at Gronigen and walk to the residence of the King, and then back to the House of Parliament. *The Times* of June 7th mentions that this "women's thanksgiving procession" was received by the King.

The new Bill, which is to come into force a year hence, extends the suffrage to women and to private servants, who were formerly disqualified. At present, every "honest and independent" man of 30 has a vote for the Folkething (Lower House), and now the minimum age is to be lowered gradually, so that in the course of five election periods it will be 25 for both sexes.

The new constitutional law also abolishes the special privileges of the large landowners, known as "born electors," who, in practice, could control about a third of the 54 seats in the Landsting (Upper House). The new Upper House will consist of 72 members, of whom 54 will be elected on an indirect but completely democratic proportional system, and 18 will be chosen by the old Landsting before its disappearance in its old shape.

Women will vote in the Landsting elections as well as in those for the Folkething, and will be eligible to sit in both Houses.

Frau Münter, in her letter to Mrs. Fawcett, ascribes the enfranchisement of women largely to the influence of Grundtvig, who did such magnificent work in the cause of Danish education.

BELGIUM.

The National Committee for Relief in Belgium (Trafalgar Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.) is making an appeal on behalf of the "seven million Belgians who have dared to stay in their native land," and who are now faced with the horrors of slow starvation unless adequate assistance is given. Up till now they have been kept alive by the excellently-organised efforts of a neutral Commission of Relief, under the auspices of the American and Spanish diplomatic representatives in Brussels and London, of which Mr. Herbert Hoover is chairman; but Mr. Hoover has written that unless they get more assistance hundreds of thousands must starve. A British National Committee has therefore been formed to collect the necessary funds, and relief will be distributed by representatives of the neutral Commission, as it is obviously impossible for any British subject to do so.

Some June Magazines.

WAR AND PEACE.—A special number of *War and Peace* contains several vigorous articles. Under the title "Apologetic Women," Mrs. Swanwick analyses the attitude of women to war. She remarks with much justice that "Pacifist women often use the phrase 'the women's point of view,' and seem to assume that this is a pacifist one; whereupon infuriated women (very naturally infuriated) write to say that they are not pacifist, because—" Four typical reasons are given, and Mrs. Swanwick goes on to show the tendency of all such arguments to glorify war. Mrs. Swanwick defines a pacifist not as a person who necessarily opposes any given war at any given moment, but "a person who acknowledges that war is a barbarous method of settling difficulties, and really means what he says, and does not secretly admire war," and thinks disputes among civilized nations, at least, could be settled by other means. Mr. Norman Angell sees in the militarist organs of recent years "The True Prophets," since their sentiments are echoed almost universally to-day. Among other articles is one on "How to Study the Problems of War," which describes the Board of Studies now initiated by the Council for the Study of International Relations." It should be read by all who are taking part in our own educational courses.

In this month's *Labour Woman* is published a manifesto issued by the International Conference of Socialist Women at Berne. It opens with the following resolution passed by the Conference:—

"War against this war! We demand a peace that will recognise the right of peoples and nations, both large and small, to independence and self-government, will enforce no humiliating and insupportable conditions upon any country, and will require expiation of the wrong done to Belgium, thus clearing the way for the peaceful, friendly co-operation of the nations."

Correspondence.

THE NEWCASTLE RESOLUTION.

MADAM,—May I point out for the benefit of the Newcastle Society that Rule X. of the N.U.W.S.S. runs as follows:—

"The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, and the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, and twenty-one other members."

The Newcastle Society is therefore mistaken in stating that "the motion standing in its name does not ask for the resignation of officers." There can be no doubt that if the particular resolution is carried, it will necessitate the resignation of Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Atkinson, and myself, equally with that of all the other members of the Executive.

Rule X. and the Newcastle resolution are both perfectly clear, although the latter is strangely contradictory. The Council of the N.U. has every right to ask for the resignation of its Executive whenever it desires to do so, but surely no Council can have any right to ask that those persons who have been called upon to resign, should straightaway offer themselves for re-election. If the Ys in the Union (to use Dr. Williams' figure of speech) are no longer sufficiently represented, their representation has been jeopardised, not by the action of the present Executive, but by the action of those who thought fit to resign their positions on the Executive, without previously consulting the Council of the Union.

H. AUERBACH.

STATEMENT OF RETIRING MEMBERS.

MADAM,—Absence from home prevented me from considering and signing the Statement of Retiring Members which appeared in *THE COMMON CAUSE* of June 4th, and which I now desire to sign.

M. P. STANBURY.

FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION AMONG SOCIETIES.

MADAM,—The Election addresses in this week's *COMMON CAUSE* were asked for at such very short notice that I was unable to do more than deal briefly with the three points specially mentioned. I feel I must add a word of personal explanation, as I do not wish any Societies to vote for me under a misapprehension as to my attitude.

I resigned from the Executive last year because the Council disapproved of certain action I had taken for the purpose of stimulating discussion by the Societies of the policy for the next General Election, and of warning them of the dangers which seemed to me to attach to the policy into which we appeared to be drifting. I am still of opinion that complete freedom of discussion among the Societies upon all questions affecting the policy of the Union is desirable, and that the restrictions laid upon that freedom by the resolutions passed at the last half-yearly meeting are unwholesome. I attribute in especial much of the present grave dissensions which have arisen in the Union to the arbitrary spirit and intolerance of differences of opinion which prompted those resolutions. If it had not been for the resolution prohibiting attempts to organise opinion in the Union relative to changes of policy in the intervals between Councils, it would have been possible, I think, to prepare the mind of the Societies better for the important changes that were proposed last February, and the Council would probably have given a less ambiguous and vacillating series of decisions upon the issues presented to it.

If elected to the Executive, I shall lose no opportunity of trying to get the restrictions I have alluded to modified or withdrawn, but so long as they remain part of the declared will of the Council, I shall, of course, as I have always done, consider myself bound loyally to carry out that will to the best of my ability.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

FACING THE POSITION.

MISS C. L. DICKENS writes on the need for a clear definition of any proposed practical policy, and maintains that a unanimous decision is practically impossible:—

Division there must be; let us face the position frankly, with deep regret but with no bitterness or resentment. There would be a real falling away from our Suffragist standard if we were blindly to follow our leaders or to sacrifice any principle to preserving the unity of the National Union. We are like those friends pictured by Clough:—

"Who take one street's two sides, and say
Hard parting words, but walk one way."

Though moving other mates between,
While carts and coaches intervene,
Each to the other goes unseen,

Yet seldom, surely, shall there lack
Knowledge they walk not back to back,
But with a unity of track,

Where common dangers each attend
And common hopes their guidance lend
To light them to a self-same end."

Only in our case there is neither occasion nor excuse for "hard parting words."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE.

MADAM,—One hears much in these days of new openings for women, new possibilities, new professions awaiting those who need to earn their living, that have hitherto been more or less out of their reach. But all these promising opportunities, many of which are all in the air and never materialise, are of very little use to those women whose first desire is not a profession for themselves but work which they can do in their country's service, work which they can feel will be of real use in the war, on however small a scale. There are many such, anxious to help, but whose chances of doing so are lessened by the impossibility of their living away from home or going daily to London. Even though they may be able to give all their mornings and perhaps their whole day to work, there seems no work for them to do. There is, of course, a certain amount of nursing which may be done by those living at home, but

nursing is not everyone's work, and for women's services in other capacities there seems to be a very limited demand. It is truly said that it is desirable for women to take up men's work in order to set the men free to enlist, but there does not seem to be much real opportunity given them for doing this. To be restricted to knitting socks, &c., is somewhat unsatisfying to a woman whose physical strength, energy, and general capability entirely fit her for any work which an ordinary man can do. It is most hard on people of energy and enterprise to have to waste these qualities in waiting for opportunities of patriotic service which do not occur. If instead of vague generalities as to the mobilisation of women and the need for the services of all members of the nation, one could have really practical and definite suggestions as to what could be done and done at once, I think it would be of real value to many who are in the position I have described.

I. B.

MADAM,—During the last few days I have heard of several women who are enquiring about War Service for August only. Some would be willing to spend part of a long holiday in letting someone else get a holiday. Some are teachers, one is a trained cookery teacher. Could you give information in *THE COMMON CAUSE* as to any temporary work that such people might usefully take up in order to give other women a rest? Of course this cannot relieve nurses, but there may be unskilled work about hospitals, clubs, or canteens, which they might do. If there were openings many might volunteer for August or September.

M. GRAY.

M. SABATIER'S LETTERS.

MADAM,—Mr. Carl Heath, Secretary of the National Peace Council, criticises in your last issue M. Paul Sabatier's statement "that it is to the honour of Belgium, France, and their Allies to have seen at once the spiritual nature of this war," and Mr. Heath asks "what is the perception of the spiritual nature of this war which the Allies have seen and their enemies have not?" I have just been reading a report of the Archbishop of York's speech at the annual meeting of the S.P.G., at the Albert Hall, which seems to supply the answer that is needed. "What was it that made us forget our antagonisms and united us as nothing else could have done last August when the decision was taken which involved our nation in the greatest war in history? It was the irresistible instinct of conscience. We felt, without perhaps putting it into words, that this was a matter in which something deeper than our wealth, than our physical life, or than our comfort was concerned. It was a matter in which all those things that make the soul of a nation were concerned."

This language seems to justify—if justification were needed—M. Sabatier's contention.

W. P. DOLL.

P.S.—The Archbishop also quoted the remark of a native Indian Prince. "The Germans," he said, "cannot be right because they destroy sacred buildings."

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Chairman: Mrs. SCHARLIEB, M.D., M.S.

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to *The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

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 suspended their ordinary 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.

Women and Empire.

We were once asked by an Anti-suffragist to admit at least that the British Empire was built up by men. It seemed to him a self-evident fact, a postulate which every sane person must take for granted. It is not an uncommon belief, and it is always based on a false notion of the meaning of Empire. If the word "Empire" is an abstraction standing for some idea of the dominance of one race over another, or representing the acquisition of territory, or wealth, then certainly it is man-made. Men have fought for it, or bargained for it, and the glory is theirs alone. But in that case the "bond" of a United Empire, the human significance of it, all that in recent years we have grasped of the Imperial idea is a dead letter; it has no life and no meaning. Just in so far as our Empire is a living concrete reality, it is built up day by day by the labour and the devotion of men and women together; and we venture to say that no one who has, even for a few years, shared the actual everyday life of any outlying part of our Empire, not as a visitor nor as the member of a dominant race, but as an ordinary worker in a free community, will seek to deny that truth. The other day an Imperial meeting was held at the Guildhall, which women were not encouraged to attend. That meeting gave full expression to what seems to us a purely masculine (and therefore necessarily inadequate) type of Imperialism. The promoters of the meeting were said to be "deeply impressed by the Empire's profound attachment to British ideals of freedom and justice." But the "Empire" here can only allude to the men of the Empire, and British ideals to masculine ideals. So long as British women are denied enfranchisement, British ideals of freedom and justice mean something different from, and something less than, Australian ideals or New Zealand ideals of freedom and justice, and the "profound attachment" of our Dominions to such British conceptions really cannot be taken seriously while we fall so conspicuously short of their own standard.

On Empire Day *The Times* devoted eight pages to communications from its Overseas Correspondents, some of whom approached, though with considerable caution and reserve, the momentous question of the part our Dominions are to play in the future Peace Settlement. We shall not attempt to discuss the merits of such a question here. At best, a mere consultation between Governments will be of little value to the women of the Empire. What we desire to urge, though it may seem a dim vision of the future, is some approach to a consultation between peoples—a genuine Imperial conference, representing a real full-blooded Empire of men and women. Has such a conference as yet been seriously contemplated? If not, then we must realise that much of our talk of Empire, Democracy, Justice, and Freedom is vain and meaningless. It is the business of women to make certain that when the moment comes, by some means or another, their views shall be made known, and not only made known, but taken seriously into account. In the report of the Guildhall meeting we note one mention, and one only, of women—that was in regard to the contribution of motor ambulances by Canadian women. That estimate of woman's share in war exactly symbolises the view which is likely to be taken in general of the part which they have a right to play. Women are no longer content to contribute motor ambulances, eager though they are to provide all such necessities in abundant measure while the war is in progress. It is, indeed, because they are

possessed by a consuming pity for those who are broken by the war that they desire to contribute not ambulances only, but their minds and hearts in the making of a peace which shall be a lasting peace, founded on rock principles of justice and goodwill. Finally, we would quote the words of the Canadian Correspondent of *The Times*, who puts forward the claim of the Dominions for inclusion in peace and war deliberations, in words closely resembling those which Suffragists might wish to use themselves: "It is illogical that the Dominions should be committed to great and costly enterprises by a Cabinet at London from whose immediate deliberations they are excluded, though these decisions might require the sacrifice of thousands of lives and millions of treasure by the voiceless Dominions." It is a sentiment which "voiceless" women cannot fail also to endorse.

We have quoted *The Times*. Since doing so, we note a suggestion in *The Herald* for June 5th, which is of value, if only as showing that this sense of Imperial responsibility is a living issue to-day in every section of the community. "To-day the self-governing Dominions, the Crown Colonies, and India are involved in the war. They have accepted the liability of the British connection with loyalty. But we cannot expect that they will sign such a blank cheque again. We must expect them to say that they will not allow the issues of peace and war to be under the sole control of Westminster. . . . It is therefore time that we called into existence a democratically-elected Imperial Council. . . . It should be elected upon the broadest franchise, and the Crown Colonies and India must have their due share of representation." The italics are ours, but *The Herald* is a friend of Women's Suffrage, and doubtless speaks advisedly. In any case, a "democratically-elected Imperial Council" would be representative of the women of Australia and New Zealand. How long could it exclude the women of the centre of the Empire?

CARE OF THE NATION'S MOTHERHOOD.

By the invitation of the Duchess of Marlborough, a conference was held last week at Sunderland House, under the auspices of the National Council of Public Morals, on the Care of the Nation's Motherhood.

The BISHOP of BIRMINGHAM was in the chair, and, in opening the proceedings, said that if they desired to safeguard the nation, to keep it great and make it greater, they must do what they could for womanhood and motherhood. He knew that there had been terrible exaggeration with regard to the moral condition of those in the Army—exaggeration which was perfectly detestable, because it was trying to cheapen in our hearts and minds those who were suffering for us.

The following resolutions were submitted and passed unanimously:—

(a) (Dr. Florence Willey and Dr. Eric Pritchard):—"That it is urgently desirable to establish throughout the whole country maternity centres for pre-natal and post-natal care of mother and child; and that such centres should receive financial assistance from public funds under such conditions as shall prevent abuse."

(b) (Mr. Benjamin Broadbent):—"That the Government shall be respectfully urged to make provision to secure early knowledge by Public Health Authorities of all still-births; and to introduce legislation to make the Notification of Births Act compulsory throughout the United Kingdom."

(c) (Dr. Mary Scharlieb):—"That a special Government Sub-Department should be constituted to supervise the care of the nation's motherhood."

(d) (Dr. Saleeby):—"That the said Sub-Department should form an integral part of a Ministry of Public Health, which for this and many other purposes is urgently required and should forthwith be established."

DR. SALEEBY said the nation was always at war with Nature, parasites, and ignorance; and a Ministry of Public Health was urgently needed to provide munition to combat these deadly foes. When the cry of the "war baby" was raised, the papers were filled with columns on the subject, though statistics showed that all the time we were killing 2,000 infants each week by national neglect. They would have a startling lesson from Russia soon in the fall of infant mortality resulting from the State control of the liquor traffic. The Chief Rabbi pointed out that even in the poorest Jewish neighbourhoods in London, Paris, and Warsaw, the rate of infant mortality was only one-third of that among the non-Jewish, because there was no alcoholism amongst the women.

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

A strong appeal to all who are interested in the welfare of women and children, and in the work of medical women at home and abroad, was made by the Duchess of Marlborough at the annual meeting of the South London Hospital for Women held last week at Sunderland House. The Duchess stated that those

who had read the report of the hospital could have no doubt as to the great need which existed in South London for such an institution. The patients were drawn from localities in which the greatest poverty and destitution were to be found, and in many cases came from long distances, thus showing the absolute need of such a hospital conducted by medical women.

THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY, Chairman of the Hospital, pointed out that the total number of patients treated in the temporary in-patient department did not by any means represent the total number of patients who needed in-patient treatment; by far the greater number of these had to be sent to other hospitals, as, until the new hospital was opened, only a small proportion of those requiring to be admitted could be accommodated; £2,000 was still required to complete the building fund, and a still larger sum would be needed in order to equip the hospital. Lady Londonderry further pointed out that the work at the out-patient department at Newington Causeway was increasing to so great an extent that as soon as the hospital at Clapham was completed the question of building a new and more commodious out-patient department would have to be faced.

MISS CHADBURN, M.D.B.S., in seconding the adoption of the report, remarked that the hospital was the result of an overwhelming demand on the part of women workers for more hospital accommodation under women doctors. The second demand which the hospital supplied was the demand of women doctors for fuller opportunities. It would, she said, obviously be unreasonable and impossible to expect medical men to vacate their valuable posts on London hospital staffs in order to give medical women a chance of development. Women must find opportunities for themselves.

All those interested in the hospital and its work are invited to communicate with the Secretary, 88 and 90, Newington Causeway, S.E.

A TYPHUS HOSPITAL FOR MONTENEGRO.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee is sending a typhus hospital Unit to Montenegro. Of the three doctors, two are women, Dr. Lillias Hamilton, Warden of Studley Horticultural College, who has a great deal of experience of typhus throughout the world, and served as a doctor in the Afghan War, and Dr. Slater, who has practised in Lucknow for some years.

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N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

We have had very encouraging news from all our Hospital Units abroad this week. Everything seems to be progressing splendidly.

ABBAYE DE ROYAUMONT.

Miss Hamilton sends the following interesting account of a concert at Royaumont:—

"Saturday last was quite an eventful day for us. M. Gouin a few days previously had announced his intention of providing an entertainment for the men, and brought down a professor from the Conservatoire and some of her pupils to give a concert in the 'Blanche' ward.

"Miss Ivens also insisted that I should make a little speech for her, which likewise went off quite well. I wish some of our supporters could have heard the rounds of applause which greeted my attempt to set forth the aims and wishes of the founders of and subscribers to the hospital.

"By the way, I must get Miss Nicholson to let me copy a lengthy poem addressed to her by a grateful occupant of her ward. It sets forth her virtues in particular, but nobody's virtues are forgotten—nurses and orderlies all come in for a tribute of admiring verse from the gifted writer—a sergeant. My little speech ended up with the old lady who had brought her pupils from the Conservatoire rushing at me and embracing me violently to great applause.

TROYES.

Mrs. Harley reports in the following excerpts the progress being made at Troyes:—

"We have just heard of the arrival of the equipment at Troyes. I went at once to the 'Santé' and agitated for some means of transport to bring up the contents of the thirteen wagons. M. Perrin, our Docteur majeur, took me all round the place to see what could be done at such short notice, and to our great joy (I say our, because the little French doctor was just as keen as myself) we got it all arranged, and carts are to begin this afternoon.

"A great triumph of speed—thanks to the military. At 2.30 p.m. a number of soldiers—eighty-five with their officers—were marched up to Chanteloup to await forty transport carts to unload.

"We also received a letter on May 31st, in which she says:— 'A great triumph of speed—thanks to the military. At 2.30 p.m. a number of soldiers—eighty-five with their officers—were marched up to Chanteloup to await forty transport carts to unload.

SECOND SERBIAN UNIT.

The following letter has been received from Lord Methuen, Governor of Malta, which shows how greatly the services of our second Unit, under Dr. Alice Hutchison, were appreciated in Malta:—

SAN ANTONIO PALACE, MALTA. DEAR SIR,—As I have written to Sir Ralph Paget, it is not in my power to express my gratitude sufficiently for the help given me by the Serbian Unit. There came the first avalanche of wounded, and no further aid from home was due for a fortnight, so sooner than see my men neglected in order to nurse Serbians I took it on myself to detain the Unit for one fortnight. They leave here blessed by myself, surgeons, nurses, and patients alike, for they have proved themselves most capable and untiring workers.

May 23rd, 1915.

It is interesting as showing the progress of time that were formerly the Knights of St. John, in their flowing white robes, tended the sick, the grey and tartan uniforms of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals were for a time to be seen moving round Malta on a mission similar to that of those Knights Hospitallers of old.

THIRD SERBIAN UNIT.

Dr. Grace Eleanor Soltau, who left England last December with the first unit for Serbia of the Scottish Women's Hospitals organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, has just returned, on leave, accompanied by Miss Alison Hunter, a Glasgow medical student, who was one of her staff at Kraguevatz. Dr. Soltau, it will be remembered, fell ill, owing to the strain of her work in Serbia, and Dr. Elsie Inglis has gone out to take her place.

She has been able to give some valuable advice regarding the third unit for Serbia of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which is very shortly to be sent out, Dr. Alice Hutchison, in charge of the second unit, having already arrived at Pesarevaz. She recommends that the third Serbian unit shall consist of two small hundred-bed hospitals for different towns, which can be joined up to form one big unit if required, and they should be fully equipped for both medical and surgical work.

Dr. Soltau describes Serbia as a land where "the inns are packed with wounded Serbian soldiers and the stables and out-houses with Austrian prisoners." This present epidemic of typhus, she declares, is much worse than anything that has occurred in modern history for many years back, and is due to the terrible overcrowding of the Austrian prisoners.

Kraguevatz, the ancient capital, having been twice evacuated by the Serbians in the early stages of the war, has been so denuded that all fuel has to be brought long distances. Diphtheria and other epidemics have attacked villagers all through the country, which has been devastated by the third campaign in three years. To put the matter quite plainly, it is to the direct interest of Britain to help fight epidemics now raging in Serbia, for unless these helpless populations are assisted Serbia will prove a centre of disease, disseminating infection throughout Europe, and even the British Isles would be unlikely to escape.

IN AID OF THE LONDON UNITS.

A very interesting meeting will be held on June 21st at 34, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W., by the courtesy of Lady Glenconner, at which M. Chedomille Miyatovitch, late Serbian Minister at the Court of St. James, will speak. Mr. Maurice Hewlett will be in the chair. A limited number of invitations will be issued, and cards of admission can be obtained from Miss Kathleen Burke, Hon. Organising Secretary of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

"SEND-OFF" FOR THE TROYES UNIT.

On Wednesday, June 2nd, an informal send-off was given at the Headquarters of the London Society to the staff of the new Unit bound for the Chateau Chanteloup, near Troyes. This hospital has been subscribed for by past and present students of Girton and Newnham. Mrs. Fawcett addressed the staff with words of encouragement and sympathy that will long be remembered, and a short address was also given by Dr. Russell, representing the Scottish Committee, who explained many important details. She dwelt on the part played by the workers at home in getting together the necessary equipment with the least possible delay, and thus enabling the machinery of the hospitals to run smoothly.

BEDS NAMED TO JUNE 3rd, 1915.

Table listing donors and amounts for beds named to June 3rd, 1915. Includes names like V. V. A. D. Dundee, Jameson, Stirling, etc.

Further help is urgently required to carry on the work of our Units. The cry for assistance comes from all. Subscriptions very gratefully received, either by the Hon. Secretary, Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew's Sq., Edinburgh, or the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed 'Royal Bank of Scotland.' Contributions for the London Unit to Lady Cowdray, 58, Victoria Street, or to the Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Further Donations to N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

Table listing various donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital, including names like Bainsford U. F. Church, A. G. Moore, etc.

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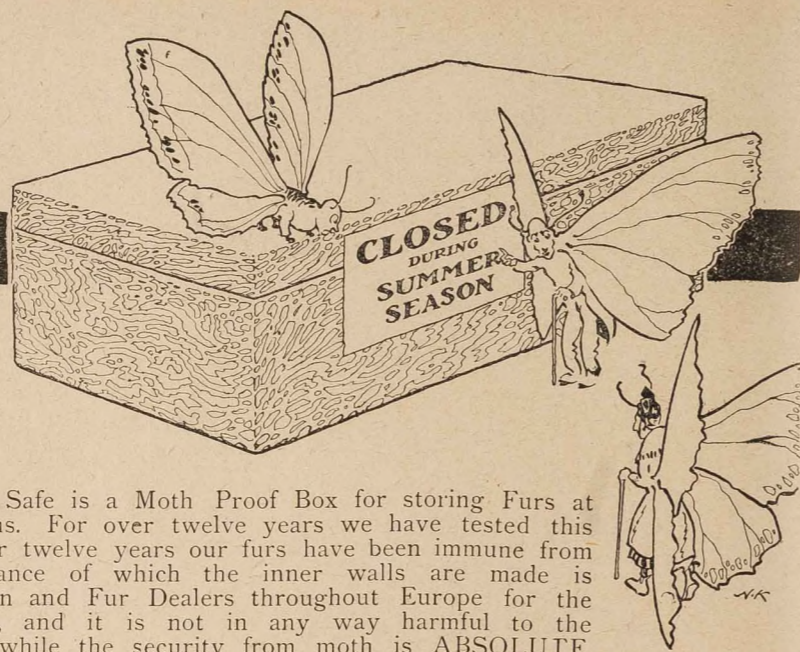
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What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Wakefield.

The annual meeting was held on May 17th in the Wood-street Institute. Mrs. Reader (President) took the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

Items of Interest.

One of the members of the Clitheroe Branch of the N.U. has been appointed a member of the Nelson St. Mary's Church Council along with Miss Heap.

In Aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals.

At a very interesting lecture given on June 2nd, in Kensington Town Hall, by the Kensington Branch of the London Society in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, M. Timotheeff spoke on "Social Conditions in Russia."

On June 16th a lecture will be given on "The Future of Belgium," by M. Emile Cammaerts, and on June 30th Mr. Roden Buxton will lecture on "The Balkans and the Future of Europe."

Women and War Work.

Women are now being employed as letter carriers in the Enfield postal district, as all the eligible men on the outdoor staff have enlisted.

A writer in The Daily Chronicle suggests that as the Government is appealing to women to help in the haymaking and harvesting it might provide huts built on Army lines for the women workers who are so very ready to help on the land.

The monthly report of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks states that the proposed training scheme for young women entering shop life has not been proceeded with, as anticipated.

Manchester Men's League for W.S.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage the following resolutions were passed:

I.—That this meeting of the Men's League draws attention to the statement of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons on May 20th, that the Government is considering a proposal for the enfranchisement of all soldiers, and protests against any measure being submitted to Parliament for the extension of the Suffrage which does not include women.

II.—That this meeting, rejoicing that the women of some parts of the British Empire, through the representatives they have elected, are expected to have some voice in the terms of the eventual Peace, urges upon the Government the manifest justice of giving the women of the Mother Country a corresponding constitutional right.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Table listing upcoming meetings with columns for Date, Location, and Details.

East Grinstead.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Suffrage Society is serving on the Invasion Emergency Committee, where she is the only woman member, with fifteen men.

Nine of the East Grinstead members attended a patrol meeting at the vicarage for all denominations and societies in the town. One is to sit upon the Committee and three are to be trained as Patrols.

A sufficient sum has been raised for a bed in the Scottish Hospital for Foreign Service; to be named the "East Grinstead W.S.S. Bed."

A fortnight is to be set apart for making Hessian sandbags for the troops; and the general public is to be asked to come to the Suffrage Club in the afternoons, for that purpose.

The Hon. Sec. writes:—"As to the War-Babies story:—Three responsible inhabitants of the town having told me that they had heard that preparations were being made in the workhouse for 30 babies, I applied to the matron, who said that not one was expected."

Kentish Federation.

The Societies are so busily engaged in patriotic work that many of them fail to send in accounts of what they are doing. Considerable contributions have been sent for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Serbia amongst their activities.

Herne Bay sent up £6 with a large parcel of clothing, the result of weekly work-meetings which are still being held. Maidstone arranged an entertainment in aid of the Serbian Women's Hospital on May 19th.

This Society is to be congratulated on its energetic Hon. Sec., Mrs. J. Hewlett Hobbs, having been elected a Poor Law Guardian. Many members are engaged in nursing locally.

MATFIELD, PEMBERTON, AND BRENCHELY have been mainly occupied with V.A.D. nursing and sewing meetings. The local doctor at Pembury has gone to the colours, and his locum tenens is a woman. It is an important practice, including the Tonbridge Union.

RAMSGATE is very successful in getting notices of proceedings in the local press, by which the Society is treated with much courtesy. The annual meeting was well reported.

ROCHESTER was fortunate in having Mrs. Fawcett for a meeting on June 4th.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS continues its work at the office transformed into a clothing depot, and

Table listing various societies and their activities, such as Bristol, South Kensington, and Tunbridge.

Table listing meetings for June 15, including Leicester, Paddington, and Watworth.

Table listing meetings for June 16, including Bristol, Edmonton, and Harlow.

Table listing meetings for June 17, including Great Yarmouth and Honiton.

Advertisement for 'Now Ready. Volume VI. of THE COMMON CAUSE' with details on price and availability.

Advertisement for 'DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE. RED WHITE & BLUE' for breakfast and after dinner.

Advertisement for 'MISS L. B. EVETTS, R.H.S.' offering horticultural services.

Advertisement for 'WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?' promoting the Robinson Bros. gold and silver exchange.

Advertisement for 'PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS' with details on pricing and terms.

Advertisement for 'ANNOUNCEMENTS' regarding the Suffrage Club and other events.

(Continued on page 140.)

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

(Continued from 139.)

NATIONAL SERVICE.

A CTRESS-MANAGERESS (A.F.L.) desires support A National Service play "A Nation in Arms," London-Scotland. Woman's Management Staff and Play. Guarantor seats or shareholders. Unity is strength. Write Box 5,109, COMMON CAUSE Office.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL. June 26th to July 5th, "The Hayes," Swanwick, Derbyshire. Subject:—"International Relationships in the Light of Christianity." Lecturers:—Mr. Clutton Brock, The Lord Bishop of Oxford, The Rev. P. H. Wickstead, The Rev. Mr. Parkinson, Mr. A. E. Zimmern, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., The Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas, Principal Graham, Prof. A. L. Smith, The Rev. W. Temple, Miss Maude Royden, The Rev. Canon Masterman, Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., The Rev. Father Plater, Mr. St. George Heath. Terms 6s. 6d. per day or £2 10s. for the whole time.—Apply Miss Gardner, 92, St. George's Square, S.W. Telephone, Victoria 7082.

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AIR RAID.—Damage by War Missiles, Rioting, &c. Take precautions and insure with a sound English Company. P. M. Prowse, 20, Fordwych-rd., N.W., will wait upon you by appointment.

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