

# 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.*

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### Notes and News.

#### Our New Ally.

Since last we went to press a remarkable series of events have followed each other at home and abroad. Italy, the first nation since the war opened to enter the field on the side of the Allies, has declared war on Austria-Hungary. The accession of this new ally, whose friendliness to our cause and our country has always been known, raises questions both of military significance and also of future problems of settlement into which we do not propose to enter here. This is the first war which Great Britain and Italy, as a whole nation, have waged side by side; and every woman will desire that it may be the last either of them may ever feel called upon to wage.

#### The Coalition Government.

Meanwhile, a sudden *coup d'état* has revolutionised our Government at home, and the Cabinet is now in process of reconstruction, on the basis of a coalition of the three parties. Of the very disquieting events which have led up to this upheaval, the part played by the Northcliffe Press, and in particular the attack on Lord Kitchener, has roused keen resentment in the country. So far as its origin is concerned, the new Cabinet starts with no special credit, and the difficulty of determining its personnel has occupied Mr. Asquith for nearly a week. How far our own question will be affected by the change is entirely open to doubt. While Mr. Asquith retains his place as head of the Government, the situation, so far as women are concerned, is little changed. Nevertheless, we may welcome the advent of Mr. Balfour, and while our cause retains an enemy in Mr. McKenna, it keeps two good friends in Sir Edward Grey and Sir John Simon. Unfortunately, Lord Curzon, Sir Edward Carson, and Mr. Chamberlain enter on the side of reaction. In Mr. Henderson we welcome a good Suffragist as Minister of Education. The wisdom of the inclusion of Labour in the Cabinet is, however, gravely questioned by Mr. Philip Snowden in *The Christian Commonwealth*, and, indeed, there is general agreement that the lack of a responsible opposition is an inherent weakness of the new arrangement.

#### "Disabled."

A short report, of tragic significance, has just been issued by Lord Murray's Committee, appointed by the Government to consider pressing questions relating to our disabled sailors and soldiers. The number of men now being discharged as disabled amount to 1,000 a month. At the beginning of the war the monthly average was 360. The committee regard provision for the disabled as properly the charge of the State, and propose

that a Central Committee, of which the constitution is not very definitely stated, should be formed, and should act with the assistance of local sub-committees. The suggestion is also made that this rather nebulous machinery should connect itself with the Statutory Committee for dealing with pensions and grants, and even add to its labours the provision of employment for able-bodied soldiers after the war. We seek in vain for a suggestion that labour should be adequately represented, and women are not mentioned. The duties of the committees would include: (a) the restoration of the disabled to health, (b) the provision of training facilities, (c) the finding of employment.

#### Inadequate Pensions.

We would call attention to the fact, stated recently in *The Morning Post*, that the increase of pensions for the disabled, recommended by the Select Committee, has not yet been paid, and that a family cannot subsist in health on a weekly sum of 17s. 6d., which is the highest amount under the old scale payable to a totally disabled private. We note, also, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's experience that men so unfortunate as to be disabled by training may expect no regular provision whatever. These things immediately affect large numbers of women, who ought to be properly represented on any bodies formed to deal with the families of the disabled. An Army Order, issued as we go to press, is to take effect as from March 1st. It provides that a totally disabled private will receive the amount (25s. a week and 2s. 6d. for each child) recommended by the Select Committee. We hope this means that all arrears will now immediately be paid.

#### Women and the Cost of Living.

A "Neutral Correspondent" to *The Times*, recording his impressions of working-class opinions in Germany, thus speaks of the women: "The courageous, self-sacrificing way in which the German women carry their growing load of sorrow and work was what impressed me most deeply in the working-class world. The German housewife is able to bring the cost of living down to a minimum which I am afraid the English housewife does not think possible. In this time of crisis, the German woman steps into the man's place to a remarkable extent." The same is true of the women of France; and the appeal now made to English women to face the question of national economy will meet, beyond doubt, with a willing response.

#### Ecclesiastical Conscription.

The following resolution has been passed by the Bishop of London's Ordination Candidates' Council: "That no application on behalf of any candidate be considered unless the candidate proves to the satisfaction of the Council that he is unable to serve for the war." On the question of State Conscription—soon, perhaps, to become a burning question—we anticipate that the N.U. will be entirely divided in opinion; but we can hardly believe that much divergence could arise as to the right of wealthy or influential bodies or individuals, to exert pressure to enlist upon those whom they chance to hold in their power. We have again and again protested against the injustice of "economic conscription," and would protest no less indignantly against this new form of private compulsion. The decision may be the outcome of the best-intentioned patriotism, and it may, for aught we know, appeal as satisfactorily to the majority of those whom it affects. The fact remains that it is tyranny, and as such, obnoxious, we hope and believe, to the great body of Suffragists.

## In Parliament.

Tuesday, May 18th.

### SOLDIERS' WIVES (SAVINGS BANKS).

MR. BOLAND (S. Kerry, N.) asked the Postmaster-General whether, with a view to encouraging thrift amongst the soldiers' wives who draw separation allowances, he can arrange to have savings bank facilities in the halls which have been secured in populous districts for the distribution of separation allowances, owing to the want of accommodation in the ordinary post offices; and whether steps will be taken, by means of pictorial posters or otherwise, to bring to the notice of soldiers' families the special advantages offered by the Post Office Savings Bank for the encouragement of thrift?

MR. HOBHOUSE replied that the suggestion would receive full consideration. The extent to which the Post Office Savings Bank can usefully extend facilities for the encouragement of thrift was already receiving special attention.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

LORD ROBERT CECIL (Hitchin, U.) asked the President of the Local Government Board if, having regard to the importance, especially at the present time, of taking steps to reduce infant mortality, he would consider the desirability of amending the Notification of Births Act, so as to confer an express power on local authorities to provide health visitors, maternity centres, and similar arrangements for promoting infant welfare?

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL reminded Lord Robert Cecil that the Government had undertaken to make substantial grants in aid of maternity centres and other agencies for infant welfare, which are approved by the Local Government Board. He continued:—

"It would, I think, be an advantage if the Notification of Births Act were amended in the way suggested in the question. Notifications are of little value unless they are followed up by health visiting and by the provision of advice and skilled assistance to mothers. The Act itself confers on local authorities no express power to do this work, and at present recourse has to be had to powers in other Acts which were not framed with infant welfare particularly in view. One result is that the powers of a county council adopting the Act differ from those of a district council. If it were shown that a small amending Bill, such as is suggested, would meet with general support, I should be glad to consider the early introduction of such a measure."

He promised to ascertain the views of members of the House as to the possibilities of introducing such a Bill.

### IMMATURE SPIRITS.

The Immature Spirits (Restriction) Bill was considered, as amended, read a third time, and passed.

Wednesday, May 19th.

### REGISTER OF WOMEN.

MR. SNOWDEN (Blackburn, Lab.) asked whether, in regard to the war register of women, and the entrance of women into new industries, the President of the Board of Trade was prepared to set up an advisory committee, which would include representatives of the organised women workers, to give counsel and assistance as to safeguards and conditions.

MR. RUNCIMAN replied that the Department was in constant communication with representatives of various women's organisations, and he was of opinion that for the present this procedure was preferable to a formal committee.

### FRENCH WOMEN WORKERS.

MR. W. THORNE (S. West Ham, Lab.) asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether he was aware that the firm of Vickers, of Barrow-in-Furness, were engaging French women for work, although the firm had on their books the names of many women residing in the district.

DR. MACNAMARA (Secretary to the Admiralty) replied that the Admiralty had received no information on the subject, but that inquiries should be made.

### INSANITARY RUBBISH.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL stated that he was about to issue a circular to urban authorities urging them to do all in their power to prevent the accumulation of refuse in the neighbourhood of dwellings.

### ORGANISATION OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES.

MR. PROTHERO (Oxford University, U.) called attention to the need for organising our food supplies, which formed a very important part of our warlike preparations. The prices at which bread and wheat were sold might become a very serious factor in the war. For efficient organisation ordinary departmental

action was not enough; the co-operation of all Departments of the State was essential.

It was not his wish to create any panic. He believed the farmers had 1,200,000 quarters of wheat; from Argentina, Canada, and India, and possibly Egypt, there was a sufficient quantity of wheat in sight, and in six weeks' time the new American harvest would be on the market. But there was the question of price to be considered. The Indian wheat was coming over under unprecedented conditions, and as it reached these shores it was sold at 67s. to 68s. a quarter. There was some opportunity for conflict between the financial interests of the British consumer and the Government of India, and he thought the arrangements made by that Government might have been more favourable to this country.

With regard to Egyptian corn, he asked whether the Government were preparing to earmark the surplus, as the Indian surplus had been earmarked, for the benefit of consumers here. It should be remembered that the most successful wheat corner ever effected was effected in Egypt. He wanted an assurance that the Egyptian and British Governments together were going to be their own "Joseph" for the benefit of the British consumer. As to the stock of wheat in this country, the corn bought by merchants and imported was unusually small, and there was an unusually small amount of wheat on passage to this country. The Government had bought largely, and they had discontinued buying so that the British corn merchant might resume his normal trade. But the quantity was unknown, and it was just that unknown quantity that made the British merchant anxious. Further, the corn merchant, the millers, and bakers were all living from hand to mouth, and the price of wheat rose as a result. Merchants felt that at any moment this quantity of wheat in the Government's hands might be thrown upon the market. They were entitled to information, for one could not expect merchants to meet future requirements unless they knew how far those requirements were already met.

The shortage of labour in many parts of the country had already affected agriculture materially. The dairy farmer found that he could not get labour; he sold his cows and retired from business, and less milk and higher prices were the consequences. The agricultural farmer, being unable to secure sufficient labour, reduced the area providing the food for his sheep, and the result was fewer sheep and dearer mutton.

### HARVEST LABOUR.

The harvests, unless the weather was ideal, had to be got in at high pressure. The heavier part of the work could not be done by either women or children. If farmers had any doubt that they were going to get in their crops of hay and clover they would graze the land, and we should be short of forage. Farmers were extremely anxious about getting their corn. If the Government could come to any arrangement with the War Office as to the release of some of the Territorials who refused Imperial service, let them announce it now; it would be very valuable to agriculture.

The meat supply was the most serious part of the problem. The high price of feeding stuffs had compelled farmers to sell every available animal, and meat had consequently been cheap. But that could not last. The stock of live animals had been brought down to a dangerously low point, and in future the price of feeding stuffs would send up the price of meat. The Board of Agriculture were probably considering whether they should not forbid or restrict the slaughter of immature animals during the veal and lamb season. They were probably also considering whether they should not prohibit the slaughter of in-calf cows and heifers, in-pig sows, and ewes of certain breeds of sheep.

### ORGANISATION OF IMPERIAL RESOURCES.

Do what we would, the British farming industry could not feed the country. We must organise our Imperial resources. That could only be done by inter-departmental action and by communicating with the Governments, for instance, of the Australian Commonwealth, Canada, India, and Egypt. We wanted a promise from them that they would earmark for our use so much of the food supply as the national estimate showed that we wanted. It must be done not only for wheat, but for meat and for that large range of products, all of which we could obtain from some part of our Empire—maize, peas, beans, millet, linseed, oil seeds, palm nuts, and coconuts. We must organise our Imperial resources as well as our home resources, and it must be done at once.

## WOMEN LIBERALS IN COUNCIL.

Under the chairmanship of Lady Aberconway, the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation was held last week at Caxton Hall. Since the war broke out, party political activity has been entirely suspended by the Federation, and the energies and resources of its affiliated local associations have been devoted to practical relief work and to social problems arising out of the war. It was, therefore, with the subject of the organisation of women's work during the war, and kindred questions, that the annual meeting was mainly occupied. A resolution expressing the unalterable adherence of the Federation to the principles of Women's Suffrage was proposed from the chair, but no discussion upon it was permitted.

### ARMY'S NEED FOR WOMEN COOKS.

A strong protest was made against the badly-prepared food served out to our soldiers. Mrs. Alderton, of Colchester, declared that good food was so badly cooked that the men were often unable to eat it, and if it were not for the fact that in many places canteens were provided by private enterprise, men who were in huts or tents would literally starve. Many women who had volunteered for war service could cook for messes of 150 or 200 men, and this employment would prevent waste. So long as the domestic arrangements of the War Office were in the hands of men, she saw no chance of improvement.

Mrs. Alderton told an amusing story of a blacksmith who became a cook on joining the army, in order to add to his wages. On Christmas Day the soldiers, who struggled bravely through the meals he had prepared, afterwards made a collection for the cook, "because he had tried so hard." Miss Cartwright said that in the Aldershot camps men were given tea boiled in a tin in which stew had been served for dinner, and it was impossible to drink their tea unless they penetrated a surface of mutton grease.

The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That this Council is of opinion that the feeding of soldiers in camps and barracks would be more efficiently carried out if the co-operation of women were secured throughout the administration of this branch of military service. It also points out that the practice of serving the last meal to private soldiers at 4.30 is a direct incentive to their seeking further refreshment in public houses."

A plea was also made for women cooks in military hospitals. Lady Norman said that in her hospital, in France, the cooking was done under the supervision of trained lady cooks, with complete success.

### WAR WORK FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Runciman dealt with the question of war work for women, and pointed out that, if the country was going to mobilise its industrial resources to the full, it could not afford to leave the women out. The situation was still critical, and it was clear that, if the war was to be brought to a speedy end, it was necessary that a great effort should be made on the part of the whole nation. There were many ways in which the process of substituting women for men could be effected, but it must be a slow process. In the meantime, she urged women to offer themselves, if not for whole time, for half time, and she instanced how women were taking the tickets at small railway stations. The cleanliness of railway carriages had greatly improved since women had undertaken the work of men at railway termini. She did not see why women could not be used to check gas or electric light meters. A Scotswoman had offered to take the place of any member of Parliament, on either side. The real difficulty of the substitution of women's work for men's was the fear on the part of the trade unions that women would ultimately displace men; but she did not believe the women would allow themselves to be used to undersell the labour of men.

Mrs. Grayson urged that a return should be obtained by the Government from all Government contractors of sub-contracts, and the rates of wages paid by the sub-contractors. She gave instances of women being paid 2½d. for finishing a pair of trousers, and 6d. for finishing an overcoat. These low prices, she alleged, were the fault, not of the Government, but of the sub-contractor. Lady Cowdray referred to the employment of women in agriculture, and Mrs. Broadley Reid gave particulars of the extent to which women did such work in Scotland.

A resolution, in the name of Mrs. Walter Runciman, was carried, suggesting that when women are paid by time, "wages equal to those paid to men should be given to women for equal value of work."

### WOMEN POLICE CONSTABLES.

It was unanimously decided to send to the Government a

copy of a resolution passed by the meeting urging the appointment of women police constables, with powers equal to those of men constables.

### BRITISH-BORN WIVES OF ALIENS.

A resolution drawing the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory position of British women living in this country who were the wives or widows of aliens, and expressing the opinion that so long as such women remained on British soil they should not by their marriage be entirely deprived of their rights of citizenship, was carried unanimously.

### CHILD WELFARE.

On the second day, the meeting discussed problems connected with maternity and child welfare. A resolution was passed welcoming the lead given by the Local Government Board and the Board of Education to the work of promoting the welfare of mothers and children, and urging the Women's Liberal Associations to secure the formation and maintenance of Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres in their own localities. The resolution also pointed out that, at a time when the war was causing such grievous loss of life, it was pre-eminently war work for women to safeguard the conditions and improve the health of the new generation.

### WOMEN PATROLS.

We have received the following communication from the National Union of Women Workers:—

"From valuable experience it has gained during the last few months, and from the excellent result achieved, the Committee feels that it may put forward a strong recommendation for the appointment of paid permanent women in the place of the voluntary patrols. The Volunteer Patrols exist to carry out a patriotic duty, and the spirit which urges them to give their valuable time and strength grows to meet the special need of the day—the concentration of large numbers of troops. No one with experience can say that the streets would not be better always for the presence of Women Patrols, apart from this concentration of troops. But voluntary helpers, in many cases giving to this work the very last moments snatched from crowded days, cannot be expected to carry on patrolling work for an indefinite period. Consequently, as there are so few soldiers here now, we have asked our patrols to keep their badges and permits and to hold themselves in readiness for a rapid mobilisation should a large number of troops assemble in the town again. It has been satisfactory to note that the patrols consider they have gained an invaluable knowledge of street conditions, and have enjoyed the opportunity of helping in a very practical work. If, as a result of this experiment, Women Patrols might be established on a professional footing, we believe that a great step would be gained. In dealing with children under sixteen, particularly in respect to Section 18 of the Children Act, and in the intricate and difficult problems connected with the Social Evil, women officials seem not only desirable but an absolute necessity before the progress can be made."

### WOMEN SUBSTITUTES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The Civil Service Commissioners have addressed a circular to each Government Department setting forth the conditions under which women clerks may be assigned for temporary service with a view to releasing officials of military age to serve with the colours. The terms are as follows:—

1. For typing, operating duplicating machines, and ordinary sorting or routine work, 18s.-20s. a week, with overtime at the rate of 6d. an hour.
2. For ordinary clerical work, 21s. to 25s. a week, with overtime at the rate of 7d. an hour.
3. For shorthand-typing, 26s. a week, with overtime at the rate of 9d.
4. For higher clerical and supervising work, 30s. a week, with overtime at the rate of 9d. an hour.

Male clerks employed as temporary substitutes are paid 31s. 6d. a week and the inferior rates offered to women are exciting considerable indignation. The various women's associations who are helping the Board of Trade in recruiting women for war service strongly insist that women should be paid at the same rate as the men they replace, and in this they are supported by the Trade Unions. It is feared that the bad example set by the Government will be used by outside employers to exploit women's labour.

### WOMEN ON EMERGENCY COMMITTEES.

Closely following on the Deputation of Women on May 7th, introduced to the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire by the Hon. Mrs. Fordham, comes the welcome news that she has received from him, saying that he has nominated her and Miss Sargent (Girton) as members of the Central Emergency Committee for the County, and has had letters sent out in his name suggesting, too, that the Chairmen of Local Committees should add women to the Committees.




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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 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.

### On Thrift.

If you want to kill a virtue, isolate it from the running stream of life. Thrift has been so isolated. It is regarded merely as an inherent capacity for saving, which most of us thank heaven we were not born with. It is felt, however, to be a virtue very proper to women, and also to all classes of society other than our own. "The wastefulness of the poor" is a constant complaint of the wealthy, and "the extravagance of the rich" is an offence to the workers. As to women, "thrift" is an adjective surely coined to qualify "housewife." If a business man piles up savings, we prefer to call him "substantial," a shopkeeper is "prosperous," and a working man is "well-to-do." The woman is "thrift" or "frugal," and this not when she makes much of her life, but when she pours forth her energies on paring and scraping, and turning and darning. So thrift droops and dies among us.

Now, surely, thrift, properly so-called, is not the art of saving alone, but the art of thriving. It is the capacity for attaining to well-being without leakage of energy, it is the marshalling of resources so that every ounce of material is transmuted into force. Emerson gave a striking definition of prudence as "God taking thought for oxen"; he saw prudence as the application of spiritual power to lowly uses, and he repudiates "a prudence which adores the Rule of Three, which never subscribes, which never gives, which seldom lends, and asks but one question of any project—"Will it bake bread?" "This," he says, "is a disease like a thickening of the skin until the vital organs are destroyed." Here, then, is the whole trouble. Thrift is unpopular, because, in its deep isolation from life, it is occupied in little specific acts of saving, not in the one great act of wise living. At best, it just enables us to muddle through, not to go forward with vigour and strenuousness. In war time this failure in thrift is recognised and deplored. A world at war throws thrift to the winds, and when its resources strain to breaking-point, it turns in desperation to its non-combatants, above all to its women, and implores them to practice economy. How to be thriving in war time! There is irony in the problem; but already women have contributed something very substantial to its solution. Not that their thriftiest acts are always regarded as thrift! Maternity work, the care of infants, medical work, health visiting, nursing at home and abroad, patrol work, provision for recreation, and general watchfulness over the interests of women, girls and children, all these are forms of thrift quite as surely as cookery demonstrations and the study of food values. In every one of these ways, countless multitudes of women, all the world over, have been hard at work since August last, in a despairing effort to stop up the awful leakage of war. They are fighting against desperate odds, but they will fight to the end, and the more scope they are allowed, the greater their success will be. Already this is recognised, and women are trusted increasingly. Many hospitals are entirely in their hands. Just now we are all asked to husband our resources to the uttermost; that, again, is a question for women, who will instantly recognise that there are families for whom "more meat" would be sounder economy than "less meat," while large numbers would flourish exceedingly on simpler fare. Another way in which women can help the nation to adjust its resources with discrimination is by serving, so far as they may, on those bodies which distribute allowances of any sort, or deal with the lives of women and

children. That priceless time and energy should still be wasted on endless deputations and demands for the adequate representation of women on all such bodies is just one of those forms of extravagance which the nation cannot afford to-day. But thrift has a further significance for women. It means forethought and wisdom of a yet more practical order. The end of the war may seem daily to recede; nevertheless, the end will come, and it is against that day of exhaustion as well as for the present moment, that some women at least are already exercising forethought, and making careful provision. We need give only two instances—those who are now entering upon medical training for service in future years, and those who are pondering questions of lasting peace, seeking solutions, and promoting goodwill with a view to ending for ever that most gigantic crime against thrift and well-being, of which every war in history is the embodiment.

## National Food Economy.

### THE HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION.

A meeting of the Fabian Women's Group was held in the Fabian Hall on Wednesday, May 19th, with Mr. Emil Davies in the chair.

Miss Atkinson advocated the adoption of large scale households, a title which she preferred to that of Co-operative households. She thought that household management should be carried on scientifically, in the same way as factories were conducted. In large scale industries, the division of labour was organised and hours were regulated, which led to a saving of labour and also to better work. Specially constructed machinery could be used, which would not be possible in small scale industries; work could be carried on under skilled supervision, and one piece of work could be dovetailed into another. The care of a house and children was one of the most important and responsible occupations, and needed really expert skill and knowledge; yet it was largely undertaken by untrained women, who often had no aptitude for it, and often disliked it.

She considered that the position of the majority of married women to-day was that of the working man before the industrial revolution. They were, in a way, serfs, in so much that they were expected to perform a certain piece of work for which no fixed payment was received.

In most households no use was made of machinery worth speaking about. Mistresses as a rule were unskilled in general organisation, unable to keep accounts, unskilled supervisors, and lacking in technical capacity. Households were run on the same lines to-day as they were a hundred years ago, with very little improvement. It ought to be possible to find some means of introducing large-scale methods into housekeeping, and if care and intelligence were used, to combine all requirements of the family without introducing barrack or hotel life. We wanted the formation of communities which would be able to take full value of mechanical efficiency, to have the advantages of high-scale industries combined with simplicity, comfort, and privacy. It ought to be possible for families to have separate dwelling-houses with hot water laid on, vacuum cleaning, and skilled service. Food should be served from a central kitchen, to be partaken of either in the family dwelling-house, or served at separate tables in the common dining-room. Attached to such an establishment should be a place for children, where proper skilled care would be available.

Mrs. McKillop followed Miss Atkinson, and spoke of the sociological aspect of the domestic servant. She said that the principal objection to domestic service was the status of the servant, and drew attention to the large amount of personal service which was expected from a servant in this country, comparing the duties with those of a servant in other countries. In America the domestic servant was an expert, and gave very little personal service. She deprecated the composite character of the average servant in a middle-class household—the cook-general, who often did the work of two servants—and thought that only in large households would the servant get the status she desired. In institutions, hotels, and well organised large households, as a rule, the servant was an expert, and her duties were defined.

The solution of the problem might lie in guilds, which could be formed by the servants themselves. From these guilds, daily maids might be sent out; they could wear a uniform, and could attain some sort of decent status. She advocated the establishment of clubs to which resident servants could belong, and which eventually might develop into residential hostels where arrangements could be made to send out servants for every kind of work.

### DEMONSTRATIONS FOR WORKING WOMEN.

The Guildford Suffrage Society has just completed a series of the National Food Fund's Economy Demonstrations. A set of six lectures for mistresses and cooks, and six for working women, were given at the Technical Institute, Guildford, which was lent by the Education Committee. The mistresses and cooks' demonstrations were held on Friday mornings, from 10.30 to 12, the charge being 10s. for the course of six, and were fairly well attended. Those for working women were on Friday afternoons, from 2.30 to 4. These were most popular, and the attendance varied from twenty to thirty. The women showed great interest and appreciation, tried the dishes between the classes, and asked questions about them. They seemed especially interested in the soup made from scraps usually thrown away; also in various ways of using up cold meat and in salads made of pieces of cold cooked vegetables.

The hay box fireless cooker aroused their enthusiasm, and several of them procured sugar boxes at once and made cookers for themselves. One of them said that it had made the whole difference to her work on washing day. She prepared the mid-day dinner at 8 o'clock in the morning, before she began her washing, brought it to the boil on the gas stove, and then put it in the hay box and thought no more of it until her husband came in for his dinner at one, when a hot and perfectly cooked meal was ready for him. On the day of the last demonstration, all the women thanked the lecturer and said what an enormous help the classes had been to them. These lectures were free, but it is thought that the women would have preferred to pay a small fee, and that it would be advisable for anyone arranging classes to charge 1s. for the course.

The Society arranged another set of lectures for mistresses and cooks, and a set for working women, at Bramley, and these were equally successful. It seems that the National Food Fund demonstrations supply a real need and are tremendously appreciated by the working women.

### HOW TO INCREASE THE FOOD SUPPLY.

The Joint Food Supply Committee of Associated Women's Societies (such as the Women's Industrial Council, the Fabian Women's Group, and various women's Trade Unions) are issuing an appeal to women in rural districts to help in conserving the food supply. A woman's deputation asked the Board of Agriculture to establish a cheap motor-mail service to call at every village each evening for hampers of produce destined for the central markets. Such a scheme, it is thought, would greatly assist the cottage producers, who have, perhaps, only a few pots of honey or a couple of dozen eggs, to dispose of their goods. An arrangement of this sort has long been asked for by agricultural societies, without result; but the Board of Agriculture has now informed the women that such a scheme could, no doubt, be arranged if there is a general demand for it.\* The women also suggest the formation of evening classes to teach the best methods of fruit preserving, poultry-rearing, dairy-work, &c., and these are already being formed, aided by expert teachers from the Women's Agricultural Colleges.

### "FACTS FOR PATRIOTS."

The National Food Reform Association (178, St. Stephen's House, Westminster Bridge, S.W.) has issued a useful little book, "Facts for Patriots" (price 3d.), dealing chiefly with the part vegetables and fruit should take in the diet, and giving the best ways of preparing and cooking them. The value of sugar and bread is also dealt with, and the need for a Pure Food Act is urged.

### "HALF ITS CITIZENS."

A meeting organised by the Liverpool Branch of the Federation of University Women was held recently at the University, to discuss "Some Professional Careers for Women." The Vice-Chancellor, in closing the meeting, made some observations on women's service to the nation, which are well worth quoting:—"As long as a State used only one-half of its citizens for social, economic, or public service, it was weak where it might be strong, and poor where it might be rich. The opposition that still remained was due not so much to selfishness as to sentiment, which was often equally hard and unreasoning. The prejudices of women themselves must also be overcome. The question of finance was difficult, but it ought to be recognised that a girl's claims were no less important than those of a boy. The best endowment of a daughter was not money but education."

\*The suggestion is made that the drivers, packers, and porters might be women.

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Prospectuses giving full information as to courses of study, examinations, etc., will be forwarded on application to THE REGISTRAR.

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## Answering the Call.

A year ago Brighton station was thronged with pleasure seekers, but to-day it is transformed. It is making history. Instead of the long trains filled with holiday folk, long trains of wounded come gliding in; skilful orderlies tenderly lift the stretchers into the waiting ambulances which drive rapidly to the military hospitals. Later in the day, long trains steam out of the station carrying sturdy British soldiers to fill the gaps in the firing line. It is all done very quietly, for English people are noisy over their games and holidays, but they never attract attention to themselves when they are doing their utmost their duty to their King and country. It is "men only" for the trenches, but when the equally deadly but more subtle enemy of disease is to be fought, women also take their place in the forefront of danger.

Ever since the war began the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has done notable work in equipping and sending out hospital units composed of women; therefore a thrilling incident that took place at Brighton station on Thursday, April 29th, will be of special interest to them.

It was like most events that take place there, very quiet, almost unnoticeable except to those who knew; just a group of friends and well-wishers gathered round a khaki-clad lady who wore on her arm a blue band with a red cross on it, as did two of her companions. The little party made the usual remarks heard on station platforms until it was time for the passengers to take their seats. Then there was a moment of tension, a flutter of handkerchiefs, and a chorus of good-byes as the train slipped off on its way to Southampton. The khaki-clad lady was Dr. Helen Boyle (a member of the N.U.W.S.S.), who, with Miss Walters and Miss Thackeray, was on her way to the Anglo-Serbian Hospital at Vrangatcka Banja.

Settling in Hove in 1897, Dr. Boyle practically founded and became senior physician of the Nervous Branch of the Lady Chichester Hospital; a hospital that ought to be more widely known among those interested in women's work, as it is doing such excellent work in all its branches—the Dispensary and the much needed Medical and Surgical Branch in Ditchling Road as well as the Branch for Nervous Diseases. The last named, however, is of special interest, as it is, at present, the only hospital of its kind in England. After qualifying, Dr. Boyle spent some time as Resident in a County Asylum and afterwards became physician in a Medical Mission in a part of London from whence many of her asylum patients had come. Here she gained knowledge of the conditions under which these women lived; to use her own expression, "saw the asylum patients in the making." Realising their strain and anxiety, she also realised that a bottle of medicine and the injunction not to worry was in some cases, to put it mildly, inadequate. When she settled in Hove, she again came across many early nervous cases among the patients who attended the "Lady Doctors" Dispensary; and her accumulated experiences at length took shape in the second branch of the hospital.

Many a poor woman suffers from nervous strain, owing to overwork or lack of food, which again is often owing to lack of an adequate wage. While not eligible for an ordinary hospital, she is in need of careful treatment. It is essential that she should be taken away from her usual surroundings. Such cases are admitted to the Nervous Branch of the Lady Chichester Hospital; its aim being to restore to a useful place in the world just such invalids, valuable people, being often mothers of families or breadwinners on whom the comfort of the house depends. How much such a hospital was needed is shown by the yearly reports: applications for admission being received from every part of England and Wales, and occasionally from Ireland. Begun in a small house in Roundhill Crescent, it soon became necessary to enlarge its accommodation, and in 1912 the present house at 70, Brunswick Place, Hove, was opened. Here there are thirty-three beds, yet there is always a long list of patients waiting for admission.

But to-day, there are so many needing medical help. It has become a question as to whose needs are greatest, therefore, to those who knew her it was not a surprise to hear that Dr. Boyle had answered the call for help from Serbia, and had joined the Royal Free Hospital Unit there. Because time was valuable, she did not wait for a large band of helpers, but, as soon as the essentials were obtained, went with her two companions hoping others would follow later. These essentials, according to instructions received from the Anglo-Serbian Hospital, were a fresh disinfectant, a Horsfalls' destructor, a Mackenzie spray, a Climax spray, and several insecticides, for the fight against typhus is, to a great extent, a fight against the lice that carry

the disease. What a veritable plague they are those of us in England can hardly realise, but the doctors and nurses find it necessary to wear bandages soaked in camphor round their neck, wrists, and ankles, to keep the insects away.

By a happy accident I had tea with Dr. Boyle the day before she left Brighton, and saw the presents and mascots sent to her by friends of more than one country and of various beliefs. There was one, a scientific mascot, in which she had the utmost faith; this was a large tin of jelly-like compound called vermi jelly. It embodies the result of much labour and research on the part of the pathologist at the Lister Institute, and is infallible. Then there were the uniforms to be seen. A khaki skirt and coat with shoulder straps on which were the letters A.S.H. (Anglo-Serbian Hospital); and for the "disinfectant," Miss Thackeray, a special working dress, which completely covered her and was suggestive of a diver's dress without the breathing tubes. A welcome addition to the equipment was a serviceable light-running motor; as both Miss Thackeray and Miss Walters have drivers' certificates this will be invaluable.

Questions about the transport, "Nevasca," could not be answered; full knowledge of the route being one of the secrets of the War Office. Even those who went with the party to Southampton were not allowed on board, so nothing further could be learned except that comfortable cabins amidships had been allotted to the doctor and her party, and that letters would be sent out once a fortnight by a King's Messenger.

A telegram announced their safe arrival at Malta; there the party left the transport, and after a few days' delay travelled by cargo boat to Salonica, which was reached on Thursday, May 20th. No further news has been received, so we must leave them journeying to their perilous task.

The Government which denies women the vote does not deny them the right to sacrifice their health and even their lives to aid their country and her Allies. Surely when this terrible war is over the same Government will realise that to enfranchise women will be the only fitting acknowledgment of the splendid work they have done in this hour of need.

A. H. BENNETT.

### SHEFFIELD MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MADAM,—Attention has been directed of late to the increasing demand for medical women. In considering the facilities offered for training them, the newer Universities in the industrial towns of the North of England have tended to be overlooked. Sheffield University, for example, has an admirably equipped Medical Department, with up-to-date laboratories and museums. Wide clinical experience can be obtained in the various city hospitals, where the students are regularly instructed by a distinguished group of medical and surgical specialists. The cost of living is lower than in London, and, owing to their smaller numbers, students receive more attention than in older and more developed schools. It is also worth noticing that a number of local appointments are open to medical women.

LETTICE FISHER.

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

Dr. Alice Hutchinson has been busy tending British wounded. She writes to the headquarters in Edinburgh: "The censor is said to be severe, so I cannot give you some details which would have interested and amused you. Discretion is the better part of valour." A wire announces that she was to leave Malta last Sunday for Salonika.

Mrs. Harley writes:—"General de Toray paid us a short visit yesterday; he is very much interested in our scheme. He was much amused to see that we had already commandeered a number of tables lent to us by a marchand de vin, and told us he did not think there could have been anything to lend from the whole town, as there had been such a demand from other hospitals."

The National Union is at the present time supporting 800 beds in France and Serbia, but further help is urgently required to carry on the work of our units. Subscriptions very gratefully received either by Miss S. E. S. Mair, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Contributions for the London Unit should be sent to Lady Cowdray, 16, Carlton House Terrace, S.W.

The Welsh Societies are providing an excellent motor ambulance.

Gifts in kind, as follows, will be gratefully received by Miss S. E. S. Mair, at 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or by Miss Hunter, Equipment Sec., London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. They should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the donors:—

Bed jackets, dressing-gowns, bedroom slippers, pyjamas (flannel and cotton), day shirts (flannel and cotton), blankets (old and new), draw sheets, feather pillows, sheets, towels of all sorts, pillow cases, helpless case shirts, pants, vests, hot-water bottles (rubber), hot-water bottle covers.

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I have made arrangements for cutting out Shirts, Pyjamas, etc.—all ready to make up—with Buttons and Neckbands complete—for Ladies sewing parties. Prices vary according to material required, samples of which can be forwarded immediately.

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FURTHER LIST OF DONATIONS.

Table listing donations to the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital, including names, amounts, and addresses.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table listing named beds and their donors, such as 'Dumfries & Maxwelltown' and 'Wilhelmina'.

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

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss Evelyn Atkinson, Miss Edith Palliser (Literature). Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Acherbach. Secretary: Miss Crookenden.

Press Report.

Good reports of Women's Suffrage meetings have appeared in The Birmingham Post, Surrey Times, and Surrey Advertiser.

An appeal in The Ladies' Field for the endowment of beds in Serbia, in memory of Miss Nell Fraser has already resulted in subscriptions amounting to £815 11s. 11d.

Active Service Fund.

Table showing Active Service Fund contributions, including 'Already acknowledged' and 'Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund'.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table showing contributions to the General Fund from various W.S.S. branches across different regions.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Oxford Women Student's Society for Women's Suffrage.

A meeting was held at Oxford on Tuesday, May 11th, in aid of the Belgian Repatriation Committee, which acts in concurrence with Belgian authorities.

Such relief work in Belgium would aim at helping the Belgians set the wheels of their own life going again. It would come during the early months of chaos, when the most home-loving people of Europe would be rushing back to their country.

Council of the School shall deem requisite for the completion of the medical course of the scholar.

A candidate for the Scholarship must satisfy the following conditions:-

- (a) She must have had a three years' College course previous to her application... (b) She must have passed an examination admitting to a degree course in the Faculty of Medicine in the University of London.

M. Sabatier on the War.

Mr. Cameron Mawson writes to bring to the notice of our readers a criticism by Mr. Carl Heath, Secretary of the National Peace Council, of M. Paul Sabatier's letter on the war.

In answer to M. Sabatier's claim "that it is to the honour of Belgium, France, and their Allies to have seen at once the spiritual nature of this war," Mr. Heath asks, "what is the perception of the spiritual nature of this war which the Allies have seen and their enemies have not?"

We know that this claim to a spiritual basis is equally put forward by vast numbers of Germans, whose faith and intent cannot be disputed. I am not speaking of the point of view which has given rise to the many military and political brutalities.

Applications have been received from a considerable number of skilled workers, and the number accepted depends on the money raised.

Society for Promoting the Employment of Women.

Her Majesty the Queen has given £50 to the Educated Women's War Emergency Training Fund, out of the money presented to her by the wives of Freemasons.

"The Queen's Own."

The Melbourne mail brings news of the first party of girl emigrants who left London last February to start life afresh in Australia, with the assistance of the Queen's "Work for Women Fund."

Women's Union for Peace.

A very successful public meeting of the above Union was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday evening, May 18th (the sixteenth anniversary of the first Hague Conference).

Those wishing to become members of the Women's Union for Peace, or willing to render help in any way, should communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. Cunningham, 114, Holmleigh Road, Stamford Hill, London, N.

The Pioneer Players.

On Sunday, May 30th, at 8 p.m., the Pioneer Players are producing Mr. Lawrence Irving's "Godefroi and Yolande" at the Playhouse.

Forthcoming Meetings.

Table listing forthcoming meetings, including dates, locations, and speakers, such as Edinburgh, Muswell Hill, and South Kensington.

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Ten words, 9d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. Four insertions for the price of three. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB**, 3, York Street, St. James's. Meeting, Tuesday, June 1st, 8 p.m. F.C.L.W.S. Speaker, Rev. A. Graham Barton. Chair, Mrs. Holman. Subject: "Woman: her past values, present position, and future possibilities."

**PERSONAL.**

**IF ANY READER OF THE COMMON CAUSE** should possess a copy in French of Rostand's "Les Deux Pierrots," would they be so kind as to lend it to Miss Olive Jetley, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Gt. Smith-st.

**POSITION VACANT.**

**LADY REPRESENTATIVES** for London and Suburbs, required immediately to introduce the latest and most up-to-date insurance feature, urgently needed owing to the War; whole or part time.—Write for appointment to the London Manager, General Accident, Fire & Life Assurance Corp., Ltd., General Bldgs., Aldwych, W.C.

**MOTORING, Etc.**

**LADY TEACHES MOTOR DRIVING, RUNNING REPAIRS, ENGINE INSTRUCTION.** Ladies trained as Private Chauffeurs or as Drivers of Vans. Hon. G. BORTHWICK, 55c, Greencoat Place, Ashley Gardens, S.W.

**MOTOR MECHANISM & DRIVING, ADVANCED COURSES.**

Expert advice on Automobile, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering matters. MISS C. GRIFF, Consulting Engineer, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly, W. (late of 52, New Bond St.)

**GARDENING, &c.**

**CANADIAN LADY** taking a cottage in Glos. would take one or two pupils to learn gardening and farming. Terms moderate.—Box 5,073, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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**HASLUCK'S ACADEMY**, 3, Bedford-st., Strand, W.C. Elocution, public speaking. Evening classes from 7s. 6d. quarter; day, 41 1s. Phone, 2363 Gerrard.

**MRS. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A.** recovers overpaid Income Tax, buys or sells Stocks and Shares, effects all kinds of Insurances and Annuities, Mortgages, Loans, or Reversions, or any business of a legal or financial nature.—Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. Phone: Central 6048.

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**HANDSWORTH, Birmingham**, offers careers for women. Students assisted in finding posts. Certificates awarded. Two reduced vacancies for those affected by the War.—Miss Ross, Principal.

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**ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY**, 69, Upper Street, N. **MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist**, Mr. FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Yrs. Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man. Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door. **CONSULTATION FREE.** Telephone: North 3795.

**STAMMERERS** should learn about the "Eumetro" treatment. Interesting booklet and advice sent free.—Wm. Wareing, Netherville, Whalley, near Blackburn.

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**ARTISTIC hand-embroidered dresses, coats, and jabbaqs.** Special prices during war time. Designs, &c., on application.—Maud Barham (Late 186, Regent-st.), 33-34, Haymarket, S.W. Facing Piccadilly Tube Station.

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**BUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY**, 19-20, Second-Avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Hand-done shirts and collars. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

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**SECOND-HAND CLOTHING** wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**TO LET.**

**A NICE little Bed-sitting-room**, furnished, 7s. 6d. per week.—Mrs. Winter, 32, Doughty-st., Mecklenburgh-square, W.C.

**DR. ELEANOR SOLTAU**, with Serbian Unit, desires to let furnished detached house, adjoining links, Sheringham. Also comfortable caravan. Moderate terms.—Particulars, Miss Eade-Browne, 26, George-st., Hanover-sq., London.

**FEAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD.**—Three coast-guard cottages, furnished; rent very moderate.—Apply, Northover & Sons, London Hoe, Bridport.

**FURNISHED FLAT** to be let from end of May for about 3 months; 1 minute from High-st. Station; 6th floor; lift; very light and airy; electric light; constant hot water (central); 1 reception, 3 bedrooms, dining-hall, kitchen range, and gas cooker; rent, 4 guineas.—Stoehr, 109, Ivernia-court, Kensington.

**LADY OFFERED** nicely furnished Bedroom, use L bathroom, in home of professional woman.—Write, Mrs. S., 16, Oakley-st., Chelsea, S.W.

**LADY WISHES TO LET** furnished bed-sitting room L in flat; light and airy, pleasant outlook, central position.—Box 5,076, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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