

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*

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

Notes and News.

The Political Outlook.

Parliament reassembled on Tuesday, October 16th. At the time of going to press it is expected that the Report stage of the Representation of the People Bill will be begun quite shortly, and that the Bill will be sent up to the House of Lords next month.

Public Health.

Very great disappointment is felt in many quarters at the Prime Minister's reply to the deputation from the Standing Committee of Approved Societies, the Association of Insurance Committees, and the Friendly Societies, which he received last week with regard to the proposed Bill on the creation of a Ministry of Health. While expressing his sympathy with all the arguments advanced in favour of the Bill, he held out very little hope of its passage during the war. It was one of those attractive proposals, he said, which led to endless controversy, and added that, "However urgent it may be, we cannot introduce things of that kind in the middle of a great war."

There is a conflict of views between the Insurance Committees and Approved Societies on the one hand, and the Local Government Board on the other, and their clashing has apparently brought the whole scheme to a standstill. Meanwhile, our babies keep on dying by thousands. Seeing the urgency of the need, is it not possible for the two rival authorities to come to some working agreement?

Hitherto both the Local Government Board and the Insurance Committees have done remarkably little for the care of maternity. In 1915, the Local Government Board introduced a Bill for giving wide powers to local authorities, and then struck out all the clauses that made the Bill really effective as far as England is concerned, so that the municipalities of this country still lack opportunities that have been enjoyed by Scotland and Ireland for the past two years. The provision made for maternity under the Insurance Act is equally unsatisfactory, and the establishment of an adequate midwifery service is a crying need that seems little likely to be secured during the war.

National Housing.

In connection with the Local Government Board's scheme for

State-aided housing, many local Councils are making an estimate of the housing accommodation that will be needed after the war. But it is to be feared that very little attempt has been made to obtain evidence and suggestions from women with regard to housing conditions in their district.

An account of the effort made by an enterprising body of village women to obtain recognition for their views will be found on page 330.

Middle-Class Women and National Service.

It is unfortunate that in his appeal to those women who are not yet doing anything to help the country, Sir Auckland Geddes should have used the easily misunderstood term, "middle-class women." He is reported to have said, "I know the women of the country have been splendid, but those who have shown this splendour belong, on the average, either to the working-class or to the upper-class." Unless Sir Auckland Geddes defines the middle-class in some extraordinarily narrow way, and excludes from it all the thousands of women who are working in Government offices on the one hand, and all the bus conductors, railway-women, skilled agricultural workers, and munition workers on the other, this is quite ludicrously untrue and unjust. Perhaps Sir Auckland Geddes places all these women either in the upper-class or the working-class. *The Daily Chronicle* apparently finds them among highly educated women, and boldly contends that the present state of affairs proves that *the whole of our elaborate system of higher education for women has failed*. Not only does it seem to have unsettled middle-class girls for their duties as housewives and mothers, but also to have prevented them becoming of real practical value in times of national emergency, as they would undoubtedly have been if left to follow their grandmother's doctrine of domesticity and nothing else." This is indeed a sweeping and mysterious accusation against higher education, and since it is proved, there is, of course, nothing to be said, but we confess we should much like to know where *The Daily Chronicle* finds its proofs, and where Sir Auckland Geddes finds his middle-class.

International News of Women's Suffrage.

We publish this week a letter from Miss Sheepshanks on the subject of *Jus Suffragii*, the International Women's Suffrage News. There was never a time when it was so necessary for Suffragists to be international in their outlook as the present. The deep and bitter tide of war divides the nations, but men and women of goodwill in all countries are looking to a future, when it will be possible to build up a new world in which such calamities do not happen. Freedom and knowledge of each other are the only things which will make that world possible: Our sufferings will, indeed, have been vain, if we are so overwhelmed by them as to forget to strive for those two things. It helps to be faithful to freedom if we know what women, like-minded with ourselves, are doing in other lands, and now when the practical difficulties of communication even between citizens of the Allied nations grow greater every day, we should not neglect such a means of knowledge as is offered to us in *Jus Suffragii*.

£500 for the "Common Cause" Hut!

We are delighted to record that a generous friend has given us the noble gift of £500 for our hut in France, "in gratitude for Suffrage work." We are indeed thankful and glad.

Boys and Girls in Industrial Life.

One of the urgent questions which both at the present time and during the critical period of reconstruction after the war should be occupying the thoughts of the nation, is that of the welfare of the younger industrial workers. Now, more than ever before, it is necessary that the best possible use should be made of boys and girls. They should not be allowed to slip unadvised into industry, and whatever may be their method of entry, they must not be lost sight of in the general mass of industrial workers. They must be so trained either in the school, or in the workshop, or in both places, that they may form good material with which to replace some of the fallen and shattered men. For it is the children who are to inherit the land for whose sake their fathers have suffered. To guide them into industry, and exercise a friendly care over them during the first years of their industrial life, is a task of great magnitude.

The work has been grappled with by an organisation operating within the area of the London County Council. In the present article no complete explanation of the work of the Committee or of its scope can be given, but readers may be interested to learn something of the actual care and thought which are being exercised on behalf of the boys and girls leaving school and entering industrial life.

It is hoped that when conditions of Peace make it possible to obtain the co-operation of many social workers, the London organisation will admit of the provision of assistance in finding suitable employment for all boys and girls leaving school, and of the exercise of friendly supervision during the years between fourteen and seventeen. Such supervision is essential to the general welfare of boys and girls during the years immediately following their transference from the disciplined atmosphere of the school to the atmosphere of the workroom, the factory, and the street, in which each must learn to control himself and build for himself some way of life which, if it is to be satisfactory, must permit of the earning of a livelihood and the obtaining and proper use of leisure time.

A Committee has been set up composed of representatives of the Local Education Authority, of employers, of workpeople, and of persons interested in the welfare of boys and girls. This Committee, which was appointed under the Labour Exchanges Act, is known as the London (Central) Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment, and has its office at the Divisional Office for Employment Exchanges (London and South-Eastern Division), Martlett House, Bow Street, W.C. 2. It has established local Committees attached to each of the London Employment Exchanges, in order that close touch may be established with the School Care Committees and the head teachers, on whose co-operation the success of the scheme depends to a very great extent. The composition of the local Committees follows the lines of that of the Central Committee.

To obtain the co-operation of teachers, arrangements are made for holding at the schools meetings to which parents, and children about to leave school, are invited. The children and their parents are interviewed by the head-teacher of the school, one or two members of the School Care Committee, and, whenever possible, an officer of the appropriate Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment, who is in touch with employers not only in the immediate neighbourhood, but also in other parts of London. The general question of employment is discussed with the parents, who are asked if arrangements have already been made for the placing of the child, or whether the assistance of the Advisory Committee at the Employment Exchange—or of some other placing agency, such as the Apprenticeship and Skilled Employment Association—would be useful to them. Particulars of the whole of the children who are interviewed at the Conference are subsequently sent to the Advisory Committee, and in cases where the parent has expressed a wish for the Committee's assistance, a search is made for the desired type of employment. That this advice is given by the right people and in the right way is proved by the fact that most parents welcome the interest shown in their child's welfare both at the School Conference and subsequently at the Employment Exchange.

The Conference at the school is also attended by a representative of the London County Council Evening Institutes, who endeavours to persuade each child to join the classes appropriate to the kind of work which it is proposed shall be taken up. Provided the child enters the Evening Classes immediately on leaving school, no fee is charged. Sometimes it is necessary to obtain facilities for his attendance, and employers may be asked to rearrange their hours of work. On

some occasions the employer of large numbers of children may wish to provide accommodation for classes on his own premises. Arrangements of this kind are left in the hands of the Evening Institute.

The task of taking a friendly interest in the children, and making a report to the Committee on their welfare and industrial progress, is undertaken by voluntary workers, who act in close touch with any organisation, such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, or Club to which the child may belong. Their duties are by no means always easy. Parents may be too proud or too ignorant to accept advice; children may be too slack or too shy to come and ask for help. Many of them are passing through a restless period of their lives, and it is a long time before they settle down in employment. They miss the discipline of the school and the companionship of a corporate life; their new industrial environment is often full of difficulties and dangers. In such cases no one can so well help the child as the club-worker, the scout leader, the cadet officer, or some person who is known to the child in the social side of his life.

In any case where the child appears to be unsettled, or where there is some difficulty in connection with the work, such as long hours, lack of training, and so on, the Care Committee asks the Local Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment to assist him. The assistance may take many forms. It may be possible, by communicating with the employer, to get the difficulty adjusted; it may be that a friendly talk with the child will clear the air and help him over his trouble, or it may be that the Committee decide that a change of occupation, or at any rate a change of place of occupation, is necessary. According to the circumstances of the case, the child will receive care, advice, admonition, encouragement, and help.

In addition to the supervision exercised in this way through the Care Committee organisation, many of the Advisory Committees arrange for the juveniles who have been placed to come to the Exchange on certain evenings and report progress. All the children are told that they should not give notice to leave their work without consulting the Committee, and there are many cases where they are prevented from giving up really suitable work by the intervention of the Committee. It must not, of course, be thought that the Committee in any way forces its advice on the children, but in a great number of cases the child's desire to leave work, or the parents' desire to take him away from work, has arisen owing to some quite imaginary grievances which the officer of the Advisory Committee, who knows the employer, is able to explain away.

Supervisors and Care Committee workers who may sometimes have felt that much of their reporting is beating the air, and that little use is made of the information they convey to the Advisory Committees, might be greatly encouraged if they were to visit the Exchanges while the children are being interviewed. Their reports, in addition to being of assistance to the officers of the Exchange in dealing with each individual child, are also of use in building up for the Committee a store of information as to the conditions prevailing in the various industries and various firms.

The machinery described does not set out to make a skilled worker of every boy and girl. Even if all were fit for skilled work, there is room in such occupations for only a minority. It does, however, through the close co-operation between those familiar with the educational qualifications of the child, those familiar with his home circumstances, and those who possess a knowledge of industries, assist boys and girls to discover the occupations best suited to their capabilities.

In addition to the work effected in placing children, the Committee may, through its influence with employers, raise the standard as regards some of the less attractive and more monotonous forms of occupation. No necessary form of work should be regarded as lacking in honour and dignity. It is the conditions under which the work is carried out, and not the work itself, which may tend to degrade the worker. The London (Central) Advisory Committee can only very slowly improve the prospects of the young worker, but there is evidence already of the good effect of its work in the fact that it has assisted in setting up in more than one trade satisfactory conditions of juvenile employment.

[Readers of this paper who may wish for further information in connection with the work of the London (Central) Advisory Committee for Juvenile Employment should communicate with the Secretary, Martlett House, Bow Street, W.C. 2.]

Old Maids.

It was a sore subject not so very many years ago—a question involving mortification and some disgrace. "You will be an old maid," says Harriet to Emma Woodhouse, "and that's so dreadful!" If Emma had not been a very superior young woman of some character (and with a comfortable income at her back), she certainly would not have taken the matter as philosophically as she did. "Never mind, Harriet," she answers, "I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public!" And she proceeds to describe her ideal of a life of single blessedness: "Mine is an active, busy mind, with a great many independent resources; and I do not perceive why I should be more in want of employment at forty or fifty than one-and-twenty. Woman's usual occupations of eye and hand and mind, will be as open to me then as they are now, or with no important variation. If I draw less, I shall read more; if I give up music, I shall take to carpet work."

Emma, and Emma's creator, had their lines cast in pleasant places, and though no doubt they had been very correctly taught in their Church Catechism that they should "learn to labour truly to get their own living," the lesson passed lightly from their minds and from the minds of thousands of women living on what Miss Stella Benson calls "the charity of God": an unearned income. In earlier times the convent provided a shelter and in some cases useful occupation for women of this class, but the Georgian and Early Victorian ladies nourished their minds on the "Keepsake" and its fellows, while a little carpet-work, increasing in quantity as their musical output diminished, helped them to wither more or less gracefully. Their relations treated them with a consideration varying in degree in proportion to their expectations of inheriting those independent means which made life so safe and comfortable, while to nephews and nieces they represented a possible source of tips, for the sake of which some boredom had to be endured in their company.

So much for the average old maid of the leisured class, comfortable in mind and body, accommodating herself to the inferior position assigned to her by the society of her day, and getting through life without too much jar or trouble. But there were others, and these an ever-increasing number as life became more strenuous and difficult, women of sensitive minds and women with ever narrowing incomes, to whom celibacy, in the conditions prevailing in society, meant bitter suffering, privations mental and physical, lonely lives destitute of beauty and pleasure. Caroline Helstone faces the problem in a very different spirit from Emma Woodhouse. "Probably I shall be an old maid. . . . What was I created for, I wonder? Where is my place in the world? . . . That is the question which most old maids are puzzled to solve; other people solve it for them by saying, 'Your place is to do good to others; to be helpful whenever help is wanted.' That is right in some measure, and a very convenient doctrine for the people who hold it; but I perceive that certain sets of human beings are very apt to maintain that other sets should give up their lives to them and their service, and then they requite them by praise; they call them devoted and virtuous. Is this enough? Is it to live? Is there not a terrible hollowiness, mockery, want, craving, in that existence which is given away to others for want of something of your own to bestow it on? I suspect there is. Does virtue lie in abnegation of self? I do not believe it. Undue humility makes tyranny; weak concession creates selfishness. . . . Each human being has his share of rights. I suspect it would conduce to the happiness and welfare of all if each knew his allotment, and held to it as tenaciously as the martyr to his creed."

The years separating Jane Austen from the Brontë sisters are not many, but there is a whole world of difference in the outlook. "Each human being has his share of rights." The iron has entered into the soul of these old maids in the grim North-country. While to Thackeray the "tender little parasite" is still the ideal heroine, these women, brought early by suffering into contact with the struggles and the tragedies of life as it appears to the great mass of women, have shaken off illusion, and have realised that the solution of the problem lies in self-respect and independence rather than in unreasoning sacrifice for unworthy objects. It was a lesson worth learning, and one which women to-day are fast acquiring, as the harder facts of life are brought into the lives of more and more of them.

From being regarded with some contempt, the old maid was in a fair way to becoming a problem in the eyes of many, even a danger in the eyes of some. Suddenly, with the coming of war, she became instead an asset, a very valuable part of

the community. She was urged, implored, to take her share in the work of the State; every argument was used to induce her to leave the home which had been considered the one safe place for her. What is to be her position when peace comes again? In the days before 1914 it was frequently said that there were too many women. At present there are not enough for all the tasks for which they are needed. Are they again to be regarded as superfluous in days to come? Will the nation, having once tapped a great reservoir of reserved energy, commit the folly of once again blocking the outlet?

Much will be in the hands of the women themselves; much more than in the days before the war. There is a danger that some of them may not yet have learnt their lesson. The class to which Emma belonged still continues; if they do less drawing and music they play more golf and bridge. They have no brighter outlook than that of the old maid of last century, and no higher ambitions. But they have had, the majority of them, three years of training in which they have had the opportunity of enlarging their sympathies and improving their education. Add to all this the fact that within a short space of time the old maid is to turn citizen in the full sense of the word, and the prospect for her future is brighter than it has ever been. The commonwealth will be the richer for the old maids who have been its support in days of adversity, and has the right to expect full work from those who are full citizens.

VIOLET EUSTACE.

Refugees.

I climbed into a carriage at Paddington, found with difficulty a place for each foot, and grasped the rail of the rack. I was the third who was standing, and the train was not to start for fifteen minutes. I had a feeling of irritation at the discomfort to be endured at the hands and persons of refugees: they were interfering with my regular journey home to my quiet and safe country residence—indubitably a desirable funk-hole, though my home for too long for it to be a reproach in my case, which gave me a sense of superiority.

Quickly I became conscious of a suppressed air of suspense and excitement in the compartment. It centred round a middle-aged, bright, brown-eyed woman nursing a tabby cat. Beside her sat a rather worn-looking man, likewise decorated with a tabby. I had apparently interrupted a tale, for it was quickly taken up, the brown, friendly eyes collecting my attention and ranging it with that of fourteen other rapt auditors.

"Yes," she said, "we went to stay with friends at Maidenhead for Saturday and Sunday nights, and this morning we walked from the station to our house, and there it was, done in by a bomb, from top to bottom. I took one look at it, and I says, 'Oh, Tom, the cats!' I ran over the ruins—look at my boots, and you'll see what I ran thro'"—(we all looked, fascinated)—"and there, where the kitchen was, were the two cats. Tom, he took one, and I took the other, and they've never left us since."

The hands, gloved and ungloved, dirty and clean, of all of us stretched forward; we all stroked a cat; we touched it reverently. These cats had been through the real thing; their owners were refugees with a vengeance! All stiffness and stand-offishness melted; a woman offered me a seat on her suit-case; they tried to make the other standers more comfortable. The vivacious brown eyes collected us again; our hands still furtively stroked the pussies at intervals.

"We have been photographed for the papers, each with a cat," she said, "but not in front of the house, because of the Censor."

"Which paper?" said everyone. She wasn't sure, but we all announced our intention of buying every paper next day. We could actually say, "We've touched those cats—we've talked to those people." We felt we ourselves basked in the light of this stupendous incident.

"What about the furniture?" said someone.

"Nothing left to call furniture," replied the husband. "Insured, I hope?" said a voice. "Unfortunately no," said the husband. We all looked sorrowful. "Never name it," said the brown-eyed lady; "I've got my husband, and the cats are safe." She put her hand softly on her husband's arm—the other hand caressed the cat. "Thank God we've enough money to buy more furniture; there's those who've lost more than furniture!" "Indeed, yes!" said an oldish lady in black; and we knew that she had suffered, and were silent for a moment. At Slough some got out, and I got a seat next the husband, where I could stroke a cat freely. Others got in, to stand, and were inclined to grumble. We all looked to our friend, and at once the newcomers had the whole story with

its simple note of gratitude and brave disregard of material losses. It again produced a curious atmosphere of concord and sympathy in the carriage.

At Maidenhead they rose to leave, and on an impulse I said to the husband, "I'm glad to have met your wife. It has been a lesson in courage." "Ah!" he said, "she has got pluck. She pulls me along—she's braver than me." And he cuddled his cat and left us.

The train started on, and an old countrywoman, prim and toothless, reopened the conversation. "Funny how little she thought of her furniture. She said you could buy more furniture: as if you couldn't get more cats!" We smiled. Encouraged, she added, "Now, if it had been my daughter's cat, I could have understood it."

J. T. O.

IN MEMORIAM.

MISS MARY GURNEY.

The closely allied movements for women's education and women's suffrage have lost a life-long and deeply-valued friend through the death last week of Miss Mary Gurney. From her youth upwards she made the improvement of girls' education, both secondary and higher, her life's work, and was indefatigable, practical, sagacious, and courageous in her outlook upon the whole subject. After the report of the Schools Enquiry Commission which did so much to reveal the appallingly backward condition of girls' schools in the 'sixties of the last century she, in conjunction with Mrs. William Grey, Miss Shirriff and others helped to found the Girls' Public Day School Company, now the Trust. She was also for many years on the Governing Body of Girton College, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Princess Helena College and other institutions. She was an invaluable friend of the Headmistresses and Staff of the various schools and Colleges with which she was connected, understanding their difficulties, sympathising with their efforts, and helping them by her insight and appreciation of the complicated nature of the problems with which they had to deal, to give to the successive generations of girls which passed through their hands the sound intellectual training and high moral standard, which have borne fruit so generously in the years of stress and strain through which this country has passed since August, 1914. Many of the High School mistresses were accustomed to speak of her as "Our Miss Gurney," and she had well earned the affectionate appellation.

Miss Gurney was possessed of high intellectual culture; she was an antiquarian and linguist of no mean accomplishment, and took a deep interest in all that is involved by the place which the British Empire holds in the world. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Miss Amelia Gurney, who in the death of her sister has lost the close companion and friend of her whole life.

A "COMMON CAUSE" HUT IN FRANCE.

Thanks to the generosity of a kind friend, who has helped us many times before, but who wishes to remain anonymous, the building fund for THE COMMON CAUSE HUT for women workers in France is now complete. But we still need another £134 for its equipment, and to keep it going for the first six months.

Who will help us to raise this amount?

Please send along your donation as soon as possible, in order that we may make the Hut a Christmas present to the girls of the W.A.A.C. and others who are working in France.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations, and give special thanks to Lance-Corporal Crocker for his kind gift:—

Table with 2 columns: Donor Name and Amount. Includes entries like 'Miss C. H. Croal (collected in Aet.'s Office, G.P.O., Edinburgh) 1 16 0' and 'Lance-Corp. S. Crocker 5 0 0'.

Further donations should be sent to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1

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

Correspondence.

THE N.U.W.W. AND THE ORGANISATION OF WOMEN.

MADAM.—The Duchess of Marlborough has not completely understood the present position of the N.U.W.W. A glance at the resolutions passed by the National Council of Women the other day, will help to clear up the matter. It will be seen that there is no intention whatever of starting a Woman's Party, claiming to speak for all women. To many of us such an idea appears to be radically unsound. What the N.U.W.W. is attempting to do is to make itself into a clearing-house for women's views, and to bring those views before the new women electors from an educational standpoint. It is obvious that not being a Party the Union will have no need to "capture" the working women's vote. But it will have a great work to do (and one for which it seems specially fitted by reason of the large range of interests represented by the Societies affiliated centrally and to the Branches) in bringing the information and education, for which they are already calling, to the great mass of women, and there are plenty of these who do not happen to belong to the Women's Co-operative Guild or to any other organisation. The best way of reaching the unorganised woman of all classes is a question to be worked out gradually, but no existing work will find itself "impeded" by the Union, though all workers may find within the Union a place of meeting where they may learn from each other. Neither is it admissible that any one body of women has the monopoly of the idea of organising women for the discussion of Parliamentary and Municipal questions. It may be expected that endless numbers of such bodies will be formed directly the Representation of the People Bill becomes law.

The first business before the Council was the appointment of a Committee to consider the Revision of the Constitution; the terms of reference of this Committee are not limited to dealing with the position of the affiliated societies, as your correspondent suggests. The "machinery" of the Union is, therefore, in the melting pot, and it depends on the whole Union, Executive Committee, Branches and Affiliated Societies, to build up a constitution suited to the new needs.

ROSAMOND SMITH.

MADAM.—It is a little difficult to determine whether the Duchess of Marlborough, in her letter to THE COMMON CAUSE of October 12th, takes an optimistic or a pessimistic view of the future activities of the N.U.W.W. "If the N.U.W.W. is to represent the views of enfranchised womanhood," she says, "it would be advisable to reconsider its own constitution." But this is exactly what the N.U.W.W. in council (with one dissentient) has decided to do; and those very defects of constitution and composition which the Duchess of Marlborough indicates as standing in the way of its future development as an effective mouthpiece for enfranchised women's opinion, were almost unanimously recognised as such by the Council itself. As a result, the constitution of the N.U.W.W. has been, with General acclamation and the benediction of the Executive Committee, consigned to the melting pot.

But having cast aspersions on the representative nature of the Council, and accused it of failure to reflect the interests of the working woman, the Duchess of Marlborough proceeds to attack as unfortunate, both in expression and subject matter, a speech at the said Council, which urged this very point of view. The speaker, if the Duchess of Marlborough and I are thinking of the same speech, asserted, to begin with, that the working woman is inarticulate. Now articulacy is a question of degree. If we compare the proportion of wage-earning women who are organised with the proportion of wage-earning men who are organised, and if we compare the financial and political strength of their respective organisations, we can justly say that the industrial woman is inarticulate. If we compare first the numbers, second the political influence, of the mass of married working women on one side, and the liquor trade or the legal profession on the other, we can justly say that the married working woman is inarticulate. This is not ignoring the Women's Co-operative Guild or the Women's Trade Union League, because it is not denying that these two organisations constitute the most effective channel of self-expression and the highest future hope of the two classes of women which they touch. The speaker in question urged the democratisation of the N.U.W.W. in order that it might get into closer touch with these organisations, an attitude which the Duchess of Marlborough describes as accentuating the "feeling of patronage so justly resented by the independent wage-earner." If this feeling really was accentuated, the expression, rather than the subject matter, of the speaker was to blame. She argued that the N.U.W.W. in the past, through constitutional and temperamental faults of its own, had rendered itself uncongenial to working class organisations; she therefore suggested that it should revolutionise its constitution, change its heart, and present itself humbly before the woman worker in the vague hope of appearing more to her taste. Surely this is not patronage but repentance?

Meanwhile, in all its humbleness, the N.U.W.W. knows that it has something to offer. It has an attentive Press; it has a reputation which can extract gold from the Carnegie Trust; it has a national organisation; above all, it has an unrivalled command over the service and advice of active and expert women in all fields of women's work—with one exception. And that is why many of its members see in it the central women's organisation of the future, through which a multitude of other organisations may speak with one mighty voice on those rare occasions when they all want to say the same thing.

MARY STOCKS.

Advertisement for 'TRAIN FOR GOVERNMENT, COMMERCIAL or PRIVATE DRIVING at the HON. GABRIELLE BORTHWICK'S GARAGE'. Includes details about a 30-hour course and contact information at 8, Brick Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

MADAM.—My committee is much concerned at the great falling off in British subscribers to Jus Suffragii, the International Woman Suffrage News, especially during the last year or more. In April, 1916, we had the following subscribers from Great Britain, 193 subscribers to Jus Suffragii, and 137 Honorary Associate Members (including subscription to Jus Suffragii), whereas we have only 144 subscribers to the paper, and 111 Honorary Associate Members, showing a loss of 65 subscribers. In the United States, on the other hand, the National American Woman Suffrage Association has made a great effort to obtain subscribers to the I.W.S.A., with the result that whereas in April, 1916, they had only 41 subscribers to Jus Suffragii, and 44 Honorary Associate Members; they now have 216 subscribers and 220 Honorary Associate Members, showing an increase of 351. They have made urgent appeals to their members to subscribe and have advertised us freely in their papers, besides collecting and transmitting subscriptions. My Committee wishes to point out that the normal method of gaining subscribers by holding meetings is not open to the I.W.S.A. at the present time. An international Congress should have been held in 1915, and again in 1917, when an increase of subscribers would certainly have been obtained, but these congresses have not been held owing to the war, and difficulties of communication make it very hard to get any subscribers from foreign countries, and impossible to increase them unless the national society in each country will make the matter its own.

It is important for the cause of Woman Suffrage that international relations between suffragists should be maintained. During the war personal meetings and congresses are impossible, correspondence is gravely restricted and the only bond is the Alliance monthly paper, which continues to reach subscribers in all countries and is quoted by suffrage papers in all countries, allied, neutral and hostile. Many letters have been received showing how warmly it is welcomed as being the one remaining link. As it is published in England, and in the English language, it has specially strong claims for support in this country.

What is most wanted is an increase in the number of Hon. Associate Members, who subscribe £1 a year to the general funds of the Alliance. This includes the Subscription to the monthly paper, and entitles them to attend the International Congresses. The subscription to the paper (Jus Suffragii, The International Woman Suffrage News) is 4s. a year, post free.

M. SHEEPSHANKS.

EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.

The first of a series of lectures on Education as National Service was given at 11, Tavistock-square, W.C., on Tuesday, October 9th, when Mr. Harold Peake explained a new method of teaching, which can be applied to a great number of subjects. His title "Regional Survey," had puzzled many among the audience. He defined it as "the intensive geographical study of a region from every conceivable point of view" and showed how this method can be applied to the teaching of civics, as well as such subjects as history, geography and botany.

The first requisite is the selection of the region of study, and the region having been decided upon, the scholar begins his work by means of maps. A plain, layered map, showing the contours, rivers, marsh, and moorland is made, and with this as guide, the student sets out on his own original research.

His method varies with the particular object of his study. If he is finding the healthiest localities for housing, he may start with the report of the M.O.H. Taking the report, he shows its facts on a series of maps indicating where the infant mortality is highest, where the dense populations occur, where the death rate is lowest, the epidemic regions, etc. He must then compare these with his historical and geographical maps, and see if he cannot thereby discover the reason for the figures he has shown.

The lecturer gave an instance of a district which had a high rate of infant mortality, being found to coincide with a marsh area which had been covered up for generations.

The scholar may be asked to show how his locality could be improved by town-planning, which should be the shopping and which the residential areas, "for we may study," said the lecturer, "not only the great human drama as it has been performed on that scene since the arrival of man, dealing with it in its distant past, and in all its present aspects, but we may also project that scene into the future, finding its inherent possibilities of development."

Mr. Peake thought the town authorities would be very willing to take advantage of any help a school or a group of students could give, and he told how the Newbury authorities had asked him to undertake a survey of that region on these lines to guide them in their schemes for housing and town-planning.

The interest of the discussion was considerably heightened by the unexpected presence of Mr. Valentine Bell in the audience. Mr. Bell, who was home on leave from the Front, is the pioneer of this method of teaching in the elementary school. He told graphically what he had been able to accomplish in this way in a slum school and with what were considered to be sub-normal children.

The boys, who had to go three miles for an open space in which to play cricket, had discovered, in the course of their research, that the grounds of Lambeth Palace had once been open as a playground to the public. Realising the immense benefit this foregone privilege would confer to-day, they had set about recovering it, and had succeeded in obtaining the use of the grounds for the school cricket and football.

Mr. Bell gave an amusing account of how he had reformed the procedure of a Band of Hope. He had found the children singing—

"There's a serpent in the cup, Dash it down, dash it down, " and on questioning them he found there wasn't a child who knew the public houses of the neighbourhood! He had sent them to find for themselves where the drinking areas lay, and why, and had got them to suggest what the town authorities could do to improve those areas.

L. E. P.

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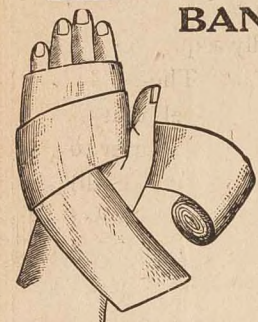
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What will the Autumn Session do for Democracy?

The Session which has opened this week is likely to be one of the most important in the history of the British Parliament; not only because the cause of democracy is being tried by the nations of the world in arms, but because British democracy is remaking its framework, and in doing so remaking its spirit.

The growth of democracy within a country—in so far as it can grow freely without fear of foreign interference—depends mainly on the development of two things—the constitutional arrangements which are its means of expression, and the education which supplies its inner life. In fact, the constitution and the education of a nation may be looked on as its body and spirit. In the coming months Parliament will have to decide some of the greatest Constitutional questions it has ever dealt with, and at the same time it will be called on to do what it can towards remodelling our educational system. The body and the spirit of our democracy are in the hands of the present representatives of the people. We watch with deep and anxious interest to see what they will do with them.

Their first business will be the Reform Bill which is to make the House of Commons more truly a House of Commons, representing the common will of the people of these islands. At the same time, they will have to decide whether the municipal bodies are to be elected by all those who are most closely concerned in the questions of daily life with which they deal. Later, they will have to consider the reform of the House of Lords, and the place of Second Chambers in democracy. And besides all this there is the great question of Ireland, her Constitution, and her part in the Commonwealth of Nations.

And there is the Education of the People. It is true that education in the broadest sense does not depend on the amendment and passage of the present Education Bill. The citizens of the coming democracy will find a great deal of education in the practice of their citizen duties and in human relations which become more manifold and more interesting as freedom increases. Moreover, whatever the present Parliament does with the present Bill, we can hardly doubt that sooner or later another Parliament more democratically elected will see to it that all the people, young and old, male and female, rich and poor, are provided with the means of learning all that they need and desire.

But this does not mean that the question is not urgent. In the matter of education a whole generation of young people is waiting to be fed. And the growth of democracy itself depends not only on constitutional forms and on the practice of citizenship, but on the life its members draw from things past, and distant, and unseen. Education, if it is worth the name, gives access to the kingdoms of thought and imagination where our ideal city must be built before we can build it here. We hope that the House of Commons will consider this when it deals with, or delays, the Education Bill. It has a great work to do in the present Session, and in any future Sessions into which its existence may be prolonged, but its greatest work will be to make clear the way to the election of more representative Parliaments in the future, so that the democracy may have the new framework ready for its new life.

I. B. O'M.

State Endowment of Motherhood.

In the article which appeared in these columns on September 28th, Mrs. Stocks dealt admirably—it seemed to me conclusively—with the objections raised to State Endowment of Motherhood on the ground that it would "pauperise" the mothers endowed. Poor-relief does pauperise. Payment for work done does not. And I believe that the whole effect of recognising the work of mothers as a great and honourable service to the State would be to raise rather than lower the standard of the work and the self-respect of the worker.

But I want to urge two criticisms of the scheme as outlined by Mrs. Stocks. The first is a criticism of its name. "State Endowment of Maternity" suggests a payment made in respect of the birth of each child. We have gone some way towards that already in the maternity benefit granted under the Insurance Act. But the bearing of children is only a part of the great work of motherhood, and "cherishing them in the home" (in the terms of an important resolution) is no less important and involves no less sacrifice from the mother, whose care of her children, even more than their birth, prevents her from becoming an independent wage-earner. It is of course true that in a sense no woman can be paid for what she does as a mother. It is true in exactly the same sense as it is true that no man can be paid for what he does as a soldier. To the indignant question, "How can you pay a mother to love her children?" we reply with another question, "How can you pay a man to love his country?" Can you pay for the risk, the pains, the possible death of mothers? No more than you can pay for the risk, the pains, the possible death of soldiers. Yet you do not say, "Therefore the soldier shall have nothing at all!"

This brings me to my second criticism. The system of endowment, which should be not only for necessitous, but for all mothers, is condemned by Mrs. Stocks as "uneconomic," though it "might redound to the dignity of motherhood." I believe it would indeed redound to the dignity of motherhood; and since by far the larger part of the taxation necessary for endowment would fall on the rich, I think it unimportant that some of them would get back a minute portion in the form of a weekly or monthly payment. Far more important is the recognition by the State of the great service of motherhood itself. Pay the necessitous only, and it is no longer recognition of service, but out-door relief, with all its degrading associations. Pay all, and the millionaire's wife will realise that, as a mother, she renders to the State the same service as her charwoman, and is valued at the same rate. We have, again, a precedent in the Army. What man of any rank would be so ineffable a snob as to offer to serve for nothing because he could afford to do without the pay? When it is a question of dying for one's country, all are alike; each man has his life, and only his life, to give. So should it be with motherhood. The service is too great to be classified by social differences. It is a human, not a class, service, and we ought not at this time to be creating new cleavages between the classes, but rather lessening those that now exist.

I hope, also, that the inclusion alike of rich and poor in a scheme would result in its being administered in the least and not the most offensive manner possible. Supporters of the endowment of motherhood must be careful that they do not add to the already unpopular supervision to which the poor are subject, which the rich escape. "Supervision," we call it: the working woman calls it "poking into our houses." Whatever it is called, it is unwelcome, and everyone knows who has lived in both rich and poor quarters of a town that the poor suffer under a degree of interference which would infuriate the rich—which, indeed, the rich would not permit. The scheme, therefore, should apply universally.

Most important of all, I think, is it that the endowment should really be a payment for service. An attempt is being made by some to regard and to call it endowment not of motherhood, but of childhood. The payment, they claim, is made in respect of the child, and the mother is merely its administrator. It seems impossible to persuade even feminists that the work of a mother is worth anything, or that motherhood is a service which entitles a woman to economic independence. For ages an appendage to her husband, she is now to become an appendage to her children. She has always administered his money; now she is to administer theirs. But never is she herself to be regarded as an individual giving a service of value to the community.

Whether children ought to be supported by the community at large, or by their parents, each contributing to the home,

is another question. But that in any case the mother is "a person," with a right to work and the recognition of work, and not merely the administrator of other people's money, is surely an axiom which feminists should never forget.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

Reprisals.

On the general question of reprisals for air-raids the views of women are probably as sharply divided as those of men. But there is one aspect of the subject on which this is not so, and on which an organ of feminism may fairly take sides, in the belief that it is voicing the opinion not, of course, of all women, by any means, but of the great majority of those who have adopted feminism because they believe it to be "the common cause of humanity."

Those who have been urging a policy of reprisals with a persistence and volubility which has apparently brought success have rested their case largely on the need for protecting and avenging "women and children." They have sought to strengthen their case by arousing the instinct of chivalry, which, it is traditionally believed—and it would be rude to question it—is strong in the bosom of every Englishman. It is surely a perverted form of the instinct which suggests that suffering caused to British women and children can be somehow compensated by inflicting equal suffering upon German women and children. No doubt there are parents who, surveying a stricken child of their own, would find satisfaction in the thought that somewhere in Germany a flaxen-haired little Hans or Gretchen lay equally stricken and tormented. But what sort of parents, and how many of them? For the credit of our country, we believe very few indeed, and those of the basest sort. Generalisations about national characteristics are usually as dangerous and fallacious as generalisations about sex characteristics. But one such generalisation can safely be ventured on; we are not, as a whole, a vindictive people. Thus, although it can hardly be denied that many of those who clamour for reprisals are giving vent to a desire for vengeance, the sentiment is only made to stand the light of day by being muffled up and somehow confused with the desire for prevention and protection. It is for the future protection of non-combatants, especially "women and children," that reprisals are to be organised. The non-combatant has still a mysterious sanctity in the eyes of some people. But it may be asked whether this distinction is not really out of date. The war, as we are always being reminded, is a People's War. We are all helping to wage it—the woman at her war-work; the middle on his ship; the child who gives up sugar in his tea; the babies who are dying in back streets and courts, not from air-raids but because local authorities are prevented (or so they think) by "War Economy" from engaging enough women scavengers to keep the streets clean and the ash-bins empty. But we do not all take equal risks. Paper heroics are justly discredited. But we may allow ourselves to say, because it is so obviously and notoriously true, that to thousands of non-combatants—men and women—it is an abiding pain and humiliation that they are able to take so little share in the risks that the combatants run, to lift nothing of the load from those younger men who have literally taken upon them the burden of us all and by whose stripes we are healed.

What the risk from air-raids really amounts to has been brought home to us by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu's interesting letter in *The Times* of October 4th. He has shown that during the five raids of the previous week, the chances against any one inhabitant of London being killed were 163,000 to 1; and the chances against his being wounded were 32,467 to 1. The usual comment on these figures is that a man whose wife or child has been killed in a raid would find small comfort in being told that there had been 163,000 chances to 1 against it happening. Perhaps, too, the parents of the young airmen who may shortly be "missing" after discharging the odious duty of raiding Freiburg or Cologne, will find inadequate consolation in the thought that Londoners sleep the sounder and that the already infinitesimal risks run by their wives and children have been brought a shade nearer towards vanishing point.

If therefore, it is for this purpose and for the special protection of women and children—as though they stood aside from the nation and had no obligation to share its sufferings—that this new service of danger is to be demanded of the Royal Flying Corps, already perhaps the most perilous branch of the service, then in the name of women and children, we protest!

R.

Notes from Headquarters.

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Mr. Charles Roberts' departure for India is a great loss to the National Union, as he has always been a firm supporter of our movement in the House of Commons. He is accompanying Mr. Montagu on his Mission, and should be a very valuable assistant to him in his task. Mr. Roberts was in charge of the amendment to the Representation of the People Bill which is to give the Municipal vote to married women, but this will now find a new sponsor.

Many of our Societies are working hard in support of the amendment, and a large number of communications on the question have been received at Headquarters.

Another great loss to our cause in the House of Commons is that of Sir John Simon, who is reported to have accepted a commission in the Army, and to be leaving shortly for France.

Women's Suffrage owes a great debt to Sir John Simon, who has always given us his strong and enthusiastic support, even in times when the movement was less popular than it is at present. Suffragists will appreciate Sir John's action in sacrificing a part of his successful and brilliant career at the Bar and in politics in order to serve his country in the field.

THE PROSPECTS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN SWEDEN.

An attempt to form a Coalition of all parties, with Governor Widen, Speaker of the Second Chamber, at its head, having failed, M. Eden, the Liberal leader, has been asked to form a Cabinet half Liberal and half Social-Democrat. Both the Liberals and Social-Democrats are pledged to support Women's Suffrage, but any bill passed by the Riksdag may be vetoed by the strongly Conservative Upper Chamber. It was the insistence of the Liberals and Social-Democrats that any Conservative members accepting office should pledge themselves to carry through suffrage reform in the Upper House, as well as in the Lower, that led to the failure to form a Coalition.

BIRMINGHAM W.S.S.

LECTURE ON THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

Feeling that while we are waiting to hear definitely that we were at last recognised citizens, legally admitted to the franchise, it would be well to make every effort to prepare ourselves for political responsibility, we decided to begin by gaining all the information we could about the other great organised bodies of women, what they stand for, what are their aims and methods, and in what directions and for what sections of the community they are working.

It is clear that we shall not only have to help to educate the new women voters, but someone will have to organise their votes, if they are to be used in the best interests of all, and not merely given in blind obedience to Party or favour, as so many of the men's votes have been given in the past. We therefore asked Mrs. Barton, of Sheffield, to come and speak to us on "The Aims and Future of the Women's Co-operative Guild." Some of us feel that after a long Suffrage campaign of many years, we are satiated with meetings and speeches, and have almost come to look upon them in the light of a "regrettable necessity" by this time; but we listened with the keenest interest to that address, which lasting over an hour seemed to have continued for only a few minutes.

Mrs. Barton gave first a masterly account of the origin and inception of the Women's Guilds, showing how in 1883, a few wives of Co-operators (till then confined to the male sex, in fine disregard of the full meaning of the word) began to agitate for a Women's Column in the official paper of the Society. Mrs. Barton reminded us of the monotony and loneliness of the wives of working men, the absence of the comradeship of the workshop, the friendly gossip of the evening club, the outlet for grievances in the Trades Union Meetings, all of which men then had, but which were not for women who stayed at home to look after their families. At first

the women only wanted an opportunity of discussing with one another through the medium of their paper, household recipes, and matters purely domestic. Presently, however, an enterprising reader, greatly daring, suggested that the Guild mothers should meet together and bring their work, in order to discuss matters connected with the Guild. Thus, there sprang up small Branch Meetings of the Women's Co-operative Guild little by little, these meetings of women, which began with the idea of conferring together to see how they could better support the whole Co-operative Society, passed on from discussions on buying and selling, dressmaking and jam, to questions of larger import, of citizenship, and wages, and other dangerous matters about which it is highly mischievous for women to know too much.

Now, recognising that the very existence of the Society depended on the goodwill and support of the women, who are the buyers of goods from the Stores, the men had at first welcomed the Women's Guild. They even allowed them a grant in money whereby to carry on the work, which, as the Branches increased in number and importance, amounted to the sum of £400 a year; but when the women began to enquire into questions beyond the ken of mere wives and housekeepers, the Men's Society became uneasy. A minimum wage, Equal Pay for Equal Work, Women's Suffrage—let not the women come out of their sphere to discuss such things never meant for them to settle. A woman's place is the home, that is to say the kitchen, and the men will deal with all the rest. At last the women, continuing to wander from the paths of true womanliness (which as everyone knows leads in a circle from and to the kitchen and the nursery), actually dared to discuss the question of Reform of the Divorce Law, at their big Conference in Birmingham in 1913. "Not for this do we allow them £400 a year, however much of it may result from their Co-operation," said the men, and then there sent the Women's Guilds an ultimatum. Either they must only discuss such questions as the men approved, which would certainly exclude such matters as Wages, Women's Suffrage, Divorce, etc., or they would cease to be given any share of the funds set aside for organisation.

"£400 a year and obedience," said the men, "or independence—and nothing." And with one voice the women declared for independence. It was a fine decision, and has been resolutely adhered to. They have turned that "nothing" into the glorious thing—self-support; and the Women's Guilds have grown and flourished exceedingly since that day. They have continued to discuss matters of wide and national importance, and to pronounce an opinion on them with no uncertain voice; they have drawn up schemes, and made recommendations, several of which have since been used by the Government as suggestions or models of new measures.

Now, at the recent conference at Swansea, it was resolved that the Wholesale Co-operative Society should endeavour to get direct representation in Parliament. They will run their own candidates in future, and they will need all the votes they can secure. It has now, therefore, been hinted to the women that if the Women's Guild cared to apply again for their £400, they would probably get it!

How popular we shall all be when we have the vote! The latter part of Mrs. Barton's address was full of grave consideration for the future of the Guilds. The women are already in the majority, they are strongly organised, and have been carefully trained to think for themselves in one of the most democratic organisations in Europe. They recognise that they could be a great power in the State. They must still stand out resolutely for the extension of the franchise, for equal terms for both sexes; they must make more than ever their own all questions concerning women and children, such as health, housing, education; they must work for the good of the whole community, men, women, and children; they must include all questions of national and international importance, inasmuch as the welfare of no country can be isolated from that of other countries, moreover, there are Branches of the Guild in France, Holland, and other lands. And they will, inevitably, be brought face to face with profound difficulties, calling for all the wisdom and tolerance of which they are capable, for politics must be discussed, even to the breaking of old relationships and ties. Party cannot be put before the public good in the votes cast by the Guild members. Trades Unionism, and Politics; these two subjects are full of difficulties, but they have got to be faced and discussed, freely, fairly, and in friendly spirit, remembering the Guild mottoes, "Each for All, and All for Each," and "Of Whole Heart cometh Hope."

Members of the Suffrage Society felt they had listened to not only a most interesting and informing address, but to one full of helpfulness and idealism, and of wise indications for the future of all Women's Societies.

CAROL RING.

LAW AND ORDER IN THE STREETS.

The second of the series of lectures arranged by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in connection with their Police Court Rota scheme, was given on October 12th, by Miss Alison Neilans, on "Solicitations: Law and Order in the Streets," and showed the one-sidedness of the present system. The next lecture will take place on Friday, October 19th, at the Fabian Hall, when Mr. Theodore Dodd, J.P., will speak on the "Probation of Offenders."

We hope to publish shortly an article explaining the scheme for a Police Court Rota of women.

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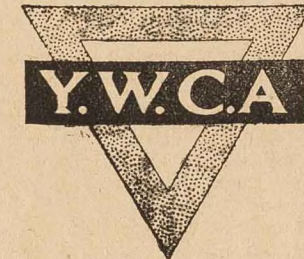
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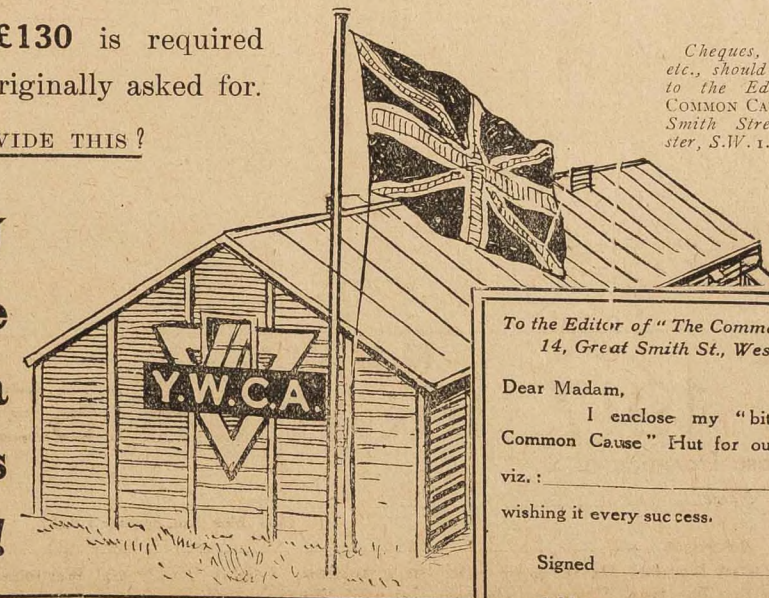
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Women's Village Councils.

The formation of a Women's Village Council in the little village of Findon, on the Sussex Downs, has created a keen interest in housing, and other local questions, among the village mothers, and great indignation is felt that not a single working-class woman has been consulted by the Rural District Council before sending in their final report in connection with the Local Government Board's scheme for State aided housing.

In a letter to Sir Horace Munro (Secretary to the Local Government Board), urging the need for consulting organised bodies of women on this question, the Secretary of the Findon Women's Council, Mrs. Hamilton, points out the criminal neglect of their duties on the part of some Rural District Councils, and the very pernicious way in which the enquiry into housing conditions was held at Findon and other places. A meeting, she states, was held on September 24th, at which only the officials and two ladies attended. No members of the Women's Village Council were asked to attend, and when they asked for information about the Local Government Board's scheme (of which they heard at a Mothers' Union Meeting), none was given.

Mrs. Hamilton urges that an extension of time should be given for Rural District Councils sending in their final report on housing, and that encouragement should be given by the Local Government Board to the formation of Women's Village Councils in every parish of any size, with a view to obtaining their opinions on the housing question. Such Councils would be a great educational force among the women themselves, helping to fit some of them to take their places effectively on Parish and District Councils, and work for an improvement in the abominable conditions existing in many districts. In Findon, cottages are still standing which the vicar applied to have condemned twenty years back after an outbreak of diphtheria. A foul farmyard pond is in the centre of the village. Some cottages have no sinks, and the dirty water has to be carried away in pails. Drinking water is fetched in jugs from the few wells, rain-water being the alternative. There is no dust collection, the sanitary laws are disregarded most openly, and overcrowding is known and allowed.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, E. - Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

Table with columns for names, amounts, and dates. Includes entries like 'Per Chas. Taylor, Esq., Sec. Queen's Park Bowling and Tennis Club, proceeds Garden Party and Fete Day' and 'Per Mrs. Broadhurst (Royaumont) 5 0 0'.

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

Advertisement for Rowntree's Elect Cocoa. Features an illustration of a woman in a hat and a large text block: 'a cup of Rowntree's Elect Cocoa makes a biscuit into a meal'.

Table of September donations for the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund. Lists names and amounts, such as 'Johnson (10s.), S. H. C. (2s. 6d.)' and 'Mrs. W. J. Oliver (1s.)'.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table listing named beds and donors. Includes 'Emma Curtis' (Royaumont, further 6 months) and 'David Jenkins' (Royaumont, further donation).

Serbian Prisoners of War Fund.

Table of the seventh list of donations for the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund. Lists names and amounts, such as 'War Worker (£5), Head Office Staff of Nobels Ltd.' and 'Miss Donalson (10s.)'.

In acknowledging a further list of subscriptions towards the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund, Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer of the S.W.H. in thanking the donors, would urgently ask for further help for this most useful and urgent fund. Nothing can be more pathetic than to hear of the terrible and harrowing experiences these brave captured Allies of ours are undergoing and enduring at the present time.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

SOUTHPORT.—On October 9th the annual meeting of the Southport Society was held at the Temperance Institute; there was a good attendance. The Rev. J. Ivory Cripps took the chair. In the absence of the Treasurer, Mr. W. P. Price Heywood, Miss McVine read the financial statement, which showed that the year began with a balance of over £16 in hand, and that it closed with a balance in the bank and in hand of £12 6s. 2d., the total income, with the balances, being £36 10s. 8d.

Miss McVine also submitted her report reviewing the work of the past year, during which a public meeting had been held (March 6th) in order to keep the local constituency and members of Parliament well aware of the importance of the Representation of the People Bill, and a resolution had been passed urging the Government to adopt the Bill. A memorial was organised by the Committee of the Society, to which signatures representative of various classes of men and women were attached, and letters were sent to the member for Stockport (Lieut.-Col. G. D. White), and also to Sir George Cave (the latter specially regarding the inclusion of voters' wives on the municipal register).

The Society had also undertaken various forms of war-work. A lantern lecture in February realised £32 for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, and at this meeting nine dozen copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold. Help was given in the National Campaign for preserving Infant Life, carried on during "Baby Week," and also to the Southport School of Mothers. Press work had also been carried on quietly and steadily throughout the year.

After the election of officers, the Chairman gave an address on the subject of "A Great Year for Women," in which he said that the victory at length in sight was richly and amply deserved, and pointed out that the great spiritual movement for which they stood was not over by the granting of the vote. Miss E. Davies then introduced a discussion on "Our Future Work," advocating the formation of study circles and the taking up of social questions.

EDINBURGH.—A very successful Market Day Sale was held in Edinburgh on October 10th. The three leading drapers gave the use of counters in the best parts of their shops, and these were arranged as stalls, heaped with fruit and flowers; vegetables were displayed in baskets on the floor.

The Countess of Wemyss, the Countess of Stair, Lady Glenconner, Lady Veronica Bruce, the Dowager Countess De la Warr, Dr. Louise McLroy (who is home on leave), Sir Joseph and Lady Fyler, Major-General Gardiner, Sir David Paulin, and others were present in impressive opening ceremonies at the different centres. Speeches were made by Sir Joseph Fyler, Sir David Paulin, Lady De la Warr, Major-General Gardiner, the Countess of Wemyss, and Dr. McLroy.

The time for preparation was shorter than the organisers could have wished, but this was unavoidable as other events of a similar kind were coming on and there were few free dates. Had there been more time more produce could have been obtained. There was, however, very brisk trade in all the shops, and the stock held out "to the last turnip." Lady Skerrington, Mrs. Stebbing, Mrs. Macfie, Mrs. Wardlaw Ramsay, Mrs. Alexis Thomson, Mrs. Kenneth Robertson, and many others kindly acted as conveners and saleswomen. The goods were delivered by means of pony-carts and panniered donkeys.

The financial results are satisfactory, but cannot yet be published. Apart from money, the Committee are well pleased with the results of their efforts. There has been a most gratifying evidence of sympathy with the work of the hospitals, and new friends have been made. The Committee are most grateful to all those who gave such generous and ready help.

BRISTOL.—Our Society has continued its usual activities during the last three months. Working Parties have been held, and in July, a large bale of clothing and other articles was sent to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The St. Paul's Branch, as before, made a large contribution, and a quantity of children's clothing was sent to Corsica.

"Baby Week" was a great success in Bristol. Members of the N.U.W.S.S. helped in this, and at one meeting they had the satisfaction of selling

over 100 copies of THE COMMON CAUSE. A tea for some of the mothers was arranged at the Office. Our indefatigable Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Cross, has spoken at several meetings on the subject of Infant Welfare.

On October 2nd, a drawing-room meeting was held at Mrs. Cross's house, at which the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield spoke of the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia and in the Dobrudja. She also addressed a further meeting at the office, 40, Park-street, on October 3rd. Her moving story of the sufferings of the Serbs, and of the fine work done by the hospitals made a deep impression. A good collection was taken. At both meetings a unanimous resolution was passed urging that the Representation of the People Bill be proceeded with at the earliest possible date.

Our Society hopes to arrange for a meeting to be held at the Hippodrome in December, at which Mrs. Haverfield will deliver her very interesting lecture on Serbia, illustrated by limelight views.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- OCTOBER 21. Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street 3-5 p.m.
OCTOBER 25. Birmingham—Midland Institute—Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, Professor Muirhead 7.30 p.m.
NOVEMBER 3. Kingston-on-Thames—Surbiton Assembly Rooms—Meeting of Members—Speaker, the Lady Frances Balfour, on the Work of the Women's Municipal Party—Chairman, the Rev. J. C. Harris 3 p.m.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

- OCTOBER 25. Given-Wilson Institute Women's Club—Speaker: Miss May Curwen 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

A series of afternoon meetings has been arranged by the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union for the discussion of the Woman's Movement in India. The first of the series will be held on Saturday, October 27th, from 3.30 to 6 p.m., at the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn. The chair will be taken by Lady Muir Mackenzie, and Mrs. Chundra Sen will speak on "The Education of Indian Women." Tickets 1s., including tea. For further information apply to Miss Margaret Hodge, 13, Temple Fortune Court, Golden's Green, N.W. 4.

The Professional Classes War Relief Council have a Maternity Home at 13, Prince's Gate, S.W. 7 (kindly lent by Mr. Pierpont Morgan) for the wives of professional men whose careers have been adversely affected by the war. The Chairman of the Committee is Mrs. Charlie M.D., M.S., and a number of well-known medical men and women are on the Honorary Medical Staff. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary.

An open envelope was received at THE COMMON CAUSE office on Wednesday morning addressed to Mrs. Garrett, and post-marked Manchester.

Advertisement for THE BEST CORSET BODICE for WOMEN WORKERS. Includes text: 'NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, ETC. Adequate support WITHOUT bones. Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements. Corset Netting - 10/0 Postage 3d. Courlet - 9/0. Out size 3/0 extra. Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E. Cash with order. BEATRICE STEMPLE, 17, UPLANDS ROAD, HORNSEY, LONDON, N.'

Advertisement for ALL BRITISH VALKASA THE TONIC NERVE FOOD. Includes text: 'An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE. 1s., 3s., and 6s. 6d. of all Chemists. James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER.'

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Do you feel like this towards the criminal? If so, why not help to spread the feeling and promote reasonable measures by joining the

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Subscriptions are not fixed. Usual amounts are 2/6, 5/-, 10/- to a guinea, and a few under or over those amounts. Write to

Hon. Secretary, 68a, Parkhill Road, London, N.W.3. Some of the League's Publications are: Manual Training by T. C. Horsfall, Prison Regime by Arthur St. John, Against Criminality by Arthur St. John, Prostitution: Its Nature and Cure 2d. each, 1/6 per doz. The Latest Word in regard to Juvenile Probation by A. W. Towne 1d. each, 9d. per doz.

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Table showing rates for displayed advertisements. Columns: Whole Page - 10 0 0, Half Page - 5 0 0, Quarter Page - 2 10 0, Per Inch - 0 10 0, Series Rate - £9 per page and pro rata, Narrow column - £3 7s. 6d. per column, 6s. 6d. per inch.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Table showing rates for prepaid advertisements. Columns: NUMBER OF WORDS, ONCE, THREE TIMES, SIX TIMES. Rows: 20, 30, 40.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN will preach at Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster, Wednesdays, 24th and 31st inst. at 3.15 p.m. (instead of 6.30).

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED—Lady to Cook and help another in work of small house, at Hampstead, for delicate lady and daughter. No basement; modern conveniences. Ex-nurse might suit. £30 to £35—Apply by letter, Mrs. Norman Maclellan, Little Heath House, Berkhamsted.

WANTED, reliable Working Housekeeper; vegetarian; family of two and baby—Apply Mrs. Rose, The Chestnuts, Grosvenor-rd. East, St. Albans.

WANTED—LADIES AS REPRESENTATIVES to a well-known old-established Insurance Company. An entirely new opening for women workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.—For particulars apply Miss Rochford, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office, 14, Great Smith-st.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 3d., post free, from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 21, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

HALVE YOUR COAL BILL! Burn air and get more heat by using a "Dreadnought" Coal Saver (patent), suitable for ordinary grates or ranges. Lasts four to five years. Price 2s. 6d., post free. Send for one to-day. Descriptive lists free.—Archibald Fletcher, (Dept. H.), Freeman-street, Birmingham. Agents wanted.

MOTORING.

WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING. 259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON. Telephone 946 WESTERN. Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club. Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil. Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

(Continued on page 332.)

Continued from page 331

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Gardening year begins September 21st.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

LANGUAGES.

FRENCH taught as in France, by lady with many years' experience in Paris.—Write for full particulars to Mme. Bolton, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

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

LITERARY.

FREE.—£50 PRIZE OFFER and copy of "How to Make Money with Your Pen" (earn while learning).—Apply "Editorial" (R), 22, Chancery-lane, London, W.C. 2.

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WILKINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street, MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist, 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.

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Telephone: Regent 774.

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39, St. James's St., S.W. (corner of Piccadilly).

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Enquiries solicited. R. CROMBIE HOLME, General Manager

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

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BLOUSES AND LINGERIE. Newest Styles, to suit all figures in stock, and to measure at moderate prices. Ladies' shirts a speciality.—M. Clack, 16-17, Burlington Arcade, London, W. 1.

LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)

MILLINERY.—Hats made own material, or trimmed, reblocked at small charge.—The Hat Doctor, 7, Lower Porchester-st., Marble Arch.

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from 15s. 6d. Also accurately copied to customers' own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly, W.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed; from £4 4s.—H. Nelissen, 62, Great Portland-st., W. (late 14, Great Titchfield-st.)

FOR SALE.

A THEENIC UNSHRINKABLE UNDERWEAR is made from purest materials. Comfortable and durable. To be had in all textures and sizes. Write for patterns and prices.—Dept. 10, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

DEVONSHIRE CLOTTED CREAM, 2s. 9d. per lb.; 1s. 6d. per ½ lb., post free.—Miss Hilda Paynter, Hooklake Farm, Beralston, Devon.

FOR SALE.—12 lbs. Quinces, 5s. 6d.; 24 lbs. Quinces, 6s.; 12 lbs. Stewing Pears, 4s.; 24 lbs. Cox's Orange Pippins, 12s.; 24 lbs. good keeping Cooking Apples, 5s. 6d. Carriage paid within a 100 miles.—Mrs. Powell, Harmer Green, Welwyn, Herts.

LADIES' HANDKERCHIEF BARGAINS, hemstitched Irish linen, slightly imperfect, bundle of six 1s. 11d., postage 2½d.; twelve 3s. 9d., postage 4d. Send for Monthly Bargain List to-day, post free.—Hutton's, 159, Larnie, Ireland.

POULTRY.—Large Roasting Fowls and Ducks, 6s. 6d. pair; Boiling Fowls, 6s. pair; Geese, 8s. each. Trussed. Post free.—Miss Weston, Produce Stores, Rosscarbery.

WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—MESSRS. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 65, Oxford-st., London, THE ORIGINAL FIRM who do not advertise misleading prices. Full value by return or offer made. Call or post. Est. 1905.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT, any condition; 6d. per tooth pinned on vulcanite, 2s. on silver, 3s. on gold, 8s. on platinum. Cash by return or offer. Satisfaction guaranteed by the reliable firm.—S. Cann & Co., 69A, Market-st., Manchester.

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WANTED, DISCARDED CLOTHING of every description. Specially good prices for Costumes, Coats, Blouses, Frock-coats, Velour Hats, Fur Coats, Furs, last two years' fashion. Winter Sports Coats, Skirts, Gent's Clothing, Children's, Curtains, Blankets, Linen, Underwear, Boots.—Helene, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough.

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PAIR FROM THE MADDING CROWD.—Furnished, in a most picturesque part of Dorset, close to the sea, coastguard cottages to let.—Apply to W. B. Northover & Sons, London House, Bridport.

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FURNISHED.—Hall Floor; fitted with gas-stove and all conveniences; for one or two ladies.—154, Queen's-rd.

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THREE HOUSES, communicating, to let, furnished. Can be rented together or singly on easy terms. Have been used for Students' Residential Training Home and Nurseries.—Apply Secretary, 4, Grove-ter., Highgate-rd., London, N.W.

TO LET, furnished, small House, Westminster; two bedrooms, sitting-room, dining-room, kitchen; suit two ladies. £2 a week.—Apply Boniface, 47, Turner Buildings, Vauxhall Estate, Westminster.

TO LET, furnished, in Hampstead Garden Suburb, small, convenient House, on Heath Extension; electric light, electric and gas heating; four bedrooms, two sitting-rooms, bath, &c. 2½ guineas, or offer.—Apply Paton, c/o Leslie Raymond, Agent, Golder's Green.

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WESTMINSTER.—Furnished Flat to let; sitting-room, bedroom, and kitchen-bathroom; £1 1s. per week for six months or longer.—Apply between 1 and 2, or after 5.30, Sisley, 43, Grosvenor-rd.

WANTED.

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THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Head Office: 39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Funds nearly £3,000,000.

Founded 1830.

LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN.

Recognising the increasing importance of Life Assurance for Women, this Society has issued a leaflet explaining the methods by which a woman can make provision for her later years, or, in case of early death, for those who may be dependent upon her.

THE SOCIETY BEING A MUTUAL ONE ALL THE PROFITS BELONG TO THE MEMBERS.

A copy of the leaflet and any other information required will be forwarded on application to The Actuary & Manager, 39, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. 2.

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