

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.

[NON-PARTY.]

Vol. VIII., No. 371.]

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1916.

[PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.]

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

Notes and News.

Women's Suffrage in British Columbia.

The question of Women's Suffrage is to be referred to a plebiscite at the coming general election this summer.

Lamp Day.

On May 12th, Florence Nightingale's birthday, the five thousand sellers of the little Lamps were distributed all over London, and the great City gave them a hearty welcome. The lamps disappeared from the cushions as if by magic. The sellers at the big terminus stations could hardly hand out the emblems quickly enough to the eager buyers. Many of them knew beforehand that it was Lamp Day, and had the coin ready before they were asked. Others wanted, Oh, so badly, to know "What for, and why?" For these the Special Florence Nightingale Number of THE COMMON CAUSE was written so as to save the busy sellers the additional work of addressing the crowds, and telling them all about Women's Service, the training funds, and scholarships, the work for the wounded, the new big Home for our soldiers at Richmond, and the scheme for National Service. Will the Societies who decide to have a Lamp Day kindly let us know now, in time, what their requirements are before the Special Number is exhausted?

Gamp is Good Enough.

"Lady Pam thinks the Nightingale Fund [for training nurses] great humbug. The nurses are very good now; perhaps they do drink a little, but so do the ladies' monthly nurses, and nothing can be better than them (*sic*). Poor people, it must be so tiresome sitting up at night, and if they do drink a little too much they are turned away and others got." This letter, dated 1856, taken from *The Life of Lord Granville*, Vol. I., p. 136, shows that Mrs. Gamp was good enough for Lady Palmerston; but the bitterest opponents of training for women, though they always want to put back the clock fifty years, would hardly crave Sairey Gamp's presence at their bedside to-day.

Putting on the Clock.

And, talking of putting back the clock, we are putting it forward next Sunday for an hour. Let us take it as a good omen! Perhaps even the Civil Service may read the sign of the time, and give to intelligent and highly-trained women the work deliberately withheld from them, while men of military age are kept at the desk as "indispensable." Perhaps (a Great Perhaps) the British War Office may also see that at this time of day they cannot afford to refuse (as heretofore) the services of women doctors and the organising skill of women administrators. Have they forgotten Florence Nightingale? They have no excuse for ignoring the work done by women doctors for many thousands of wounded in France and Serbia; no excuse for allowing all the costly muddles of 1856 to be repeated in Mesopotamia to-day, when women's help had been offered, and even pressed upon, the Government.

Feme Sole.

Here is a funny story from Geneva. *Le Mouvement Féministe* vouches for its authenticity:—

Two sisters, who spend their summer holidays in Haute-Savoie, went the other day to the French Consulate at Geneva to obtain permission to send eggs and butter across the frontier. One sister (*feme sole*) owns a small house and land in Haute-Savoie, the other (*feme covert*) is a frequent guest at the farm. At the Consulate, Madame handed in her *carnet de famille*: "a husband and three children." All in order. Mademoiselle's turn came next. "Your *carnet*?" "I haven't one, I am not married." "Not married? Then you cannot have leave to bring eggs out of the country." "What! Must I have a husband and family before I can export eggs?" "A family is not necessary; a husband, yes." "But this will never do! Here am I with a farm in 'the zone' and a house in Geneva, and I mayn't take anything home?" "No. You are not a married woman." "But I cannot take a husband simply to get leave to export butter and eggs!" No reply.

Alone and unaided, a woman is inherently incapable even of exporting butter and eggs, while, unaided, the male legislator can make the code civil a laughing-stock.

"Necessaries First."

A most illuminating parable appeared lately in a letter to *The Times* under this heading. The writer says: "I have a kitchen garden one rood in extent. Allowing for a certain portion which is permanently planted, there remains a space upon which I could annually grow an average crop of potatoes equalling 5 cwt., rather more than sufficient for my own household. The highest local price is 5s. per cwt., so that the return would be about 25s. If I devote the same space to tomatoes I can grow at least 600 lb., which I could easily dispose of locally at 4s. per dozen lb., making a total of £10. If I ignore food-stuffs, and grow certain kinds of flowering plants, I can easily produce a revenue from young plants and cut flowers of at least £25. The difference in labour required for these various crops is infinitesimal. In fact, the flower roots would, on the whole, be less trouble and anxiety. Now, purely from my own point of view, I should be foolish to grow potatoes. If I grow flowers, I can buy all the potatoes I need out of the proceeds, and still have an ample margin of cash. But from the national point of view, the 5 cwt. of potatoes is very much more valuable. Tomatoes, though very wholesome, have nothing like the same

amount of nutriment. The actual food in a potato is 24.4 per cent., against 7.2 per cent. in a tomato." We have all laughed at the foolish princess who thought people ought to eat cake sooner than starve because there was no bread, but we are carrying our folly a good deal further. It is our demand for flowers and forced vegetables and fruit, our readiness to pay for these things, which sets men and women to work to supply these luxuries and diverts money and labour into frivolous trades. The "good-for-trade" fallacy was vainly exposed over and over again before the war. But now we are learning at last to look at these questions "from the national point of view," let us try to remember the lesson for the rest of our lives. Our dinner table decorations can wait until the end of the war. And by that time we may even have found out that it is better "from the national point of view" to bring up a girl to the "clean milk" industry than to put her skill and energy into the florist's shop.

Honour to a Literary Suffragist.

The name of Mrs. Charlotte Carmichael Stopes, a well-known Suffragist of long standing, has been recognised for the last quarter of a century as that of a foremost Shakespearean student, but it has been specially brought forward in connection with the recent commemoration of the great master at Stratford-on-Avon and elsewhere.

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

GIRTON AND NEWNHAM UNIT AT GHEVGLI.

Very little has appeared in *THE COMMON CAUSE* about the experiences of the Girton and Newnham Unit since it accompanied the French Army to the East. Its members have been kept so busy that they have had little time to write. A short account of their work and the difficulties they had to face may therefore be of interest.

The Unit consisted of a party of doctors, with Dr. Louise McIlroy at their head, accompanied by nurses and orderlies, Mrs. Harley being the administrator. They had an adventurous voyage across the Mediterranean; from Malta they were on a French transport with a party of eighty French soldiers who went with them as far as Salonica, where the members of the Unit remained several days—being housed on the transport on which they had travelled—until their destination was arranged for.

The leave-taking with the French soldiers showed the cordiality of the Entente. The French sang "God Save the King," the English replied by singing the "Marseillaise." As the soldiers left the ship they waved calling "Vive l'Angleterre," members of the Unit waved with cries of "Vive La France," and so the tug went off into the darkness.

At last orders came for the Hospital to be opened at Ghevgegi, and a start was made in November, 1915. There was a four miles walk from the ship to the military station, where, owing to an unfortunate hitch in the arrangements, the Unit had a long wait from five to nine o'clock in a bitterly cold wind, without even their rugs being available. The kitchen department, however, came nobly to the rescue, and served out a very welcome ration of bread and cheese. After a twenty-miles' train journey crossing the Serbian frontier, they reached Ghevgegi, the night being spent in the railway carriages. Arrangements still being incomplete, the next day was spent in waiting about. In the evening, quarters were found in a French Hospital, where a luxurious night was spent on floor beds; washing facilities being provided at the local pump, surrounded by kindly French soldiers, who in turn pumped the water for the members of the Unit. On the third night they slept at their own *locale*, an empty silk factory. Room was, however, very scanty. Thirty-four nurses and orderlies slept in rows in one huge room at the top of the factory; even then some were obliged to sleep in the gangway. There was no glass in the windows, and the cold at night was intense. The hospital tents could not be put up for several days owing to the tent poles going astray on the way up from Salonica.

The X-Ray Department was lodged in a very small room. Anyone who has worked with X-Rays will know how dangerous this is. By the care and forethought of the radiographer, Miss Edith Stoney, M.A., formerly of Newnham College, a petrol engine had been procured in Paris which enabled the X-Ray department to be successfully run even in this out-of-the-way Servian village, and the very first night she lighted the whole hospital with electricity procured from the same engine, so that

Mrs. Stopes's numerous books and lectures on Shakespeare have the value that direct research alone can give in the elucidation of many vexed questions connected with the life, the circumstances, environment, and friendships of the poet, and it is with much pleasure that we hail the announcement made by the President of the British Academy (Lord Bryce) that the Council have determined to award the "Rose Mary Crawshay Prize" to Mrs. Stopes for her newly published book on "Shakespeare's Industry." We understand that this prize carries with it the pleasant award of one hundred pounds.

Women Teachers in Berlin.

The women teachers who have replaced the masters in the boys' classes at Berlin have proved a success. They have made their pupils respect them, and the boys are said to be better-mannered, more industrious, and less quarrelsome than heretofore.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"Some say this life is like a slate,
But this I beg to doubt,
For what we write we write for aye;
There is no rubbing out."

instead of spending long winter evenings by the dim light of candles, they had the one luxury of good illumination.

Ghevgegi was at that time the chief French Hospital base in Serbia; three other hospitals were provided with X-Rays, but of these only one other was able to be efficiently worked. It had a similar petrol engine to that in the Women's Unit; the other two sets of apparatus, unfortunately, were not got into working order. The climate there was very wet, the night being bitterly cold, and a gale of wind seemed to blow perpetually. There were twenty degrees centigrade of frost at night, and case after case of bad frostbite and gangrene were brought into the hospital, the soldiers finding the luxury of the tent and a bed very great after the discomfort of the trenches outside.

The village was full to overflowing with refugees from the neighbouring mountains fleeing before the Bulgarian invasion; starving dogs were everywhere, shops were almost all barricaded. All around were hills covered with snow, looking very beautiful.

Life at Ghevgegi was in many ways very hard. On rising in the morning ice was an inch thick on the water, while coming down to breakfast in the dark at 6.30 a.m. in an open shed was no joy. Breakfast consisted of coffee and bread and butter; there were no stoves for the use of the staff, and many suffered bitterly from the cold till far into the day, though at night they had the luxury of being able to procure plenty of hot water.

As soon as the hospital was ready there was a great rush of work; two days' work, for instance, in the X-Ray department consisted of four chest cases, two with wounds in the head, two in the abdomen, eleven leg and three arm cases. All these bullets had to be accurately localised, as to both depth and position, and were then removed by the surgeons—except one, which was so wedged in bone that it was deemed wiser to leave it alone. Is it any wonder that the staff became very tired before night, and even when night came the intense cold made sleep difficult? In spite of all the trials, the corps proved themselves a merry set, and made light of their difficulties.

Strict watch had to be kept on the tent supports. Every night members of the party saw to the adjustments, a most unpleasant piece of work in the intense cold and with a gale always blowing, but it was well worth doing, for none of the Scottish Women's Hospital tents ever blew down, as occurred in other places where such constant care had not been insisted on. The hospital gained an excellent reputation, and when the head French Medical General from Salonica inspected it he expressed himself as highly pleased with all he saw.

Early in December, owing to the approach of the enemy, orders came for immediate evacuation. Before leaving, the flashes and smoke of the guns could be seen some ten miles away. By dint of energy and hard work the equipment was almost all saved, and the corps, travelling all night with the wounded men, arrived safely in Salonica. Shortly after they left, the poor silk factory was blown up so as to give no shelter to the Bulgars.

F. A. S.

Developments of Florence Nightingale's Work.—II.

WOMEN AS ARMY COOKS AND ORDERLIES.

Just as this war has produced the woman army doctor, it has also produced the woman orderly. Women are rapidly taking the place of men in hospitals as orderlies, cooks, clerks, and dispensers, and are also acting as cooks in convalescent camps. Many members of Voluntary Aid Detachments are working in these capacities, and the Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association are enrolling suitable candidates.

FIRST AID NURSING YEOMANRY.

For the first time in the history of the British Army, women are now being employed to convoy the wounded. Seven years ago the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps was formed to provide mounted detachments with ambulance waggons to take over the wounded from the R.A.M.C. units at clearing hospitals or dressing stations and convoy them to base hospitals or the railhead. At the beginning of the war the Corps offered its services to our own War Office, but the reply was so long delayed that a detachment of six trained nurses and two assistants was sent to Calais, where their assistance was eagerly welcomed by the Belgian military authorities, who entrusted them with the nursing and conveying work of the Lamareck Military Hospital.

For many months the Corps worked a number of motor ambulances, which went to the front with clothing and comforts for the Belgian soldiers, and carried wounded from the advance dressing stations to the nearest hospitals. Several members also worked at Regimental Aid Posts behind the first line of trenches on the Yser, where the pressure of medical work was very great, and the doctors welcomed help. Excellent work, too, was done by the Corps' motor kitchen, in providing soup and coffee for the wounded, and for some time the kitchen was attached to a battery, and did all the cooking for some 300 men about two miles behind the firing line. Another venture which was much appreciated was the Corps' motor bath, which worked for some time at an aviation ground near the front.

Members of this Corps have had experiences which have fallen to the lot of very few British women, some having actually been in the trenches to fetch away wounded, whereas, under our Medical Service, nurses are not allowed nearer than the clearing-stations, and, to start with, no women were allowed even there. Since January they have been recognised by the British military authorities, and are now doing all the transport work in connection with our wounded in Calais, replacing men of the R.A.M.C. The Corps draw army rations, but provide their own uniforms, &c. Now, the writer understands, a certain number of women are acting as transport workers under the British Red Cross, but until recently their services were refused. It has taken a long time for those in authority to realise what a vast amount of work directly connected with the Army women can take off the shoulders of the men.

THE ARMY COOK.

In addition to acting as cooks in hospitals, women are now taking over the cooking in camps and barracks, and are making a great success of it. They are being organised by the Military Cookery Section of the Women's Legion, which is now recognized by the War Office, and its activities controlled from the office of the Inspector of Army Catering. At present their employment is limited, as suitable quarters cannot always be found for them, but they have already been installed in a number of camps and permanent barracks. On one occasion a letter was received at the London depot of the Legion asking for cooks for a mess of 1,200 men, and within 12 hours 24 trained cooks were preparing breakfast. At a camp on the coast, where men are constantly passing through, and the numbers vary from two thousand to several hundred—so that the catering is specially difficult—women have sole charge of the cooking arrangements, and are giving entire satisfaction.

In addition to supplying military cooks, the Legion also sends instructresses to camps or barracks which have no women cooks, and where the standard of catering has left a good deal to be desired. As a rule, their visits are welcomed by the male cooks, who are delighted to win popularity by learning how to make the meals served from army rations more appetising. The rations are sufficient in quantity, and mainly of good quality, but there is apt to be a tiresome want of variety in the way in which they are dealt with by the ordinary army cook.

It is interesting to note that the women now engaged in this work state that they have not found any flagrant cases of wastage in the kitchens that have come under their control. This report shows that the problem of checking waste has really been tackled, and will be received with a feeling of relief by those who in the early outbreak of war were deeply concerned at the reports, rife at the time, that either through lack of organisation or the existence of too much red-tape, more food was being served out as rations than the men could possibly consume, and, in consequence, had to be destroyed. It is difficult for a man to be a soldier and a cook at the same time, and impossible for him to grasp those homely forms of economy, the knowledge of which is the birthright of every domesticated woman in the country.

Refugees in Russia.

THE NEED OF THE CHILDREN.

After a few months of persistent inquiry, I feel that the most I can do is to give a few impressions without attempting an authoritative statement, on the refugee problem in Russia. In fact, any definite statement on a situation that has been changing with kaleidoscopic rapidity for the past year, would probably be out of date before publication! Moreover, I have been able to get away very little from Petrograd yet, and I find there is nothing harder than to acquire information in one Russian town about any other Russian town. Communication is so difficult, and there is no tradition of social work, so that each place has at first to cope with its own difficulties as best it can, without reliance on outside help.

It is well known now that the extensive retreat last summer was not a prepared military move, but was due to an unforeseen shortage of munitions, and when, instead of the expected invasion of a few hundreds or thousands of refugees, an avalanche of six millions poured into the country, the shock to the nation was proportionate.

No country in the world could have coped with it, and for Russia, with her vast tracts, unconnected with any railway, or even by decent roads, the problem might well seem overwhelming. Small wonder that women laid their babies in front of trains, or left them on the ice to freeze rather than watch them starve. The very old people seem to have suffered less than the children and babies; less, even, than the young women—the extent of mortality among the children, heightened by infectious epidemics, will never be known, but a Moscow doctor told me that 75 per cent. of the refugee children received in that town were carried off by measles alone. There is a sad little mental hospital in Moscow, consisting largely of refugees, where all the women and most of the men are melancholy mad. I passed bed after bed with figures lying prone, even their faces covered, hopeless and often weeping.

Roughly speaking, the large towns in the refugee zone were used as clearing houses. Feeding points were established, but the mass of people were sent eastwards and northwards, till now every town and village in Russia, and right on into Siberia, has its quota. In the villages they are housed with the peasants, who have been wonderfully good to them. In the towns, long, low wooden "baraks" were run up, with two storeys, each family having so much space allotted to it, and screening itself off from the others with any bits of curtains, counterpanes, &c., it could scrape together. These are, at any rate, warm and moderately well-lighted, and are being regularly inspected and kept fairly clean, while there are visiting doctors, and cases of infectious illness are promptly removed. The greatest evil is the want of privacy, and consequent impossibility of protecting the children from vice. Tenements are also used in the same manner for refugees, and many here find their own lodgings, paying from 12s. a month upwards for a passage or corner of a room. Where there are feeding points they get meals free, and I believe that in all the towns they are given an allowance (often 4d. a day for grown-ups, 3d. for children) for their maintenance. Here there is also a free distribution of clothes to the more needy. Roughly speaking, in every town of any size in Russia now there are organisations dealing more or less adequately with the primitive needs of food, warmth, and clothing.

The Tatiana Committee is the big official committee formed expressly for dealing with refugees under the auspices of the Empress. It undertakes the regulation of all refugees throughout Russia, has some excellent information bureaux for them,

and some very well organised institutions here, such as women's workrooms, children's orphanages, &c. Elsewhere it works through its local committees, which are doing admirable work in places like Kieff, Nigni Novgorod, &c. It is giving generous financial help to our maternity hospital here, and I do not believe we should ever appeal to it in vain for any urgent need elsewhere. The Great Britain to Poland Fund administrators have also expressed their willingness to co-operate with us. They have been working for a year now, establishing feeding points at the biggest centres, and have given close on a million and a-half free meals in that time. The principle was a sound one, since rapid improvement in the general health of the refugees was most marked wherever such points were established. This fund has also a few asylums for children, and one children's hospital in Russia. Its largest feeding point at present is in Galicia, in a part where provisions are unobtainable for the well-to-do, where it is giving 1,300 free meals a week.

Besides the numerous local committees and individual benefactors, another important national organisation has done yeoman work. The Union of Zemstvos (or Rural District Councils) has dealt with the refugee problem, so far as it has concerned the villages and country districts, in an enlightened and thorough manner, which has roused universal admiration and respect. The Town Councils also, though naturally varying a good deal in capacity, have done good work in some cases. The Moscow Committee especially has taken the leading part in the really excellent organisation there of the arrangements for refugees. Still, in the main, the bare necessities of food and shelter, and, to a limited extent, clothing, are all that have been provided, except in so far as the ordinary hospitals and institutions—not too adequate in peace-time—were available for refugees.

The chief problem which is beginning now to exercise the nation is how to care for the children. The urgency of it is obvious; hundreds of thousands have already perished, hundreds of thousands more are orphaned, or lost by their parents, and only a small percentage of these have been provided for in "Homes," while the climate, want of proper diet, and bad housing is playing havoc with the remainder, and this at a time when it is vital to the nation to conserve its children's lives. Moreover, the mental and moral outlook is serious. In the villages the women are out all day doing the men's work, and the children are necessarily neglected. In the towns, and especially here, I am told that the moral ruin of the children is going on to an unheard-of extent. The authorities are wisely trying to disperse them to the country, but that is only possible in a limited degree.

A very interesting constructive effort is being made by a Russian lady, who has given us most valuable help with officials, &c. She has just formed a society for the establishment of small "Homes" in villages throughout Russia, somewhat on the lines of the English and French "Cottage Homes." These are to hold not more than ten children, to be admitted between the ages of 3 and 10, under a matron who has received some kindergarten training. The children will not wear a uniform, will go to the village school, and it is hoped they will eventually be merged in the village life, and will not suffer from the "institution" curse. The village children who are too small for school can be brought to the Home daily by their mothers, to be cared for while they are at work; and to start with, only those villages are being selected where there is some responsible person living near who will undertake to see that the children are well cared for. It is a most valuable scheme, and we can only hope that it will be supported and carried out as it deserves. We are not at present helping in this work.

I have said nothing yet of the medical work that needs doing. Doctors and nurses are all busy with the vast army, and it is a country where illness and disease are rampant, thanks to climate, housing, bad sanitation, dirt, and ignorance. So far, we are absolutely the first British Unit in Russia, apart from Red Cross work, and we are the only organisation which is supplying trained English workers for the refugees. We have to remember that organisation is emphatically not a strong point of the Russian nation as a whole, that social work is almost in its infancy, and that the mass of educated and well-to-do Russians are totally ignorant of the conditions under which their poorer neighbours are existing. A Russian lady will gravely and sincerely assure one that there are no refugees in her town, when one finds them swarming in every tenement. On the other hand, a number have awakened to the need, are giving all they can, and they themselves are longing for organisation and steady workers.

W. H. MOBERLY.

Notes from Norway.

Women Members of the King's Council (Cabinet Council).

As we reported briefly in our issue of April 14th, the Storting has agreed by 91 votes to 14, to an Amendment of the Constitution, giving to women the right to become members of his Majesty's Council, Ministers, and also Junior Ministers. Further particulars have now been received from Doctor Louise Qvam.

The Bill was recommended by the Constitution Committee of the Storting with only one dissident.

In supporting the amendment, during the debate on April 8th, Mr. Skaar, spokesman of the Committee, pointed out that the position of women as citizens was decided by the establishment of equal suffrage and eligibility. The proposed amendment was merely a step to bring harmony between the different paragraphs of the constitution. Most likely a very long time would elapse before women were called to be members of the Cabinet, but admission ought to be free.

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Abrahamsun, said he believed the proposition would be carried unanimously, seeing the long series of sweeping victories that had opened the way for women to political rights and responsibilities in Norway. It was no argument against the measure to say that a long time would elapse before a woman became Cabinet Minister; nobody could know how soon this would take place.

Women in Parliament.

The elections for the Storting, begun in October, 1915, were completed last month. No woman member was chosen; the present election laws, by which each constituency has only one representative, do not give women a good chance. If each constituency had two representatives, more women would be likely to be elected. Several women were, however, chosen as proxies to act as substitute if the representative of the constituency falls ill or retires from his Parliamentary duties.

At the present time, writes Dr. Qvam, the public work of Norwegian women is concentrated upon "filling the great gaps and holes in the equipment of the ambulance service of the Army and Navy," which had suffered from neglect before the outbreak of war. Field hospitals, stretchers, dressing, clothing, and carriages for transport, have been secured by the energetic efforts of women at reasonable expense, and the military authorities now turn to the women for help. To take one example, a cavalry corps needed eight new steam cooking waggons. The officer applied to a Woman's Association, which telephoned next day that they had already procured one waggon, and very soon secured four more by private subscription.

IN MEMORIAM.

GINA KROG.

On April 14th the women of Norway lost their leader who had led them step by step to victory, beginning with the winning of the limited municipal franchise, which was first granted to them in 1901, to the limited political franchise of 1907, followed by the universal municipal franchise of 1910, and ending with the universal political enfranchisement of 1913.

It is a satisfaction to know that Gina Krog lived just long enough to see the passing of the law whereby women are entitled to become members of the Council, i.e., Cabinet Ministers. The funeral took place on April 18th, when for the first time a woman was given a public funeral at the Government's expense.

It was an impressive ceremony. A guard of honour was formed by women university students, and the leaders of no less than fifty women's associations laid wreaths upon the coffin. The Prime Minister was present in person, and the Storting sent a representative. The church was crowded, and after an address from the pulpit, a solo was sung by Fru Bergliot Ibsen (the daughter of Bjørnsen and wife of Ibsen's son, who was for some time Norwegian Minister in London). Then the procession left for the crematorium, where the last rites were performed.

Gina Krog was born in 1847, at Flakstad, in the Lofoten Islands, where her father was a clergyman. It was in 1884 that she became the leader of the Women's Suffrage movement by founding the Norwegian Women's Rights Union, and three years later she started a fortnightly paper called *Nylande*, which she continued to edit up to the very last.

To Gina Krog, as to so many others, the world-war came as a bitter disillusionment. It was a pushing back of the hand of progress, the undoing of years of the world's best work. To

her, the enfranchisement of women had meant, above all else, the establishment of a lasting peace through the fostering of a mutual understanding among the women of all nations, women being better able than men to understand the world's most urgent needs, and to set a true value on the things which really matter.

But the war came, and that hope was crushed. Gina Krog was quick to realise the fact, and she refused to lend her name to any attempts to stop the war by women's peace conferences or Ford missions. The appeal having been made to the sword must be decided by the sword. The only way in which women could help was by enlisting themselves in a universal service campaign for the welfare of the country and being prepared for all eventualities. Gina Krog's sympathies were by no means confined to Suffrage, or even social questions. She was ready to be interested in almost everything, and often regretted that she had so little time to devote to the study of new subjects.

H. R.

Correspondence.

THE STATUS OF MEDICAL WOMEN.

MADAM,—“Anomaly's” letter, in your issue of April 14th, on the Status of Medical Women, suggests to me that answers to the following questions might be interesting and instructive. In view of the “shortage of doctors” and the much-vaunted enhancement of the opportunities for medical women, how many of these have been asked to fill the depleted visiting staffs of the hospitals? How many units, organised or backed by the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association, have accepted the services of medical women? Has any unit sent abroad under women doctors received a penny of the vast funds under the control of these organisations, or has all the work done by such units been financed entirely by a separate effort on the part of Suffragist women? In how many V.A.D. hospitals at home have women doctors been given a share in the actual treatment of patients? Has any military hospital accepting the services of local practitioners included those of a woman? How is it that while France gladly accepts the services of our women-staffed units for its soldiers, yet the women doctors of those units are only allowed to treat their own countrymen (as I read the other day) in case of accident or emergency? While Dr. Elsie Inglis receives from Serbia the most honourable decoration it can offer, what recognition from their own country have English medical women had? If they have not sufficiently earned them, is it not because they have been deliberately debarred from the opportunity of doing so?

EDITH M. GUEST.

WOMEN DOCTORS WITH MILITARY RANK.

MADAM,—In reading the article on the “Woman Army Doctor” I noticed one omission from the names of those holding military rank, viz., Major Barrie Lambert. Dr. Lambert was the originator of the Almeric Paget Massage Corps, and organised and superintended the out-patient treatment centre for officers and men in London. In recognition of her services she was appointed, in May, 1915, to the R.A.M.C. with rank of major, and the organisation and superintendence of the massage and electrical departments at the Convalescent Camps at Eastbourne, Dartford, and Epsom were placed in her hands. In December, 1915, she was appointed by the Director-General, Sir Alfred Keogh, Inspector under the War Office of all massage and electrical departments attached to the Convalescent Camps and Command Depôts throughout England and Ireland.

C. S.

[We shall be glad to hear from correspondents of any other women doctors who have been given military rank.]

THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

MADAM,—I should like (rather belated, I am afraid) to make a few comments on the recent articles on “The Study of International Relations.” As one who agrees with Miss Rathbone that education is the best constructive work in this direction, I yet question whether the syllabus of the Council for the Study of International Relations is sufficient for this purpose. Miss Rathbone will correct me if I am not abreast of the Council's present programme, but at the beginning of the war their syllabus seemed to me to give prominence to one school of thought only, and thus to discount the real effectiveness of the course.

Broadly speaking, there are three schools of thought (each ably represented in Press and on platform) to which attention must be given if the study of international relations is to be profitable. (1) The extreme pacifist or revolutionary school, which would dispense with the use of all physical force; (2) the moderate or evolutionary school, which believes in the use of physical force when all other attempts at settlement fail; and (3) what has come to be known as the Jingo school. There are many varying opinions in each of these schools, and what we have to do is to study the point of view of each, rub one argument against the other, and thus knock out truth, to find, in short, a really practical policy on which to build in the future.

It ought not to be necessary to remind Suffragists that this all-round view is essential if we are to see in true perspective the problems lying before us, and yet I have met many who are so prejudiced against any but their own school of thought as to ignore altogether all that lies outside it. The following are typical cases:—Some “would not be seen with *The Daily News*, it is so pro-German”; others “would not touch *The Daily Mail* with a pitchfork,” although admittedly one of the chief exponents of one of the above schools of thought; many “would not read anything written by that crank, Bernard Shaw”; others read Robert Blatchford with a mental squint.

All this mental aloofness from views foreign to our own leads to an

academic state of mind, which is practically useless in a crisis and detrimental to a statesmanlike handling of difficult questions. One can always learn, even from one's opponents, whose views are not to be disposed of by being ignored—sooner or later they have to be met.

The literature, then, of all schools of thought should be studied, and this can be obtained from the various organisations circulating it. In addition, I should like to recommend *The Round Table*, a quarterly review, for sound, moderate views; Mr. Shaw's article, “Common Sense about the War,” which appeared as a Supplement to *The New Statesman*; and the report of a speech by Mr. Sidney Webb, in *The Weekly Dispatch* of December 5th last, on “A Super-National Authority,” a thoughtful speech full of surprises. Apologising for the length of this letter.

X.

PENALISING MARRIED WOMEN.

MADAM,—I am grateful to Mrs. Thompson for her statement as to life insurance; this ought to be reckoned with in a comparison of the tax on married and unmarried households. I conclude it is the rule, rather than the exception, though in the instances I have in mind this had not been the case. The inequality of the tax is, therefore, unmodified, and the fact of part of the husband's income being earned only seems to give further opportunities for intricacies and delay in rebate.

At this time of crisis no patriotic woman wishes to complain of heavy taxation, but the relatively severe toll on the wife seems rather an oversight than a reasoned arrangement. As a man writing to *The Daily Mail* says: “What are we to think of the common sense or the patriotism of a House of Commons which places married women, who are very often assisting to support their children, in a position of distinct and most unfair disadvantage with their unmarried sisters, and actually takes from wives and mothers one-quarter of their income at its source?”

The most galling condition is, perhaps, that a wife as an individual is ignored; she is not allowed to make any statement regarding her income, a large part of which is now quietly confiscated by the Government. The danger is that this will remain as a prescriptive right, and I hope that before the next Budget comes before Parliament some clear statements on the point will be put before the public.

“MARRIED.”

THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING WOMEN.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Advertising Women (14, Hills Place, Oxford Street, W.) at the Connaught Rooms an interesting address upon “Women in Industry” was given by Mr. H. J. B. Craven. Mr. Craven made his plea for equal recognition of women and men in all branches of professional and business life. As the chief reasons for inequality in pay Mr. Craven gave the overcrowding of the few professions and occupations open to women; the unsuitability of training and the difficulty of organising women.

After the war business houses will be unwilling to take back men at higher salaries for equal or inferior work, and unless women get together now and demand better rates for their services, the difficulties of readjustment will be insoluble for many years. The duty of every woman is to work loyally and to co-operate with others and with men. Amongst various remedies that should be adopted Mr. Craven mentioned the following:—

1. We must demand a better educational system for girls which shall be far more practical and definite.
2. The school age should be raised to sixteen, or, possibly, further.
3. Higher wages for women are essential, accompanied by a legal minimum.
4. Enfranchisement for women must come eventually.
5. The endowment of motherhood should be arranged by the State.
6. Women must co-operate in trade unions and professional organisations.

An interesting discussion arose from the lecture, in which Mrs. A. M. Mortimer, the Misses Spriggs, Miss Archer, Miss Poster, Miss Lewis, and Miss Mildred Ransom took part. To the chief questions raised, Mr. Craven replied that women must not handicap themselves by thoughts of their own inexperience: that parents should be educated to have their children, both girls and boys, trained to carry on the family business. Miss Ransom considered that the education of girls was wrong from the cradle: that girls should be taught like boys that they are to do serious things with their lives. If girls are going into business they should be trained for business; if not, they should likewise be trained for married or domestic life in practical ways.

Enquiries regarding the Association should be addressed to the Secretary, The Association of Advertising Women, 14, Hills Place, Oxford Street, W. Membership is open by election to women in general business or the professions.

N. U. W. S. S.
A LANTERN LECTURE
IN AID OF
THE MATERNITY RELIEF UNITS FOR REFUGEES IN RUSSIA,
ENTITLED
THROUGH ARCTIC SIBERIA WITH MY CAMERA,
WILL BE GIVEN IN THE
Jehanghier Hall, Imperial Institute, South Kensington,
TUESDAY, MAY 23rd,
BY
MISS MARIE CZAPLICKA, F.R.A.I., F.R.C.S.,
Research Student of the Oxford School of Anthropology.
Author of “Aboriginal Siberia” and “My Siberian Year.”
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 on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 50,000 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, and are devoting their organisation to various efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation.

Mr. Asquith's Letter.

The answer of Mr. Asquith to our letter of May 4th is the outstanding Suffrage event of the week. It marks an important stage in our progress towards our goal. We have asked the Prime Minister when his Government deals with the Franchise question, as they must before the next General Election, to overcome what has been called their deeply-rooted objection to look ahead, and to introduce an agreed Bill which would not only prevent the disfranchisement of many who have been serving in the Army, but would also remove the electoral disabilities of women. To this Mr. Asquith replies that our request shall "be fully and impartially weighed, without any prejudice from the controversies of the past." It is true that this may mean anything or nothing; but, coupled with the letters also received on the same subject from Mr. Arthur Henderson and Sir Edward Grey, reprinted on page 84, we are justified in believing that if the citadel of Anti-suffragism has not already fallen, it is mined, and the garrison is not very far from capitulating.

The war has had a wonderful effect on people's minds. They have come away from the world of words and phrases, and have come up against the world of real things. Conventions and shams have been dropped; and Anti-suffragism was almost wholly built upon conventions and shams.

From all parts of the country, evidence is constantly reaching our headquarters of Anti-suffragists dropping their opposition to the full citizenship of women, and assigning as the reason for this the eagerness of women of all classes to take their share in the national burden and national sufferings caused by the war, coupled with the professional and industrial capacity of women, their adaptability, courage, and endurance. These things have made a deep impression on the public mind, and have done more than anything else to produce the great change in public opinion on Women's Suffrage, of which everyone is conscious.

When Senator Michelin, the leader of the Finnish Diet, arrived in Petrograd in 1906 to obtain the Royal signature for the new constitution of Finland, which had been won after tremendous struggles and sacrifices lasting over several years, the Czar was at first startled when he saw that he was asked to give his sanction to the enfranchisement of every Finnish woman, as well as to every Finnish man over the age of 24 years. Seeing his Sovereign's hesitation Senator Michelin declared "It is absolutely necessary, Sir. The whole feeling of the country demands it." The Czar's hesitation was overcome, and thus was brought about the curious paradox that the most democratic constitution then existing in Europe was sanctioned by its most autocratic ruler. The autocrat of all the Russias was the first sovereign to enfranchise European women.

The words, "The whole feeling of the country demands it," were true in Senator Michelin's mouth, and they were true because of the patriotic readiness of the Finnish women to bear their part in the sufferings and sacrifices of the national struggle which led up to the new constitution of 1906. We also are able to say "The whole feeling of the country demands it," when we ask the Prime Minister to grant to the women of this country the first and most elementary of the rights of citizenship.

MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Patriotic Housekeeping.

"Patriotic Housekeeping Exhibitions" are by now familiar institutions, so, in describing that held in Brighton, I will dwell chiefly on those features of the Brighton Exhibition which may be less familiar.

First, I must record that we were indebted to the education authorities for the use, during the Easter holidays, of the Municipal Day Training College, and that we received from all departments of the Corporation most valuable help.

The Electricity Works originated the idea of converting the long college library into a "SERVANTLESS FLAT," to show the possibility of saving labour by employing electric devices of all kinds. Some prominent local firms co-operated by decorating the partitions, which made the little apartments—corridor, kitchen, bathroom, sittingroom, and bedroom—supplying furniture and kitchen requisites, and fitting the bath. That the "Servantless Flat" proved a great attraction, was shown by the numbers of visitors who willingly paid an extra 6d. before 5.30, or 3d. after, to view it—thus doubling their entrance money. The constant attendance of an expert from the electricity works and of one of our Committee, who, admirably seconded by her helpers, devoted herself to showing the use of all the appliances, conduced to this result. It was in the "Servantless Flat" that we gave tea to Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, when she visited the exhibition. H.R.H. made the tour of all the sections, including the cookery room in the basement, where the gas company had fitted up stoves and the Domestic Subjects Mistress of the Technical College was engaged in giving a demonstration of economy in soup making.

No account of our enterprise should omit to record our debt to the Domestic Subjects Mistresses for their advice throughout, their help on Committee, and their services at the exhibition. Very attractive were the children's cookery and laundry demonstrations under their direction. An excellent demonstration was also lent by the gas company.

The National Union syllabus, on which we based our original programme, included competitions. These were worked chiefly through the instrumentality of the Brighton Head Teachers' Association and its two representatives on our Committee, and (so far at least as the children's competitions were concerned) were very satisfactory. Cakes and rice puddings and "the best dinner for two schoolchildren that can be procured for 6d.," garments made from stockings, the best garment at a cost of 6d. for materials—entries were so many, and achievements so good, that the judges found it hard to choose those to whom the prizes should be assigned. From an advertising point of view, also, these competitions—we printed and found means of distributing 5,000 copies of the list—were useful; the clothing section of the exhibition became crowded with little competitors and their friends coming to see their exhibits displayed, and the prize-giving by the Mayoress was well attended, preceded as it was by a delightful series of organised games and dances by children from one of the infant schools.

Other features of the exhibition were the POULTRY SECTION; the INFANT WELFARE ROOM, to which the Medical Officer of Health contributed a milk exhibit, and over which two Health Visitors presided to answer innumerable questions about the posters and the models of clean and dirty rooms, hygienic and non-hygienic perambulators, and economical cradles; the "MAKESHIFT FURNITURE ROOM," showing what a good effect can be produced with small means; and the HOUSEWIFERY DEPARTMENT, always a centre of interest, with its exhibits ranging from spills to a large inter-oven; the FOOD VALUE ROOM, where the National Union's effective and instructive cards were supplemented by clever Plastocene models and a succession of cooked dishes.

By common consent the TEMPERANCE SECTION was one of the best worth seeing. There were the models of black and white babies, showing infantile mortality of the offspring of teetotal and alcoholic parents respectively, and many another appeal to the understanding through the eye, including a long counter burdened with all the household necessities that could be bought in the course of a year for the price of two pints of beer daily. These were loaned by the Equitable Co-operative Society.

Besides demonstrations in cookery, laundry, boot-repairing, and millinery renovation, we had arranged for lectures two or three times daily, and Dr. Sambon gave us a fine start on Easter Monday. Visitors became more and more numerous towards the end of the period, so that we felt we had been right in abiding by the advice of Miss Frost, to whose experience, resource, and enthusiasm we are much indebted, and arranging for the Exhibition to last quite nine days. The number of visitors was between 6,000 and 7,000.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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Hon. Secretaries:

MISS EVELYN ATKINSON.

Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)

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Fund for Maternity and Relief Work among Refugees in Russia.

Mrs. Alys Russell has kindly consented to become Honorary Secretary to the Russian Units Committee.

Our readers will remember that Mrs. Russell reported that she had collected £1,000 in America in cash and in supplies. We have already received in cash, as reported below, £200 from Montreal, and £671 2s. 1d. from the United States, and are expecting further donations and gifts in kind. We have already received hot-water bottles and other rubber goods, and are promised several boxes of clothing and hospital supplies this month.

We also gratefully acknowledge the many sums, large and small, for the Russian Units from our own Societies, and one substantial sum from the United Council of the Sheffield Women's Liberal Associations.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	4,657	3	9	United Council of Sheffield	18	5	4
The Misses Cooke	2	5	0	Women's Liberal Association	18	5	4
Cirencester W.S.S. (additional)	4	6	0	Children of Watersheddings			
C. E. C.	1	0	0	Council School, per Oldham			
Sheffield W.S.S. Flag Day				W.S.S.	1	0	0
(additional): Carver Street				Mrs. A. C. D. Cooper	2	6	8
Girls' Evening Club	7	6	0	Burnham and District W.S.S.	3	8	0
Catholic W.S.S. (Brighton				Perth W.S.S.: Mrs. William			
Branch)	10	6	0	Robertson	1	7	6
Aldershot W.S.S.	1	0	0	Letchworth W.S.S.	5	0	0
Cambridge W.S.S. (additional)	1	0	0	Received from Montreal, per			
Reading W.S.S. (additional):				Mrs. Alys Russell	200	0	0
Mrs. W. H. White	1	0	0	Received from United States,			
Wolverton W.S.S.	1	4	0	per Mrs. Alys Russell	671	2	1
East Herts W.S.S. (Collection				at Meeting)	5	1	0
	5	1	0		45,573	5	10

The Hon. Treas. begs to thank all who are subscribing to this fund, and will gratefully acknowledge further subscriptions, which should be sent to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Contributions to the General Fund.

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Already acknowledged since				AFILIATION FEES.			
November 1st, 1916	1,315	11	6	Newport, Monmouth, W.S.S.	3	15	0
Received from May 8th to				Darwen W.S.S.	5	0	0
15th, 1916:—				Aldershot W.S.S.	16	0	0
MISS M. DOMALLE	2	0	0	Bideford W.S.S.	7	6	0
Miss Jessie E. Muntz	2	2	0	Radcliffe W.S.S.	1	5	0
Mrs. Norman MacLehose	1	1	0	Taunton W.S.S.	15	6	0
Mrs. Theodore Williams	10	0	0	Shetland W.S.S.	17	9	0
Madame De Stelger	2	6	0	Durham W.S.S.	1	1	6
Mrs. L. E. Becher	10	0	0	Blackhill and Consett W.S.S.	5	0	0
Miss L. H. Ensor	10	6	0	Burnham and District W.S.S.	13	6	0
Mrs. W. H. Patterson	1	1	0				
Mrs. E. D. Nuttall	2	6	0	DONATION.			
				Miss Mary A. E. Milton	5	0	0

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	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Miss I. M. Evans (monthly)	2	6	0	Cambridge W.S.S.	2	10	0
Miss M. Domalle	8	0	0	Mrs. Davidson	10	6	0
Mrs. Norman MacLehose	2	2	0	Received for Scottish Women's			
Miss L. H. Ensor	10	6	0	Hospital	10	6	0
Miss S. Rosamond Praeger	1	0	0				
Miss E. Munro Miller	1	0	0				
					£1,339	14	9

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RELIEF OF REFUGEES IN RUSSIA.

It is hoped that the lantern lecture being given by our Polish friend, Miss Czaplicka, at the Imperial Institute on Tuesday next, May 23rd, in aid of our Russian Relief Units, will draw a good audience and prove of special interest to the mistresses and girls of the West London Schools. Miss Czaplicka, who is now research student of the Oxford School for Anthropology, spent a year doing research work in connection with the Venisei Tribes in Siberia, and the photographs that she was thus enabled to take form a unique and valuable collection, and these will be shown in London for the first time next Tuesday.

The Letter sent to Mr. Asquith.

May 4th, 1916.

DEAR MR. ASQUITH,—I am venturing once more to address you on the subject of the enfranchisement of women.

A very general rumour has prevailed since last autumn, supported by statements made by responsible persons, and by its own inherent reasonableness, that the Government will, before the General Election following the end of the war, find it necessary to deal with the franchise question in order to prevent the hardship and injustice which would arise if men who have been serving their country abroad, or in munition areas in parts of this country other than those where they usually reside, should in consequence of their patriotic service be penalised by losing their votes.

This has caused a certain amount of restlessness and anxiety among the 500 or 600 societies forming the N.U.W.S.S., as well as among other Suffrage organisations. Not, of course, that any of us are in any degree hostile to the enfranchisement of men who have been suffering and working for our country; but it is feared that the Suffrage may be dealt with in a manner prejudicial to the future prospects of the enfranchisement of women. To allay this feeling of restlessness and anxiety, we desire to bring certain considerations before you and to ask you for an expression of your opinion upon them.

When the Government deals with the Franchise, an opportunity will present itself of dealing with it on wider lines than by the simple removal of what may be called the accidental disqualification of a large body of the best men in the country, and we trust that you may include in your Bill clauses which would remove the disabilities under which women now labour. An Agreed Bill on these lines would, we are confident, receive a very wide measure of support throughout the country. Our movement has received very great accessions of strength during recent months, former opponents now declaring themselves on our side, or, at any rate, withdrawing their opposition. The change of tone in the Press is most marked.

These changes are mainly consequent on the changed industrial and professional status of women, and the view has been widely expressed in a great variety of organs of public opinion that the continued exclusion of women from representation will, on these grounds, be an impossibility after the war.

If I refer to what the N.U.W.S.S. has done in the way of service to the country since the war began, it is not that I claim for it any greater degree of patriotism than has been shown practically by all women. I only mention it because I can speak with personal knowledge of it. Within two days of the declaration of war, the N.U.W.S.S. determined to suspend its ordinary political activities, and to devote its organisation and money-raising powers to alleviate distress arising out of the war, and to other work calculated to sustain, as far as might be, the vital energies of the nation during the great struggle which lay before it.

In this work we have had a considerable measure of success, but I will not trouble you with any detailed recital of it. We know from our own experiences, and we trust that you also realise, that women of all classes are eager to bear their full share of the work and the suffering demanded from the country, and that wherever opportunity has been given them they have devoted themselves with whole-hearted eagerness to the national work they have found to do. The record of our own Scottish

Women's Hospitals bears proof of this fact, which is now widely recognised throughout the country.

We believe that it is the recognition of the active, self-sacrificing and efficient national service of women which has caused the recent access of strength to the movement we represent.

We should greatly value an expression of your views upon the subject of the possibility of the Government dealing with the Franchise question in the direction indicated above.

Believe me, dear Mr. Asquith,
Yours very faithfully,
MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

On behalf of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Mr. Asquith's Reply:—

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, S.W.
May 7th, 1916.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I have received your letter of the 4th. I need not assure you how deeply my colleagues and I recognise and appreciate the magnificent contribution which the women of the United Kingdom have made to the maintenance of our country's cause.

No such legislation as you refer to is at present in contemplation; but if, and when, it should become necessary to undertake it, you may be certain that the considerations set out in your letter will be fully and impartially weighed without any prejudice from the controversies of the past.

Yours very faithfully,
H. H. ASQUITH.

Reply from Mr. Arthur Henderson:—

1, Victoria Street, London, S.W.
May 5th, 1916.

DEAR MRS. FAWCETT,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 4th, with copy of letter to the Prime Minister. My position with regard to Women's Enfranchisement is not different to what it was before. In fact, I think the case has been strengthened by the magnificent devotion of the majority of our women during this great war crisis. I may say that the Labour Party has requested me to submit certain aspects of the electoral problem by way of memoranda. When I do so, you can rely upon it that the question in which you are so much interested will not only not be overlooked, but will form a leading part of the claim we hope to put forward.

Kind regards. Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR HENDERSON.

Reply from Sir Edward Grey:—

Foreign Office,
May 9th, 1916.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Sir Edward Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant.

Sir Edward understands that the Prime Minister has now replied to the letter which you sent to him, and he feels that the terms of the answer will prove satisfactory to you and the Union of which you are the President.

Yours very truly,
ERIC DRUMMOND.

Standing by the Men.

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS.

The entrance of women into trades hitherto employing men only has, as we all know, produced an extraordinary revolution in the industrial world. I am strongly of opinion that Suffragists should consider that an intelligent and sympathetic understanding of this revolution is a part of their Suffrage work. It seems to me to be work more intimately connected with the vote than even a Unit to Russia. Of course, the Unit work which has been undertaken and carried out so magnificently, of which I am one of the most profound admirers, proves that women are absolutely worthy of the vote; but every thinking person knew that sometime ago. Opposition to Women's Suffrage has not been founded generally on our unworthiness, but on a much deeper feeling. The Liberals, in 1884, argued that the agricultural labourer must have the vote, because he was ignorant and

incapable, and the vote would educate and enlighten him. He needed the vote. The industrial woman's need for the vote is one of our strongest Suffrage arguments, and now that her whole position is altered, and is altering the working man's position too, it is of the greatest importance that we should study this alteration, and see its connection with our movement; and particularly so since we may be called upon at any moment now to begin active Suffrage work again.

It will be easier to do all this if we can first free our minds from prejudice against Trade Unions. Of course, they have faults and limitations. Any movement run by one sex alone is less effective than one run by both, and hitherto Trade Unionism has been largely a man's movement. It has suffered in consequence.

Also, it was born out of suffering and bitterness, which always tends, as we know, to make a cause narrow and selfish.

I, personally, having seen for twenty-seven years at first hand the misery and injustice which the workers have often to endure (for the number of just employers is not yet so large as is the number of hard bargain-drivers), am filled with admiration for the constant struggle to be generous as well as just waged by the workers. The cruellest and bitterest abuse I have heard has come from the employing class, not from the working men and women.

We must also bear in mind that the men's unions have from the beginning regarded the dilution of labour with suspicion, and it is quite natural that they should do so. It has appeared to them to be—as I am sure in some cases it is—a plan designed to lower the wages of the skilled worker. The deportation of Mr. David Kirkwood has deepened this suspicion, since his crime was that he, according to the agreement, insisted, though unsuccessfully, on going into a room, containing a fresh contingent of women workers, chiefly in order to examine the wages. The inexperience of the women and their delight at earning better wages than they have ever before earned—even when it is not more than 15s. a week—add enormously to the difficulties of the situation. To have, as in a few factories is the case, a rest-room with deck-chairs and newspapers, is an astonishing and bewildering experience for the women.

It seems to me perfectly natural that the men should feel bitter dismay, when what had taken them and their fathers long years to achieve was, they imagined, threatened with extinction. It was, no doubt, stupid of them not to grasp at once that the way out of it all is to admit the women into their unions. But in face of the astonishing refusal of the Government to allow women to fulfil duties the country needs, and which only women can do, why should we be surprised at the behaviour of the A.S.E.? The Government is supposed to be in the hands of men of education, and therefore it seems to me that its behaviour to women is infinitely worse.

To put against this, let us remember how Mrs. Josephine Butler said what a debt she owed to the working men (the Co-operators and the Trade Unionists) for the support they gave to her crusade. The great meeting in the Albert Hall, too, is an unforgettable memory. Some of the best help we Suffragists have had has come from the Trade Unionists.

Before us, when the war is over, lies a terrible economic struggle, and it will need all our wisdom, all our sane sympathy, to help our country through it. Men will wish to return to their work and women will not want to give it up (how will they support themselves if they do?), and many employers will not allow them to go owing to their cheapness. I know of two large firms in one town who have already announced this.

We must prepare ourselves for this struggle, and must investigate with sympathetic understanding the great forces now working towards it, of which so many, including most of the Cabinet, appear to be entirely ignorant. A good deal of this ignorance is probably wilful and due to fear.

Now if we would be useful, constructively, to the nation when this time comes, we must drop our silly class prejudices, and act now so that the industrial workers will recognise us as honourable colleagues. When a woman enters a man's trade, for instance, she must feel that she is in honour bound to join the union if there be one.* In order not to betray the men fighting in the trenches whose place she has taken, she must insist on having the same payment as he had for the same work, and must therefore join the union, which alone can effectively back up her demand. The cry against women workers has always been that they are blacklegs; probably unwilling, and often unconscious, blacklegs, but that does not always excuse them in the men's eyes. Now is the time to show that women can be honourable as workers. It is a great and splendid chance. The Trade Unions will see that women stand by them, and they in their turn will stand by the women. Nothing teaches one the need for the vote more than being engaged in Trade Union work; it is a great education for which I am deeply grateful; and as the women, in increasing numbers, become members alongside of the men, they and the men together will be infinitely strengthened in their understanding of the absolute need for the women workers to obtain political freedom. For a woman to be a man's economic equal in all respects is the most convincing argument for her right to be his political partner and equal. But when a middle-class woman comes into a trade and ignores the union, and takes any wage she is offered, forgetting the man she replaces, how can she expect to be regarded as an honourable colleague? There are also women drawing the same

* Women working in trades that have no Union to which women can belong can join The National Federation of Women Workers, 34, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.

pay as the men had, who yet refuse to join the union which fought for and got that wage.

I have heard working men say we ought to be in the House of Commons, because our sense of honour is great. I have heard them say they expect more, meaning more good, "from a woman somehow than we do from a man." These are great and touching compliments, and are noble tributes to our Suffrage work. Let us be more than ever worthy of them, and let us work with increased vigour for our enfranchisement, for the country will need our political help more than it is possible to express when the war is over, and we are faced with these huge economic problems.

ISABELLA O. FORD.

"The Common Cause" Scholarships for Commercial Chemistry.

"The home of research work is, or ought to be, the chemistry department of our various universities and university colleges. To these institutions the nation must look primarily for its scientific progress. . . . But, whatever the research work may be, the nation ought to have the best brains of the country applied to its service," wrote a correspondent of *The Times* a short time ago, urging that studentships should be founded in chemical research. The coming need for the "best brains of the country" in the chemistry of mining, metallurgy, agriculture, coal-tar dyes, and in the utilisation of waste products which now pollute our rivers and lay waste whole districts, is being more and more widely recognised. Manufacturers are being slowly roused to the knowledge that there is "money in" waste and refuse, to be had at the price of chemical research. There is a movement on foot to found scholarships in chemistry for our clever young men. But somehow or other, our clever young women are apt to be forgotten, and when the scholarships are founded, it is not so certain that they will be open to women students. And so, as in so many other ways, the country loses about one-half of its best brain power, which is the worst kind of waste! Well, we are going to want it ALL. Posts are being offered to women chemists; new positions will be created by-and-by, and women who study now will be ready to fill them. Through the generous kindness and support of our readers, we have now completed a THIRD SCHOLARSHIP for Commercial Chemistry. We acknowledge, with many thanks, the latest donations:—

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We want to express our cordial thanks to the many kind friends of THE COMMON CAUSE who sent donations to pay for street sellers of the Florence Nightingale Number on Lamp Day. We were only able to place a limited number of sellers on the day itself, for though the Labour Exchanges had reported that they would be able to supply 300 or 400 women on May 12th, it proved, at the last moment, impossible to find anything like such a number. The prospective passing of Military Service (Number Two) Bill caused such a sudden great demand for women's labour that the London Exchanges report very great difficulty in meeting the needs of employers. During this week we are, however, continuing to sell the special number, for which there is a steady demand.

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Table listing donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes entries like 'Brought forward', 'Per Mrs. Blair', 'Per Mrs. Young', etc.

Table listing donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital, continuing from the previous page. Includes entries like 'Per Miss Cleasby', 'Per Mrs. Wilson', 'Per Mrs. Macdonald', etc.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

West Riding (Yorks.) Federation. BRADFORD.—A members' meeting was held at the office in Manningham Lane, on March 2nd, to hear a report of the Council meeting...

Stockport. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent on May 6th, when the Committee were "At Home" to members and their friends, upwards of thirty people being present.

Huddersfield.—The annual business meeting of the Executive was held last month at 41, Spring Street. Miss Siddons was in the chair.

Further List of Beds Named. Name of Bed. Donor. "Mac Merry," III. (Royaumont) ...

West Lancs, West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation. CHESTER W.S.S.—On April 13th the Mayoress, having consented to sit and receive money for the Children's Unit, Kazan, at the Town Hall...

Scottish Women's Hospitals.

MAY 30th.—6, Gloucester Square, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. A. H. Jesse)—A Concert for Scottish Women's Hospitals—Tickets, 5s., to be obtained from Mrs. H. Flinders Petrie, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Tea, 4.30; Concert, 5.0

Working Parties. Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals ...

THE SUFFRAGETTE NEWS SHEET. The Official Organ of The Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U. Issued monthly. Price 1d.

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Forthcoming Meetings. MAY 18th, 19th, and 20th. Birmingham—Motherhood Exhibition—Town Hall—Opened by the Lord Mayor—Stalls, Drill, Folk Dances, Lectures, Competitions, Music—Prizes to be presented by the Lady Mayoress on Saturday, at 8.30 p.m.—Tea by the Women's Volunteer Reserve 2.30-9.0 each day

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Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. 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.

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY for Women's Suffrage.—Meeting, Tuesday, May 23rd, 3 o'clock in The New Constitutional Hall, Park-mansions-arcade, Knightsbridge. "The War as a Crusade," by The Rev. Hugh Chapman (Chapel Royal, Savoy). Chair, Mrs. Cecil Chapman. Admission free.

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