

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.]

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Owing to war-time conditions it is now impossible to have as much matter set up on Wednesdays as we have hitherto been able to do. We therefore beg that articles and letters should be sent in not later than Tuesday morning, first post.

Notes and News.

Good News from Holland.

The Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht is holding large, crowded meetings in towns and villages throughout the country. Many new members are being enrolled. These are mostly women, the men being told that they can give practical help by bringing pressure on their members, while the women can very effectively help by enrolling as members, and so proving that they want the vote. At Haarlem a few nights ago, 108 paying members were enrolled. At these meetings there are generally one, and sometimes two or even three members of Parliament, who belong either to the Social Democrats, the Radicals, or advanced Liberals. For the first time, the different political parties are inviting the Board of the Vereeniging to come to discuss the question with them. Already they have been received by the Social Democrats, the Radicals, the Roman Catholics, and one of the branches of the Clerical Party. Formerly they only saw individual supporters. Many magazines and newspapers, who had never taken an interest in the question before, are asking for articles. So stimulating is the influence of even the prospect of the vote. We hope next week to publish an account of the present position of Women's Suffrage in Holland.

Women's Service in Munition Making.

An illustrated handbook on the Employment of Women on Munitions of War has just been published by the Ministry of Munitions, with a view, as Mr. Lloyd George explains in the preface, to acting as an incentive and a guide in many factories where employers and employed have been sceptical as to the possibilities of dilution." Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE are already aware of the important part which women are taking in munition-making; but many people have still but little idea of the number of processes on which women are now engaged, and the illustrations of the handbook, showing them at work on parts of guns, shells, aeroplanes, motor-cars, and other machinery of war, will bring home as a surprise the fact that, as *The Daily Telegraph* points out, "without the service of women in this part of the nation's task, the participation of this country in the Continental warfare would not be possible."

Health of Munition Workers.

Two further memoranda have been issued by the Health of Munitions Workers' Committee, one dealing with "the employment of women," and the other with "hours of work."

After calling attention to the patriotism which women of all classes have shown by the ready response to the call for workers in the munition factory, the Committee point out that it is more than ever necessary to consider the well-being of young girls fresh from school, of the prospective mother, and of the mother whose care is especially claimed during the first months of her infant's life; for while their welfare is of greater importance than ever to the State, it is threatened much more than ordinarily by conditions of employment.

While considering, from the evidence before them, that the employment of women at night is unsatisfactory, the Committee consider that it is for the present inevitable, and have turned their attention to devising safeguards for the protection of health. They demand improved means of transit to and from work, the adoption of the three-shift system wherever possible, and the arrangement of week-end rest and a periodic holiday. They also recommend that canteens should be opened at every change of shift, and cloakrooms and drying rooms provided for wet weather, and again insist upon the need for the appointment of forewomen and welfare supervisors.

We hope to give further details of the Committee's recommendations in a later issue.

The Rights of Citizenship.

"Never in the history of this country was it so necessary for women workers to be properly organised," said Mr. Parish Councillor Millar, speaking at a "Petition" meeting held by the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, at Leith on February 3rd. "Women's position in the labour market was in a specially difficult and critical condition, and would be more so when the war was over. It was absolutely necessary that they should have the protection of the vote. Those men who were loud in their praise of women's work, and were taking full advantage of it, would, in his opinion, be acting in a cowardly fashion if they refused to help them to claim the rights of citizenship."

The Chairman, Mr. Henry Drummond, dwelt on the magnificent work done by women since the outbreak of war, both at home and in the hospitals of France and Serbia, and said that they had sacrificed their own interests to those of their country. To broaden the franchise for men without including women would be to take an absolutely unfair advantage of their present position. He called on the electors present to sign the petition to include women in the forthcoming Register or Service Franchise Bill, so that they may come upon the Register in time to take their proper place in the next General Election.

Women's Co-operation Found Essential.

As we indicated last week, instruction for Settlers' wives forms part of the scheme drawn up by the Departmental Committee for the settlement of discharged sailors and soldiers upon the land. The report of the Committee has now been published, and we are glad to see they realise how essential women's co-operation is to the success of the settlement. "In the case of married men," says the report, "we are of opinion that special consideration should be given to the capacity of the men's wives

to assist in the work, and to their willingness to settle on the land. Experience has shown that the success of the small holder largely depends on the co-operation of his family, and especially of his wife, and that difficulties often arise in endeavouring to settle on the land families who have been accustomed to farm life, unless the wives as well as their husbands are likely to take kindly to the conditions of life in the country."

Making Country Life Attractive to Women.

The Committee point out the importance of making the conditions of country life as attractive as possible to women, and recommend that women's institutes or clubs should be started in connection with their proposals for settling ex-Service men on the land. Such institutes have been very successful in Canada in improving the conditions of home life, raising the standard of living, providing means of social recreation, and, generally, in giving women a greater interest in country pursuits, and they have already been started in some parts of this country.

Business Ability and the Vote.

Women in the Southern States of America will win the vote through their ability in business, considers Mrs. G. H. Mathis, President of the Alabama Diversified Farming Association. "Half of the farm-land in Alabama is owned by women," she states. "Women own two-thirds of Mississippi and two-thirds of the City of New Orleans. In the South, where so much of the property is in the hands of women, we are beginning to see the injustice of 'taxation without representation.'" Mrs. Mathis, says the *Woman's Journal*, is a successful business woman, who has not only made a fortune for herself but has greatly increased the prosperity of many Alabama farmers by making worn-out farms pay.

The Coming Paper Crisis.

Will all our readers please help us to avoid waste of paper by giving Definite Orders to their newsagents for THE COMMON CAUSE to be delivered weekly, instead of relying on getting chance copies?

Return of Our Serbian Units.

Most of the members of the Serbian Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals have now returned in safety to Britain, the second Unit, under Dr. Alice Hutchison, and some of the first Unit arriving in London on Saturday; and it is confidently expected that Dr. Elsie Inglis will shortly follow with the remaining nurses. Considering all the hardships they have been through, the party looked wonderfully well, and they also looked most creditably smart, having been able to re-equip themselves to a certain extent on the way home.

ADVENTURES OF DR. HUTCHISON'S UNIT.

All were enthusiastic in their praise of Dr. Hutchison, and the way in which she fought the authorities on behalf of the nurses of her charge, refusing to allow herself to be bullied or browbeaten. The treatment of the second Unit was bad; but it would have been much worse if it had not been for Dr. Hutchison's firmness and tact. Constantly she made complaints, and though her demands were not always granted, she succeeded, on many occasions, in obtaining some alleviation of their lot.

The resourcefulness of Miss Jack, the administrator, was also greatly appreciated by the nurses, who declare that they will never go out again under another doctor or another administrator. Miss Jack was most ingenious in obtaining food for the party, when they were left to cater for themselves—a difficult task in a hostile country, as may well be imagined. In many other ways, too, she was able to modify their discomfort, and her inventiveness was shown also in tackling the problem of costume. On one occasion she cut out three very stylish skirts from army blankets. Prices, Miss Jack told me, when I went to welcome the Unit, were very high. Butter was 5s. or 6s. a pound, and milk was unobtainable; bread was strictly allowed, by a system of bread-tickets, to a slice and a-half a day; and meat was very scarce.

It will be remembered that Dr. Hutchison's Unit was working in a camp hospital at Valjevo, in the North-West of Serbia, not far from the frontier. This they had to evacuate early in October, after working for some time to the sound

The Florence Nightingale Memorial.

The memorial to Florence Nightingale in the crypt of St. Paul's, was unveiled on February 14th by Her Majesty Queen Mary. The great cathedral was nearly filled, and, as was appropriate, most of the great audience consisted of women, though men of the Army and Navy both came to do homage to the memory of the great woman, to whom both Services owe so much. Ranks of nurses in uniform filled the rows of chairs before the choir and immediately behind the chair reserved for the Queen and Princess Mary. It is the first time, we believe, that such acknowledgment has been made of a woman's services to the State. Perhaps only in such times as these is the full significance of those words adequately realised, in which thanks were given for the "gifts which Thou didst bestow upon Thy servant, Florence Nightingale."

"The Song of Poland."

"No other poet has, like Chopin, embodied in art the romance of the land and people of Poland," wrote Chopin's biographer, Friederich Niecks, and it has been said that Chopin did for Polish folk-music what Robert Burns did for Scottish folk-songs. When, as a child, Chopin used to listen to the dance-songs and *mazureks* which the peasants played, they were all treasured up in his memory, and transmuted afterwards into music, which always retained the strongly accentuated dance-rhythms characteristic of Poland. But though Polish folk-music is dance-music, it is, above all things, sad; it is "the music of an unhappy people, over whom the wheel of fortune has passed again and again with crushing weight." And Chopin was a true Pole in this respect. His *Dirge of Poland*, composed in 1831, after the fruitless struggle against Russia and the fall of Warsaw, is the expression of his despair for his fatherland. All his music is dominated by the sense of the tragedy, of the suffering of a proud and sensitive race, who, crushed by the brutal violence of their conquerors, find that their only life lies in the things of the spirit and intellect.

of distant cannonade, but the Unit were able to take their equipment with them to Poshega, where it was thought they would be safe. Here Dr. Hutchison was to form a base hospital, and things had just been got into working order when a telegram came from Colonel Gentich, head of the Serbian Medical Service, with directions to move on another stage.

At Vrnjeacka Banja, which was reached on October 29th, they were given a hospital of a hundred beds, but had only the equipment they could carry themselves, as the bullock waggons were so busy bringing up ammunition and wounded that the heavy equipment could not be fetched from the station, which was some way off. Soon came grave news of the further retreat of the Serbian Army. Sir Ralph Paget warned the British Units of approaching danger, and offered to get away as many nurses as he could; but he was only able to take a few members from each Unit, and these had all to be robust and in good health, in view of the hardships they would have to face.

The adventures of those of the Scottish Women who joined in the three-hundred-mile trek with the Serbian Army have already been related in THE COMMON CAUSE. Most of the Unit stayed on at Vrnjeacka Banja, and continued their work of looking after the Serbian wounded, even after the Austrians had entered the town.

IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY.

The invaders, said Dr. Hutchison, came in very quietly on November 10th, and behaved quite well. All the Hospital Units had to report themselves to the Austrian commander, but the Scottish Women were allowed to carry on their work without undue interference for about a fortnight, and were decently enough treated. After this it was decided to send them away as the town was very full. On November 29th orders came to leave for Krushevatz, to work in a hospital there. They were not, however, allowed to take their equipment, which was seized for use in the enemy's own hospitals; but Dr. Hutchison insisted on getting a receipt for this, in order that it might be paid for after the war, according to the provisions of the Geneva Convention, refusing to give it up until she got one.

At Krushevatz the Unit were badly housed and fed, but were still politely treated. They were billeted at a little hotel, which was really an officers' hotel, and the officers were always attended to first, so that the women had to put up with short commons and a good deal of discomfort; but the people of the place did their best for them. All the members with whom I talked agreed that the Austrian civilians were quite friendly disposed towards the British, whereas there was a good deal of bitter feeling against the Germans and their overbearing ways.

GUARDED FROM GERMAN SOLDIERS.

On December 4th they were told that they were to be sent to the Hinterland, either to work there or to go home, and for the first time they were placed under guard. At Stallatch, the Unit were kept a whole day and night, because the orders were not clear, and they suffered much unpleasantness and rudeness from some German soldiers, who came round and jeered at them, using the most disgusting and insulting language. With a few exceptions, Dr. Hutchison told me, all the German soldiers they came across behaved like brutes, but most of the Austrian soldiers were kind and polite enough. As no food had been served out to the nurses, Dr. Hutchison demanded rations for them. This made the soldiers furious, and their attitude became so threatening that she claimed the protection of the Austrian commander, who gave them a special guard, locking one side of the horse-box in which they were travelling, and stationing Austrian soldiers in front of the other. He was profuse in his apologies, and reported the offenders to their own officers. Finally they got some food, thanks to the exertions of a kind Austrian officer, who took a great deal of trouble on their behalf.

On the 6th they went on a stage further to a town on the Danube. Here they were a whole day without food. At last Dr. Hutchison rang up the commanding officer in the town, and claimed rations, but they did not get any. When night came they were counted off by a German officer, put in charge of a new guard, and marched down through the streets to the wharf, insulted and jeered at on the way by German soldiers, whose officers made no attempt to check them. On the wharf, they waited some hours for a boat, still without food. They asked for rations, but were told they must wait till they arrived. At last a boat came, and amid the rude remarks of the Germans, they embarked, arriving at the other side very tired and hungry, only to find that they had five kilometres to walk to Keveverara. Their guards were sympathetic and polite, but could do nothing for them. Dr. Hutchison, however, refused to allow her nurses to walk all that distance without food, and sent the guard to an officer, who advised them to spend the night in a little wooden hut by the Danube, as apparently no one knew anything at all about their coming, and no quarters had been prepared.

PACKED IN WITH AUSTRIAN ORDERLIES.

"The hut," said Dr. Hutchison, "was full of Austrian orderlies, but as there was nowhere else to go, we had to make the best of it. They were most kind, and gave us some of their bread—for we had still no food given to us—and we made some tea and cocoa, of which we had a small supply of our own. To sleep, we had to lie down as best we could, on tables, benches, or stretchers, many of the orderlies giving up their places to us and lying on the floor. It was a very funny sight!

"In the morning we got up early and washed in the Danube. Then we walked about, as there was no one to take charge. At last a car full of Austrian and German officers chanced to stop, and they told us to go to Keveverara, which we did.

"Here our quarters were two rooms, only big enough to hold each eight beds, according to hospital regulations; but in these rooms the whole thirty-four of us had to live. We were only given straw to sleep on, and no sacks to put it in, but, luckily, we had some ticking, and a few sheets of our own. We also had a few blankets of our own, which we had managed to 'steal' from our equipment. I demanded washing basins and a few other necessities, but these were not given to us, so all we had to wash in were a few canvas bowls we had fortunately brought. We had to draw our own water from a well in the yard, and so little wood was given us that we had to gather sticks when we went for our daily constitutional.

"For food we had coffee and black bread for breakfast, a thick, nasty soup, sometimes with a little meat in it, for dinner, and more coffee and bread for supper. This, I found, was exactly the same as the rations served out to the Russian and Italian soldiers who were prisoners, so I made a protest, pointing out that doctors were entitled to officers' treatment, under the Geneva Convention. After this we got better bread, and fresh meat sometimes, but the food was still unsatisfactory. I

found out just before we left that the hospital which supplied our rations had been cheating us.

RECREATION UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

"We were allowed to take exercise in the yard behind the house, and sometimes played rounders there, but could not go into the street without a guard with a rifle—he was told he need not fix his bayonet, because we were ladies. Three armed men were on guard day and night in the passage, and at first were very surly, but gradually their behaviour improved, till at last they became quite friendly. We used to borrow their uniforms for the charades and tableaux which we got up to pass the evenings, and sometimes they took part in those entertainments themselves, but not when we represented the Kaiser or the Emperor Joseph! We made up a beautiful Kaiser one evening, with fierce moustaches of cotton wool.

"On Christmas Day we had quite a jolly time, with a Christmas tree and a first-rate dinner. We went out and got some live geese from the market, which we had killed and cooked, and we had all kinds of cakes, and even butter—at 5s. a pound!

"In the evening we sang carols and drank toasts. We even ventured, for the first time, to sing 'God Save the King,' under our breath. After this we sang it every night, and it cheered us up wonderfully. We had our British flag with us, too. I wound it round my body, under my clothes, when we evacuated our hospital, so that it should not be trampled upon and insulted."

Early in January Dr. Hutchison was told that her Unit was to work in a hospital for cholera. This she refused to allow, unless they were paid, given their proper rank, and treated with respect, and she also demanded an interval for inoculation. "At this," she said, "there was a terrible scene. I was sworn at and cursed, and told I was a coward, but I would not give in." (Another member of the Unit told me that Dr. Hutchison had expressed her willingness to work herself without inoculation, just to show she was not afraid, but refused to let any of the women under her charge take such a risk.)

The interval was granted, and some of the nurses were inoculated, but the Unit was not called upon, after all, to nurse cholera. They learnt afterwards that the German Headquarters refused to pay.

At the end of two months the Scottish Women were handed over to the frontier police, and treated as ordinary interned people. Their quarters were, however, still smaller than before, being accepted on the understanding that the Unit were to be sent home in a few days; but they had a little kitchen in which they cooked their meals themselves and did their own catering, so that they were rather better fed.

The "few days" lengthened out, and nothing more was heard about home. All this time no letters or news had been received, and Dr. Hutchison's request to be allowed to communicate with the American Consul had been refused.

"At the end of three weeks," said Dr. Hutchison, "I again claimed my right to appeal to neutral arbitrators. The captain was quite courteous, and promised to get leave for me to go to Budapest with a guard, but this was afterwards withdrawn on the ground that the affair was being settled, but the officer undertook to get a letter through to the American Consul, which he did."

GUARD'S OBJECTION TO "FLYING."

"In our new quarters, also," said Dr. Hutchison, "we were not allowed to go out without a guard, and the guard had a rooted objection to long walks. After one expedition which we took him he got so tired that he complained to the captain, though we had only been about five or six miles. He reported that it would not be so bad if we would only walk, but we 'flew like geese over the mud.'

"The officer called me up and gravely remonstrated, but I expressed my surprise that Austrian soldiers could not keep up with British women, and insisted that we must have exercise or we should get ill. After this a tall, strapping young man was provided to escort us on our morning walks, and another, not quite so active, for the afternoon shopping expeditions. I used to chaff them after those excursions, and express a hope that they were not too tired, to which they would reply with a sheepish grin.

HOME AT LAST!

"Our next move was to Ketchkemet. Here we were just as badly housed, but the feeding was better, and the people were very kind and polite. We stayed at Ketchkemet six days, at the end of which the officer in charge summoned me and told me we were to be sent home. On my expressing doubt, as we had heard the rumour so often before, he replied that it was

An Appeal to M.P.'s Who Want Justice for Women.

A SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY ORDINANCE ABOUT TO BE LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT, AND URGENTLY NEEDING TO BE BLOCKED.

There is now about to be presented to Parliament for the approval of His Majesty in Council, an Ordinance of the four Scottish University Courts, which has two features open to objection. It is to regulate the preliminary examinations, which profoundly influence the teaching of the schools. Teachers feel in Scotland, more than elsewhere, the need of being able to tell parents that the children are ready for the University if required to go there. The munificence of Andrew Carnegie in providing for the payment of University fees, has intensified this, and so much aggravated certain defects of the Universities that they are in some ways a public nuisance.

Thus the new Ordinance stereotypes the requirement of Latin.

In the medical profession, where the need of modern languages is acutely felt, and all the Latin used or needed could be learned in a few weeks by any average child of twelve, the secret defence made for the insistence on Latin is that it tends to keep women out. In one week the writer was told of two young women, extremely well qualified, who were "sent to other things" instead of medical studies by exaggerated statements about the Latin.

In the general education department (Arts) the defence that in Scotland can be made with truth is one which Mr. Andrew Carnegie may be interested to hear, namely, that as the facilities for learning Latin, which used to exist in every primary school for any "lad of parts," are now much less, so making Latin a condition of admission to the Arts Department gives the middle and upper classes a better hold, and keeps out the common people. The defence would be good if the phrase "common people" meant people of commonplace minds. A very good case can be made for a fairly stiff preliminary examination. But the one which it is now proposed to stereotype lowers the intellectual level, which has been steadily falling in University circles in Scotland for some time.

Abroad it is painful to see fine young Scots lads handicapped by the waste of their early years upon dead languages. Much of the educational superiority of the Germans which it is futile to deny, is due to their emancipation from the "compulsory Latin," which is now more than ever being thrust upon Scotland, at the very time when modern universities in England are getting rid of it.

Of a piece with the stereotyping of "compulsory Latin" is the alteration of the constitution of the Entrance Board, which at present is made up of two additional outside examiners for every two professors. It is now left open for all the Entrance Board to be themselves professors, the Ordinance running:—"The . . . Court shall appoint four members . . . and of these two at least shall be Professors or Lecturers."

The truth is that this Ordinance cannot bear scrutiny, and is a dodge, which is made possible by the confusion and darkness of this time of war. Let no one deny that the Gerund-grinders are awake to their opportunities. But let anyone interested in diffusing light instead of darkness in Scotland request some M.P. to have that Ordinance amended by changing "two at least" in the clause about the Entrance Board into "not more than two," and making the requirement as to language in Arts and Medicine the same as in Science, by giving an option, and reading instead of Latin or Greek (Arts), or Latin (Medicine), what is allowed in the Science Department, namely, Latin or Greek or French or German. To be quite candid, I see no reason why any language should be insisted on, or, if any, why, in addition to these four, Spanish or Italian or Russian should not be added, but that change is not in the least urgent, and opinion is not ripe for it, perhaps. What public opinion even among graduates is certainly ripe for now is the small change here suggested, and it is for the purpose of shunting public opinion that this Ordinance is now being engineered.

The change as to the composition of the Entrance Board which the Ordinance does make is significant of much, and if it is pushed, there may be some interesting anecdotes told to let the public see that there is really good reason for not allowing the Professors to be Examiners. After all, they are only human beings.

It will be a great calamity to education in Scotland to let them domineer as they wish. They should stick to teaching. They are naturally the principal obstacles to improvement, and

should, perhaps, have no hand in examining. But all that is suggested now is to prevent them from securing, under cover of the war, a control over preliminary examinations which neither law nor custom has hitherto allowed them.

It is indeed the business of Universities to be behind the times, I admit; but, if they lag too far behind, they become a nuisance. I know this is an old story. Every institution proverbially begins in utility, waxes into privilege, and subsides into abuse. But we really cannot afford to indulge the University teachers of Scotland at the expense of the public interest. The best of them do not want it, and yet that is what is now in danger of happening.

DAVID ALEC WILSON.

Note.—There have been formed in London and other centres in England "Women's Interests" Committees, but nothing of the sort, as yet, exists in Scotland. This particular matter has suggested the need of having one, and it is under discussion. But it is not likely to be formed in time, so in the meantime any Member of Parliament anxious to see fair play for women or willing to see the Scottish Universities developed on modern lines should be on the look-out to check the Ordinance described.—D. A. W.

Correspondence.

HOW TO SAVE £160,000,000 A YEAR.

MADAM,—Week by week letters and articles appear in our journal purporting to discuss seriously the questions of economising and of raising money by voluntary self-sacrifice to aid the Empire in bringing the war to a successful and rapid conclusion. This is right, for the nation has never before had to face a situation of greater gravity, and no question concerns it more deeply than finance. Yet there is in all these letters and articles something which is unconvincing, artificial, almost, one feels, insincere, and which must always be present where a problem is nominally under discussion and yet where the simplest, the most effective, and at the same time the most obvious method of dealing with it is kept in the background. I allude, of course, in the present instance to the national duty incumbent on every man and woman to abstain altogether from taking alcoholic liquors.

Here we have a means by which 160 millions now yearly spent on what is nothing but a personal luxury could be offered to the nation, a means by which many thousand workers, now employed in maintaining a luxury trade, could be liberated to save the nation, a means whereby millions of pounds' worth of foodstuffs could be saved from senseless destruction, a means whereby the health and therefore the efficiency and the output of the nation can be immediately and immeasurably improved, and a means which is open to all, rich and poor of both sexes, all ages, the married and the single.

It requires no disturbance of homes, no dislocation of business, no pinch to health, no hardness to children, no descent even in the social scale.

It demands one thing only, and that is willingness for self-sacrifice. If we are not prepared to make this very simple offering to national economy ourselves, or if we shrink from urging this fundamental duty upon others, surely it would be more sincere to desist from what is only a semblance of an earnest search for means to bring about the great end we have in view, namely, national finance.

This is a test question, and by our action in this matter the reality of our patriotism will be gauged by those who come after us.

ELDRED HORSLEY.

Alexandria. January 30th, 1916.

THE CRAVING FOR LUXURY.

MADAM,—In view of the prominence given to the paragraph "What the Craving for Luxury Means" in last week's COMMON CAUSE, I am surprised not to find some criticism of it in to-day's issue. "J. W. C." says: "The great mass of mankind find distraction in fine clothes, good eating, luxurious appointments, fine houses, entertainments, and the like. The smaller mass of humanity find relief in various forms of the theoretic life, aesthetic emotion, intellectual stimulus, love of natural beauty, and literary art." To quote Ruskin, this is "wrong with the intense wrongness which only an honest man can achieve who has taken a false turn of thought in the outset and is following it regardless of consequences."

It may be true of about 15 per cent. of the population, but the great mass of the people in this country have no experience whatever of finding distraction in fine clothes, good eating, and luxurious appointments; in fact, it has had to be admitted again and again that in this, the wealthiest country in the world, from 20 to 30 per cent. of the population struggle on from year to year below the line of effective nutrition.

D. M. STEVENSON.

[In taking exception to the expression of a philosophic view of luxury, our correspondent would appear to raise a point that lay outside the limit of the survey. The amount spent on luxuries differs enormously, of course, with every class. But the attitude of mind with regard to luxury is very much the same. Nor is it wonderful if the population "struggling from year to year below the line of effective nutrition" should crave such "luxuries" as cheap ice-creams, picture-palace excitements, and, above all, alcohol, as a relief from the appalling dreariness of their lives. How appalling that background is, we should remember, before we condemn the folly of squandering meagre earnings upon that which satisfieth not, and, at the same time, we might ask ourselves what is our own attitude towards superfluities, and what part they play in our lives.—Ed., "C.C."]

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Thou also shalt light my candle; the Lord my God hath made my darkness to be light.—Psalm 18.



"Old King Coal was a dirty old soul,
A grubby old soul was he."

"AND who on earth are you?" said his Grimy Majesty.
"Don't you know?" she said, "I am your daughter—Princess Gas."
"My daughter!" gasped King Coal, "but you're actually clean."
"Oh, yes," she said, "it isn't the thing to be dirty nowadays—it isn't done, you know."

"And what are you doing for your country in this hour of crisis," said the King, severely, "I'm working like a slave day and night."

"Working like a slave isn't done either nowadays," said the pert Princess, "not in the best circles, and we don't have labour troubles—at least, not much. But I'm doing my little bit all right."

"How?"

"Doing away with women's drudgery—saving the poor dears the labour of carrying your messy coals. Doing away with the cleaning of grates and the worry of the kitchen range. Cooking their food scientifically by gas, giving them plenty of hot water by gas-heated circulators for baths, heating their rooms by radiant gas fires, lighting their houses by soft incandescent gas light, and putting my energy into factories all over the Kingdom, to provide munitions and all that sort of thing. Doing it economically and in cleanly up-to-date fashion, saving unnecessary labour and giving better results—that's what I'm doing."

"But what about me?" said King Coal, "I've been doing that sort of thing for years, remember."

"You smoke too much, and you make people work too hard," said Princess Gas, "your place is in the retorts of the gas works. Your methods are too clumsy for modern houses and modern businesses. You're all right in your place, of course, for how could I exist unless you had existed first? I'm only the daughter of King Coal after all, but I'm IT nowadays—and I'm going to continue to be IT. I'm smart and fashionable and move in the very best circles as well as in the poorest. Economy is my motto and efficiency is my watchword—in short, I'm modern and your—"

"That's right," said the King bitterly, "go on, abuse your poor old father—that's the way with all you young things."

"I don't abuse you," said Princess Gas, "I use you. But you must be clean and labour-saving and efficient to get on nowadays, and I want to get on, that's all. Your business is to turn out the raw product, you dear old thing, and leave me to turn it to practical, economic use. Cheer O"

"Cheer O!" said Old King Coal, faintly.

For information as to the use of
Gas Appliances write to the
British Commercial Gas Association,
47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON, MRS. OLIVER STRACHAN (Parliamentary).



DERRY & TOMS KENSINGTON LONDON W

French Blouse Dept. 1st Floor

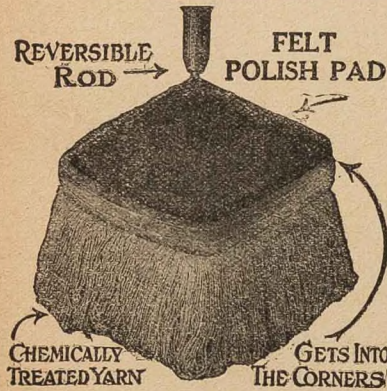
Having completed stock-taking, we have just received a range of delightful French Blouses in Crepe de Chine and Ninon.

Special Value in French Blouse Department on First Floor.

Charming Blouse, in ivory ground spot crystalline, with becoming design in the faintest of colours. The front is in the waistcoat effect, set in with beading and finished with crochet buttons.

12/9

The Mop That Starts to Work Where Others Stop



Actually—Two Complete Mops in One, and selling at the price of one. Packed in box with full directions. Complete, with handle.

6/3

The New Ayah Reversible Polish Mop is two complete mops in one—it has two working surfaces, instead of the usual one.

One side of the Ayah mop is made of heavy felt. This is the side used to apply Ayah Polish.

The other side of the Ayah Mop is made of long, soft chemically treated yarn, for removing the surplus polish and brightening the surface.

No other mop has this feature. It solves the problem of cleaning and polishing your floors. It eliminates the drudgery—the toil.

You wouldn't put polish on your furniture, and leave it there. Then why should you not remove the surplus polish from your floor.

THE PIONEER MANUFACTURING CO., 21, PATERNOSTER SQ., LONDON, E.C. Can be obtained from—The Civil Service Supply Association Ltd., Maples Ltd., Schoolbreds Ltd., etc., etc.

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

Our Maternity Unit for the Relief of Refugees in Russia.

We are arranging that next week the shop at 50, Parliament Street is to be used exclusively for the Russian Units' Equipment, and we hope to make an attractive window display.

We have now to consider the needs of Gatchina, where we hope shortly to open a sort of day-nursery. It is very important that we should have a variety of occupations for the children.

SEVENTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

Table listing donors and amounts for the seventh list of donations, including Mrs. F. B. Milner, Mr. Henry Goodman, and others.

The hon. treasurer begs again to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further donations to carry on the work.

A Criticism and a Reply.

The following criticisms were made in The Nursing Times of February 5th, with regard to our Maternity Unit, now on its way to Russia:—

(1) That the British Unit is taking out a very large consignment of infant foods, dried milks and tinned milk, and feeding-bottles, as if it was expected that many of the mothers would not feed their infants, and that it is surely now the moment of all others, for economy's sake, if not for the infants alone, to see that all mothers feed their infants.

(2) That it was to be hoped English doctors and nurses going out would not try to force their newer ideas as to clothing on the Russian mothers too drastically, as the two methods of dressing infants are diametrically opposite.

The following reply has been sent:—

"The mothers admitted into the British Women's Maternity Hospital at Petrograd are, it must be recalled, refugees from the war zone, who have gone through the most appalling hardships on the roadside, of which semi-starvation and sufferings from intense cold are amongst the least of the physical ills, to say nothing of the mental anguish caused by the exodus before invading armies.

to Petrograd are for the use of nursing-mothers in the hospital and for refugee children of any age who may come under the care of the Unit.

"With regard to the clothing taken out by our Hospital Staff, every effort has been made to obtain from Russian sources patterns for infants' garments which are suitable for the climate of that country. No attempt is being made to foist British methods as to infants' clothing upon a country with widely different atmospheric conditions from our own.

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

Table listing donors and amounts for donations to the Scottish Women's Hospital, including Mrs. Todd B.A., Hon. Sec., Mrs. Douglas Drummond, and others.

Table listing donors and amounts for various other donations, including Perthshire (£3 3s. 6d.), Perthshire (£3 2s.), and others.



Peter Robinson's WHITE SALE

Feb. 21 to Mar. 4.

THIS SALE is of the utmost importance to ladies who realise that the increased cost of living demands keener buying, for it will help them to make their money go farther.



No. 33. FRENCH Cambric Combinations, hand-made, trimmed with Val. lace, embroidery and tucks. 10/6
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Peter Robinson L^{TD} OXFORD STREET



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Table with two columns: Donor Name and Amount in £ s. d. Includes entries like 'Y.W.C.A. Women's Guild of Friendship, Gilmerton, per Miss E. Riley', 'of Scotland Ward, Royaumont', 'of Scotland Ward, Royaumont', etc.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work.

Table with two columns: Name of Bed and Donor. Includes entries like '2nd A. Harvey, Belhelvie (Salonika, 6 months)', 'East Midland Federation (Royaumont, 6 months)', etc.

MADAM,—May I, through the medium of your columns, thank the very numerous members of the London Society who, in spite of the difficult times, have paid their subscriptions promptly on the dates on which they fell due, or have even, as has happened in many cases, sent them well in advance?

B. M. GRAVES, Hon. Treasurer.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation. ASCOT.—The report (accidentally delayed) of the sale of work held by the Ascot Suffrage Society in the first week in December last, is a very encouraging one.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- FEBRUARY 17th and 18th. London Society's Receptions to Delegates to the N.U. Council Meetings—5 and 7, Johnson Street, Notting Hill Gate, W.
FEBRUARY 18th. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" 4.30
Birmingham—Grove Lane—Food Economy 3.0

Announcements.

Readers can help the Scottish Women's Hospitals by taking tickets for the SLAV CONCERT, to be given, by kind permission of Mrs. L. B. Franklin, at 32, Hyde Park Gardens, on Thursday, February 24th, at 3.15 p.m.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE. RED WHITE & BLUE. For Breakfast & after Dinner. In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

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ALL BRITISH. VALKASA THE TONIC NERVE FOOD. An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN, FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE. 1s., 3s., and 5s. 6d. of all Chemists. James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd. MANCHESTER.

FOR GIFTS. You cannot give a more ACCEPTABLE GIFT than a "COMMON CAUSE" FOUNTAIN PEN. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Packed in N.U. colors. Apply, sending P.O. for 3/8 (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. (State whether fine, medium, or broad nib required.)

WEST HERTS.—Members were busy before Christmas in working for the "Christmas-in-War-time" Sale of the Professional Classes War Relief Council.

Luton.—Members of the Society have recently made an effort on behalf of the Maternity and Relief Unit for Refugees in Russia.

As the result of her work, £8 was subscribed, and 128 gifts were forwarded to the Albert Hall. Our COMMON CAUSE effort resulted in the sale of between three and four dozen extra copies of the special Hospital number of November 12th, and Mrs. Ring secured three new regular subscribers.

This was addressed by Miss Geraldine Cooke, the secretary for the fund, her moving story making her hearers feel amply repaid for their efforts.

Maidenhead.—On Monday, January 24th, a meeting was held at the Town Hall, when a most interesting address was given by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., on the subject of the "Congress of Vienna—And After."

Wokingham, at the request of some of its members, has "adopted" a prisoner of war through Mrs. Mount's Berkshire Prisoner of War Help Committee, and is undertaking to send a fortnightly parcel of food and comforts.

Miss Etherington, 43, The Terrace, Wokingham, is kindly receiving all subscriptions and packing and despatching the parcels. Subscriptions are coming in most generously up to date.

It is proposed to hold a jumble sale early in the spring, and if the prisoner scheme can be made self-supporting, part of the proceeds of the sale will be devoted to the Russian and Polish Refugees Maternity Unit, which so urgently needs our assistance.

[Owing to the large amount of space devoted to the return of the Serbian units, we are obliged to hold over several very interesting Reports sent in this week.]

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

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Our readers are earnestly requested to support the Advertisers in the paper. Only firms of the highest repute are accepted by us, and if all readers will deal exclusively with them, it will materially help *The Common Cause*.

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PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

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.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W.—Meeting, Feb. 23rd, 8 p.m. "Wordsworth's Patriotic Poems," by Dr. Frederick Boas, M.A.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN will lecture on "Dostoevski, the Russian Shakespeare," on Thursday, Feb. 24th, at 7.30 p.m., at The Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-st., Strand, W.C. Tickets (reserved), 1s. (admission free, collection), from International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-st., Adelphi, W.C.

HELP WANTED.

PARENTS (father Naval Officer) of healthy baby boy, 6 weeks old, being unable to provide suitable nurture, desire its adoption into a family of suitable social standing. Willing to give absolute surrender.—Box 5,647, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S., Chemist, coaches Women Students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

"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.

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DEVONSHIRE CREAM, 2s. 2d. per lb.; New-laid Eggs, 2s. 6d. per doz.; Chickens (about 3 lbs. each), 1s. 2d. per lb., post free.—Hilda Paynter, Hocklake Farm, Berealston, Devon.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—MESSRS. A. 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. 100 years.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—Up to 6s. per tooth, pinned on vulcanite; 11s. on silver, 14s. on gold. Cash or offer by return. If offer not accepted, teeth returned post free. Satisfaction guaranteed by the original firm. Bankers, Parrs.—S. Cann & Co., 69A, Market-st., Manchester. Mention COMMON CAUSE.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 3s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 3s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

DAMASK TABLE CLOTHS, snow-white Irish Linen, floral designs, slightly imperfect; 2 x 2 yards, 6s. 10d.; postage 5d. Send postcard for this month's Bargain List, free.—HUTTON'S, 159, Larne, Ireland.

MAIDENHAIR SCALP FOOD, 1s. 6d.—Cures dandruff, and quickly produces new hair, even in extreme old age.—Miss Davy, Bere Ferrers, South Devon. Postage 2d. State paper.

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

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THE I.L. HIGH-CLASS CO.'S CIGARETTES are the original "Votes for Women Cigarettes." All brands highly selected. Orders for the Front promptly attended to.—Only address: 120, Sheringham-avenue, Romford-rd., Manor Park, Essex.

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Address _____

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