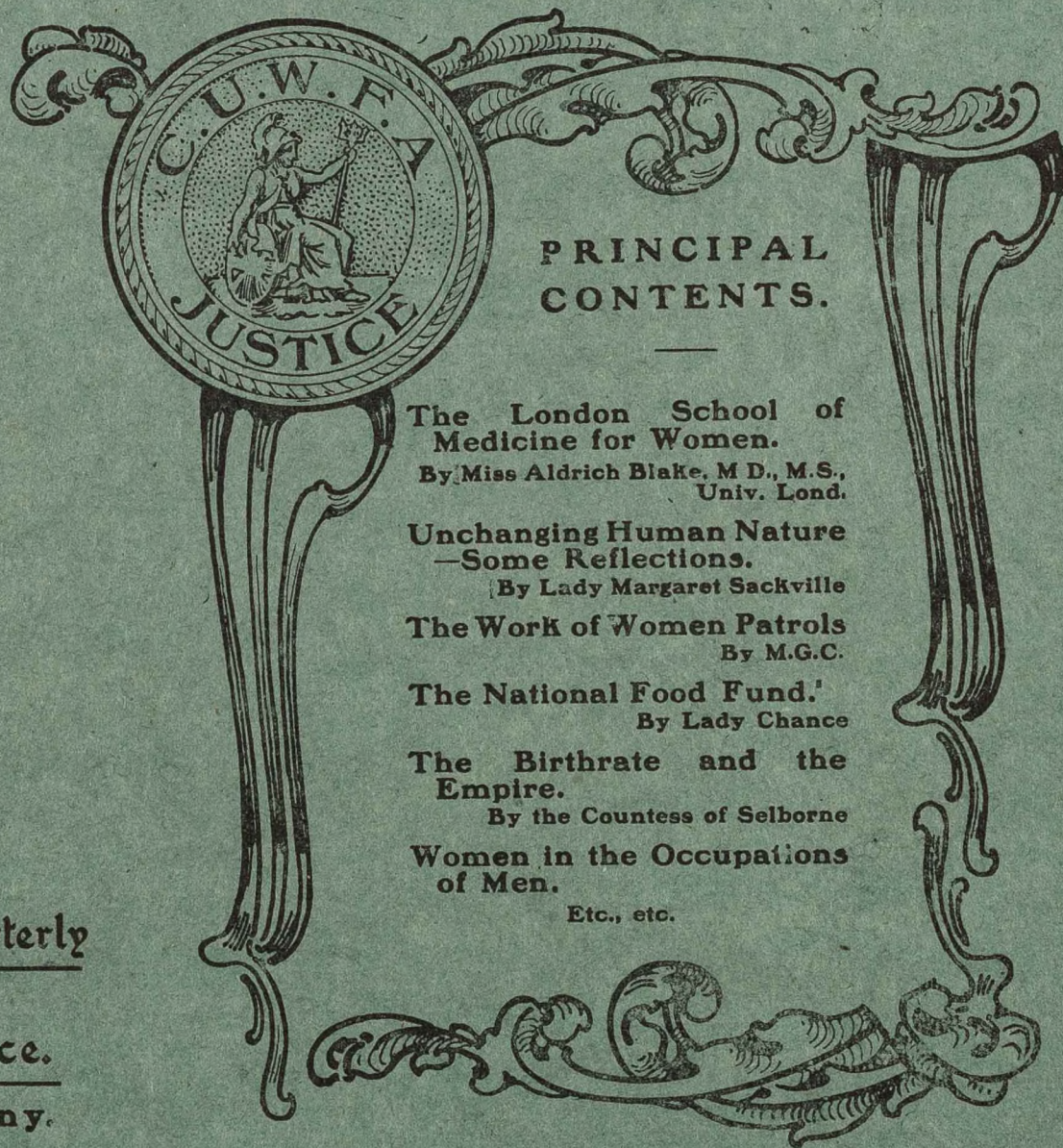


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No. XXIII.—Quarterly

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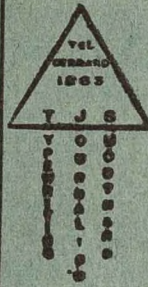
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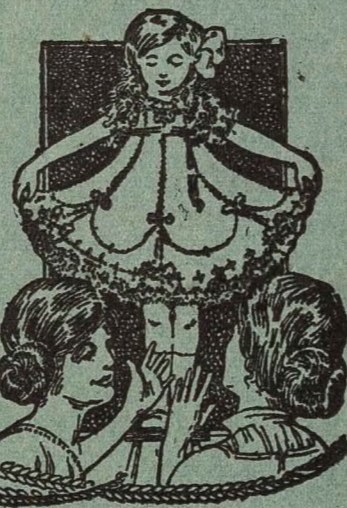
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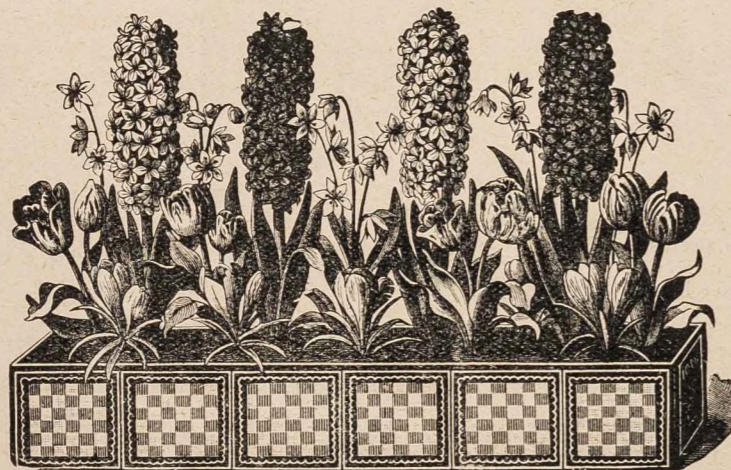
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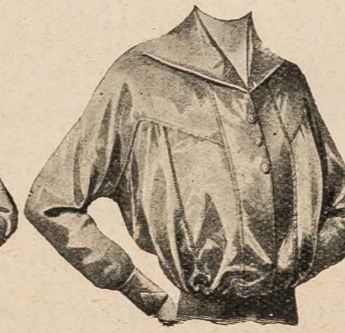
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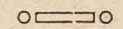


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1st Row:—Miss Minna Rathbone (Vice-Chairman of Country Circles and Finance Committee and member of Executive). Mrs. Guy Locock (Assist. Hon. Sec. of Westminster Branch). Mrs. Armitstead (Member of Executive).

OUR WORK.**HON. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The Hon. Treasurer wishes to thank very heartily all those who have continued to support the Association through a time of general financial crisis. This steady and consistent generosity has enabled us to maintain our organisation and to place the usefulness and efficiency of our office in spheres of action no longer purely suffrage but rendered necessary by the war. There has been practically no falling off of subscriptions, and this fact alone speaks volumes for the sense of responsibility among our members and their determination that the Association shall not only provide for the emergencies of the war—as in the case of the Hostel and Ambulance—but for what is equally important from the national and suffrage point of view, so that the continuity of spirit and comradeship shall be uninterrupted. Much gratitude is felt by those who have the financial responsibilities of the C.U.W.F.A. that their task has been rendered free from anxiety at this difficult time.

A. M. WARE.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

The quarterly meeting of the Women's Council was held on February 23rd, at 14, Wyndham Place, W., by kind permission of Mrs. Fabian Ware. There was a good attendance of Vice-Presidents and Councillors. Lady Selborne took the Chair and Mrs. Gilbert Samuel gave a report of the work of the Head Office.

Miss Somerville, well known as one of the two authors of the inimitable *Experiences of an Irish R.M.*, and a member of the Women's Council, had suggested that a leaflet be written dealing with the work of suffrage societies since the outbreak of war, its object being to refute the statement made by certain Anti-Suffragists that the suffrage organisations were dead. The Council passed unanimously that it would be most desirable to publish such a leaflet, especially if it could be written by Miss Somerville.

Since the meeting of the Council Miss Somerville has kindly consented to write the leaflet in conjunction with her cousin and collaborator, Miss Violet Florence Martin, (Martin Ross).

THE HOSTEL.

Details were given in our last issue of the arrangements made for the opening of a Hostel at 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington, where educated women workers, who had lost their employment owing to the war, could obtain a month's free hospitality. The Hostel has been open now over three months and has proved an entire success. Governesses, secretaries, actresses, journalists, companions, etc., have all been admitted, and many have found positions before the expiration of their time. A column on the back page of *Monthly News* has been reserved in order that guests may advertise for employment, and we hope all our members will remember this column should they hear of any suitable vacancies.

There was a large gathering of members and friends at the formal opening of the Hostel by our President on February 2nd. Lady Selborne explained that at the outbreak of war the Committee felt it could not pursue its original purpose as they could not seek to alter the constitution of England at a time when it

was a duty to help to save their country. On looking round to see who they could help most, they came to the conclusion that the class which seemed most neglected was that composed of professional women, hence the establishment of the Hostel.

Valuable gifts for use in the Hostel continue to come in, the latest being:—two pianos, sewing machine, handsome present of table linen, six hot water bottles and a gift of furniture (the fourth) from one of our members. Various necessaries are still required, and presents of eggs, fruit, vegetables, biscuits, tinned or dried fruits, curry powder, pickles, etc., would be much appreciated. The Hostel is supplied regularly with the *Morning Post*, *Queen*, *Land and Water* and *Punch*, but more daily, weekly or monthly papers would be most welcome.

On February 18th, a letter appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* signed by all members of the Executive Committee appealing to the public for funds to extend the scope of the Hostel. The letter was followed by an editorial which emphasised the necessity of rendering help to the educated woman worker. There was a good response to the appeal.

The writer pointed out that in order to reduce expenses, children more than ever are being sent to school, with the result that many governesses are out of employment. Still more difficult is the position of the "companion." To many of these our Hostel has been of real assistance.

We feel that if the public only knew some of the pathetic cases with which our Hostel Committee has to deal, it would be quite unnecessary to reiterate the importance of extending a helping hand to this most deserving class.

WAR SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee was held on March 22nd to discuss the invitation of the Government to co-operate with them in their scheme of War Service for Women. The Committee passed the following resolution which was sent to the Government:—

"The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association is willing to co-operate with the Board of Trade in the matter of the registration of women for War Service, but while from patriotic motives the Committee does so unconditionally, it wishes to emphasise the importance of women not undercutting the men whom they replace, either with regard to wages or to other conditions."

A notice has been sent to all members on the central roll of the Association and also to all Branch Secretaries inviting their co-operation.

A SERIES OF LECTURES.

A series of afternoon lectures on educational subjects has been arranged by the Association, two of which have already taken place. The first was held on March 4th at 52, Portland Place, by kind permission of Lady St. Helier, who presided. Mr. Stephen Graham gave a most interesting lecture on "Social Conditions in Russia," a subject which attracted so many members that nearly two hundred had to be refused admission. The Meetings Committee wish to express their regret that so many were disappointed, but seats were provided for all who had written to accept the invitation. The second took

place on March 18th at 83, Lancaster Gate, kindly lent for the occasion by Lord Meath, when Mrs. Belloc Lowndes gave one of her delightful lectures on "Social Conditions in France."

Members who were unable to attend the lecture on Russia will be glad to hear that Mr. Stephen Graham has promised to speak again for us in April. Lady St. Helier has most generously offered to take for this meeting the Small Queen's Hall, which has accommodation for more than four hundred people. Two lectures will be held in May, at the first of which M. Cammaerts has promised to speak on Belgium. Serbia will form the subject of the second.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Birmingham.—The Birmingham Branch is still working busily for the S.S.F.A. The method thought best by the Committee was to collect money to buy material in order to provide work for poor women thrown out of employment by the War. By this means, besides helping the women, we have been able to send several hundred garments to the Lady Mayoress' Depot for distribution among the soldiers and sailors and their families. Although our suffrage work is in abeyance, we hope to hold the annual meeting of the Branch in April.—*Hon. Sec., Miss I. C. Adams, 56, Carlyle Road, Edgbaston.*

Edinburgh.—Our Office has been open daily, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and since December the Secretary has had the great help of the services every morning of a shorthand-typist as Assistant Secretary.

The Association has continued to send consignments of knitted goods (socks, scarves, body belts, &c., &c.) to the Scottish and Highland regiments, through the Lord Provost of Edinburgh's Committee.

Our Clothing Depot scheme continues. We store women's and children's clothing, which we collect from the Associates and others, in two Depôts and sell them at nominal prices to civilian women (women wage earners) affected by the War. These women are all vouched for by our Committee, or by some of our Associates, or by Clergymen who have been communicated with by us on the subject.

In January our Edinburgh Branch forwarded to the Head Office £20, subscribed by our Associates for the Ambulance the Association has sent to the Front. Our subscription has been used, at our Committee's request, for the necessary purchase of a second set of tyres for the Ambulance.

The Edinburgh Women Workers' Union appealed to our Office for help in collecting ladies who would act as Patrols. A list of suitable names was furnished, and one of our Associates kindly called, with a letter from the Secretary, on each member on this list and explained the work to her.

A great deal of miscellaneous work, difficult to chronicle, has also been carried on at the Office, chiefly in connection with employment of women. Owing to the Association's work among women, and also to the fact that the Secretary is a member of the Sub-Committee for Women's Employment, Prince of Wales's Fund, appeals constantly reach the Office. These come both from the poorer class of women and from the educated and gentle class. It is gratifying that in

several cases where an appeal has been made to our Office, it has been possible to find employment, or to put the applicant into touch with those able to assist.

We have done no political propaganda work since the outbreak of War, but it has been found impossible to prevent the outsiders who have helped in the Office from voluntarily joining the Association.—*Hon. Sec., Miss R. Masson, Windsor Buildings, Princes Street, Edinburgh.*

Glasgow.—Our members in Glasgow are giving their help to many relief measures, notably, training school for unemployed women and a new toy-making industry. A sum of £50 has been raised for the Spring Farm Military Hospital, which sum carries with it the privilege to name a bed. Other objects in which members continue to interest themselves are the Red Cross, S.S.F.A. Emergency Organisation for the Navy League, Boy Scouts, St. Andrew's Ambulance, Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, Cosy Corner Girls' Clubs and the Prince of Wales' Fund.

The drawing-room meeting, held by Dr. Louise McIlroy, on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospital and social clubs for soldiers' and sailors' wives, was a great success. Miss Frances Melville, Miss Compton, M.A., and Miss Knight were the speakers, and Miss Macfarlane Park took the Chair. The collection came to over £10.

Bute.—Miss Somerville, Convener of the Bute Section, has been successful in raising over £100 for the Scottish Women's Hospital, and is now, with the help of her members, organising a Horse Flag Day on 3rd April. The services of the section have been offered to the S.S.F.A. A sewing party has been busy making garments which have been sent to Queen Mary's Needlework Guild and the Red Cross Society.

Burnside.—Miss Wallace, Convener for Burnside, is making a special effort to get subscriptions to present a bed to the Scottish Women's Hospital. Members of this section have undertaken to visit the wives and mothers of soldiers and sailors and to entertain a division of Engineers in the Drill Hall, Rutherglen, by arranging musical evenings and providing tea and coffee three evenings each week.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Robertson Mackay, 36, Queen Mary Avenue, Glasgow.*

Hayling Island.—Members of this Branch have been engaged on work in connection with the Wounded Allies Relief Committee, who have sent down several Belgian soldiers unfit for further service. Money has been collected, and in order to raise a further sum, a sale was held on March 17th, at the Victoria Hall, which was a great success.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Harold Foote, Bunbury, Hayling Island.*

Ireland.—Members of the Irish Branch are assisting one or other of the many relief organisations. The Committee have been working hard for the S.S.F.A. visiting the families of soldiers and sailors on active service, a work requiring great steadiness of purpose, but which, if persevered in, brings its own reward, as the visits are eagerly looked forward to by the women. Assistance has been given to the Irish Women's Local Government Society in their scheme for Women Patrols which already has been started in Dublin. We are glad to say, however, that there is less necessity for the Patrols in Dublin than in the manufacturing

towns. Members have worked hard to encourage recruiting, and the success of this work in Dublin is largely due to the women's help and energy. A representative of the Association is on the Committee appointed to watch the drink traffic. The Committee is urging further legislation, believing that the earlier closing of public houses has been a great advantage. Although no active suffrage work is being done, members of the branch are holding steadily together, and it is to be hoped that when the War is over, their work for the Empire will not be forgotten.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Patton, 51c, Dawson Street, Dublin.*

Liverpool, Wirral and District.—Members of this Branch have been very active during the last three months. The Chairman of the Committee, Miss Ivens, M.S., is still in France, managing a large hospital at the Abbaye de Royaumont, a few miles outside Paris. Most of the members are doing relief work in conjunction with the S.S.F.A.; several have undertaken the charge of departments, others have organised workrooms for unemployed women.

The Committee gave an At Home to members on March 3rd. After tea, interesting speeches were given on different aspects of women's work at this time. The work of Women Patrols was dealt with most ably by Miss Cowlin, organiser of this movement in Liverpool.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Brassey, 75, Newsham Drive, Liverpool.*

London. Chelsea and Belgravia.—An appeal for money was sent out by the Committee of this Branch for the Hostel at 9, Roland Gardens, and a good response was made.

Excellent relief work is being done by individual members, notably in connection with the Anglo-French Hospital at Cherbourg, clubs for wives of soldiers and sailors, Women's National Service League, Voluntary Health Society, Infant Care Centre at Battersea, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, L.C.C. Children's Care Committee and Free Dinners, Voluntary Aid Detachment, S.S.F.A., Women's Emergency Corps, Prince of Wales' Fund, Queen Mary's Fund, Belgian refugees, etc. One member has contributed £100 and hospital material to the Anglo-French Hospital, which is entirely managed and staffed by women. Another member has lent her studio as a workroom for unemployed women, where many thousands of garments have been made for the Queen's Fund. Others are managing the Handy-women's and Interviewers' departments at the Women's Emergency Corps, while yet another is engaged in teaching English to Belgian girl refugees.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Fraser, 14, Chester Street.*

Kensington.—Members have been busy with war work, but have held one very successful meeting at the Hostel, when Dr. Florence Willey spoke on Medical Women and the War, and appealed for funds for the London School of Medicine for Women. A good collection was taken for the School. Lady Selborne took the Chair.

We are hoping to arrange several meetings on subjects of general interest at the present time, as we find the idea is appreciated by our members, and many strangers are anxious to attend who would, perhaps, not come to a Suffrage meeting.

Branch Wardens for the Queen's Gate and Holland

Park districts are much needed, and the Hon. Secretary would be very glad if members will let her know if they can help.—*Hon. Sec., Miss L. J. Allen, 19, Penywern Road, S.W.*

Paddington.—The Hon. Secretary, Miss Mure, is now working in a hospital in France, having gone out with the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Members continue to work for the S.S.F.A. in North Paddington, for the Red Cross, at the local workroom for unemployed women, organised by the Women's Local Government Association, for the War Refugee Committee and for the National Relief Fund Committee.—*Acting Hon. Sec., Miss McLean, 4, Oxford Square, W.*

Plymouth.—The Ladies Rifle Club is still going strong. Members are helping in various ways, with Red Cross work and in making garments for our men at the Front. The Vice-President of the Branch, Mrs. Waldorf Astor, has started a Girls' Club, which is most successful. The Hon. Secretary and another member of the C.U.W.F.A. are in charge of the blouse-making room, and there are flower-making, first aid, violin and mandoline rooms, and a very nicely fitted club room. The Hon. Secretary is also on the Women's Patrol Committee.—*Hon. Sec., Mrs. Crowle, Hemerdon House, Mutley, Plymouth.*

Preston.—Two most successful At-Homes have been held on behalf of local objects by this Branch, one in aid of Belgian refugees, when the proceeds amounted to £7 13s. 6d.; the other for the benefit of the Voluntary Aid Hospital, when the collection amounted to £6 8s. 4d. The first annual meeting of the branch was held at the end of January. After the usual business proceedings, an interesting address was given by Mrs. Rawson, Poor Law Guardian, on "Women on Active Service."—*Hon. Sec., Miss Willan, Fulwood, Preston.*

Stamford.—A lantern lecture for the benefit of the Prince of Wales' Fund was held by this branch, tickets being sold at 1/-, 6d. and 3d. The sum of £8 14s. 11d. was sent up to the Fund. Members have been working for the Red Cross Society and in connection with the relief of Belgian refugees. The branch has suffered a loss in the resignation of Miss Williams from the post of Treasurer. Miss Williams has done valuable work and will be much missed.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Margaret Evans, The Vale House, Stamford.*

Sussex (North).—Members of the North Sussex Branch are doing good work on various relief committees. Several are members of the British Red Cross Society, one having gone to France to nurse the wounded. Her home in Sussex has been fitted up as a Hospital for convalescent cases. Another is Quartermaster of the Red Cross Detachment in the district, and still another is Treasurer of the Belgian Refugee Committee. Suffragists have introduced the toy-making industry into one of the parishes; this has been done in connection with the Women's Emergency Corps. Collections have been made for Queen Mary's Fund, and members have given subscriptions to the C.U.W.F.A. Hostel and Ambulance Funds. Needlework centres have been formed, skirts, socks, etc., being made for the wounded and for soldiers and sailors on active service.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Mary Nixon, Hill Crest, Coombe Hill, East Grinstead.*

THE NATIONAL FOOD FUND.

BY LADY CHANCE.

The National Food Fund was inaugurated in August last (under the auspices of the Women's Emergency Corps) for the purpose of forming a centre for the collection and distribution of food that was urgently needed for the feeding of the many thousand destitute refugees that were flocking to this country, as well as to assist cases of distress occasioned by the war amongst our own people, particularly out-of-work women and mothers with babies. The Fund does not itself attempt to deal with individual cases, and its distributing work is carried on solely through recognised organisations. There is therefore no overlapping in any sense with work that is already being done, and the Fund merely sets itself to form and organise a clearing house to ensure the swift and efficient distribution of the supplies of food and money that are so urgently needed. Thanks to the generous response of the Central Meat Market, the Billingsgate Fish Market and Covent Garden Market, as well as to very many firms and private people, enormous supplies of meat, fish, vegetables and groceries of every description have daily poured into the premises at 1a, Dover St., W., and have as rapidly been dispersed. Very large gifts of food have also been received from our overseas Dominions and Colonies. A devoted staff of voluntary workers has given magnificent help in the work of sorting and packing, motor cars have been forthcoming to do the work of delivery vans, and everything in the form of office equipment and the fine premises themselves have been lent free of charge.

A development of the Fund's energies is an Educational Campaign for which the interest of every housewife throughout the country is sought. Experience goes to prove that by far the most pressing reform in this country as a means of economy is the prevention of waste, and that more can be effected by this than by the ordinary cutting down of expenditure. The Fund has therefore set itself to tackle the question on the lines followed in Continental countries, i.e., by the publication of a large coloured card on which the comparative cost and nourishing qualities of some of the most ordinary foods will be shown pictorially; a very comprehensive penny Handbook for Housewives, containing 32 pages of useful advice and many recipes, besides other leaflets dealing with special branches of domestic economy. Most important of all, the N.F.F. is organising a band of trained instructors, who shall hold short courses of practical cookery, wherever these can be organised. A special feature of the teaching will be the use of earthenware cooking-pots, "fireless cookers" and of makeshift utensils constructed out of materials that are within everybody's reach.

The interest that the scheme has already aroused is very great and the response threatens to be almost overwhelming. In order to meet the demand for instructors, it is proposed to form three grades of classes:—

(a) Classes for mistresses and cooks of small households, who shall be asked to pay a fee.

(b) Classes for those who will undertake to become voluntary instructors of working women, and who

Warwickshire.—Leamington. Members still continue to work for the British Red Cross Society, etc. The working parties have done, and are doing, excellent work. Monthly meetings of an educational character are being held in conjunction with the local National Union and Church League, which are helpful in keeping members together now that suffrage work has been dropped. In January an address on "Women's Prospects Overseas" was given by Miss Perkins, of the British Women's Emigration Society, and in February Mrs. Garrett Rice spoke on "The present day education of girls: were reforms needed." The March meeting was held on the 12th, and Dr. Lillias Hamilton gave an address on "Educated Women as Forewomen in Factories." The joint office of the suffrage societies in Warwick Street are still being lent to the League of Honour. The 29th Division of the Warwickshires is being trained in the district, and there is a great deal of work to be done in many directions, particularly with regard to the V.A.D. Hospitals, which are now open.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Hulbert, 19, Clarendon Avenue, Leamington.*

Kineton and Wellesbourne.—Members are very much occupied in work at the Red Cross Hospital at Kineton, and in making garments for the soldiers in France. They are also helping to look after the families of Belgian refugees which have been found hospitality in the district.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Heath Stubbs, Manor House, Butler's Marston, Warwick.*

Woking.—Woking members are working for the local War Emergency Committee, for the S.S.F.A., Belgian refugees and Red Cross Society. No definite suffrage work is being done, but the Committee of the branch meets once a month. New subscribers to *Monthly News* have been obtained.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Burrell, Birch, St. John's, Woking.*

Worcester.—Although this branch is not officially undertaking relief work, individual members are actively engaged in assisting the various organisations which were formed to deal with the needs created by the war. A drawing-room meeting will be held shortly in order to bring before members and friends further details of such work. Two of the three local newspapers are exhibiting the article by Lady Laura Ridding on "Our Soldiers" (which appeared in *Monthly News*) in the windows of their office among the war pictures.—*Hon. Sec., Miss Power, 15, Fort Royal Hill, Worcester.*

NEVADA DIVORCE BILL.

On February the Nevada "Easy Divorce" Bill, which had been passed by the Assembly, was defeated in the Senate by one vote, largely, it is said, owing to the activity of the new women voters. Unfortunately the force behind the Bill eventually proved too strong. A few days later it was reconsidered, and finally passed by the narrow majority of 12 to 10. There are two outstanding facts with regard to the Nevada six-months divorce bill. In the new Legislature women voters had nothing to do with the election of the legislators. In the second place, the men who were in control of the Legislature were the men who fought the passage of the suffrage amendment so bitterly in Nevada last autumn.

shall accordingly be asked to pay a fee only sufficient to cover the Fund's actual expenses. These volunteers should already possess a good knowledge of cooking and household management, and should preferably be those who are already working in Mothers' Clubs, Schools for Mothers, or other organisations, which will form the nucleus of

(c) Classes for working women.

The promoters of this Educational Campaign are particularly anxious to secure the co-operation of ladies who will form local committees in their own neighbourhoods to arrange for these classes, of which perhaps the most important at the present moment is (b). The teachers sent from the Fund for classes (a) and (b) will in every case be highly qualified and experienced instructors, but it is obviously impossible to secure a sufficient number of these to cover the enormous area contemplated, even if the expense itself were no drawback. In one centre alone it is estimated that there will be 12,000 working women to be provided with instruction, and by the means above suggested it is hoped to shift the expense on to those who are best able to bear it. A scheme on these lines has been successfully worked in Shropshire for some months past under the County Council.

The Fund will, of course, gladly give advice and assistance in forming local committees, and by their help it is hoped to set going a movement which is essentially national in character and the importance of which cannot be over-estimated.

Among the institutions to which the N.F.F. is sending food supplies is the C. and U. Hostel for Professional Women, at 9, Roland Gardens.

WOMEN IN THE OCCUPATIONS OF MEN.

"The question of employing women in the places of men is a difficult one. Who desires to see a condition of things, after the war, in which men will have to live on women? If employers take women in large numbers, it will mean that wages will go down and conditions of labour and the standard of living will be lowered. After the war men will have to fight to get back the old standards. None of us, I believe, want to see our nation depending to a large degree on female labour, and there is no doubt that employers would fight to retain such labour after the war."

Mr. Appleton, Secretary of the National Federation of Trade Unions, is reported by the *Daily Mail* to have given the above answer to an interviewer, but I wonder if he has looked at the question from a woman's point of view?

Of course we don't want to see men living on women's work, but it is a cruel and futile way of preventing this to hinder women from taking well-paid work when they are capable of doing it. What should be done is to persuade women not to allow themselves to be exploited and underpaid for their work.

"If employers take women in large numbers, it will mean that wages will go down and conditions of labour and the standard of living will be lowered." Why should it mean this? The answer is because there is a great mass of sweated female labour from which individuals are constantly trying to raise themselves, and that even under-payment, according to the standard men have won for themselves, is ex-

remely tempting to them. Well-paid female labour is no danger to male labour. Poverty is the danger, the poverty that makes any resistance to unfair conditions impossible. And men create this poverty by forbidding the offer of all well-paid posts to women. They cut the stick for their own backs.

If female labour was paid in just proportion to male, it would increase the total bulk of labour employed no more than it does now. But it would be economically and profitably employed instead of wastefully. Women work just as men do, because they are obliged to. Men should treat them as fellow workers and give them help and support, instead of selfishly refusing them all the good things in life and forcing them to an existence of semi-starvation, and so placing them at the mercy of any unscrupulous employer who can adjust his manufacture to the conditions of their cheap but miserably inefficient labour.

THE BIRTH-RATE AND THE EMPIRE.

All women interested in the future of their country should read a very thoughtful article by Mr. Bred in the March number of the *Nineteenth Century*. It shows how the birthrate in these Islands has been diminishing ever since 1877 and still continues to do so, and therefore in a very short space of time—he puts it at twenty years, but I think it will probably be not quite so soon—we shall be a practically stationary population. This will mean that the still vacant places in our Colonies will be filled by other races which have kept their fertility. Australia will no longer be an almost purely British land, as she is at present, but will be over-run by Germans, Slavs and Italians.

Our feeling of responsibility to those who come after us has led us into this terrific war with its immense destruction of life. Is there not another war to be waged on behalf of our race—a war not of death but of life? The first thing that should be done is to stop the monstrous waste of infant life which goes on at present. If our babies died only in the same proportion as the New Zealand babies, we should save something like 41,400 lives (on a population of 45,000,000) in a single year. Then those who can afford to have children should consider whether a larger family is not worth a little more self-sacrifice.

As women we must disapprove of the waste of pain, health and life which is involved in bringing so many babies into the world who do not complete their first year, but we must also set ourselves to think whether we desire the future of the world to be in the hands of an English or a foreign race.

MAUD SELBORNE.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 25th, the following resolution was passed:—

"The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has declined the invitation to be present at the International Women's Congress to be held at The Hague in April, because it considers the moment obviously inopportune for any members of a belligerent community to take part in such a Congress."

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN.

By MISS ALDRICH-BLAKE, M.D., M.S., Univ. Lond.

(Dean of the London R.F.H. School of Medicine for Women).

Medicine as a profession for educated women has been perhaps more prominently before the mind of the public in the last few days, and especially so during the last few months, than at any time during the forty years which have elapsed since the first School of medicine for Women in the Kingdom (probably in the world) was established in London.

Out of that School, founded by Doctor Sophia Jex-Blake in 1874, the present "London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine" for Women has grown.

For more than twenty years the work of the School was carried on in converted houses on the present site. These were taken down in 1898 and the following years and an entirely new School, beautiful in itself and suitable in every way to its purpose, was built in their stead.

The Council is now appealing for £25,000 to build and equip further laboratories, lecture and research rooms, made necessary by the greatly increased number of students entering the School.

The medical course is a long one. In order to satisfy the requirements of the General Medical Council, five years is the minimum after a preliminary Arts examination has been passed.

Our annual entry of students has more than doubled in the last six years, but it will, of course, be some time before the present larger numbers complete their course, and are ready to take up work. The fact that the supply of doctors was already short before the war, that numbers of young men who would otherwise have studied medicine have joined the combatant ranks of the Army, and that Government plans, which may be classed roughly under the head of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, will require large numbers of qualified men and women, makes one confident that useful work will be obtained by any probable number of medical women.

The London School has been at work for forty years. In 1859 when the registration of all medical practitioners was instituted in England, the name of one woman, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell—who had studied in America and settled in England—was entered in that Register. There are now the names of more than one thousand women, over six hundred of whom are old students of the London School.

The first woman to take a medical qualification in this country was Miss Elizabeth Garrett, better known as Mrs. Garrett Anderson, who obtained the licence of the Society of Apothecaries in 1865, the Charter of that Society not specifically excluding women from its examinations. Immediately after her admission, however, the Society took steps to prevent other women from following Mrs. Garrett Anderson, and at the time (the London School of Medicine was started in 1874) there was no hospital which would admit women to its wards for clinical work and no qualifying body which would examine them. Three years later a union was effected with the Royal Free

Hospital which made the School a complete one, and in the same year the King's and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland opened its diploma examinations to women. From that time onwards there has been no insuperable bar to the entrance of women to the medical profession.

The medical degrees of the University of London were opened in 1879. In 1910 a widely supported appeal, promoted by the School, was made to the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, as a result of which all the examinations held by the Conjoint Board of these Colleges were opened to women. This was a step of much importance, as the highest diplomas of these Colleges (membership of the College of Physicians and Fellowship of the College of Surgeons) are the qualifications required by all the more important hospitals in England of all applicants for appointment on their medical and surgical staffs respectively.

Many women who have qualified in the Dominions and in India have, since the examinations of the Conjoint Board were open, come to London for a further period of study and taken the well-known diploma of the Colleges, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

At the present time the degree examinations of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are the only avenues to a place on the Medical Register which remain closed to women.

The recent Royal Commission on University Education in London has recommended far-reaching changes and developments in the teaching of medicine. Should the changes foreshadowed materialise, it is the hope of the Council that the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women, which is now one of the "Schools of the University in the Faculty of Medicine" will become one of the three, or possibly four, "Constituent Colleges" in medicine to be developed in the University.

In writing to the C.U.W.F. REVIEW, I make no apology for putting forward the woman's point of view. It appears to me to be of the greatest importance that a strong school, in which the interests of women are paramount, should exist within the Faculty of Medicine of the University of London, for the fact that in such a School the claims of women for the highest as well as for junior teaching posts enables them to do work, for which—lacking opportunity, they would otherwise never be able to prove themselves eligible.

Many of the Medical Schools in the Provinces, as well as some of those in Scotland and Ireland, are now open to women together with men, but though women are admitted as students, in none are they in practice, and in few are they even in theory considered equally with their male fellow students in the matter of post graduate work.

£25,000 for the present extension of buildings at the School and their equipment; ten times that sum could be most usefully employed in developments which would fit the School as a whole to take a place in the forefront among the Medical Schools of London, and would enable it to lead the way in the solution of problems concerning infant life and the welfare of women which will be of increasing importance and in which it is fitting that medical women should be prepared to take a leading part.

UNCHANGING HUMAN NATURE — SOME REFLECTIONS.

BY LADY MARGARET SACKVILLE.

Those men and women, that is the majority of mankind, who oppose as idealistic, Utopian and absurd all suggested changes which do not fit in with their established conception of life forget one thing. They forget how revolutionary, how utterly outside the understanding of all, save of a few advanced spirits, they themselves would appear, could they suddenly be transported a few hundred years back. They would find themselves in direct opposition to nearly every accepted idea—from the shape of the world, to slavery, witch-burning and the inquisition. If they protested and expressed any horror or amazement, they would be told that human nature being what it is, these things must continue for ever, and were moreover so-ordained by Providence. If they continued their protest, they would most assuredly have been seized by their mediæval counterparts and burnt themselves. And if after this summary closing of the argument they could immediately be brought back again into their own century, they might be prepared to admit that even if human nature does not change, at any rate its opportunities for doing harm are with each succeeding generation greatly limited, and that those of their contemporaries who venture to point out any imperfection in the existing order of things, are not altogether worthy of the contempt so generously heaped upon them.

Since their religion is founded on idealism—those who profess it should really be more tolerant with those others who strive to put some of its less difficult precepts into practice. And they should consider, too, that whatever freedom, comfort, knowledge they enjoy in the present is almost entirely due to the activities of those who were tormented and dispossessed in the past. Men have, however, no wish to return to abuses which have been remedied, it is any attack on existing abuse which they resent so bitterly. The abuse of war for instance. War is the peculiar triumph of the antis of all types. "See," they exclaim, "How right we were! Human nature does not change. Hurrah! There will be war till the end of the world."

One would think, holding such a belief, so direct a criticism of the most essential points of their religion, so melancholy a confession of failure, a doctrine so full of suffering and despair, that those who defend war as war would at least be depressed. But no. They exult in the confessed failure of humanity. They delight in its unchangeability. They hold that war is one of the peculiar institutions of Providence, as was slavery and the burning of heretics a little further back. The relation in their minds of Providence to Christianity is a little hard to trace.

The fact is they are for the most part simple folk, who defend war, not because they are murderously inclined, but because war is a familiar concept which they can understand, whereas the opposing ideas merely puzzle and irritate. Besides, the warmest defenders of the continuity of war are often not those who have experienced it themselves, but comfortable ladies and gentlemen who like to think of their country's sons gaining glory on the battle-field. They

never think further—of the women and children, the peasants and harmless, kindly people of all kinds, who are starved, outraged, their homes destroyed, their lives ruined, for what must appear to them very inadequate motives. It is not part of the tradition of war to consider these, so they are ignored. No, the thoughts of the defenders of war are fixed complacently on the glitter and glamour of the battle as conceived in their own minds. The fact that modern warfare has neither glitter nor glamour, but is business-like, squalid, without banners, trumpets and splendid charges of cavalry does not trouble them at all. To them a battle is always Waterloo, and a sea-fight Trafalgar. As to the women, they are happy beings whose privilege it is to provide men for mutual slaughter. At any rate war is no concern of theirs. Woman's place is the home, and men have the right to pull it about her head.

It is quite true, let it be generously admitted, that a certain kind of human nature does not change—for instance of those who have sealed themselves between high walls of received thought for centuries. But one would hardly call these human. Since it is only by ideas that men change, they assuredly do not. But the others, the men and women outside, who are free to think, discuss, compare and balance, have a different outlook, reach different conclusions. One is that war is wasteful, impossible, contrary to Christianity, and by a careful readjustment in national relationships, can be avoided or that at least the attempt is worth the making.

The defenders of war *per se* are guilty of that particularly detestable form of pro-Germanism, which while it professes to attack Prussian Militarist ideas, desires at the same time to see them adopted in their own country. That is, they only object to militarism when it is carried to a logical conclusion by their enemies. And this very complicated morality arises from the confusion which follows the endeavour to base public life on two contradictory systems—the Maxims of Napoleon and the Teachings of Christ.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

In view of the grave need in France, Belgium and Servia for more medical aid, the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies has decided to organise Mobile Hospitals, officered by women, and to send them out under the Red Cross of these countries. It is proposed to form Hospital Units, consisting of 24 persons:—4 women doctors, 10 fully trained nurses, 6 dressers (senior medical students or members of V.A.D's), 2 cooks, an administrator and a clerk. Each Hospital will be equipped to nurse a Hospital of 100 beds. It will take with it the most modern surgical appliances, dressings and drugs, and each Unit will be prepared to nurse cholera and enteric as well as wounds.

Ordinary buildings, schools, halls, etc., will be fitted up as Hospitals. It is calculated that £1500 will equip each Hospital and pay all preliminary expenses. Donations should be sent addressed to the Scottish Women Hospital, 3, St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh. £15 will equip one bed; £25 will carry with it the right to name a bed for six months; £50 the right to name a bed for one year.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

On the 24th of February the statue of Florence Nightingale was unveiled in Waterloo Place at six o'clock in the morning without pomp or ceremony. Yet throughout that day and the next, interested little groups of men and women stopped to look up to "the lady of the lamp," and to the fine statue of her loyal friend, Sydney Herbert—a statue which has been rightly moved from the inner Court of the new War Office and placed beside the woman with whose name his will ever be associated. This is the first statue to a great woman, not a Queen, which has ever been erected in a public London thoroughfare. It is more than sixty years since her great work was done, but its results are of vital consequences to our armies engaged to-day in far the greatest war that has been fought in Europe since the war in the Crimea.

Lord Robert Cecil, who has been in close touch with Red Cross work in France, says:—"I think it is of immense importance that the services of women should be used as much as possible, both for the sick and for the wounded. I am sure the more you can get nurses into hospitals and the nearer you get them to the Front consistently with military requirements the better it is both for the soldiers and the women, and for the doctors and for everybody concerned. I thank the doctors most warmly for in the earlier stages initiating the reform of allowing nurses to go to what are called the clearing stations. I am told they now have two nurses to each clearing station. I hope that they will be able to have even more. Their presence has been of incalculable benefit to the men."

With Mr. C. G. Masterman's disappearance from the Cabinet owing to his failure to find a Liberal constituency to adopt him, those suffragists who have borne him a grudge for his share in the torpedoing of the Conciliation Bill of 1911 may now cry 'quits.' If Mr. Masterman destroyed our Bill, women on their side had something to say to the results at Bethnal Green, and still more at Ipswich. Mr. Masterman will doubtless eventually surmount the unexpected check to his career, and when that time comes we shall ask nothing better than to be given the chance of treating him as either a convinced friend, or, if so it must be, as an open foe. But no more torpedoing under a flag of truce, if you please, Mr. Masterman!

One of the most striking incidents of the war has been the drastic prohibition of the sale of vodka by the Russian Government. Drink is normally as great an evil in Russia as in our own country. It is also a big source of revenue. By renouncing the manufacture and sale of spirits "the Russian Government has sacrificed a revenue of £80,000,000 a year." Yet the financial and business circles in Russia are said to have received this heroic decision with "acclamation." A traveller from the Chinese border of Russia to Finland has recently borne testimony to the fact that he "didn't see a single intoxicated person." As a consequence of this drastic Temperance measure it is asserted that "mobilisation proceeded like clock-work and was completed almost a week before the

allocated time;" that hooliganism, by the police records, has decreased in Petrograd by 75 per cent., and the hooligans have started banking accounts, and pay into their accounts about three roubles a day; that "drunkenness is almost stamped out; all the wives in the country are rejoicing," and the present favourable economic conditions in Russia are said to be largely due to the prohibition of the sale of spirits. The national savings have increased from £3,400,000 in 1913 to £8,400,000 in 1914. The authority for these facts is given in an exceedingly interesting pamphlet entitled "Temperance Regulations in the Russian and Australian Armies," by Professor J. W. Gregory, F.R.S.D.Sc., Glasgow University.

After eight months of war we can still only guess at what German women are thinking about the great catastrophe in which their rulers have involved them. There are indications that their attitude has not been altogether acceptable to the authorities. The *Kölnische Volkszeitung* asserts that compulsion has been necessary to secure their co-operation in national food regulations; and that protests have had to be made in the Press against the lamentations of women who "will not understand the long duration of the war." The Crown Princess in a recent interview is reported to have said: "I do not believe that any true German mother or wife was, or can be, in favour of war—German women are mothers of sons who are or have been soldiers. They knew and realised, as perhaps the women of no other country did, with the possible exception of France, what war really meant to them before it came. That they give their sons to the Fatherland when it is in danger has been shown, and is being shown daily. But that they wanted war—ask any German mother or German wife!"

The Women's Local Government Society has sent a letter to the Secretary of State for War urging the repeal of the War Office Memorandum entitled "Cessation of Army Separation Allowances and of Allotments of Pay to the Unworthy," for the following reasons:—

(1) That the alarming statements as to the drinking by soldiers' wives which called forth the Circulars cannot be maintained in the face of the results of careful investigations. (2) That to subject a woman to police supervision instead of taking her case into court where her guilt or innocence can be proved is really, however kind the intention, to deprive her of the protection of the law,—thus to their injury differentiating wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors from every other class of the community. (3) That such employment of the police would be likely to impair the good relations between the people and the force. (4) That for State interference directed towards checking misconduct and protecting children the law (which includes the Children Act) is adequate, if efficiently administered. (5) That the so-called allowances are actually wages offered for work; and hence there should be no question of withholding except after conviction and for the benefit of the family. (6) That the withdrawal of the Departmental Circulars referred to will terminate discontent and restore confidence.

WOMEN PATROLS.

Who and what are Women Patrols?

They are not detectives, neither are they rescue workers—but they are friends of the girls. Girls who, over excited by the abnormal conditions caused by the great war, flock to places where men in khaki are stationed. The thought that some of these very men will perhaps lay down their lives in defence of their country has a fearful fascination for them. Who is there who can see a body of these, our brave defenders, pass without a thrill of pride and admiration? It is small wonder our lads and lasses throng the places where soldiers are collected. But it is clear these places are not where girls should spend their leisure hours, and by so doing they run into grave moral danger.

In the early days of the war, reports of this extraordinary wave of giddy excitement sweeping over the young girlhood of the country were brought to the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. This Society felt that to try and combat this evil and withdraw the girls from the danger zone was indeed woman's work, and after careful consideration determined to organise "Women Patrols" analogous to "Special Constables." The President approached the Home Secretary and the Commissioner of Police, both of whom welcomed the scheme and gave it official recognition. The latter also signs the Patrol cards for the Metropolitan area; these cards authorise the Police to give the Patrols all necessary assistance. In the Provinces they are signed by the Chief Constables. Lord Kitchener also has lately given his official recognition. Officers in command of military districts are informed that he wishes them to take steps to help the Patrols when working in their commands.

Thus encouraged, the N.U.W.W. took heart of grace and drafted a working method. It is easy to exaggerate the value of a method. Of far greater importance is it, that there should be mind and heart working behind the method. This was secured by the forming of an enthusiastic, able Committee which directs operations with sympathetic intelligent care. On it are represented all societies interested in the welfare of women and girls. From a very large number of applicants twenty-six able, zealous, enthusiastic Organisers were selected. After a short training to give them a clear and comprehensive view of its ideal, aim and scope, they are prepared to initiate the work. When Women Patrols are desired in any Military Centre, should a Branch of the N.U.W.W. be in existence there, it is expected to form a responsible Patrol Committee, if not, some lady interested in the question may do so. When the Committee is appointed, it proceeds to secure voluntary workers as Patrols; an Organiser is then sent to organise the work.

The Patrols are a really splendid band of women. The whole success of the movement depends on their faithful discharge of duties which are often dull, wearisome, and monotonous. It is delightful to hear the warm praise given to them by the Organisers. One says, "My Patrols are marvellous; so tactful, so cheerful and bright, regular and punctual; I am really proud of them."

There are now well over a thousand of these devoted

women working in different parts of the country; they are trained by the Organisers, who give them a sound insight into the ideal of this pioneer work, and when possible accompany them on their first tour when their "beat" has been assigned to them, or when this is not feasible they put a trained worker with an inexperienced one. The Patrols invariably work in couples, and the period of each turn of duty is two hours. They wear no uniform, but have an armband of striped drill round the left arm, with the letters N.U.W.W. in red on a small black shield, and carry a signed card instructing the police to assist them if required. The object of the work being to remove the girl from the danger zone, it is obviously useless for the Patrol to say "Go," if she is not also prepared to say "Come," so clubs are started, and the patrol is helped in her work by being able to give some such kindly invitation as: "How cold and dark the streets are, we have such a nice warm room with a bright fire, do come and see it." The girl goes, a welcome guest; and comes again and again, until she begins to take a proprietary interest in the club.

The girls evince a great affection for the Patrols who run these Clubs and Rooms. One story illustrating this has two good points, one showing the love of the girls for the lady in charge of the Club, and the other the value of the N.U.W.W. badge. In a certain district some rough girls were discussing the Organiser who was managing the Club, and said "Oh! she's nothing but a woman Copper from London. The Club girls indignantly repudiated this, saying, "She aint, she's a working woman like us; she's got it (the N.U.W.W. badge) on her arm to show she's a friend to us girls."

Both work and play go on in these Clubs. A mixed Club, where a girl may bring her soldier friend, is much appreciated. The most careful vigilance and supervision is required and given, and success is in most instances attained. The work is gladly welcomed by Military and Police alike. Commanding Officers have asked that Women Patrols may be sent to the neighbourhood of camps, one asking that a mixed Club might be started. Everywhere a kindly reception has been given to the Patrols by the military. In some Commands the work has been put in "Orders." Without the help of the police the work would have been much more difficult. Constables have several times expressed the opinion that Women Patrols have come "to stay." "We cannot do without them now," said one Sergeant; while a constable remarked to a Patrol, "Business has got very slack since you ladies began to work here."

One and all give the most invaluable assistance and advice. Then the soldiers themselves welcome the movement, one man expressing the hope that some one was looking after his sisters in the same way; another expressed his surprise at the ladies going out night after night in the cold and the dark so cheerfully to befriend the girls. "They cannot like it, but it's splendid work and much needed," were his words. Many a kindly "good night ladies" or in some instances "sisters," reaches the ears of the Patrols. One man compared them to "Guardian Angels!" One may smile but that is precisely what one wants them to be. Guardians

BOOK REVIEWS.

DELIA BLANCHFLOWER. Mrs. Humphrey Ward. (Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd. 6/-.)

This is a novel which should be read by Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists alike, though some of the latter with fixed ideas may be disappointed to find Mrs. Humphrey Ward endowing her "militant" heroine with youth, beauty and attraction. Worse still, though Delia Blanchflower forsook methods of violence and found happiness as wife and mother, she remained a convinced supporter of the Cause. True, Mrs. Ward from time to time, remembering certain formulas adopted for political reasons, is careful to insist on the "eternal feminine" of Delia's soul, and of its inevitable subjection to personal influence, personal joy and the charm of domesticity, but it would be hard to say whom the obvious pose fits most ill, the spirited heroine or her conscientious creator. Some of Mrs. Ward's reviewers have detected an "advance" in her position, but it would be equally true to say that the tone of the book shows a return to the wider and more democratic attitude that once characterised the author of "Marcella." Though the plot is concerned only with the extreme Suffrage wing which we used to know as "militancy" (excellent dramatic use is made of the struggle between that fiery organisation and Delia's legal guardian, who is also her lover), the action moves always within sound of the greater movement in the background with which Mrs. Ward professes herself frankly in sympathy, though not yet converted to the vote. If it means physical force—she seems to argue—leave it to men. But if, on the other hand, it is the instrument of the Idea, by which "all life in the end is ruled," can women be excluded? No answer is given beyond the suggestion that the vote in itself is a trivial thing, as it were a toy for males. Meanwhile we must continue to wrestle with "the meaning of that imperious call to women which this century has sounded."

The Patrol system is fully established in 56 places in England, and Organisers are now engaged in organising it in some eight or nine other places. Scotland and Ireland have also come under the scheme, Jersey and Guernsey are enquiring into its merits. An Organiser is actually going out to establish the work in South Africa; this is due to leaflets describing the work sent out privately.

What developments may arise it is impossible to say, but there has long been a demand for women's work in this direction. It appears clear that Women's Patrols are started on the right principles. It shows how by worth of character and wealth of service to God and man, the mouths of detractors may be closed, and may win a place in the love and honour of the world. Funds to carry on the work are a problem and matter of faith, but where faith and works go hand in hand failure is not conceivable!

A BRAVE WOMAN MAYOR.

When Soissons was in the hands of the Germans, Mme. Marcherez saved the town from sack and burning by her bold adoption of the office of mayor. During twelve days she governed the town, organised a system of requisitions for the German army and compelled the German Governor to accept a reasonable tribute and respect the needs of the civil population. In spite of the demands of the invader she secured milk for the starving children and supplies for the hospital. When the English drove the Germans out of Soissons, Mme. Marcherez stayed on during the fierce bombardment which followed. So great was the effect of her courage that during the height of the bombardment she was able to secure, with the aid of the military commander, twenty head of cattle, which were brought in at great risk. She also asked a baker, M. Mignot, to remain in order to ensure the bread supply, and the gallant baker declared that he would stay as long as she did.

Throughout the ages Frenchwomen have been famous for their high courage and patriotism. That the same spirit inspires them to-day is borne out by letters from our men in the trenches, and Mme. Marcherez heroic action is but an example of what women are capable when the need arises.

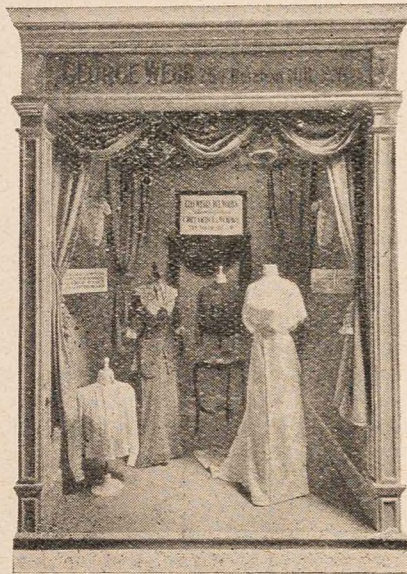
ECCE MATER. M. A. R. Toker. (The Southern Publishing Co., Ltd., Fleet Street, E.C. 3/6).

"Ecce Mater, by M. A. R. Toker, the writer of the Handbook to Christian and Ecclesiastical Rome and an occasional contributor to this REVIEW, comes in time for an Easter gift book, and should prove specially interesting to the various Religious Leagues for Women's Suffrage. Not that it deals with this question. The first section of the book is a new treatment of Christ's view of the character of women and men, and shows that the original position of the mother in nature is recognised by the Lord as a leaven in the gospel and that the possibility of a "Kingdom of God on Earth" is dependent on our realisation of it. In the second section this gospel "leaven" is shown to be in strict accord with all recent knowledge and discovery. It is a strong indictment of the traditional treatment of women by men, which should be tolerated—if it is too much to expect it will be welcomed—by good men, who remember that men have had their own way all down the centuries in degrading women and have not scrupled to oust the human mother from her place in nature and civilisation. An Appendix illustrates the text and should be very useful for reference purposes.

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