

THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY.

Societies and Branches in the Union
602.

LAW-ABIDING.

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VENGEANCE IS CRIME.

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidency of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion.

WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

The Value of Evidence.

Those whose minds have been trained scientifically should be good judges of evidence. They are often bad judges outside the laboratory or the study. There, being sheltered from passion, they can think justly, but they are no less vulnerable than the rest of the world to the assaults of passion. The immense majority of people believe what they want to believe, and are furious with the few who tell them that "things are what they are and their consequences will be what they will be." So we find that an extraordinary number of people not only believed the story of a Russian army in England, but saw the army and spoke to it; they wanted to believe. So we find an extraordinary number of people who not only believe every tale of atrocities by the enemy, but who saw them; they wanted to believe. We are not in a position to sift the evidence, but with so glaring an instance of the value of evidence at home, anyone with a shred of critical faculty left will ponder on the value of evidence from those whose minds are shaken by the monstrous wickedness of war.

Women's Peace Movement.

We are quite sure that many of our readers will feel sympathy with much that is contained in Miss Nora O'Shea's letter on p. 439. But one cannot pretend that all women are united against war. Most of us have met women who actually agree with General von Bernhardt, and believe that war is a great moral and regenerative force. It is safe to say, however, that in Great Britain the great bodies of organised women are opposed to war on principle, and though they see that war—like the plague or an earthquake—may give occasion for the most heroic sacrifice and the most beautiful devotion, yet they see that war is also—like the plague or an earthquake—a physical evil. Of far greater importance, however, is the fact that war is also a moral evil since—unlike the plague or an earthquake—it is the result of the evil intentions of men. It is this sense of the wickedness of war that is so dreadful an oppression. It is the sense that whatever we do now, we *must* do wrong; that "In such ways they hem me in, I cannot choose but sin and sin"; this increasing difficulty of finding the right, this it is which troubles so many. For it is by no means unreasonable to feel "I am against war; but I am not prepared to stop *this* war *now*." War is the result of policy, and it is not possible at any given moment suddenly to reverse policy. The time will come—we hope it will come with all speed—when a determined and practical peace movement will be on foot. The way to prepare for such a movement is to make as many people as possible understand the great permanent causes of war, so that when peace is made it is not used merely as a period of preparation for another war. It is not enough for women to cry "There shall be peace!" The question is, "How can we ensure peace?" For, unhappily, it takes two to keep the peace: ourselves and—the others!

Defence.

When we come to the practical question of how best to work for peace, it seems to us that this would be much best done in organisations of men and women together, and not in peace societies of women only. We do not like the segregating of the sexes in this any more than in any other vital movement. No women ever, anywhere, have anything to gain from war; a few men have a great deal to gain from war, and a very large number have the aggressive instinct which most women are without; but a good many women still admire the conquering attitude of the dominant male. There are many causes for war, chief among which are fear, greed, the love of domination, pugnacity. One name is generally given by all nations indiscriminately to those diverse motives, that name is "defence." We believe that deep down in the primal nature

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Old English Patterns in Leadless Glaze.
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Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten
words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should
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Publishing Co., Limited, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**THE LONDON SOCIETY'S "CLEARING HOUSE
FOR VOLUNTARY WORKERS IN THE
NATIONAL CRISIS,"** 58, Victoria-st., S.W., is inun-
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