

The Common Cause OF HUMANITY.

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

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

VOL. VIII., No. 388.]

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1916

[PRICE 1d.
Registered as a Newspaper.]

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

Notes and News.

Opportunities for Women Medical Students.

The recent decision of the Council of the Charing Cross Hospital to throw open the hospital and school to women medical students is the more noteworthy because of the catholic and sympathetic attitude of the Dean and Council. The same training opportunities and discipline for both men and women students is to be the future rule of the School; and as full and complete an experience for both, because it is recognised that the women's post-graduate work will be equally responsible and important.

The conditions under which women medical students are to be allowed to study in Edinburgh have now been settled. They are, we understand, to be admitted to all lecture courses except in *materia medica* and midwifery, for which special arrangements will be made. In the practical classes they will form separate sections.

A Much More Strenuous Time!

"If the male munition worker is to have a vote for his service, what of the female munition worker?" asks Mr. T. Cox Meech, in *The Sheffield Independent*. "Looking at the matter in the strictly calculating and businesslike spirit, apart from the merits of the question, the Government are likely to have a much more strenuous time of it if they yield to the anti-Suffragists. Women's work in the war has changed the attitude of many people on this question, and unless the vote is to be restricted severely to fighting men only it is difficult to see how a fair case is going to be made out for including any more new voters without extending the vote also to women.

More Unexpected Support.

"Before the war as now," according to *The Anti-Suffrage Review*, "there was only one reason why women could not vote, and no anti-Suffrage has ever sought to invent another (*sic*). It was because they had not been given the franchise." Well and neatly put. A welcome statement from a contemporary who,

though often very helpful to the cause, has not often gone so far as to make such handsome admissions as this.



MISS KATHLEEN BURKE,

Who started last Saturday to hold a series of meetings in America, in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Her First Birthday.

Wednesday, September 13th, was the first birthday of the first Women's Acetylene Welding School, organised by the London Society for Women's Service. The School commenced on a very small scale with only one blowpipe; now between twenty to thirty pupils can be trained at the same time, and already seventy-five skilled workers have been placed in aeroplane and other Government controlled factories. Congratulations and good wishes to the women and their leaders, who have steadily overcome the difficulties and learned this skilled trade to meet the nation's need.

A Note from South Africa.

He was the head of a firm of importers doing a big wholesale business in a South African seaport. And when the outbreak of war summoned his junior clerks and even men in responsible positions to leave warehouse and counting-house for "South-West," or still "German" East Africa, there was nothing for it but to find women to fill the vacancies and "carry on" as best they could. This he did with a heavy heart, for he was an anti-Suffragist and even an anti-feminist, but old prejudices go down before the shock of realities. And women

came in to do their best. And after certain months, when asked to report on the work of the new contingent, the "firm" replied:—

"They are doing first-class! Miss Blank, as general handyman is A1 in her department; Miss Dash, as second ledger-clerk, good. We've never had our hardware invoicing better done than by Mrs. Asterisk. Miss So-and-So is classed as 'indispensable' in the department, and the rest are all shaping well! For certain classes of office work I consider women more adapted than men. I would like also to say that the tone of our office has been very much improved by the presence of women workers." South Africa has some advantages over older countries in Europe. You can get at your work if you want to get at it. You need not spend (as a matter of course) all the best working years of your life on the way to your work, and find scope for your energies at last, just as your energies are beginning to fail. So there is much less hesitation about putting younger comers into responsible positions. The obstacles in the road have been cleared away quite quickly, you

see, even for women! Let us hope that further chances to show what they can do will not be withheld from them—merely because they are women—in the splendid young country which is putting out its strength.

Afraid of Records.

"O hush! hush!" cries the Anti-Suffragist. "Women should now, as always, serve and suffer in silence. Women are, in fact, so very busy serving the nation that they can't say very much for themselves just now, so at intervals I get up and speak for them, and allege (without interruption) that they don't want the Suffrage. Besides, there is another reason for silence: the less said about women's work in time of war the better—for Me. I can't, for obvious reasons, begin to decry women's work for our defence until the country is out of danger; but as the risk diminishes, I intend to explain the women out of the workshops, and belittle every patriotic effort. By-and-bye you may even hear me proving conclusively that the women did nothing at all."

Because She is a Woman.

PROBLEMS OF RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR.

BY MRS. ANNOT ROBINSON.

While this dreadful war continues and the daily sacrifice of young and promising lives goes on, it is difficult to even attempt to visualise or get into correct perspective the problems of reconstruction that the war conditions are steadily creating in industry. But already, after two years of war, the effects of some of these war changes and conditions may be seen and the broad lines of schemes to deal with them may be suggested.

The great increase in the cost of living is stimulating the flow of women into new industries and branches of industry formerly closed to them, and so the supply continues, and the Exchanges cannot find work for all the women who flock to them.

In Sheffield it was stated that last week more than one thousand women were on the books of the Labour Exchange.

What is going to happen when peace is declared and the soldiers, or such of them as are living and fit to take their places once more in civil life, return to the ranks of industry? Most thoughtful women, even in the stress of these times, must ask themselves that question occasionally when they pay a fare to a woman tram-conductor or pass some great engineering establishment when the day-workers stream out to make room for the next shift.

It is true that the declaration of peace and the disbandment of our soldiers will mean that many women will return to their unpaid work in the home and withdraw voluntarily from the labour market. Many well-to-do women will give up work for wages from a sense of duty. Others, like many of the workers in the Co-operative distributive department will withdraw according to agreements and understandings entered into, if the men whose places they are actually filling return to industrial employment. But when all this has happened a large number of women will remain permanently in their new occupations.

It is likely, for example, that the women bus-conductor and the woman tram-conductor have come to stay; so, probably, has the woman employee on the railway. Where these women workers are receiving the same wage as the man they replaced and are therefore not a menace to the standard of the family life of the workers, that will be all to the good, and an extension of the employment of women in the open air at reasonable wages is to be welcomed.

But in other trades and occupations the outlook is not so simple. What, for example, is to happen in many of the engineering establishments? A specific promise was given by the Ministry of Munitions, when the Dilution of Labour Scheme was adopted, that pre-war conditions would be re-established. If that promise is kept, a rigid line will again be drawn between skilled and unskilled work, which will mean the dismissal of many women when peace comes again. On the other hand, the women have attained a certain amount of skill, and in spite of regulations and orders they are receiving lower wages than men for producing the same material. Many employers have expressed their intention of retaining the women workers for employment in peace time; while Mr. Sidney Webb points out there are not wanting signs that some labour leaders may agree to maintain present conditions rather than return to what obtained before the war. In those occupations where the men

and women are inside the same union, and where the woman can do substantially exactly the same work as a man, something like equal pay for equal work has been obtained. But the necessity for all the clumsy machinery set up by the Ministry of Munitions, the issuing of orders, the instituting of a special wages tribunal so as to secure anything like a fair wage for women munition workers, arises from the custom of paying a low wage to a woman *because she is a woman*. Every possible means should be used to secure in new industries for women the paying of a living wage. (I should say, just now, not less than 6d. an hour.) In asking this I attach as much importance to the enhanced economic value of woman's labour, as such, which the increased opportunity for training and new openings arising from the war has given, as to the safeguarding of the standard wage of men. It is, therefore, in my judgment, essential that those who are now working on reconstruction problems and preparing plans must ever bear in mind that where women are retained in occupations formerly carried on by men, while the principle of equal pay for equal work must be insisted on, the establishment of a standard rate for women must be guaranteed where reorganisation and sub-division of labour have obscured the application of the principle. Otherwise, in the wood and leather trades, in engineering, in banks and offices, warehouses and shops, the labour of women will be used to reduce the wages of men.

So much for the problem of dealing with women workers who are retained in new occupations. There still remain the large number who, neither retiring voluntarily from the labour market nor being retained on new work, will find themselves unemployed when peace is declared.

I hope that the experience gained during the months which followed on the declaration of war will not be forgotten, that the amateurish and costly attempts to deal with problems of unemployment by local relief committees will not be repeated. An effort should be made *now* to devise schemes of alternative employment for displaced war workers. Representatives of Government departments, employers, and men and women representing the workers, should be working *now* on plans to absorb the displaced labour in workshops and factories producing the articles for which the cessation of hostilities will create a demand.

The reform of the Labour Exchange must accompany the working out of these plans. In most great cities these places are clogged and their usefulness impaired by the great number of unemployable and unfit women whose names are permanently on their books. The memorandum issued by the Manchester and District Women's War Interests Committee on the Reform of the Labour Exchange proposes the setting up of machinery to deal with these poor women in a reasonable and kindly way, and so set free the Labour Exchange to deal with its real work. The Labour Exchange must also be made more sensitively in touch with the industrial needs of the district which it serves and of the workers who use it if it is to play its part well in dealing with after-the-war problems.

(To be continued.)

Report of the Trades Union Congress in Birmingham, 1916.

It seemed a great pity that the Cabinet and the House of Commons could not have been present at the Forty-Eighth Congress of Labour last week. They would have found it extremely informing and of absorbing interest. Here were no academic speeches, but strong, straight talks, short and pithy, from men who knew their facts by actual experience, and who had come from the mill and the mine, the metal furnace and the ship's bunker, the farms and the docks, to state them in no uncertain words. It was amazing; one listened to varied dialects and very varied points of view, but never once to a pointless, dull, or wandering speech!

There were present 668 delegates (of whom 14 were women), representing nearly three million workers, with fraternal delegates from Canada and America, France and Belgium.

It was continually evident that a sense of comradeship and co-related interests with the workers all over the world was a very real feeling amongst them, and that in spite of the fact that the possibility of holding an International Trades Union Congress immediately on the declaration of peace, to include delegates from the Central Powers, was decided against after prolonged discussion.

The resolutions can, I think, be grouped under three main headings:—

- (1) Those dealing with social conditions.
- (2) Those dealing with reconstruction after the war.
- (3) Those referring to trade conditions.

After the President's address, in which he congratulated the women on the "imminent fruition" of their hopes in regard to the franchise, the Congress turned its first attention to care for the aged, the widowed and orphaned, and the blind.

RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The first resolution passed was one urging the Government to increase the Old Age Pension to not less than 7s. 6d., and to reduce the age limit to 65 years.

It was pointed out that the number of Old Age Pensioners seeking admission to the Union had risen 30 per cent., and that the cost to the nation of maintaining them there was now 8s. 9d. per week.

Budgets had been collected evidencing their pathetic struggle to maintain themselves during the past war years, of which one—that of a woman of 82—is reproduced below:—

WEEKLY BUDGET FOR 1915.

	s.	d.
Rent	2	3
Tea, 2 ozs.	3	
Sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	2	$\frac{1}{4}$
Meat	2	
Fat, margarine	1	
Coke, 14 lbs.	3	$\frac{1}{2}$
Oil, 1 pint	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
Bread	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Asked how she managed in 1916, when prices kept on rising, she replied: "I just have to get littler and littler."

It was clearly felt that the Government's recent decision to increase the amount by 2s. 6d. "in certain cases" would not do more than palliate the most extreme distress. The need for lowering the age-limit was also great owing to the ever-increasing "speeding-up" of industry, by which men and women were worn out before their time.

Pensions for widows, orphans, and the infirm blind, improvement of the Workmen's Compensation Act, especially with respect to dependent parents, and extension of the Maternity Benefit in the direction of State grants for two months before childbirth and three months after, were other resolutions belonging to this group; as were also demands for a National Housing Policy, the Conscription of Wealth, and Government Control of Food and Coal Prices.

The strongest indignation was expressed in regard to this last question, it being maintained that the shipowners were making profits to the amount of 187 per cent.; that the recent restrictions in regard to the purchase of sugar had been engineered by the big jam manufacturers to prevent thrifty housewives from making home-made preserves, and that the jam manufacturers were able themselves to procure sugar to an unlimited amount; also that the recent decisions in connection with palm kernels were made solely and entirely to keep up the prices of margarine.

The temper of the Congress was distinctly menacing on

this matter of food exploitation, and it was very evident that if anything further in this direction were attempted there would be trouble.

RECONSTRUCTION AFTER THE WAR.

Under this heading I have grouped resolutions dealing with the repeal of the Military Service Act, Restitution of Trades Union Rights, Provision of Employment upon Demobilisation, and Schemes for Meeting the Cost of the War in such ways as to avoid unnecessary hardship on the poor. In every case a definite scheme had been thought out and drawn up; in connection with industrial readjustment, however, Miss Bondfield and Miss MacArthur more than once protested against the resolutions. It is curious that whenever men suggest the wholesale dismissal or exclusion of women from various branches of industry they always assume that there awaits an unlimited number of homes where unlimited husbands, fathers, and brothers are eager and willing to keep any number of unemployed female dependents.

The men of the working classes should know better; yet, it seems, they, too, cherish a similar delusion. They passed resolutions demanding that licences for women drivers and conductors should automatically cease on the declaration of peace; that women should not be employed in trades "hot, dusty, or greasy" or where heavy weights had to be lifted. Yet men never offer to give up some light, easy, remunerative trade of their own wherein the displaced women could earn a living in a manner "suitable" to their sex, nor have we ever heard of any attempt made by men to press for the establishment of co-operative laundries, where the hot, wet, and exhausting work of the family washing-day should be done by machinery.

No one deprecates heavy and unhealthy trades for women more than Suffragists, but just as it is false economy to destroy slum dwellings unless you provide better homes for the ousted people elsewhere, so it is worse than useless to exclude women from injurious trades only to drive them to the still greater dangers and sufferings of unemployment or sweated industry.

The Congress strongly criticised the Labour Exchanges, which, they contended, supplied labour to firms utterly regardless of the conditions, so that bad employers obtained workers as easily as good ones. They also complained that older applicants were kept waiting while younger ones who applied later had work found for them. One felt there might be interest perhaps to these two points, which it would have been interesting to hear. It is impossible to mention all the subjects dealt with, but it was obvious that there was marked uneasiness at the employment of soldiers in civil industry under military conditions and at military rates of pay; and on the exploitation of child labour.

Earnestly the men demanded for their children the right to full physical and mental development, even passing a resolution in favour of raising the school age to sixteen—no small sacrifice on the part of parents who find the wages of the elder children such a relief to the strain of keeping a growing family.

The third group of resolutions, dealing with trade conditions, were many of them full of suggestion and interest, and a whole article could be written on each.

The demand for electoral reform embraced recommendations for a three-months' qualifying period; the holding of all General Elections on one and the same day, and the closing of public-houses during the hours of polling; the extension of the franchise to all adults, male and female; and the abolition of plural voting.

In conclusion, I should like to mention one of the numberless little incidents showing the general feeling of good comradeship that pervaded the Congress. I was not able to procure a very good place at the reporters' table, so the Bleachers' and Dyers' delegates made room for me amongst them; and, on one or two occasions, when I was unavoidably absent from the hall, I found little notes of what had taken place in my absence placed in my seat, together with written explanations of technical trade points and terms.

CAROL RING.

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N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

LONDON UNITS.

A telegram has been received from Dr. Inglis saying that the Units which left a "port in the North of England" in August have arrived safely in Russia on their way to the Serbian Division in South Russia.

These two Units, with a large motor-transport section under the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, are being financed by the London Committee. Funds are urgently needed, and should be sent to THE LADY COWDRAY, S.W.H., 58, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER.

The Equipment Secretary will be glad to receive all gifts at the same address.

WANTED—OFFICE FURNITURE.

THE LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS are moving their offices to 66, Victoria Street, and would be very grateful for the following articles of furniture: 4 writing-tables, 12 office chairs, a few plain tables for typewriting, and a cupboard. Please send to Lady Ashmore, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.

DONATIONS TO SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Forward as per list to August 31st ... 130,286 0 9d	
Further donations received to September 7th, 1916.—	
Per John Cursiter, Esq.: Collection taken at Joint Intercessory Service in Evie Parish Church ... 2 0 0	
Miss Eliz. Gilford ... 5 0 0	
*Per Mrs. Redd, North Berwick (£13 16s. 5d.), Miss Jane Graham, Canadian Army Medical Corps (£1) ... 14 16 5	
*Newcastle-on-Tyne Committee for S.W.H., per Miss Hunter ... 20 0 0	
*Per Miss Hobson, Warrington—Further towards Bed (Royaumont) ... 4 3 4	
*Per Miss Bury, Employees of Strathearn Works, Abernethy, and 2s. 6d. from a Friend, per John Morison, Esq. ... 1 0 6	
Miss Ruth Macintyre, Raigmore ... 1 0 0	
Per Miss Isabella Calton: Pupils of South Queensferry Sunday School (Serbia) ... 1 17 8	
*Per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas., Edinburgh W.S.S.: Mrs. McCracken (£1), Employees, Messrs. Muir & Co. (£2 6s. 0d.), Members, Tonbridge Co-op. Society, Ltd. (Hunterfield and Newtongrange Branches) (£2 18s. 0d.) ... 6 4 1	
*"Kosovo" Day Collection at Knoxland School, Dumbarton, per Miss Mary C. MacRae ... 6 5 4	
*Mrs. J. Amory Haskell, per Miss Aspinwall: Further for "Dunbar" Bed (Royaumont) ... 11 0 0	
Total £130,418 1 10d	

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further donations to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent either to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Name of Bed.	Donor.
"Theodora" (4th Serbian Unit), 2nd six months ...	Per Miss Campbell, 5, Chester Street, Edinburgh, per Miss Mair.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

From the Unit at Stara Chelna the first direct news has reached us this week in an extract from Sister Barton's letter written to Miss H. F. Knight. It is interesting both in its details and in its main news of "full work," and of the friendliness of the Tartars. She writes:—

"We are really busy here. Our little hospital is quite full, and the out-patients' department is simply overcrowded. We have several patients over each morning waiting for dressings to be done, &c. We also get a lot of accidents with children in the harvest fields. We have two little boys in now with their feet nearly cut off with the shells; also two soldiers as in-patients, and three as out-patients, with wounds. We are running very short of dressings. We brought a fair amount with us, but have used so much that we have scarcely enough to last this week, and are trying to get some from Kazan.

"We have a very pretty place. The country is glorious—so much healthier than Petrograd. The Tartars are our friends, and very good to us. They get all our provisions, which helps immensely."

Stara Chelna has a new wooden hospital with sixteen beds for infectious cases, and the same number of beds for non-infectious cases.

Owing to the difficulty of transport it has been decided to send no more gifts in kind, clothing, dresses, &c., to Russia, but gifts in money will be very welcome.

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Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
 President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
 Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON, MISS OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary)
 Hon. Treasurer: MRS AUERBACH, Secretary: MISS HELEN WRIGHT.
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GENERAL SERVICE FUND.

We desire to call the attention of our readers to the above fund whereby we provide the upkeep of our offices, and the salaries of our staff of workers.

It is in the very nature of things that the special Funds, such as the Fund which has provided Hospital Units for France, Serbia, Salonika, and Corsica, and the Fund which has enabled the N.U. to send out Hospital Units to the help of the refugees in Russia, should make a more arresting appeal to the general public, and even, to a certain extent, to our own members, and therefore receive a larger measure of support. But just because the Fund to meet the general expenses does not make this wide appeal, we must rely on our members and friends—on those who realise the value of our organisation—to provide us with means to stoke the engine of our efficiency.

The support we have received up to the present is very encouraging. Donations have come, not only from all parts of the United Kingdom, but also from distant places such as South Africa, Punjab, and British Columbia.

We now confidently appeal to all those of our readers who have not yet, or who have not recently, contributed to our General Funds at Headquarters, to send a donation, as large as they can afford, to the GENERAL SERVICE FUND.

IMPORTANT.

Lost Letters Addressed to the National Union.

CHEQUES should be crossed. POSTAL ORDERS should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S. TREASURY NOTES should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the SECRETARY, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. Please address letters containing money either to the SECRETARY, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, not to the Treasurer.

We have reprinted, with Mr. Garvin's permission, his leading article in *The Observer* of August 13th, entitled, "The Future Basis of the Franchise." It has been done on good paper, with striking passages underlined, and in heavy type.

Apart from its value as Suffrage propaganda, this article marks a definite step in the history of the Women's Suffrage movement, and, as such, will be of interest to all Suffragists. Copies may be had from the Literature Department at 4d. each.

We shall be pleased to send the following to anyone who can make use of them and is willing to refund cost of postage:—
 Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, Vol. I., being parts 1 to 6, of the Majority Report, 1909.
 Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, Vol. II., being part 7 to the end of the Majority Report, 1909.
 Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, Vol. III., being the Minority Report, 1909.
 Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, 1910.
 The Prevention and Relief of Distress, a Memorandum on the steps taken for the Prevention and Relief of Distress due to the War, 1914.
 Census of England and Wales, Vol. X., 1913.
 Earnings and Hours Enquiry, 1909.
 Annual Report Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, 1914.
 Departmental Committee on Reformatory and Industrial Schools, 1913.

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"... No other voluntary effort is recognised in any way by the Army Council, or authorised by them to aid the work of the Army Veterinary Corps."

All who wish to help the British horses, which are doing such splendid work at Home and at the Front, should fill in the appended coupon and send with their gift to the address given.

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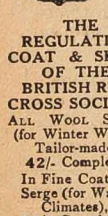
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POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

BRITISH ISLES, 6s. 6d. ABROAD, 8s. 8d. PER ANNUM.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).

"Ancien Régime."

The average Briton, in giving his opinion on Women's Suffrage, usually appears to see his way clearly up to a certain point. Of late years, at any rate, the remark frequently made that "a woman who pays rates and taxes ought certainly to have a vote," is a commonplace outside Parliamentary backwaters. As to whether other women, not so qualified, should also vote, the opinion varies; but on this one point there is pretty general agreement. "No taxation without representation," and the position of women who must pay taxes, and are even made to pay, as at present, the penalty for election misdemeanours which they are incapable of committing, is now recognised as intolerable, and the theory of the divine right of one sex to dispose of the property of the other is no longer held by the man in the street. The theory is dead, though it died hard; but the obsolete survives in practice, in Great Britain, long after its demise, and British women are still in the position of the French peasants before the Revolution—they are still taxed without their consent, still subjected to various legal and other disabilities which the legislative sex ignores, and is likely to ignore, so long as their imagination is not stimulated through the medium of the ballot-box. The legislator has far too much on his hands as it is, to have time to think of women's concerns. It is a common and fatuous remark, that "indirectly" women's interests are represented in Parliament, bound up, as they are, with those of the constituency at large. How very indirectly they are represented may be seen on a moment's thought. When has a prospective Member of Parliament ever made so much as a pretence of ascertaining the views of the women whom he is supposed to "represent"? When has a prospective candidate ever troubled to hold a meeting for the women of his constituency, and put his views before them with: "Ladies, as you have no effective way of giving utterance to your opinion, and I am anxious to represent Little Pedlington in Parliament, I feel myself doubly bound to assure myself that I carry you with me, as well as the male electors?" No candidate would "waste time" in this way on women. He reserves his energies for public meetings, to which, of course, women go in increasing numbers; and his arguments are directed entirely to the male electoral interests—or sense of national responsibility as the case may be. Probably no candidate will ever hold such a meeting—until women are enfranchised. The member has no time for anything that does not begin, and (too often) end, with votes. The French peasant under the Ancien Régime was corvéable et taillable à merci. He was "taxed up to the hilt," and had as much or as little say in fiscal matters as the British women of to-day. He was also corvéable. The corvée was in some respects the worst part of his heavy burden—it was the work he did for nothing for his seigneur. His time and strength for so many days of the week or month was employed for someone else's benefit, and he got no wages in return. The upkeep of roads, repairs on the seigneur's estate, work at harvest time or vintage when everybody was busy—the exact work varied with the seasons and the district—these were part of the corvée. And there were no limits to the exaction. In some parts of France the weight of taxation and of this double toll of work were so heavy that the peasant-class actually died out. In one district in Northern France the peasant girls refused to marry, in spite of the sermons from the Curé and small rewards offered them as a bribe. Life, they said, was so cruel that it was not to be handed on.* The Revolution swept away this most iniquitous oppression.

The lot of no class, fortunately, in Great Britain presents an exact parallel to this horrible condition of things. But, all the

* Journal of the Marquis D'Argenson, quoted by H. Taine. L'Ancien Régime. II. p. 203.

same, the corvée that presses very heavily on women is an evil and a real social danger. Like the French peasant's corvée, it is a relic of a past age; and in its beginnings, it was not an evil, taken as part of an older social system, which in our day is rapidly being abolished. Old divisions of labour in France, not necessarily oppressive in the ninth century, left it open to the seigneur to have certain payments made in work rather than in money, which was scarce. Old divisions of labour in Great Britain, and in all old societies, assign work within the house to the woman as her share of the day's labour. The peasant-woman all the world over, works at certain seasons in the fields, and she prepares the meals, rears the children, and waits upon the men-folk. The old divisions persist under industrial conditions, and for reasons which we shall presently examine, the woman-worker is unable to readjust her day's work. She works "double-times," and the second day's work in the twenty-four hours takes a heavy toll of her strength. At first sight this may seem a piece of bad management, or perversity, or "a woman's way" of setting about her job. The second discovery quickly follows that her wages are almost invariably too scanty to permit her to pay or support another woman to "do for" her; as the wage-earning man supports the wife or pays the housekeeper who takes these cares off his shoulders. Some pseudo-economists have managed to discover that the man's wages are higher because he has a wife and family to keep, forgetting that, if a man remains a bachelor his wages are just as high—because he is a man. The

woman's wages are low because she is a woman; the extra fatigue burden of a double day's work is the result, and the extra fatigue which lowers her vitality, lowers her worth as a wage-earner, even though her comparative sobriety comes to her aid, and alcoholic poisoning does not lessen her output.

The third discovery, in any attempt to remedy her position, is that the worker possessed of less muscular strength must endeavour to acquire skill such as will enable her to use her strength and brain power to the best advantage.

Unskilled labour is drudgery, only too often it is heavy, hard, and monotonous drudgery. The woman's part in industrialism has been assigned her in the first place by accident; she has had "to take the men's leavings," as a factory hand once put it, and not work specially suited to her physical frame. The worst-paid work, the dirtiest, and most disagreeable, and even disgusting work, is largely done by her. And the upward path to skilled labour is barred. The bitter opposition of the men, too often manifested to the admission of women to the trade or the union, makes it as difficult—or impossible—under the present Ancien Régime, for a woman to escape from the corvée as from the taxes. Shut out from acquiring the skill in which she might excel, she is corvéable et taillable à merci—condemned to heavy drudgery for life, because her physical strength is less! At the end of the war she is to be thrust into the outer darkness of unskilled labour. Is it possible that the last refuge of Privilege and the Ancien Régime is to be the workshop?

The British Association's Report.

The Report of the Committee of the British Association that has been inquiring into the replacement of men by women in industry deserves very careful attention for its valuable evidence on women's work, and also gives scope for thought between the lines in a vista of the problems that women in industry will yet have to face.

WORK DONE BY WOMEN.

Some of the most interesting evidence bears testimony to the work done by women, and to its positive value on its own merits. Most of it is described in terms of the engineering trade as "semi-skilled," requiring only a comparatively short period of training, and making no demands on long experience. In such work women have made an output possible that could not otherwise have been achieved. It seems that the unparalleled conditions of the sudden shortage of highly-skilled workers, and the advent of a new supply of semi-skilled ones has little short of revolutionised some industries. In these the invention of highly automatic machinery and the sub-division of processes has transformed the work into machine and semi-skilled labour. Much highly-skilled work has resolved itself into a series "of repetitive operations which can be performed by relatively untrained workers."

In this particular kind of work women have been given their opportunity, and have taken it. "The success of women in these repetitive processes is marked," the Report states. "They learn quickly, they are good timekeepers; they have, so far at least, stood the strain of long hours extremely well, and their manual dexterity enables them to achieve good results in the way of output on repetitive processes."

Most of us who are familiar with the old objections raised when women undertake new forms of work, that they "cannot last out," and that "they are slower than men," will feel some satisfaction in the incontrovertible evidence here given that experience has set aside both those generalisations which at one time were held as universally true.

In the highly skilled work—work which demands five or six years' training for men and a life-long experience—women have not as yet had an equal opportunity for testing their powers. "On work demanding greater judgment and adaptability the evidence of their success is not so great; but their industrial training has been short." . . . The quickness and endurance shown by women in learning and making the repetitive processes argues well for their capacity in the highly skilled ones granted that full opportunity are given to those who show special promise.

Probably the number of women fitted to be nurses is larger than the number of women fitted to be doctors, yet women doctors have established their usefulness and justification beyond dispute, and the evolution of the highly skilled industrial woman may well be on analogous lines. At present training and opportunities have yet to be won.

The Report is necessarily inconclusive. "That after the

war the problem of a large surplus of women may not be so serious as has been feared" is altogether satisfactory as far as it goes, and a consummation devoutly to be wished. "The married women (who compose a large percentage of the women) are, for the most part, in industry only for the period of the war, and inquiry among women workers generally shows that many of them have no desire to remain in competition with men."

Many of the girls now temporarily engaged in men's work naturally have the feeling, that any well-thinking person would have, of wishing above all things to avoid injuring another. They have stepped into the man's place during his absence, and it is fair that they should leave on his return. But this feeling, just and honourable as it is, does not touch, and could not settle the general question of the fact that women are indispensable in industry, and that industry is increasingly essential to more than 3,000,000 of them for their livelihood, apart from the 600,000 now replacing men. The fewest women, if any, would wish, when asked, to compete furiously with men to men's detriment; but everyone should have as her birthright the right to put forth her best capacities as far as they will go in the expert industrial world, where the world of home and the family affords her no place. At the very best, the time immediately after the war promises a difficult transition period, which will make every demand upon men and upon women's power of grappling with industrial problems. If women are safely absorbed at home or in other occupations after the war, this process in itself, as far "other occupations" are concerned, will not be absolutely simple and easy. But such a solution will hardly be in accordance with new facts, even if it came about, and would not be a truthful or permanent solution. Obviously, there must remain a very great probability for an increased demand for women on the "repetitive processes;" obviously highly automatic machinery, which has made great output possible, though introduced owing to war conditions, may have come to stay. The best solution would be on the lines of the greatest amount of production, which is the greatest wealth, and for keeping on the women as well as the men who return under adaptation to the new circumstances. Such a solution, too, is full of difficulties, though it may not be impossible. But the greatest amount of production will demand every effort of goodwill between men and between women to co-operate and to organise their mutual interests and their several interests in harmony.

There is on record a reluctance on the part of trade unions in the past to admit women to (full?) membership, which has demonstrably militated against the status of women in industry. Many trade unions object to the introduction of women to skilled work, thereby implying an external and artificial disability.

Organisation between men and women in a clear-eyed spirit of co-operation alone can lead to the true solution of the workers' problem, and the woman's claim for a full voice in the regulation of these problems, economically and politically, is incontestable, seeing how greatly her interests will be at stake.

First-Hand Experiences.

XV.—WEEK-END MUNITION WORK.

I had always been very eager to do some war work in my spare time, although I could not give my whole time to it. The opportunity came one day when I heard that Sunday munition workers were wanted to give the regular hands a rest. They must be at the factory at ten o'clock on Sunday morning, with lunch, a munition frock, cap, and gloves, and be prepared to work until six o'clock in the evening, having an hour for lunch and a quarter of an hour for tea.

Sunday happened to be a very brilliant day, and on the way to the factory I almost regretted that I was not free to go into the country and enjoy the sunshine and flowers; but I put these thoughts behind me, and, telling myself what patriotism really means, and how the regular munition workers stuck to their work under all conditions, I plodded along the hot street.

It happened that I did not know the exact whereabouts of the factory, but I soon lighted on it, because there were little bits of metal all round the door, and at a pair of large gates a heap of metal shavings; and just as the clock struck ten I stepped very gingerly through a small door cut in a pair of large ones and walked into the timekeeper's office. As I gave my name and address my heart began to beat. There was a roar of heavy machinery, which rather frightened me. I knew nothing whatever of machinery, and had thought that probably as I was an amateur I should have to pack bullets, or do something equally simple. The idea of having to work a large machine had never occurred to me.

After taking off my hat and coat and putting my munition frock, cap and gloves on, I went into the workshop. This was a very large shop, with rows of machines, like those one sees in pictures, with straps running from the machine on the floor to an affair of wheels and rollers near the ceiling. The noise of the machines made it almost impossible to hear yourself speak, and when you were spoken to you had to watch the speaker's mouth very closely, so that you could understand without hearing properly. On entering the workshop I found several other women arrayed similarly to myself standing in a little group. These I joined, and one of them asked me what "turning" I had done. I was mystified. I did not even know what she meant by "turning," so I explained to her that I had never worked on munitions before, and she was rather surprised, but comforted me by saying that I should very soon learn. As we were standing waiting, the men that were already working looked at us as though we were some special species of humanity, and that they were very much interested in the species was quite evident. After a while the foreman came and took some of us off, and placed us under the care of a Belgian, saying, "He will teach you all you want to know." After instructing two other women he came to me and said in French, "Do you speak French?" I told him I did. Then he explained everything about the machine: how to place the shell into it, how to set it revolving, how to stop the revolving, and how to release it, how to gauge the shell, and how to bring the machine to the starting point again.

I was now thoroughly awake to the fact that I had to do finishing turning to 4.5 shells. My idea about packing bullets was quite put aside, and I blushed to remember that I had thought I should have such easy work to do.

The first shell I did came out too small because the machine was not regulated properly. I was very much concerned about this, but the Belgian assured me that I was not to grieve, I should do much better next time. After that I was very careful not to get another shell too small, so about every few minutes I stopped to measure it, and although it took a longer time to finish it was better in the long run, because it was the exact measurement. I continued to do turning until one o'clock, when all machines were stopped working and everyone went to lunch.

All the women had their lunch in a quaint room just above the workshop. It was a low room, and one saw the rafters above one's head. It reminded me very much of "My Room Beneath the Rafters," only one had to imagine one was in a farmhouse instead of a munition factory.

At two o'clock the whistle blew, and all machines were again set in motion, and we all recommenced work. After lunch I was told I could do some filing. The man near me heard this and said, "That's a rotten job; I'm sure you won't like it." I told him one had to do a great many things that were distasteful in war time, and I made up my mind that I would like it whatever kind of job it was. It was not really a bad job; true

it was a bit dusty, and the afternoon was hot, but I did my best not to let the man see that I thought it "a rotten job."

Through an open door opposite me I could see a yellow-green bank edging what looked like a stream. The sun was shining radiantly; I never admired a little bit of green so much as that. I have no doubt that it was the fact of my being in a factory among so many machines that made the grass look so inviting, for I know now that that bit of green is a very dank, weedy marsh, and the lively stream an East-end wharf. At half-past four the whistle blew again, and we all hurried off to tea. Tea was taken in the same room as lunch, and we partook of bread and butter, not thin, and tea in cups that were also not thin. That tea was the most hurried one I had ever taken. The tea itself was very hot; we had only a quarter of an hour in which to drink it; but we had great fun all trying to get finished first.

We went down again to the workshop at a quarter to five, and worked steadily on until nearly six. Then a man came round and said would we call for our money on our way to the dressing-room. This surprised me greatly, for I certainly did not think that I had earned enough to be called for. However, I was paid 2s. 7½d., which was really very good considering what I had done. The Belgian was very profuse in his praises, but I am afraid he was not sincere, because I had to ask him so many times how to release the shell, and then could not turn the bolt, so that he always had to do it for me. On the whole, I quite enjoyed my day's work on munitions, but for a long time after my arms felt quite twice their original length, and I could still hear the din of machinery in my ears.

B. P.

For "The Common Cause."

For nearly two years we have been able to come through unprosperous times without making a public appeal for financial aid. Working expenses have been reduced to a minimum by careful management, and thousands of faithful friends—both readers and writers—have helped to maintain the circulation of the paper. But unforeseen difficulties have arisen, among them the serious one of the paper crisis.

The whole cost of production has risen enormously at a time when, we feel, every effort should be made.

"Now that the whole franchise question has been reopened in Parliament the information contained each week in THE COMMON CAUSE is indispensable to all members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies," writes a subscriber to THE COMMON CAUSE Fund.

It is also, we think, of the first importance that THE COMMON CAUSE should EXTEND AND INCREASE its usefulness NOW. All the new work being done by women is helping to break down the mysterious sex-taboo under which numerous kinds of work (including practically all well-paid work) was laid during the nineteenth century. Now is the time of experience and experiments.

THE NATION IS LEARNING WHERE ITS STRENGTH LIES.

We want THE COMMON CAUSE to watch and record the results for future guidance, to note every bit of successful work done in a new field. Women and girls are anxiously looking out for something to do for their country. We want THE COMMON CAUSE to give them the information they want. And because the cost of collecting first-hand information has to be met out of very scanty resources, we need money to make this possible. Our records should be very valuable for future use.

We need at least £500 at once to "carry on" THE COMMON CAUSE.

Thanks to the generosity of our readers we have now £323 towards the amount which we need.

WILL YOU HELP?

This week we acknowledge with grateful thanks the following amounts:—

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Donations should be sent to THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. All cheques and postal orders should be crossed Williams Deacon's Bank, and all Treasury notes should be sent in registered envelopes.

Review.

WELFARE WORK: Employers' Experiments for Improving Working Conditions in Factories. By E. Dorothea Proud, B.A. (Adel.) With a Foreword by the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George, P.C., M.P. (G. Bell & Sons. 361 pp., 7s. 6d. net.)

The subject of welfare work in factories has received a great deal of attention lately owing to the steps taken by the Ministry of Munitions to establish this work on a national scale, a special Department having been created at the Ministry, under the direction of Mr. B. S. Rowntree, in order to secure a high standard of conditions for all workers in munition factories.

Miss E. Dorothea Proud is well-qualified to deal with her subject. A graduate of the University of Adelaide, she has spent many years of patient enquiry and research into the conditions of welfare work as carried on in Australia, New Zealand, and England, and she is now studying Sociology at the London School of Economics. Miss Proud reminds us that welfare work is by no means new, though it is only within the past few years that prominence has been given to it.

Though "the theory that 'it pays' to give good working conditions is considered modern and somewhat American, it can be met with among English manufacturers of a century ago, and English employers have, from time to time throughout the century, attempted to work upon this theory. Dale, whose factory was the model in 1792, 'gave his money by shovelfuls' to his employees and found that 'God shovelled it back again.' Owen bore witness to the financial success of his experiments at New Lanark. . . . In 1848 P. R. Arrowsmith, a master-manufacturer, who had provided gardens and a library for his workpeople, stated: 'I believe that, in a merely pecuniary point of view, I am repaid by having better and more willing workmen.'

This idea of financial return for improvements in working conditions has, Miss Proud considers, grown stronger and stronger. She gives a most interesting account of the history of factory legislation, the part which employers have taken in promoting it, and of the various efforts they have made to improve the lot of their workers. It is not generally realised, perhaps, that it was from employers—not from the workers or from the outside public—that the first demands for legal protection of the workers came. Sir Robert Peel, himself a factory owner, initiated factory legislation, and it was in his capacity of successful employer that Owen influenced the British public in the direction of reform. Oastler and Sadler, who led the Ten Hours Movement, were also successful employers; and when Sadler lost his seat the Bill of 1847 was piloted through Parliament by Fielden, another employer. The bulk of manufacturers have lagged behind, and have been slow to move, but experiments made by individuals in their own factories have led the way to reforms that have subsequently been enacted by law.

In the same way certain employers have established welfare departments on their own initiative, to raise the standard of comfort of their workers. "In several cases," says Miss Proud, "where a woman has been associated with the business from its inception her influence has been a benefit throughout. The 'most delightful workroom' to be found in a boot and shoe factory in England, for example, is said to owe its comfort entirely to the manager's sister, who was in charge of it for many years. When a woman's influence is exerted merely from the outside of a factory it can prove far from beneficial; but the influence of a thoughtful woman actually in the factory is of inestimable benefit. . . . One woman, who was engaged by an employer merely to care for the welfare of the girls, has recently been appointed one of the managers."

While both employers and the Government have recognised the advantages of a welfare department, the workers are inclined to look upon it with suspicion. This attitude, as Miss Proud points out, is not without some justification. It is feared by leaders of the trade union movement that the provision of canteens, rest-rooms, and other amenities in particular factories may make individuals content with their lot and callous as to the lot of their fellows. It is also feared that any expenditure incurred in welfare work by the employer will, in the long run, be deducted from wages that he would otherwise be prepared to pay. Very naturally, the workers prefer full control over their own earnings to having part of their pay subtracted to pay for greater comfort in the factory.

There certainly seems some danger that the Ministry of Munitions may make the excellent work it has done in organising welfare supervision an excuse for not securing a better wage for women workers. In a Foreword to Miss Proud's book—which was written before the Welfare Department of the Ministry of Munitions was formed—Mr. Lloyd George states that it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the work this Department has undertaken. "Employers are being afforded reasonable financial encouragement to provide proper accommodation; not only canteens, but cloak-rooms, rest-rooms, lavatories are being built." Opportunities for rest and recreation are being provided, and women welfare supervisors are being appointed in all national factories in which women are employed, while many controlled establishments are following suit.

All this is excellent; but adequate provision for the health and comfort of the worker while in the factory is no justification for paying a wage that is too small for the worker to live on in comfort outside the factory.

Correspondence.

REGULATION OF FOOD PRICES.

MADAM,—In your leading paragraphs of September 1st you draw attention to the suggestions put forward by the Women's Co-operative Guild, and other bodies, for the regulation of food prices by the Government. May I ask if it is not a fact that it has been chiefly the action of the German Government in checking the rise of food prices in Germany which has led to the present shortage of some of the chief articles of food there at the present time?

It has been found by practical experience that farmers and market gardeners will not produce food unless it pays them to do so. Households use margarine now where before they used butter; not primarily because it is patriotic to do so, but because it is less expensive.—Yours, &c.,

M. E. KNIGHT.



CHILDREN'S EYESIGHT.

TOO much importance cannot well be attached to the conditions under which work is undertaken at night. The artificial light used must not be "trying" to the eyes—if it is very brilliant, the brilliancy must be softly diffused—as is the case with the light from an incandescent burner.

The soft cool glow (the "moonlight" effect) of an inverted incandescent gas-light is by far the best, especially if it be pleasantly shaded by soft-toned silk shades.

Gas-light has another great advantage—it causes constant movement of the air.

Germs that may be present in the atmosphere are irresistibly drawn upwards through incandescent flame, and are thereby destroyed—the gas-burner acting as a disinfectant.

Purity of air and coolness of light are important factors in evening study.

Full particulars from The British Commercial Gas Association, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

M. 36A.

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

To MY LADY NICOTINE.—A very interesting case lies here—an old man of fifty-five, not old in reality, but I call him old because he looks much older than his years, he has gone through such terrible times. His name is Zexeme Beyevitch, and he sits cross-legged on his bed smoking cigarettes like a Turk. He likes to be questioned about his past life, and it has indeed been an eventful one. He was a Serbian comitadj—sort of brigand—and in 1904, when Serbia and Turkey were at war, he was taken prisoner, and remained a captive in Turkey three long years, during which time he was subjected to horrible tortures. His teeth were extracted one by one, his arms bound behind his back, he was beaten and he was burnt with hot irons—all this to make him tell the Turks the hiding-place of the comitadjic; but in vain, for nothing they could do would make him betray his comrades. He speaks five languages—Serbian, Greek, Armenian, Albanian, and Hebrew, and, when well enough, he hopes to go to Salonica and act as an interpreter to General Sarrail. Before the present war he was employed in Macedonia as a Serbian propagandist, and he received a pension from the Serbian Government. His great-grandfather and the present King of Serbia's grandfather (George Karavitch) were employed together as waggoners. When war broke out he left his home and walked to Salonica, a long way for a broken-down old man. It took him three days; and then we came to Ajaccio with the refugees.

"The Gloucester" Bed.

"Boosey Bill" is the dearest, sweetest little inmate a bed could possibly have. He is not pretty—not a bit; his own mother could not pretend he is—but he has a pair of glorious dark eyes and the most interesting little face imaginable; is, in a word, full of charm.

He was all yellow and wizened when he was brought into hospital, and he was very weak and frail, being kept alive on teaspoonfuls of brandy, which he seemed thoroughly to enjoy. Hence his nickname.

But "Boosey Bill" has turned over a new leaf; signed the pledge in fact, and now takes nothing stronger than lemon water. His wizened little face is now becoming round and rosy. He is the darling of the hospital, and is never so happy as when surrounded by an admiring crowd. He is only eight months, and will, we hope, live to enjoy to the full all the advantages that a happier Serbia will be able to give him. His real name (I had almost forgotten it) is Radko Milosavljevitch.

From J. SIMPSON (Orderly).

"Boston Spa" Bed.

DEAR FRIENDS,—Dr. Phillips has told you all about Serbia. She has just informed me that you would be interested to hear something about me, as I am occupying the bed for which you so kindly subscribed.

I have lived all my life in Valjevo, and now I am without either of my parents. My father died when I was a little boy and my mother six months ago.

I was at school when war broke out and still in Valjevo. On October 7th, the Germans bombarded our town, and I was obliged to come away with the other boys of our school; we walked through Albania and Montenegro until we reached Valona. It was a dreadful journey, and we suffered very much from cold and wet, having very little to eat.

The worst day of all was when we came to Podgoritz, in Montenegro. There my brother, who had been wounded, was obliged to remain, and it was dreadful for me to leave him behind, but I was taken along with the other refugees to Valona, where we were put on board ship and taken to Corfu; where I stayed seven days, and after that we were sent to Etiole, and stayed there eighteen days. We were not at all happy there. I was not amongst strangers, as three of my school friends were with me, but we were often very cold and hungry, and I felt ill. We, however, were brought to Ajaccio, on February 25th, and we stayed at a house called the "Filles de Marie," with many other Serbs. I was there three days, and then, being very ill, was taken to the Scottish Women's Hospital, where I have been happier than I have been since leaving Serbia. It is very good to be here, and I am very grateful to you and the doctors and sisters and nurses for all the care they are giving me.

I am feeling much stronger and better, and am going up to Ucciani, a village in the mountains, where they hope to complete my recovery, when I shall be ready to return to my own dear country as soon as our soldiers, along with our brave Allies, have prepared the way.—With many thanks to you all, Yours faithfully,
(Signed) DRAGUTEN KAREVITCH.

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

MUSSOORIE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY. (Affiliated to the National Union of Women Suffrage Unions of Great Britain.)

The annual meeting was held on the 5th inst., and was well attended by members and friends.

The President, Mrs. J. F. T. Hollowes, gave an account of work done since last year. She said, "The public think the Suffrage movement is dead, but, on the contrary, it is very much alive, although Suffrage meetings have been in abeyance during the war. We have raised in India for the N.U. Scottish Women's Hospitals at the front over £300 during the last year. The Parent Society in Great Britain has raised upwards of £100,000 for the same cause. Lady Meston, writing to me, declared that all who knew of the Scottish Women's Hospital Service must be deeply impressed by their magnificent work. At the present moment there is need for activity—a new situation had arisen. No one now doubts that women of all classes have shown an appreciation of their country's needs. They have actively and consciously served the State.

"Therefore when a Registration Bill was proposed in Parliament, to give the vote to soldiers and sailors, a demand at once arose from women that they should also be enfranchised under this Bill. Our National President, Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., wrote to the Premier with this request. His reply was indeterminate, but he spoke of the 'magnificent contribution of women to their country's cause.'

"Now that a Coalition Government is in power is the time for the settlement of this pressing and long-delayed piece of justice to women. Neither Party is able to reckon on making political capital out of Women's Suffrage."

Miss Stehelin, the Treasurer, gave an account of her work in Dehra Dun. She told how during the last twelve months she had been raising seed which would be sent to Belgium to help in the re-sowing of that stricken country. She appealed for fresh subscribers to aid her in this enterprise.

Mrs. Caleb proposed the following resolution:—

"That this Society re-affirms its adherence to the principle of the equal citizenship of men and women. It therefore feels that any Parliamentary Registration Bill, including soldiers and sailors, demands also the inclusion of women. The social problems which will emerge at the close of the war, render more urgent than ever the co-operation of women in political life."

She outlined the various reasons that made the enfranchisement of women more necessary than ever. Since it was acknowledged that women had fulfilled citizen duties they should now be given the citizen's privilege—the vote. No extension of the franchise should be possible without this piece of justice being accomplished. If the prospective Registration Bill proposes to enlarge the franchise so far as soldiers and sailors, the question of Women's Suffrage will have to be dealt with by Parliament. The prosperity and patriotism of New Zealand, which has had equal suffrage for men and women for twenty-three years, also of Australia, which has had the same for fourteen years, and now the fact that three provinces of Canada have granted the suffrage to women, are encouraging facts of the progress and success of the enfranchisement of women in the Empire.

Miss Fraser seconded the resolution, and it was passed unanimously.

EUSTON THEATRE.

DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY · OCTOBER 8th · 6 p.m.

Speakers:

Robert Williams, Mrs. Barton,
Fred Bramley, Sylvia Pankhurst
and others.

Come and demand a Vote for every man and woman!

Some Useful Addresses: Employment, Relief, etc.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
Ambulance and Hospitals: British Red Cross Society, 9, Victoria Street, S.W., and 83, Pall Mall.
Clothing for Soldiers, Sailors, their Families, and Persons in Distress, Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, St. James's Palace, S.W.
Comité d'Assistance aux Familles des Soldats Français, 51, Bedford Square, W.C.
Croix Rouge Française. Hon. Sec., P. A. Wilkins, 9, Knightsbridge, Hyde Park Corner.
Indian Soldiers' Fund, 1, Carlton House Terrace. Tel., Gerrard 1385.
Ladies' Territorial Committee, 75, Chancery Lane, W.C. Tel., Holborn 450.
National Association for the Employment of Ex-Soldiers, 119, Victoria Street, S.W.
Navy League Emergency Committee, 47, Grosvenor Square, W.
Officers' Families Fund. Hon. Sec., Lady Hope, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, W. Tel., Mayfair 1896.
Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, 3, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.
Prisoners of War Information Bureau, 49, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.
Recreation Rooms in Camp, Y.M.C.A., 13, Russell Square, W.C.
Royal Patriotic Fund, 17, Waterloo Place, Regent Street, W.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. Tel., Victoria 396.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society, Major Tudor Craig, 122, Brompton Road, S.W. Tel., Kensington 1.
War Library, for sending books etc., to hospitals at home and abroad, Surrey House, Marble Arch, W.

CIVILIANS.

American Women's War Relief Fund, 123, Victoria Street, S.W. Tel., Victoria 3201.
British Women's Emigration Association, Imperial Institute, S.W. Hon. Sec., Miss Lefroy. Central Committee on Women's Employment, 8, Grosvenor Place, W. Tel., Victoria 7930.
Farm and Garden Union, 45, Queen Anne's Mansions, S.W. Tel., Victoria 5999.
Government Sub-Committee for Prevention and Relief of Distress (Prince of Wales National Relief Fund). Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W. Tel., Victoria 2826.
Labour Exchange, Women's Department, Headquarters, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, S.W. Tel., Victoria 8020.
National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution, 25, Tothill Street, S.W. Tel., Victoria 1015.
National Food Fund, 3, Woodstock Street, Oxford Street.
Press Contributors Emergency Fund, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster. Tel., Victoria 4673.
Professional Classes War Relief Council, 13-14, Princes Gate.
Travellers' Aid Society (for Girls and Women), 3, Baker Street, W. Sec., Miss Jessie Gordon.
Women Clerks and Secretaries (Association of), 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W. C. Tel., Gerrard 3560.
Women's Defence Relief Corps, 6, King Street, Southall, Essex. Office: 28, Barrow Hill Road, N.W.
Women's Emergency Corps, York Place, Baker Street, W. Tel., May 5010.
Women Munition Workers, The Shrubbery, Park Crescent, Erith.
Women's Service Bureau, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Tel., Victoria 3119.
Young Women's Christian Association, 25 and 26, George Street, Hanover Square.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS (See list of Women's Hospitals).

Association of Infant Consultations and School for Mothers, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.
Association for the Protection of Women and Children, 60, Haymarket, S.W.
East London Federation of Suffragettes: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, 48, Norman Road, Bow, E.
Friends of the Poor, 49, Ebury Street, S.W. (Cheap Dinners).
Parents' National Educational Union, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.
St. Pancras School for Mothers, 1, Amptill Square, Hampstead Road, N.W.

FOREIGNERS IN DISTRESS.

Aliens' Relief Fund, W. Hanbury Agg, Esq., Barclay's Bank, Pall Mall, S.W.

Items of Interest.

Extension of London School of Medicine.

The Queen will open the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, in Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, on Monday, October 2nd, at 3 p.m.

The extension, which is made necessary by the very large increase of women students in London, was contemplated before the outbreak of war, but was then postponed. In October, 1914, the entry of students exceeded all records, and the council felt that their right policy was to go forward with the plans. In the December following they published an appeal for funds, the estimated cost being £30,000, and in sixteen months the whole of the £30,000 was subscribed. Building operations were proceeded with, and are now almost completed.

The Court of the University of Edinburgh, at a recent meeting, resolved to admit women in the winter session to all the medical classes, systematic and practical, in the university. The systematic lectures in midwifery and gynaecology will be given separately to men and women students, and possibly also those in materia medica, but in all other subjects the classes will be mixed. There will be separate sections for women in all practical courses, except in advanced courses, and in special cases that may be arranged by the head of the department. Women will be admitted to university clinical instruction so soon as arrangements can be made. They are now under consideration, and it is expected that by next year women students will be able to take their whole curriculum within the university. The sum of £4,000 has been offered to the University Court by the women medical graduates, students, and their friends, to help in defraying any necessary outlay. The new arrangements will begin in the winter session. Over 180 women students were attending classes outside, and this number will be exceeded now that the bar has been removed.

Commenting on the shortsighted policy of the National Association of Grocers' Assistants in closing their doors to women, *The Shop Assistant* says:—

"Women have been appealed to in a time of great stress and need, to help to keep going the industries of the country. The whole-hearted energy and willingness with which women have responded and shouldered their responsibilities under conditions far from ideal, has aroused appreciation from all quarters. But words of praise are worthless unless they carry with them the recognition that women are to-day our fellow workers, entitled to the same rights of protection and combination as male workers. The least women can expect from their fellow workers is the liberty to share with them the support which can only be secured through co-operation.

"After reading the report and decisions of the N.A.G.A. Conference, we are proud that our Organisation, which represents the whole of the Distributive Trade, has not hesitated, despite the financial risks, to continue to accept women as members on equal grounds with men; and in this action the Union is supported by the huge majority of the organised men employed in the grocery trade and other departments of distribution."

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

SEPTEMBER 15.

Marylebone—A meeting at Mew Lise Centre, at the Bechstein Studios, 32, Wigmore Street—Speaker: Miss Walford, on "The Possibilities of Training Women" 3.15

SEPTEMBER 19.

Rutherglen—Miss Millar, Fernhill, on behalf of the S.W. Hospitals and the Princess Louise Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers—Chair: Provost Rodger—Speakers: The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss E. M. C. Foggio, and John Reid, Esq. 3.0

SEPTEMBER 20.

Glasgow—Mrs. McIlroy, 16, Lynedoch-terrace—Scottish Women's Hospitals—Chair: The Lady Frances Balfour—Speakers: Miss Cicely Hamilton, and others 3.0

SEPTEMBER 20.

Norwood and Dulwich—Drawing-room Meeting—Subject: Infant Welfare—Speaker: Miss Walford—Hostesses: The Misses Sincialr, 37, Stradella Road, Herne Hill, S.E. 8.0

SEPTEMBER 21.

Dunoon—Mrs. R. S. Allan (Hafton)—Speaker: Miss Cicely Hamilton
Glasgow—The Glasgow Rotary Club—Speaker: Miss E. M. C. Foggio 8.0

SEPTEMBER 27.

Cheltenham—Public Meeting in the Small Victoria Hall—Speaker: Miss Annie Cooke, on "The Prospects of Women's Suffrage."

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE.

RED WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner.

In making, use LESS QUANTITY, it being so much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE.

ALL BRITISH. VALKASA

THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN
FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.

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MANCHESTER.

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The large London Market enables
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8, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple St.), W. & 127, Fenchurch St. E.C.
to give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY—GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2096.
ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

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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 5/8 (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. (State whether fine, medium, or broad nib required.)

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

WORDS.	ONCE.	THREE TIMES.	SIX TIMES.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
10	- 9	2 0	3 6
20	1 3	3 3	5 9
30	1 9	4 6	7 6
40	2 3	6 3	12 0

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.

POSITIONS VACANT.

LADY Cook required, October; age 30; farmer's daughter suitable; assistance—1, Avenue-rd., St. Albans.

NURSERY GOVERNESS WANTED at once, to take entire charge of two boys, aged 7 and 8, and give first lessons to girl, 4; nurse kept—Write, giving qualifications, references, previous experience, and salary required to Mrs. Early, Newland, Witney, Oxfordshire.

WANTED, Lady as servant for one lady; easily worked country cottage; every convenience; water soft. If musical, or clever at renovating, please say so. Possibly some one previously lady's maid might suit. References, fullest particulars, salary.—Miss Williams, Glascoed, Penparke, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Good Woman Gardener where help is given; living in; wages, 15s. week.—Reply to Piewlands, Haslemere.

(Continued on p. 292)

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

Continued from page 291.]

WANTED for Clifton, in October, two friends as Cook-Housekeeper and House-Parlourmaid, for house containing 3 small flats, with common dining-room; help for rough work; salary and share of profits; good catering and cooking essential.—Box 6,070, COMMON CAUSE Office.

POULTRY FARMING.

GENTLEWOMEN interested in Poultry Farming can receive short course at up-to-date Poultry Farm in Surrey; comfortable board-residence in modern cottage; reduction two sharing room; vacancy, first week September; inclusive terms.—Write, Box 6,011, COMMON CAUSE Office.

WEAVING.

HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS Made in the Dauntless Work-room. Artistic Dress Fabrics in Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. Send for price list, or 2s. for sample Towel, to help the Women Workers, or call and see the goods at the Alston Studio, New Bond-st., W. Children's Jumpers and Frocks from 6s. Sports Coats from 15s. 6d.

INSURANCE.

INSURANCE—On all matters appertaining to Insurance. Life, Endowment, Annuity, Women's Insurances. Write H. W. Wicks, Pembroke House, 133-135, Oxford-st., W.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

"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.

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

MOTORING.

WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING
259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON.
Telephone 946 WESTERN.

Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.

Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil.

Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training.

Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

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TEMPER PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.—J. R. Crombleholme, General Manager. Enquiries solicited.

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ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street, N.

MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

MR. FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 35 Yrs.

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Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door.

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DUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-D Avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer.

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ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT—MESSRS. A. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 63, 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.

ELECTROLYSIS (for removal of superfluous hair, moles, &c.), face massage, and electrical hair treatment. Lessons given and certificate granted.—Address, Miss Thearleton, 54, Devonshire-street, Portland-place, W. Hours, 11 to 5.

ELECTROLYSIS—Seymour needle leaves no scar. Mon., Wed., and Fridays, 10.30 to 5; advice free.—Mrs. Seymour, 169, Piccadilly, W.

FOR SALE, light oak bureau, 3 lock-up drawers, 2 ft. 6 in. long; £2.—Write Thème, Portsdown Lodge, Golders Green.

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

LADIES' HANDEKERCHIEF BARGAINS! Slightly imperfect hemstitched Irish Linen; bundles of six, 1s. 6d.; postage, 2d.; twelve, 2s. 11d.; postage, 4d. Send postcard for this month's Bargain List, free.—HUTTON'S, 159, Larnie, Ireland.

MADAME HELENE, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough, gives generous prices for ladies' and gentlemen's worn suits, dresses, boots, furs, lingerie, and children's garments; separate price for each article; carriage paid; cash by return, or parcel promptly returned if offer not accepted.

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THREE ROOMS, unfurnished, or partly furnished; bathroom; Welbeck-street, W.—Box 6,049, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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21, TRAFALGAR SQUARE, CHELSEA—Comfortable board optional; superior, quiet house; near S.W. Polytechnic.

88, WOODSTOCK-RD., OXFORD—Detached; 10 sitting and bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (h. and c.), dressing and box-rooms; garden; October—April.

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BATTERSEA PARK—Lady, with comfortably furnished Flat, wants to share her home; would suit another lady, two friends, or mother and daughter; expenses only moderate.—Box 6,055, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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BRIGHTON'S NEWEST PRIVATE HOTEL, Cavendish Mansions, Cavendish-place; 4 minute pier, sea, and lawn; luxuriously furnished; drawing, smoke, and dining-rooms; separate tables; terms from £2 2s per week. Telegrams: Meadmore, Brighton.

MEMBER recommends comfortable rooms, one sitting-room, two double bedrooms, good cooking; beautiful part of Gloucestershire.—Mrs. Gardiner, Golly-yi-harryd, Oakridge Lynch, nr. Stroud, Gloucestershire.

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LADY offers rooms, with or without board, to working gentlewomen; W.C. district; excellent cooking; refined, home-like circle; references.—Box 6,010, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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HOSTEL FOR STUDENTS, Professional Women, and other Ladies. Near British Museum, University College, and Women's School of Medicine. Central, quiet.—Miss H. Veitch-Brown, 6, Lansdowne-pl., Brunswick-sq., W.C.

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I enclose Donation of £ : s. d.

Name

(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at 14, Great Smith St., Westminster. London: George Vickers. Manchester: John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. Newcastle-on-Tyne: W. H. Smith & Son. Edinburgh and Glasgow: J. Menzies & Co. Dublin and Belfast: Eason & Son.