

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 561.

[NON-PARTY.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Co-operative Housekeeping. By Mrs. Owen Powell	150
A Clinic for Electrical Treatment	151
Women Tramway Workers	152
Correspondence: The Minimum Wage, etc.	152
After the War	154
Women Citizens Associations. By Miss Eleanor Rathbone	155
The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia	157

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

Notes and News.

The Cost of Maternity.

A discussion took place in Parliament last week on the various aspects of National Insurance, and particularly on the Government's under-estimate of the cost of maternity and sickness benefit to married women. While Mr. Roberts (Comptroller of the Household) maintained that, in the present condition of national finance, it was "quite idle and unpatriotic to expect in future any further Government grants" in addition to the £135,000 a year, representing the Grant-in-Aid of excessive sickness of women which was voted by the House in 1914-1915, several speakers, led by Mr. Handel Booth, demanded that the State should put the scheme right. "No nation which is spending £5,000,000 a day on a war," declared Mr. Booth, "would begrudge, even at a time like this, a few hundred thousand pounds per annum in order to put these women's funds right when the State has made an error in its calculations." The women, he pointed out, were not considered. They had no votes.

The idea of making the men shoulder the burden of their wives' ill-health was opposed by several speakers, and some fear is felt among women's organisations that the opposition which is being organised against any use of the men's funds for making good the deficit may end in the whole burden being thrown upon the women. Little recognition was shown in the course of the debate of men's responsibility for maternity and the ill-health connected with it. The working of the Act has shown that the effect of maternity on the mother's health is far greater than was generally realised, and that there has been a very widespread failure on the part of men—not necessarily from any fault of their own—to make proper provision for their wives' care during and after their confinement. This has always been considered one of the primary duties of a husband, and to throw the responsibility of making such provision entirely upon the women's funds, which are largely contributed by single women, would be unfair and undesirable.

Lord Selborne's Resignation.

By Lord Selborne's resignation, the cause of Women's Suffrage loses a good friend in the Cabinet.

Women at Woolwich.

Mr. W. Thorne, having asked the Minister of Munitions if he could state the number of men who had been discharged from the Woolwich Arsenal during the last four weeks and the number of women who had been taken on in their stead, and the rates of pay that the women were receiving for the work formerly done by the men, Dr. Addison replied: "During the last four weeks 1,111 men (including lads under twenty-one years of age released for service in the Army) have been discharged from Woolwich, apart from men discharged from the Building Works Department on termination of temporary engagements. During the same period in various departments 1,523 women have been engaged, but not necessarily to take the place of the men referred to. The women receive the same piece-work rate as the men, but the day rates are not identical." It would be interesting to know what proportion of the women are employed at piece rates.

For Bravery and Devotion under Fire.

Tuesday night's official *Gazette* contains the announcement that the King has ordered that in future the Military Medal may be awarded to women who have shown bravery and devotion under fire. "This," comments *The Daily Telegraph* in a leading article, "is a most significant and gratifying act. It is an indication of the changed attitude of women themselves towards war, and also of the nation towards women who, in the new conditions which have come into view, render conspicuous service during hostilities. The utmost limit hitherto reached in relation to women's service in war has been the recognition of what must be regarded as acts pre-eminently womanly. But now a further step has been taken. 'The Commander-in-Chief in the Field' is practically enjoined not to overlook women, whether nurses or not, who serve the State; he is given the power to recognise 'bravery and devotion under fire.'"

Promoting War Saving.

A Women's Conference was held last week at the House of Commons to consider the best means of promoting war savings, delegates attending from a number of Women's Organisations.

The main object of the National War Savings Committee is to set up such machinery as is necessary to enable all members of the community to lend their money to the country, and so secure a steady and continuous supply. Representative local committees are therefore being formed, with which women's organisations are asked to co-operate, and a special appeal is made to women to act as honorary secretaries of war savings associations where required. If the National Committee's scheme is to be successful, and if every person in the country is to become a subscriber to war savings associations or purchase war saving certificates through the Post Office, a large amount of voluntary work must be available.

Wherever local central committees are started they should invite representatives from local women's organisations. Organisations having branches in districts where committees are being formed are asked by the National War Savings Committee to instruct their branches to offer their assistance. These committees have no funds available, and an immense amount of work to perform, their duties being:—

A. To promote the formation of war saving associations throughout the whole community within their area.

B. To put before their public in a useful form those

methods of restricting consumption which will be most practical.

C. To consider in what way production in that area can be increased.

How Women's Organisations can Help.

The formation of a war savings association involves the holding of a large number of meetings at which the objects and methods of working of such associations can be explained to intending members. Every factory, workshop, warehouse, and office should be given an opportunity of either forming a separate association, or joining any town scheme that may have been adopted. Every religious body and social group is the possible centre of an association. This is the first time that working-class people have ever been given the chance to obtain as much as 5 per cent. interest for a safe investment. They know, as a rule, nothing about investments, and are a little afraid of them, but when the Government scheme is fully understood, the opportunities it offers are widely welcomed. The necessary explanations, however, mean a great deal of work, and it will be necessary also for the associations to provide cards on which members can begin their savings.

Some Hints on Economy.

The National Food Economy Exhibition at Prince's Skating Club, Knightsbridge, shows some very valuable means of economising in the home. In connection with the exhibition, the United Workers have arranged a series of lectures dealing with the nation's finances during the war, and the increased production that is to be desired. There are also lectures on a number of popular subjects, including fresh openings for women's work.

Women on Committees.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the causes of the increase of the price of food, and to make recommendations for dealing with the situation. While welcoming the appointment of Mrs. Pember Reeves to serve on this committee, we regret that the President of the Board of Trade has appointed only one woman to ten men. Mrs. Pember Reeves is the author of "Round About a Pound a Week," and has devoted a great deal of her time to investigating among the poor, notably in

Lambeth. She is on the Executive of the Fabian Society. Her husband was Agent-General for New Zealand, in which country she was born and educated.

Ohio Suffragists Begin Work Again at Once.

The Suffrage amendment has, we regret to learn, not been carried in Iowa, but the voting was very close. "The defeat of the amendment," says *The Woman's Journal*, "is due in a large measure to the 'wet' vote polled by Lieutenant-Governor Harding, candidate for the Republican nomination as Governor, who had the support of the liquor interests." Majorities were polled in some places in favour of the amendment, Des Moines declaring for Suffrage by 1,500 votes, Decatur and Wayne counties by 600 and 700 respectively, and Waterloo by 300; but "the river counties," where "wet" sentiment runs high, went heavily against Suffrage.

"When the defeat of the amendment seemed evident, Miss Flora Dunlap, President of the Iowa Equal Suffrage Association, was asked what would be done in case of defeat. She replied, 'We shall begin work all over again to-morrow morning.'"

A "Working Women's Parliament."

As we go to press the Women's Co-operative Guild is holding its annual meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster. We hope to publish an account of the Conference next week. On Tuesday the question of the wages of women munition workers was discussed, and Miss Bondfield declared that the women wanted a minimum of 5d. an hour. If this were not granted the trade unionists in the country would help them to raise such a commotion as there had never been before. Letters on this subject are published on page 152.

"The Common Cause" Scholarships.

Three scholarships, of the approximate value of £50 each, are offered by THE COMMON CAUSE to women who wish to qualify themselves to take positions as industrial chemists.

Applicants, who should have a Science Degree, or its equivalent, should send in their names, with full particulars of degree or diploma taken, and of the course of research study which they wish to pursue, to the Scholarship Secretary, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14 Great Smith Street, London, S.W., not later than the morning of July 10th, 1916.

Co-operative Housekeeping.

By MRS. OWEN POWELL.

The price of food goes up steadily. Food that could be bought in 1899 for 14s. 7½d., and in 1914 for 18s. 8d., costs 23s. 4d. in 1916, and prices are advancing every week. Should the war continue the food question must become very serious, and how best to husband our resources is a question thoughtful women should consider.

Co-operative housekeeping seems one answer. In towns, some of the capable and energetic women who are members of the National Union might arrange dining-rooms where, in clean and airy surroundings, economical and well-cooked meals might be served to regular clients, the saving of labour, food, and fuel being great. This might be an opening for women whose training has been in household matters, and who are now, for the first time, obliged to support themselves. I knew an officer's two daughters who some years ago opened a small lunch-room in the vicinity of the Law Courts. They had their regular customers, friends of their own, or introduced by friends, who were glad to pay for simple meals of wholesome food attractively served. The little lunch-room has grown, and changed hands; the original owners, before the war, had made enough to retire.

It is the fashion for families to go out to meals abroad, but in England the food in all but the most expensive restaurants is so monotonous, inferior, and generally so costly that no one, unless compelled, would daily dine out. It is a truth that the same allowance of food goes further when supplied to a number than to a few; for example, four ounces of meat without bone, or six ounces with, is the average allowance for an adult. This is not at all an ample allowance per head for a party of two or three, but for a large party the same quantity for each person would provide a second meal.

If the idea of the airy public dining-room, with the meals sent hot in shining tins to those who wish to dine at home, is not practicable, two or three families of friends or neighbours

might arrange to take their principal meal together. Should one family agree to supply dinner for the first two days in the week, and another family for the next two, and so on, the fuel and the food would cost less per head, and the plan would be a boon to many women cumbered with much serving. One obstacle to this economy in kitchen fuel is the hot-water system generally in vogue, which makes it impossible to obtain hot-water unless the kitchen-fire is alight. This difficulty may be overcome. There is a stove which heats its own boiler and provides unlimited supplies of hot water for baths, and burns the house-refuse without any odour. It costs less than a shilling a week in coke, and a handful of coal for kindling.

When I see the small quantity of clean ash, which is all such a stove leaves from house-refuse, I wonder that it is not compulsory for each household to have one. The saving to the country in the collection and distribution of refuse would be incalculable, and the cost of installing the stoves not great.

There is another way of co-operative housekeeping which is easier of adoption than either of the two mentioned and very practical. I mean several families joining together to buy their stores at a reduction on the quantity. I have before me the weekly price-list of a large store, and if four families of moderate numbers were to buy in bulk a month's supply of lentils, tea, margarine, and oatmeal only, there would be a saving on the same amount bought in four portions of at least five or six shillings. Suppose twenty or thirty members of a National Union Society were to buy their stores once a month in bulk, there would be a saving of 30s. or so a month; not a large sum, but a good help to the endowment of a bed in a Suffrage hospital.

Is it worth while to take so much trouble to save a few shillings? Ask your consciences!

A Clinic for Electrical Treatment.

"The possibilities of electricity in the treatment of certain cases have only just begun to be realised," Dr. Magill told me, when I visited, last week, her clinic at 9a, Gloucester Place. Dr. Magill* is Radiographer of the Endell Street Military Hospital, of which, it will be remembered, Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray are in charge, but in the evenings she and her partner, Miss Peel, superintend the work of electrical students at the clinic, where men, women, and children are treated free of charge.

In a large, bright, airy room I found a number of patients undergoing electric treatment and massage. Some had a limb plunged in a bath of hot water, while a student, under careful supervision, applied the electric current; others were being skilfully manipulated by the masseuses. I will not attempt to describe the imposing apparatuses that surrounded the walls—to my ignorant eye, they appeared extremely complicated, and I gazed with awe and admiration upon the dexterous way in which the operators manipulated them, and the sang-froid of the patients, who sat cosily around looking as much at home as if they were in their own back parlour. I confess it was not without a qualm that I seated myself beside one of the very newest things in batteries, and was treated for "writer's cramp," just to get an idea of what this method felt like; but I was inspired with courage by the evident enjoyment of an "infantile paralysis" case opposite, and found the tingling sensation of the current by no means unpleasant.

Dr. Magill only takes as pupils post-graduate students who have been through their full massage course, which includes the study of anatomy. "A great many women are taking up massage now," she told me, "because there is such a demand for good masseuses in military hospitals, but after the war the profession will be very much over-crowded. This year, over 800 women have qualified already, a great increase on previous years. If a masseuse can give electrical treatment as well, it greatly increases her chances of employment, both in hospitals and in private practice, and she is able to earn a much larger income."

"I suppose the demand for electrical treatment is likely to increase," I suggested, "so that there should be a promising future before those who take it up in addition to massage?"

"Yes; electricity is still only in its infancy, and something fresh is being found out every year. Of course the masseuse's prospects depend a great deal on her own personality, as well as on her technical skill, and also on whether she has a wide circle of acquaintances and is in touch with several doctors who will recommend her. But, given the right personality, she should be able to earn a very good living by massage and electrical treatment combined. Most hospitals pay from £52 to £100 a year, in addition to giving board and lodging, and the masseuse has the status of 'Sister.' In private practice, a woman with a good connection can sometimes earn from £300 to £400 a year."

"And is the training very long and costly?" I inquired. "No, its cost is wonderfully low in comparison with the amount it enables a masseuse to earn; and the electrical work only takes three months, after the student has got her massage certificate. The usual fee for the electrical course is five guineas. The massage course varies from six months to a year, and the fees vary from ten to sixty guineas in the different schools and hospitals."

"Are there many places where electrical work can be learnt?"

"Not very many where the training is really thorough. Some massage schools teach the work as a kind of side line, but it is beginning to take the place it deserves now that the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses have established examinations in medical electricity."

"Most of my pupils are working at massage during the day—many of them in military hospitals—and then come to me in the evening. Theoretically, Miss Peel and I take it in turns to be here, but as a matter of fact we are usually both here, as we are to-night. There always seems plenty for us to do, and it is most interesting work. The pupils are as keen as mustard. They work splendidly, but we have to exercise a certain restraining influence, or they might be carried away by their enthusiasm, and try experiments." (I remembered here the blood-thirsty gleam that came into the eyes of the student to whose tender mercies I had been handed over for treatment.)

"That would be rather risky?" I hazarded.

* Author of *Notes on Galvanism and Faradism*. (Lewis & Co.).

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"Yes; electricity is not a thing to play with. We have to keep a very careful eye on all the cases ourselves, and it is a little wearing sometimes, especially when we get a new batch of students in, to whom everything has to be explained from the beginning. The students here to-night have been with us some weeks, and have got well into the work."

"Soon you will be starting all over again, I suppose?" "Yes; our next course begins in September, and already we have several students booked. We could really do with a much larger clinic. What would be really fine would be a clinic where we could teach both X-ray work and electrical treatment. People are going out as assistants in X-ray departments who know practically nothing about it, except how to develop photographs, and it would be a great help to the doctor in charge to have trained assistants."

M. M.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The South London Hospital for Women, at Clapham Common, S.W., will be opened at 3 p.m., on July 4th, by Her Majesty the Queen. As accommodation is limited, those desiring to be present are requested to communicate with the Secretary of the Hospital, 88 and 90, Newington Causeway, S.E.

"Two thousand English and French hospital nurses," says *The British Journal of Nursing*, "will shortly visit Switzerland for three weeks to recover from the effects of prolonged hard work. Over two hundred Swiss hotels have undertaken to board and lodge them gratuitously for that period. The first contingent is expected to arrive in the Canton of Valais on June 26th."

A new department is to be established at the Huddersfield Technical College to provide facilities for training in industrial chemistry. The provision of this department has arisen out of the large developments undertaken by British Dyes, Limited, and the directors of the Company have intimated that, if necessary, they will be prepared to contribute towards the cost of the new venture. The department will be devoted to specialised study and research in coal-tar colour (aniline and alizarine dyes).

At the Royal Agricultural Show, held in Manchester this week, demonstrations were given on a four-acre plot by women trained in agricultural work by the Lancashire and Cheshire Agricultural Committee. The women showed what they can do in ploughing and preparing the ground for crops, and also gave demonstrations in milking and tending cattle. It is hoped that these demonstrations will induce a number of girls to be trained for work on the land, and may also persuade farmers who have not already done so to give the women a trial.

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TESTIMONIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

Women as Tramway Workers.

As conductors women are now working in many cities with great success, but, so far, except in Glasgow, they have been employed on the rear platform of cars and buses only. A rumour that a company was training women as drivers caused such indignation among the tramway men of South London that the general manager issued a notice stating that there was no intention of doing so, as the Metropolitan Police would not licence them. The traffic superintendent, it was explained, was merely told to try two women conductors on the level in order "to see if women drivers were practicable, purely from personal knowledge."

Opposition to the introduction of women-drivers was confirmed by the Conference of the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers, which met last month at Sheffield, a resolution being passed against their employment on the ground that the work was highly injurious to women and threatened the welfare of the future generation, while in many districts driving by women was a danger to the public. This "danger to the public" has not, however, been found to result from the employment of women-drivers in Glasgow, where the Corporation has had the courage of its convictions and given them a fair trial. Nor are there any signs of the women suffering in health. They are keen on their work, and are reported to perform their duties quite as satisfactorily as men.

Owing to the growing shortage of men-drivers, the Glasgow Tramway Department decided some months ago to make an experiment in the employment of women, their women-conductors having proved a conspicuous success. At first the Department started very cautiously and quietly, selecting those of the women-conductors who seemed most suitable for the work, and training them with great care. The women were very keen and enthusiastic, and soon, to the great surprise of some of the old hands, stood up to their work as coolly and confidently as the most experienced motormen. Now some hundred or more are acting as drivers, and the numbers are increasing weekly. Their wages are 29s. a week, with 1s. a week bonus for freedom from accident.

"I think," states the general manager of the Corporation tramways, "the women are freer from accident than the men. They stick more rigidly to the rules and do not try any dodges of their own. They do not appear to take the same risks. I am pleased to say," he adds, "that in the case of both conductresses and motresses the men have, from the start, given us every assistance."

Women are now also being employed as car-cleaners in Glasgow at a wage of 21s. for a week of fifty-one hours, and for this work there are plenty of applicants—twenty or more for every vacancy. Many of the women who started this work had to give it up after a few nights, as they found it too much in addition to their own housework, which sometimes occupied them so long that they had no rest before going back to the depot. So now the Corporation has to be quite satisfied that the home conditions are such that the worker will be able to get a proper rest.

In the case of the married women-conductors, too, the Corporation is very particular to see that proper arrangements are made for the care of the children, as, being a public Department, they feel they are responsible for ensuring good conditions among their workers. A considerable proportion of the women are married, the husbands in most cases being in the Army. On the whole, the "conductresses" have given great satisfaction. They picked up the work very quickly, are popular with passengers, and very smart at issuing tickets and giving change. The hours and duties are exactly the same as for the men, and they receive the same pay. There is some complaint that they are more inclined than the men to take a day off now and again, their wage of 29s. a week, in addition to their separation allowances, making such a good income that the loss of a day's work now and again is not felt.

Women are also employed in the Corporation garage, managed by the Tramway Department, where the automobiles used by the different departments of the Corporation are kept, the places of chauffeurs called up for military service being filled by young women. The wages are 27s. per week, and 28s. after six months' service.

Several months ago the Corporation started four young women to assist the electrical engineers in the power station. These four are now in full charge of sub-stations, and four others have taken their places on the power-station switchboard. These young women begin at 20s. and rise to 25s. after they have learnt their duties. Women are also just starting to clean the electrical switch pillars on the streets.

Correspondence.

THE NEED FOR A MINIMUM WAGE.

MADAM.—At this crisis in the life of the nation no one can have any sympathy with an attempt, whether by wage earners or employers, to hold the community to ransom or even to haggle over the terms of rendering what is essentially national service in industry. Nevertheless, it is vital from the standpoint of immediate increase of output, no less than from that of the permanent well-being of the community, that all who are working should be maintained in full efficiency of body and mind. We venture, therefore, to urge upon the Government some consideration of the position of many thousands of women now employed on Government work, the majority of whom are not members of any trade organisation.

They cannot make continuously the utmost possible output—just as they cannot maintain the health necessary for their duties as wives and mothers—unless (a) they are secured healthy conditions of work; (b) wages sufficient at present prices for full subsistence.

We gladly recognise that the Government, through the Committee presided over by Sir George Newman, is giving constant attention to ensuring that for every woman munition worker at least the physiological minimum of sanitation and hours of rest, with the result that great improvements in these matters have already been effected. Unfortunately, the conditions with regard to wages are not so satisfactory. We hasten to say that in many—perhaps actually a majority—of the three or four thousand establishments all the adult women are now receiving wages on which they can fully support themselves. One of the very largest of these establishments is paying none of its thousands of adult women workers less than 25s. a week (most of them earning considerably more).

Good wages in some establishments do not, however, make up for wages insufficient for subsistence elsewhere. We are informed that, notwithstanding all the exhortations, circulars, and agreements of the Ministry of Munitions, some of the factories doing Government work are still employing adult women at wages which we believe that public opinion would heartily condemn. In a recent formal arbitration under the Munitions Act the Arbitrator actually fixed 24d. per hour as the wage for adult women, many of them employed on Government work. For a sixty hours' week this is only 13s. 11d. per week, equal to no more than 9s. or 10s. a week two years ago. Nor does this case stand alone. We are informed that many thousands of women are still being paid at low rates.

We feel that now that Parliament has given full power to the Minister of Munitions to enforce a proper minimum wage, and now that Mr. Lloyd George has cordially accepted the principle—having indeed already issued an order with regard to the wages of women employed on "men's work"—public attention needs to be called to the fact that there are still many tens of thousands of adult women employed on Government work, many of them legally forbidden to leave their employment, who are being paid considerably less than £1 per week (20s. per week equals only 14s. before the war).

We ask that the Minister of Munitions should promptly issue an Order securing to every woman over eighteen employed in any branch of munition work some definitely prescribed minimum wage sufficient, at present prices, for full subsistence.

LOUISE CREIGHTON.
GERTRUDE EMMOTT.
MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT.
VIOLET MARKHAM.
LILY MONTAGU.
MAUDE SELBORNE.
BEATRICE WEBB.

A letter dealing with the same question has been received from Miss Gertrude Tuckwell and Miss Mary Macarthur, on behalf of the Women's Trade Union League. In their opinion no wage of less than 5d. an hour can be considered adequate, in view of the fact that the cost of living is, according to *The Board of Trade Gazette* for June, now 40 per cent. greater than in June, 1914; so that 5d. has therefore only the purchasing power of 3.47d. a year ago. The writers point out that as long ago as July of last year the Minister of Munitions spoke of a fair wage and fixed minimum for women in controlled firms:—

"In the Munitions Amendment Act, 1916, Parliament conferred on the Minister power to carry out these intentions and to issue orders dealing with wages, conditions, &c., in all firms to which Section 7 of the Munitions Act had been applied by order. This section provides for the restriction of the mobility of labour. Women working in such firms cannot leave their employment freely. Unless they have obtained a certificate either from the employer or the Munitions Court, no other employer may give them work for a period of six weeks. This, in effect, deprives the worker of her power for free bargaining, and Parliament, by the provisions already quoted, provided a remedy for the injury done to the worker, by devising machinery for State regulation of wages.

"The only order yet made under this section relates to women doing men's work in controlled establishments. No general rule has yet been made protecting women who do work on munitions which has hitherto been done by women. Such work includes many badly paid processes. As long ago as 1907, the Women's Trade Union League included cartridge-making and powder work among the list of trades for which the protection of the Trade Board Act was desirable.

"In a considerable number of cases, it is true, wages have been raised by Trade-union action. The process of dealing individually with many thousands of firms is, however, obviously too slow to meet the necessities of the case. We therefore ask that the Minister should avail himself of the power conferred on him by Parliament, and should place this matter once and for all on a satisfactory and lasting basis. We ask that a minimum wage should be established; that this minimum should be universal; and that it should be fair."

MEDICINAL HERB GROWING.

MADAM.—Having read with interest the article on herb growing in last week's COMMON CAUSE, I think perhaps you may like to know what is being done in Suffolk for the same cause.

Realising the need must be met in a practical manner as to quality and quantity, a County Association has been formed, with the object of making

it a permanent country industry, to discover what herbs grow wild or admit of cultivation in the district, also to obtain spaces on which they can be cultivated.

A kiln to ensure proper drying has been lent near Ipswich by Lord de Saumarez; the lady in charge has qualified herself as to manner of drying. Two receiving centres are arranged in Ipswich for herbs, &c., to be taken. Parties of ladies go on expeditions to seek those plants needed that are in season.

Naturally there is endless information needed beyond the somewhat bald list of needs that is yet issued. The Central Association hope soon to issue a handbook which has been reviewed by an expert herbalist. An undertaking of this kind cannot make much headway at first, but it should be a means of increasing the value of many a small piece of odd land or cottage garden, at the same time a healthy occupation for the owners. E. A. C.

MADAM.—I have been interested in reading the article on medicinal herb-growing in your issue of the 23rd. I am surprised, however, that the writer says nothing about the *Herb-growing Association* established some months ago. (Address: Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.) This society gives exactly the opening needed to amateurs who wish to help in this urgent national work, from patriotic rather than from commercial motives. It has established receiving depots in a number of places where quite small parcels can be dealt with, that is, dried, packed, and forwarded to the purchasers. It also publishes a monthly circular, which gives information as to what wild herbs are in season, and how and where to collect them, besides information as to growing. It has a strong Advisory Committee of experts, including Mr. Holmes, F.L.S., F.R.H.S., whose valuable pamphlet, *Medicinal Herbs*, is the standard work to be consulted by those who wish for detailed, scientific information on this most interesting subject.

Thanks to the help of the Herb-growing Association I have been enabled to sow with medicinal plants, and shall hope successfully to cultivate, quite a good amount of garden ground formerly devoted to flowers; and I know that a good many other people, both in this neighbourhood and in other parts of England, have been advised and helped to do likewise.

JULIE C. CHANCE.

A SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

MADAM.—Since the Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases was published, many people are asking for more information on this great national danger. The old fear of knowledge seems largely to have died out, and instead there is a real desire to know. It is of urgent importance that this desire should be met, for in spite of the unanimity of the Report against any form of regulation, the demand for it is perpetually being made by those who are ignorant of its failure in the past. May I, through your columns, be allowed to call attention to *The Shield* as a source of information? This journal has recently been considerably changed and developed. It is now rather a review than a magazine, and is, I think, the only one of its kind in this country. It is edited by Dr. Helen Wilson and Miss Alison Neilans, and is at once sane, scientific, and absolutely sound from a feminist (or rather humanist) point of view. I believe many Suffragists would take it in, if they knew of it, and I do not apologise for pressing it upon their notice because the subject at issue is one which the women of the Women's Movement have always recognised to be fundamental. *The Shield* costs 6d. quarterly, and may be had from the offices of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill Street, S.W.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

Some Press Cuttings.

Discussing Mr. Asquith's statement in the House of Commons, on June 22nd, that he hoped to make a statement shortly with regard to the question of registration, now being considered by a Cabinet Committee, the Parliamentary Correspondent of *The Daily Chronicle* says:—

"It must not be assumed from this that a Registration Bill will pass into law during the present session. Some of the obstacles to the preparation of a new register have previously been referred to in these columns. Apart from these, and the difficulty in the way of soldiers and sailors voting, the Government will be confronted by the formidable fact of the demand for women's suffrage.

"No extension of the franchise is possible without raising that far-reaching question. The magnificent way in which British women have rallied to their country's call in its time of need and the unwearied devotion of women war workers to their duties have added powerful new arguments to the already strong case for bestowing the Parliamentary vote on women. If the prospective Registration Bill proposes to enlarge the franchise so far as men are concerned the question of women's suffrage will have to be dealt with by the Government."

Discussing "The Future Government of the Empire," *The Nation* says: "Side by side with these older constitutional problems we would place the political emancipation of women. That also is an international idea, and our adoption of it may set the model for Europe. An exhausting war is commonly followed by a world-wide period of reaction. It lies with our will to break that tradition."

"If," points out *The Herald*, "the proposal for an Imperial Conference materialises, the women of Australia will be given a full and effective voice in foreign affairs, and will also help to decide the status of Ireland and India within the new Commonwealth. Irish women, British women, and women of South Africa are not considered worthy of any say in the matter. We urge all Suffragists to worry the Government, and particularly we urge that no Registration Bill shall be allowed to pass the British Parliament unless women are included. We cannot allow Mr. Hughes to speak for men and women and Mr. Asquith and General Botha to speak only for men. If there is to be a true social and political federation of the British Dominions, it must be on equal terms for all—representative of all men and all women."

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BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.

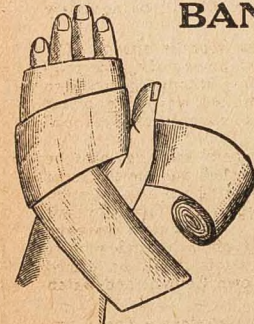
SECOND (BIENNIAL) CONFERENCE, JULY 5th, 6th and 7th, 1916.
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July 5th. Loss of Nationality through Marriage.
OVERSEAS SUFFRAGE MEETING.
Speakers: Mrs. Leathes; Miss Chrystal Macmillan, LL.B.; Mrs. Ford-Smith; Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Herring (N.S.W.); and others.
July 6th. Sex Morality and Sex Education.
Speakers: Mrs. Neilans; Miss Royden; Miss Sharp; Mr. Maurice Gregory; Miss March, B.Sc.; Dr. Tchaykovsky; Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett; Miss Abadam.
8 p.m. An Evening on India.
Lady Muir Mackenzie; Sir K. G. Gupta, K.C.S.I.; Sir M. M. Bhowanagree, K.C.B.E.; Yusuf Ali, Esq.; Syud Hossain, Esq.
July 7th. Women and Children in the Industrial World.
Speakers: Mrs. Pember Reeves; Councillor Margaret Ashton; Mrs. Despard; Miss Sylvia Fankhurst; Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C.; Mrs. Salmond; and others.
7.30 p.m. Public Suffrage Meeting. Woman Suffrage and the Empire.
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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 50,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, and are devoting their organisation to various efforts which have for their object the sustaining of the vital strength of the nation.

After the War.

Towards the end of the second year of the war it is none too early to begin to ask "what shall we have to do next?" and it is a question to which the answer becomes every day more difficult, while the chances of chaos and confusion "after the war" become daily more certain. The changes in the conditions of labour, in prices, profits, and wages, and in the economic outlook of governments and individuals have completely swept away most of our old theories. Compared with the great upheaval of the world that has caused these changes, they seem almost insignificant; and yet in the future it is they, and not the fighting itself, that will be of consequence. The system of considering history only as a series of dates, kings, and battles has been justly abandoned, and it is the business of those who are not themselves in the fighting, to try now to remember the ultimate proportions of the history we are living through.

As soon as we begin to consider the changes of the present and the chances of the future, problems arise which seem almost insoluble. We have so little to go upon, and so much uncertainty still before us, that very little clear thinking, and still less useful action, seems possible. Nevertheless, we must think as best we can, and act as best we may, for merely to do "war work," or to read the war news is to shirk our share of the business.

At the very outset of our thinking, we find that we are living now without method and by necessity, using up our capital, not only of life, but of wealth and productive power. We find that the old adjustments upon which we used to live are being swept away from us, and there is very little left to guide us. A concrete example of this confusion is the question of the training of girls and young women. What ought we to do with them in view of "after the war," and what are we doing?

The first thing we see is that their possible spheres of work are now enormously extended; the artificial barriers between "men's work" and "women's work" are still breaking down daily, and no one can judge how far that particular anomaly will ever be built up again. All the problems of wages and competition, of Trade Unionism and State control of capital bear on this question, and the future disbanding of the army threatens it with complete confusion. And yet, in spite of its difficulty, it is a problem we cannot neglect now, for the girls have their lives before them, and even if we do nothing but "wait and see" we have already taken action. Must we then train them for these various trades and professions? And if so, what of their children? Must we not rather train them for motherhood? Already, backed, or perhaps inspired, by the natural fear of cheap female competition, a clamor has begun to make ready "after the war," to force women back out of the labour market into their homes. What are we to do about that? The homes are not there, and for more thousands of girls even than before they will never exist. What, then, of their wages, and how are they to live? If we forbid them to earn wages because of their hypothetical children, must we not pay for their living because of those children? And what then of the need to increase the productivity of England "after the war"? If the girls are skilled producers of goods, must we force them to stay idle? There is no end to the questions that arise, and the compromises with which we answered them before need more revision than we are giving to them.

And while these and a hundred other similar problems face us, what is actually happening is that the young women are rushing gladly and inconsiderately into every blind-alley opening, urged on by their longing to "do their bit," by the abnormal

wages they can get, and by the novelty of the whole proceeding. After the war they will have to rush out again, either because the men they have replaced are back, as on the buses and trams, or because the work they have done is over, as in the munition factories; and there they will be, thousands of young, strong women, accustomed to independence and work, unmarried and without the expectation of marriage, swelling the great disbanded army of the unemployed. And yet it is not at all clear that they are wrong in doing as they do. The shells must be made, and the buses conducted, and the most that could be done now would be to select and sort the women offering work, so as to put those who need not work for life into the temporary work, and to offer training and a safer opening to those who know their need will last.

Such classification is very difficult, and the organisation needed for it is entirely lacking; so, too, is the co-ordination of training centres and the distribution of information, and this list might be indefinitely extended. In fact, amid all these difficulties and confusions, one thing is clear, and that is that foresight and provision for "after the war" are absent. One other thing is clear, too, and that is that women will have to take their share of responsibility and action in the settlement of all these problems. We shall, no doubt, build up new and still imperfect compromises "after the war"; but they may be less one-sided, and it is possible to hope that they may be less confused if, when the time of reconstruction comes, women as well as men are consulted.

R. S.

Women Citizens Associations.

Most Suffragists are obeying a sound political instinct which tells them that the present time is more suitable for exercising such functions of citizenship as are open to them than for actively pushing their demand for fuller rights.* But it is possible to follow that instinct too far and to allow absorption in the tasks of the present to lead to a culpable neglect of the duty of preparing for the future. I believe that many of our Societies are, in fact, making this mistake, and the object of this article is to suggest ways in which, without breaking the political truce, and without diverting the energies of any section of workers from more pressing national needs, it is possible for us to build up a machinery which will be invaluable to the Women's Suffrage Movement when the time comes to take the next great forward step.

It is probable that the majority of women are not, for the moment, thinking much about their need of the Parliamentary vote. Votes seem to them part of the ordinary mechanism of party politics and of contested elections, and they have put all those things for the moment behind them. But there never has been a time when women were more conscious of their citizenship, or when the public were more ready to acknowledge it. It has become "common form" to extol the services of women to the nation, and pictures of women doing unusual things—working in munition factories, ploughing, driving lorries—adorn every illustrated paper. It follows that even the most inert women feel that they ought to be doing something, and that even the most conventionally minded can respond to appeals to their citizenship without the feeling that they are doing something eccentric that might have obsessed them before the war.

THE NEED FOR GUARDING AGAINST REACTION.

What we have to consider is how this newly aroused consciousness may be so captured and fostered and directed that it will issue not only in the doing of a certain amount of immediately useful work, but will become a permanent source of strength to the feminist movement. Political workers must never allow themselves to forget that every period of strong feeling and enthusiasm is liable to be followed by a period of apathy and reaction. Nothing that seems to have been gained during the period of enthusiasm is safe unless it has been so strengthened and tethered that it can resist the pressure of the period of reaction. Women who have discovered themselves to be citizens for the first time during the war must be regarded as so much reclaimed land which will quickly become a swamp again unless it is fenced and drained and cultivated. The object of this article is to suggest a method of dealing with this reclaimed land, which I believe to be well suited both to the circumstances of the moment and the needs of the future.

One of the "circumstances of the moment" which has to be reckoned with is the obvious fact that nearly every woman experienced in organisation is already "up to her eyes" in work. This is undoubtedly the chief difficulty which deters Suffrage Societies from entering on new schemes. But it is a difficulty which has to be met, and one of the advantages of the plan I propose is that the proportion of unskilled to skilled work in it is unusually large. It is worth while, even from the point of view of "War Service," for a very small number of experienced workers—say one in each Society—to give themselves up to the task of organising the large force of women, especially of married working women, whose services are at present being to a great extent wasted because they are shy

* This article was written before the rumours about a possible Redistribution Bill threatened to bring the question of the Suffrage into the sphere of immediate practical politics.

of offering themselves as workers to organisations controlled mainly by the well-to-do.

ORGANISING WOMEN CITIZENS.

The scheme of "Associations of Women Citizens" was first set on foot in Liverpool in 1913, and was recommended to Societies for adoption by the Annual Council Meeting of February, 1914. Various happenings in the Union hindered its development, and the outbreak of war interrupted the plans of the few Societies which had decided on adopting it. Several Associations have, I believe, been set going, but as I have no knowledge of their working, I must, at the risk of seeming provincial, confine my description to the one in Liverpool.

The objects of the Liverpool Association of Women Citizens, as described on its card of membership, are four:—

1. To foster the sense of citizenship in women.
2. To encourage self-education in civic and political questions.
3. To secure the return of women members of the City Council and Boards of Guardians.
4. To secure, by law-abiding methods, the Parliamentary Enfranchisement of women.

For the benefit of those who are thinking of starting Associations, I will give full details of the *modus operandi*:—

Inaugural Meetings.—To break new ground, one new Ward should be organised each month (omitting July, August, and perhaps December). Superior artisan or lower middle-class Wards will be found most profitable to begin on.

(a) Engage a central hall in the Ward for meeting.

(b) Cards of invitation should run as follows:—

"The Committee invite your attendance at an Inaugural Meeting to explain the objects of the Association in peace time and in war time, and to start a branch in this Ward.—Details of time and place.—Name of chairman and speakers.—A cup of tea. Please bring this card."

(c) Buy a register of voters, and address the cards to the woman head of every household in the Ward. If the voter is John Smith, address the card to Mrs. Smith. There should be white cards for women householders, tinted cards for wives of householders.

(d) The cards should be delivered personally by the workers, who should carry copies of the card of membership, programme of meetings, badge, &c., to satisfy inquirers.

(e) At the meeting, after the speeches are over, questions and a practical discussion of the needs of the Ward should be invited. Cards should be collected, and members enrolled by marking a cross opposite the names of those who want to join. The annual subscription of sixpence should be collected at the same time if possible.

2. Monthly Members' Meetings.—While the Association is small, one monthly meeting for all Wards will suffice. Later, it will be necessary to subdivide.

(a) Programmes should be printed for six months ahead. The subjects for discussion should be distributed among the objects of the Association, municipal, poor-law, and Suffragist topics being taken in turn. Miscellaneous subjects must be prohibited, as it is important to keep the Association strictly to its business as a political organisation, doing practical political work.

(b) The first fifteen minutes of each members' meeting must be given to business. Ward secretaries must be elected, and the chairman or secretary should make it her business to bring up any question specially concerning women that has come up at the Town Council or Board of Guardians during the month. Resolutions may be passed, deputations asked for, members told off to interview their Ward councillors or guardians. If possible, a rota should be formed of members to attend every meeting of the Town Council and watch its proceedings.

3. Committee, Ward Secretaries, and General Secretary.—The Committee should consist of all the Ward secretaries, and two or three of the leading members of the Women's Suffrage Society Committee, also any women members of the Town Council, and a woman guardian or two. The efficiency of the whole Association will depend mainly upon the Ward Secretaries.

The duty of the Ward secretary is to keep the register of all the members in her Ward, collect their subscriptions, take round to them monthly reminders of the members' meetings, whip them up when there is any work to be done, visit them when they are sick or in trouble.

It is absolutely essential that the Association should have a capable organising secretary, who will plan out the whole scheme of work and distribute it to the workers. The stewarding of the meetings, and provision of tea, &c., can be carried out by the rank and file of the members.

4. *Extra Activities.*—The Liverpool Association runs a winter "social," to which husbands are especially invited, and a summer garden party, which caters particularly for the children. Before the war, it also ran a series of very successful expeditions entitled "The City we Live in," when the members visited under expert leadership the principal institutions and sights of the city. During the war, the members have taken a very active part as visitors for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the Prince of Wales's Fund, and other relief organisations, besides running a sewing circle.

5. *Finance.*—Everything it does is run on self-supporting lines, except the inaugural meetings, but these are necessarily a rather heavy source of expense, which has hitherto been borne by the Suffrage Society. All the work done since the war has been unpaid, but workers are, of course, allowed, and should be encouraged to claim tram fares. It seems probable that a small weekly allowance for shoe leather should be added, as the increasing cost of this and of clothing generally is a serious impediment to the supply of voluntary workers with small means.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

Experienced organisers will easily see that the above scheme entails a very considerable amount of work, but that the bulk of it is of a routine kind, which can easily be carried out by untrained and not highly educated workers. The success of the scheme, indeed, depends on the extent to which the Association is run by the rank and file of its members, but they must be led by at least one or two skilled organisers, who bring to the task not only enthusiasm, energy, and initiative, but knowledge of political conditions and of the affairs of the municipality. One of the poorer Liverpool "citizens" confided to the Secretary that to her one of the charms of the Association was "that there were no ladies in it—at least, none of the sort you have to dress up for."

We are sometimes asked how all this educational and municipal work benefits the cause of Women's Suffrage; whether it could not be more fitly carried out by a Local Government Society or by the Union of Women Workers. The question (to my mind) betrays a curious ignorance of political psychology. Surely it is obvious that the Suffragist claim would be enormously strengthened if we had in every constituency a large force of women—organised on non-party lines for political ends—already in close touch for local purposes with the political machinery and the political leaders, able to exercise influence over these leaders through their voting at local elections, able to show that they had used to the utmost every power that had been given them in local government. Notoriously, the women municipal and poor law voters have not hitherto been such a force, and they have been far oftener used as an argument against Women's Suffrage than for it. The blame rests, I believe, largely upon the educated women who should have led them, but who failed to realise the truth that the average working woman (of course there are exceptions), whether wife, widow, or spinster, is inevitably so much absorbed with her own struggle for existence that you cannot expect her to become a keen politician until you have made her realise the bearing of politics upon her own problems.

TEACHING THE USE OF POLITICS.

She must be taught as Helen Keller, the deaf, dumb, and blind American girl was taught to hear, speak, and read; by first building up in her the sense of certain elementary connections between things within her own experience. There is no use beginning by talking of anything so remote and intangible as national or international politics, but you will have taken the first step towards making her a keen Suffragist when you have made her realise that she can get her ashbin emptied more regularly by writing herself to the Medical Officer of Health, or obtain a playground for her children by going on a deputation to the Parks and Gardens Committee. You will have done much to change love of country from a war-time emotion into a permanent spring of action if you can make her "town-proud," so that she takes the same kind of personal possessive pride in the Mersey, the Cathedral, and the Corporation's housing areas that she now takes in the china horse over her own door, the Nottingham lace curtains at her own window, and the plot of marigolds in her own backyard. Gradually it all teaches her "the use of politics" and the potentialities of her own place as a citizen. But she will learn the lesson much more quickly if the Women Citizens Association has been a Suffragist organisation from the first.

Of course, during the war, the fighting part of the policy of Women Citizens Associations must be generally suspended. If there is an agreement between the parties not to contest elections, it would obviously be inexpedient to run women candidates. But in some places it may be possible to get the leaders

to accept a woman on each side voluntarily, because good men candidates are scarce or because it is the fashion just now to extol women's services. In the long run, the period of truce may be an advantage to us, if it is spent in self-education and development. It is a good rule in politics not to bark until you are strong enough to bite. Most Women Citizens' Associations are in the ingratiating, tail-wagging stage at present. But if they develop as they should, the time will quickly come when party leaders and agents will wake up to find that there is a new force which has to be reckoned with.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

For "The Common Cause."

We offer our grateful thanks to friends who have rallied so generously to the support of "The Common Cause," and are enabling us to "carry on."

The following are a few of the letters of appreciation which we have received:—

"I enclose cheque for two guineas as a small contribution towards your fund for carrying on THE COMMON CAUSE, as it certainly helps to keep Suffragists in touch with each other, and with what they are doing. It would be a pity to give it up."

"As I shall be very sorry if THE COMMON CAUSE had to come to an end just now, when it seems such a centre for recording the many activities of women in all directions—the outcome of their development so bravely and consistently fought for by THE COMMON CAUSE in its more exclusive pre-war Suffrage propaganda—I have pleasure in enclosing cheque for two guineas. It seems only loyal to a good friend to help her in her need, and to support her, at any rate, until the object for which she was brought into existence is accomplished—a time, I believe, which is not far distant."

"I am enclosing a small donation towards the fund required for the continued publication of THE COMMON CAUSE. I sincerely trust the required amount will be forthcoming and the paper able to continue its useful work."

"I enclose a contribution to the £500 required to carry on THE COMMON CAUSE, and hope that all Suffragists will see the great importance of supporting our paper at this time; it well deserves support."

"I enclose a cheque for £1 is. towards the fund for supporting THE COMMON CAUSE, as I consider it highly desirable the paper should be kept going in these critical times. I wish I could contribute more."

From Australia.

"I enclose my subscription to your deeply interesting paper. The year's COMMON CAUSE is indeed a marvellous record of work accomplished by devoted women; and here, in this far-away 'backwater' of the Empire, it comes as a revelation. We do our best, but it seems so little. With best wishes for the success of the paper."

From a Canadian in the Trenches.

"The boys were all deeply interested in the Florence Nightingale article on the front page, and it led to quite an interesting discussion on the origin of the Red Cross and the name of the Swiss Doctor who originated the scheme."

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In response to our appeal for more subscribers, Mrs. Alfred Illingworth has sent us a cheque for £1 12s. 6d. for THE COMMON CAUSE to be sent to a list of ten friends for six months. Who will follow this excellent example?

Notes from Headquarters.

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Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Volecess, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

At the first meeting of the Parliamentary Sub-committee, Miss Henderson, Parliamentary Secretary of the Scottish Federation, was co-opted to serve on the Committee.

Reception at Headquarters.

On Tuesday a reception was given at Headquarters by Mrs. Fawcett and the Executive Committee and the Directors of THE COMMON CAUSE to delegates to the British Dominions Overseas Woman Suffrage Union Conference. The delegates were specially invited to meet Mrs. Harley, who has recently returned from her long absence in France and Serbia, and is shortly going out again with a Flying Column. Mrs. Fawcett, in her address of welcome to the delegates and to Mrs. Harley, spoke of the good effect on public opinion of the work of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals. She congratulated Mrs. Harley on the high honour bestowed upon her by General Sarrail. The Croix de Guerre, which is essentially a soldier's decoration, has never before been awarded to a woman, and the palm upon the ribbon, denoting that the medal has been given in the name of the whole French Army, is a special honour. Mrs. Harley gave a most interesting description of her work at Royaumont, Troyes, and Salonica, an account of which appeared in last week's issue of THE COMMON CAUSE.

The Hon. Treasurer gratefully acknowledges £10 sent by Mrs. G. H. Garrett through Mrs. Fawcett, and several affiliation fees, but begs that all affiliation fees be paid as soon as possible.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	£ s. d.	Tonbridge W.S.S.	£ s. d.
Received from June 19th to 24th, 1916:—	1,499 5 6	Maryport W.S.S.	9 3
GENERAL SERVICE FUND DONATIONS.			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Mrs. H. Blake	5 0	Miss I. M. Evans (monthly)	2 6
Miss Yvonne C. P. Ruffier	2 6	Miss M. H. Lloyd Davies	10 6
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Olton W.S.S.	10 0	Mrs. E. Beesley	1 0 0
Saltash W.S.S.	5 0	Mrs. G. H. Garrett	10 0 0
			£1,512 18 3

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. Aberbach or Miss Sterling by name, not to the Treasurer.

Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Refugees in Russia.

The National Union is making great efforts to help the refugees from the war zone in Russia, and has undertaken important medical work, particularly for women and children, in co-operation with the Zemstvos, and with the Great Britain to Poland Fund. A successful Maternity Hospital has been established in Petrograd, and now doctors and nurses are being sent to Galicia behind the lines, and to the Province of Kazan, to cope with cholera, small-pox, and other infectious diseases which the refugees are carrying to the Russians. £6,211 has already been raised, and another £3,200 is needed before January; also £125 to complete the purchase of a motor-ambulance for Galicia. Will you help?

TWENTY-FIFTH LIST OF DONATIONS.

Already acknowledged	£ s. d.	Scalby W.S.S., Mrs. Ellis	£ s. d.
"In Memoriam"	6,144 4 1	Lady Beatrice Petythian	10 0 0
Wallingborough W.S.S.	5 0 0	Mrs. Arthur M. Nicholls	1 1 0
Miss M. H. Lloyd Davies	4 0 0	Colonel Pennefather	2 2 0
Mid. Bucks W.S.S., Mrs. Russell's Meeting	10 6	Miss B. Kingsford	7 6
Mrs. Crawford	3 7 0	Metropolitan Tabernacle Branch, B.W.T.A.	1 1 0
Miss Rose H. Kyle	1 0 0	Collected by Mrs. Alys Russell in U.S.A.	5 4 2
Mrs. Danwall	5 0 0	Mr. and Mrs. E. Beesley	1 0 0
The Misses Salmon	5 0	"J.C., M.M.D., and E.W."	2 4 6
Mrs. Roland Matthew	1 1 0	Scalby W.S.S., Collection at Meeting	4 8 5
Miss L. Currell	1 0 0	Keswick W.S.S., Mrs. Pape	10 0
B.W.T.A., Dunstable Professor and Lady Murray	1 15 6	Miss Anna Harris Hoy (Collected at Bellefonte, Penna.)	2 1 1
	2 0 0		

Mr. Charles F. Cole	£ s. d.	Shipley and Baldon W.S.S.	£ s. d.
Miss F. E. Harvey	5 0 0		6 6 0
Mrs. Archer	1 0 0		
The Misses Hyth	2 2 0		
	1 0 0		
			£6,211 6 9

Further subscriptions should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

The following letter has been received from Sister Roberts at Kazan, dated June 8th:—

"This is just to let you know we have had a very successful opening of our Hospital here. A great many people came and admired our wards; they certainly are nice—large, with plenty of windows, and neat little beds. In one ward we have seventeen beds, and in the other fourteen; but I expect we shall have soon to equip two more wards of about twelve beds each. The people here are extremely kind, and all say what a boon this children's hospital will be. The dining-room is in the hospital near the kitchen, but we all live about 100 yards away in rooms over the out-patients' department, which has a separate entrance, and is most convenient. We had lovely flowers in the wards, lilac and lilies-of-the-valley. I have never seen so many lilies in my life, and they are absurdly cheap.

"Madame P. told me that in the Church service, the Priest prayed for King George, which, she says, is most unusual, as foreign monarchs are very seldom prayed for in the Russian Church. The Mayor, I believe, made a nice speech, which, unfortunately, we did not understand, though some of the sisters have picked up a good deal of Russian. Dr. Stepany is in charge, and has started learning Russian already.

"It was most unfortunate that Miss Moberly and her party should arrive in an awful snowstorm; such a thing has not happened so late in the year in Kazan for over 150 years. Now the weather is lovely and really hot, but alas! the Russian summer is very short, and I can imagine the cold of the winter here is simply awful, we are so high up."

Miss Moberly also writes:—"Our society rouses great interest (unofficially, of course!) out here. People seem vastly impressed by an Englishwomen's society undertaking this work, and I think this effect . . . will be hard to overestimate."

Mrs. Russell's Tour in America.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

MADAM,—We Americans, who had the privilege of hearing Mrs. Alys Russell speak during her late tour in our country, wish to thank the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for urging her to come to us. No one who has brought across the sea a message of the crying need of those deprived of homes and friends and care by the present war, has interested us or inspired us more than Mrs. Russell.

Her first meeting was in an old Colonial Court House, crowded to its limits, where she held her audience spellbound for an hour by relating the opportunities given to women in England to help share the burden of the war, and the great influence their ability will exert in favour of Suffrage. Her account of the welcome given the Belgians upon their arrival in England was illuminating as well as interesting. She vividly pictured the achievements of your Hospital Units in France and Serbia, and for the Poles in Russia.

The rich and poor in her audiences, educated and uneducated, were equally inspired and impressed by the lecture. Many country folk came from their farms to hear her, and still have time in the midst of their ploughing and sowing to talk of that night, "When we heard things we had never thought of before." One farmer, just to-day, told me it was the greatest lecture he had ever heard. He said: "It was a wonderful night. I could easily have listened twice as long a time," and added: "I asked a neighbour of mine why he hadn't come to the Court House, and he inquired when that lecture was to be, as he wanted to hear it. I said to him, 'Why, man, it is over, and you have missed half your life.'" An old soldier endeavouring to find expression for his appreciation said: "There wasn't a tedious moment in all that hour, and I could have listened for another hour." A young girl exclaimed: "It couldn't have been better." Those who were disappointed were those who could not come to the meeting. The same interest was felt wherever Mrs. Russell spoke. I heard her seven times, and each time received a new inspiration. A very cultured old lady, who has travelled far in her day, drove many miles on several dark nights to hear Mrs. Russell repeat her lecture, and said she was more impressed each time she heard her. Everywhere the audiences showed the same enthusiasm for Mrs. Russell's delightful personality.

One often hears the remark that "America has been strapped," but Mrs. Russell's article, "Americans and the Allies," published in THE COMMON CAUSE of April 28th, makes us realise that we have not yet actually felt the war. When Mrs. Russell told us of the exodus of the Poles, describing most vividly their trek into Russia, many of us were moved to tears, and to give an offering, but we have not yet given until we feel the sacrifice, as have the self-sacrificing women of England.

ANNA HARRIS HOV.

Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

Estimated Expenses of Millicent Fawcett Hospitals for Refugees in Russia till January, 1917.

Table with columns for item description and cost in £ s. d. Includes categories like Maternity Hospital in Petrograd, Soudia Summer Home, Kazan Hospital, STARA CHELNA, CHULPANOFF, IZGARA, CHISTOPOL, and One Ambulance, Galicia.

We have received some very interesting reading matter from a firm of food manufacturers, who appear to be working on very advanced lines. They contend that real economy in the matter of food is to select those commodities which represent the full value of ripened grains in a finely prepared form.

The main practical proposition which this very enterprising firm makes is that people should experiment by replacing to a greater or less extent the many soft, starchy, and sloppy foods in general use by the crisp and delicious "P.R." products. They claim—with a good deal of justice—that a freer use of this type of food will enormously reduce the dental decay amongst children and the digestive troubles of adults.

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

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

Table listing donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes names like Miss Mabel Bardsley, Mrs. R. Cuthbert, and Miss M. King Reid.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED. Table with columns for Name of Bed, Donor, and details of the beds.

A HOSTEL FOR EDUCATED WOMEN.

MADAM,—May we draw the attention of your readers to a Hostel for Educated Women who are out of employment through the war? This hostel, situated at 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington, has been open for eighteen months.

MOTHERS' DAY.

A NEW IDEA IN WAR-TIME KINDNESS.

A "Mothers' Day" is being organised by Mr. J. A. Whitehead, the aeroplane manufacturer, of Richmond, as a recognition of what is due to the mothers of the Empire. The celebration of Mothers' Day is fixed for August 8th, the Bank Holiday which is to make up for Whitsun.

Busy women can no longer afford to continue with the old laborious method of cleaning and polishing furniture, and now that the Ayah Polish has come on to the market the work can be reduced to a minimum. This polish needs to be only lightly rubbed on, and it immediately, as if by magic, removes all dirt, and gives a beautiful polish.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

L.S.W.S. CHISWICK AND BEDFORD PARK BRANCH.—The general meeting of this Branch was held on Friday, June 9th, at 8 p.m., by invitation of Mrs. Bustard, at 32, Priory Road, Bedford Park.

Shrewsbury. The Shrewsbury Society gave a cordial welcome on June 21st, to Mrs. Harley, who arrived in Shrewsbury in the afternoon, and in the evening was the guest of the Society at Morris's Café.

Bristol. In continuation of the series of Thrift Meetings, one was held at the office on May 12th, when a lecture was given by Miss Thompson, of the Civic League, on "Spending and Saving in War Time."

Working Parties. Ascot N.U.—Working Party for Members Every Tuesday, 2.30-6.0. Ascot Society—Working Party for Members at Sunninghill Every Thursday, 2.30-6.0.

Forthcoming Meetings.

- JUNE 30. Bradford—Preliminary Meeting—Annual Meeting at Patriotic Club (Girls)—Speaker, Miss Geraldine Cooke—Entertainment, 8.30—Refreshments—Collection. Eastbourne—"At Home," at Raven's Croft School, St. John's Road (by kind permission of the Principals, the Misses Mullins)—Speaker, Mrs. Fawcett on "The Status of Women after the War"—After Tea, Musical Programme—Members of N.U.W.S.S. invited.

Working Parties. Ascot N.U.—Working Party for Members Every Tuesday, 2.30-6.0. Ascot Society—Working Party for Members at Sunninghill Every Thursday, 2.30-6.0.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

A conference organised by the Bread and Food Reform League will be held in the Queen's (Small) Hall, Langham Place, on Tuesday, July 4th, at 4 p.m. The conference will be on "The National Importance of Utilising Whole Cereals in Time of War."

A meeting in connection with the Women Co-operative Farmers, Ltd., will be held on Monday, July 3rd, 4.30, at 5, Cheyne Place, Chelsea, by kind invitation of Mrs. Francis Acland. Speakers: Mrs. Roland Wilkins (Women's Land Service Corps), Mr. A. D. Hall, M.A., F.R.S. (Development Commissioner), and Miss A. M. Emerson (Managing Director, Women Co-operative Farmers, Ltd.).

Have you Copies of the New HAND-BOOKS ON GIRLS' CLUBS? Invaluable to the Experienced Worker and the Novice. No. I. THE CLUB LEADER; Price 3d. THE CLUB MEMBER; THE CLUB. No. II. RELICION AND THE CLUB. Price 3d. No. III. CLASS WORK IN THE CLUB. Price 6d.

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

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY? The large London Market enables ROBINSON BROS. of 5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St. E.C. To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVER PLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036. ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

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

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS. Table with columns for WORDS, ONCE, THREE TIMES, SIX TIMES and corresponding costs in s. d.

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE will hold a meeting at the New Constitutional Hall, 8, Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge, S.W., Tuesday, July 4th, 3.30 p.m. "Our Babies, and the Future of the Race," by Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky.

WAR WORK. TWO Suffragists wish War Work for a fortnight in August.—Apply Box 5,934, COMMON CAUSE Office.

MOTORING. WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING 250, 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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THE LAND.

GARDENING.—Taynton House, Taynton, Gloucester. Miss Atherton, assisted by Miss Marion Stewart, is willing to receive limited number of students.

NURSERY TRAINING.

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR HOUSECRAFT & NURSERY TRAINING.—Students received; course of four months, £16 16s.; babies in residence.—Apply Lady Supt., 36, St. George's-square, Primrose-hill.

BOOKS.

ECCE MATER. The Problem of Civilization Raised by the War.

By M. A. R. TUKER.

Sold by THE INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5, Duke St., Adelphi, W.C. Price 3s. 6d. net, by post 3s. 11d.

EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL.

CAN YOU SKETCH? If so, why not learn Press Illustration? or adopt as a "second string"? I can teach you thoroughly by post. Send stamp for illustrated prospectus—it will interest you.—Jay Gerard, Northern School Press Drawing, Bradshaw, Bolton.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

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MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
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HATS RE-BLOCKED and any alterations or trim; own materials used.—Miss Hughes, 7, Lower Porchester-street, Marble Arch.

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from 15s. 6d. Also accurately copied to customers' own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed; prices moderate.—H. Nelissen, 14, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-circus, W.; patterns sent on application.

LAUNDRY.

BUSH HILL PARK STEAM LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-Avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Hand-done shirts and collars. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, lace, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

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.

"FLAXZELLA"—Irish Linen Fabric—with new silky finish, makes ideal Skirts and Blouses; 12yd. to 2s. 4d. yard. 200 patterns, with this month's Bargain List, free!—Write, HUTTON'S, 159, Larne, Ireland.

COLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half of the ordinary time by the Ayah 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.

LADY (L.S.W.S. Member) would like to give house room to the Piano of any reader who may be warehousing her furniture. Advertiser has taken charge of friend's piano for some years, but now, owing to removal, is without an instrument. Greatest care taken. No children. References given.—Write, Manager, COMMON CAUSE Office.

MADAME HELENE, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough, gives generous prices for ladies' and gentlemen's worn silks, 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.

HAIR HAIR SCALP FOOD, 1s. 8d.; cures dandruff and ensures new growth even in old age.—Miss Davy, Bere Ferrers, S. Devon.

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

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TO LET (Unfurnished).—Eight-roomed house, conveniently situated close to Westbourne-grove and Kensington-gardens; very suitable for dividing into flats; rent moderate; short lease, or for sale; bargain.—Write, M. G., c/o Fuller's Advertising Agency, 99, New Bond-st., W.

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FOR HOLIDAYS.

ARTIST'S wife (husband away) would like a lady, artistic or literary preferred, as paying guest; quiet, pretty country, South coast.—Box 5,887, COMMON CAUSE Office.

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

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

Address

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