

# THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

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

NON-PARTY.

Societies and Branches in the Union  
602.

LAW-ABIDING.

VOL. VI., No. 292.]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1914.

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## HOW TO HELP.

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 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 being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

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### Notes and News.

#### Good News for Suffragists.

Mrs. Chapman Catt cables that Women's Suffrage is won in Nevada and Montana, and possibly in Nebraska. No news has come from North and South Dakota, Missouri, or Ohio. We have no details of the voting yet, but we call attention to the fact that Nevada is a State surrounded by Suffrage States. Victory here is, therefore, peculiarly significant: it means that where Women's Suffrage is seen in action, it is approved.

#### The Meeting of East and West.

Perhaps nothing that has happened since the beginning of the war has given so great happiness to us all as the eagerness of our Indian fellow-subjects to fight by the side of our own soldiers. We feel that the acceptance of this help is a recognition of the fundamental equality of two great civilizations, from which we shall not be able, nor shall we ever desire, to go back. Perhaps the meeting of these two on terms which will make it easy for the children of each to learn from, and to understand the other, may result in a richer and a nobler civilization than the world has yet seen. The beauty and the dignity, and the spirituality of Indian thought should make, with the energy and force of the West, a wonderful compound. We publish this week an article by Mr. Lajpat Rai, in which this ideal is considered, and we hope to follow it up by others more especially dealing with the position of women in India.

#### The N. U. W. S. S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

The first two units are now ready for service, and will start as soon as possible. But Dr. Inglis writes that to keep them at work for six months, will take not £1,000 as originally estimated, but nearer £1,500. Prices have gone up, and there is no limit to the development of the work to be done, *except the limit of funds*. The response of the Union, and of the public generally, to Dr. Inglis's appeal, has been magnificent. Witness the lists we publish this week! But there is, we repeat, no limit to what may be done yet. Volunteers are ready and waiting. The motor-ambulances will be very costly to run, but absolutely invaluable for the work. Let us therefore give and give quickly.

#### For the Belgians.

In response to many enquiries as to the best kind of clothing to send for the use of our Belgian guests, we beg to state on the authority of Miss Ellen Walshe, that they "wear just the same kind of clothing and underclothing as we do!" "So let no one hesitate about patterns, but make good plain garments and they will be welcome."

#### The "Temperance War"—An Example to Great Britain.

We are informed by a New Zealand correspondent, that alcoholic liquor is banned in all camps where cadets are training, or where divisions of the Expeditionary Force are stationed; as also in the canteens of the New Zealand ships. The advocates of National Prohibition believe that there is a chance that this measure may become law this year, but they speak of it as "a possibility" only. Mr. and Mrs. Philip Snowden are both addressing meetings in New Zealand in support of prohibition. The question is one which will no doubt divide people along other than sex lines. But we cannot help being impressed by the apparently undisputed belief of experts that when physical fitness is an absolute necessity—as now, to our soldiers—alcohol stands condemned. Nor can we imagine any policy more completely absurd than that which seeks, in time of war, to restrict the sale of liquor to women *only*.

#### Drinking Among Women—and Men.

We observe with interest that Lady Byles, who introduced the deputation to Mr. McKenna on excessive drinking among women, repudiated the idea that the increase was proportionally greater than among men, and said that there was "no evidence" of this. We should be exceedingly glad to have

reliable evidence, if it can be got. We all know how shocked people are at the failings of another class, race, or sex, than their own, and how much more apparent such failings are to them than their own. While we believe that some women, to whom a very small sum is sometimes overwhelmingly more than they have been accustomed to spend, and for whom no place but the public-house is provided where they can go for interest, for talk, and for a newspaper, may be going to that only place and spending money on drink, we are quite unconvinced that women are yielding to temptation more than men. Mr. McKenna seems to us to have made an extraordinary mistake in attributing the objection raised by the deputation to differential treatment, to "old controversies which existed before the war." Controversy has been suspended in face of a common danger, it is true. We can imagine no more treacherous a use of the patriotism with which women have given up everything in order to serve their country's immediate and crying need, than to insult them with special restrictions, because "to ask the House of Commons to pass a Bill" restricting men also, "would not be a practical proposition."

#### Safe-Guarding the Licensed Victualler.

Mrs. Fawcett has written to the Prime Minister calling his attention to the fact that "the action of Sir E. Henry which gives the appearance of safeguarding the interests of temperance, is calculated rather to protect the licensed victuallers, who retain the whole of their clientele as regards the male civilian population. The proposed measure also emphasises the unequal treatment of men and women against which all Suffragists protest. Supporters of temperance will most certainly welcome any action likely to be effective in promoting sobriety in both sexes, but we question both the wisdom and the legality of enforcing an order which discriminates between them."

#### Wives and Mothers of Men at the Front.

The Government announce a new scale of payments to the wives and mothers of our soldiers and sailors. It is an improvement on the old, though not as good as we hoped. The worse features are the 7s. 6d. pension to soldiers' widows—an utterly insufficient sum to live on—and the fact that the police have been given the task of supervising the widows and dependents of men fighting for their country. We entirely agree with the conference called by the London Trades Council on November 7th, that such supervision is "insulting," and we insist that the money paid to the women who have given their men to the fighting line should be regarded as a national debt—not a charity. Miss Susan Lawrence rightly demands "State money, State machinery, and State responsibility." Only then will "the right of the women to the money earned by their husbands be recognised to the full."

#### Payments to the Unworthy.

It is really almost unbelievable that the Army Council should at the same time be clamouring for more men and insulting the wives of the men they have already. If the proposal to put soldiers' wives under police surveillance, as a fit punishment for the crime of being a soldier's wife, is not intended as an insult, we should like to see the system extended. The soldier has earned his pay, and has allotted some to his wife. She is not to have it if "unworthy." This is a new principle. Well, let us all adopt it, and get a certificate of good behaviour from the police before we draw our money. At least, those persons who are receiving Government pay should be put under supervision immediately—Cabinet Ministers, Ambassadors, and others. Who knows whether their private conduct would commend itself as "worthy," to the police? Of one thing we may be certain: the supervision proposed for soldiers' wives could not be more passionately resented by an ambassador's wife. We refuse to believe that this monstrous proposal will be carried out. Women's organisations are already on the alert. The Co-operative Guild has passed a resolution of indignant protest, and we understand that an urgency resolution to the same effect is to be moved at the Provincial Council of the N.U.W.S.S.

#### Some Useful Bits of Work.

We are sorry that pressure on our space obliges us to print at the very back of the paper—on page 542—several little reports of special interest. Sheffield Society sends a description of its ingenious "Thrill Exhibition," Godalming is co-operating in the N.U.W.W. scheme for providing women patrols, and is also planning to start French and German classes for soldiers in camp. Guildford is using its office on Sundays as a recreation room for girls.

## Women and Public-Houses.

### Deputation to Mr. McKenna.

Last Monday the Home Secretary received a deputation on the subject of excessive drinking among women, introduced by Lady Byles, who said the deputation was absolutely unanimous in desiring that the Government should take steps to deal with the lamentable increase of drinking among women, but there was one measure against which they emphatically protested—namely, that any discrimination should be made with regard to the sale of drink as between men and women. It was a slur upon women which they would repudiate with all their power. It implied that there had been a greater increase among women than among men, but there was no evidence of that. The increase was among both. If the State was to restrict sale in any way for women, it must equally restrict it for men.

The tremendous dislocation of national and social home life had created a demand, which must be met, for human sympathy among women. The hours for the sale of intoxicating liquor were curtailed in many cases at the end of the day. Why should not these hours be curtailed in the morning? If the sale were prohibited, say, up to noon, the women could still collect in public houses for sympathy and for a chat, and the children need no longer stay outside in the rain as they often did—a sight which went to the heart of every passer-by.

Another cause for the increase of drinking was the delay in the payment of separation allowances. In many cases where the arrears had been paid by the authorities, the sudden acquisition of large sums almost turned the women's heads. How natural that a woman should treat herself, and tell her friends and treat them also. It was a most tremendous temptation. "The unparalleled situation will justify, we believe, in the opinion of the country, unparalleled measures of control and restraint. We should like to see any emergency measure which you can feel it right to pass to be made operative right through the war and the hard clearing up after the war."

Mr. McKenna said he shared the opinion that nothing would be more desirable than to extend measures for temperance reform very largely for both sexes for all time, but his views and the views of the deputation were not such as would be accepted in an emergency measure, and they had to put up with such reforms as they could obtain. To prohibit the sale of drink until noon would be a stronger measure than the one he originally proposed. He could not say until he had made further inquiry whether it would prove to be a practical political proposition to ask the House of Commons to pass such a Bill.

As to differentiation between the sexes, Mr. McKenna said that so far as they could judge by the official returns, there was a reduction in the total consumption of alcoholic liquors, and so far as they could judge from official reports, there had been an increase in the consumption of alcoholic liquors by women. Were they to decline to deal with that state of things in an exceptional way merely because of the old controversies which existed before the war? He asked the deputation to consider whether, in the absence of the power to close all public-houses before noon, they should not, at any rate, look at the actual state of facts and take advantage of such powers as they might get by agreement to close public-houses, at any rate to women.

Lady Byles, in thanking Mr. McKenna for receiving the deputation, said she hoped he would find the House of Commons more chastened by its experience of war.

#### "WORKING SEVENTEEN HOURS A DAY."

Mrs. Osler, President of the Birmingham Suffrage Society, has been urging the restriction of hours for public-houses, in the local press. She has, as a result, received the following touching appeal from a woman licence-holder who "dare not enclose her name." We give it as it stands without any alteration. It is too human a document to be touched.

"DEAR MADAM,—Having noticed your letter in this morning's 'Post' (and Lord Kitchener's appeal which it seems in vain) I wish you could do something to carry out your idare. I think as a licence-holder in Birmingham for fifteen years it is only fair that we ought to close from 10 till 8 o'clock. God knows we have our troubles in our little houses, we are frightened to serve soldiers or women. We have to keep the trade up, the police walking in and out looking at us as to say what are you serving women for? And I assure you if we had a vote 99 out of every 100 would vote for less hours, but we dare not speak or we should get the sack. Many of us have to work seventeen hours a day, day after day, besides the anxiety we have. I wish you could call a meeting and push it along and not let it stand over just for the sake of the business to get there vast profits. I think it is a shame to see soldiers and women falling about the street. You have done good for other things, try and do something to carry this out. I dare not enclose my name or I wood."

## Active Service Cadet Corps.

At their Provincial Council, held at Wallasey last Thursday, the N.U.W.S.S. discussed the problem which is agitating the minds of so many at this present crisis, of how best to deal with those young girls who, through silliness and ignorance, have been putting themselves and others into grave moral danger, and who are failing to uphold the honour of girlhood.

I think everyone is more or less agreed that the women and girls of our nation are passing through an extraordinarily hard and difficult time during the war. The men have a plain, straightforward duty to perform, that whenever possible they must offer themselves for the defence of their country. The task may be hard, but they are supported and encouraged by public applause—they are the heroes of the hour, and there is, at any rate, the prospect of fresh scenes and new experiences, and the spirit of adventure to uphold them. The position of the women is very different; theirs is the harder task of giving, not themselves but those they love, those who are all the world to them, and with what heroism this has been done, in thousands of cases, only the few will ever know. There is no applause for them; no glamour surrounds their sacrifice; the daily task, the common round has to be performed just as before the war, only with this difference—that the support and companionship of husband and son has been taken from them, perhaps for ever. No wonder that some few of them have not been strong enough to bear the test, and have fallen under the temptation to drown their loneliness and sorrow in drink. The press ignores the heroism of the many, but hastens, with no measured condemnation, to condemn the few.

And the girls—what of them? How can we help them to face their present difficulties and temptations? This is a problem of the most vital importance to the nation, and for this reason the N.U.W.S.S. are taking up the question, and are laying before their societies a scheme for the formation of an Active Service Cadet Corps, which it is hoped will develop into a big national movement, and do as much for girls as the Boy Scouts movement has undoubtedly done for the boys.

In the space of a short article it is only possible to outline the work that it is proposed to do, and further information will be given later on; but there are a few points which need to be very clearly understood. There is no doubt that the behaviour of girls in the neighbourhood of camps shows a lack of self-control and discipline which is most regrettable; but it is well to know from the evidence of the police and the military authorities that these girls are, for the most part, very young—between the ages of 14-16—and are not vicious, but rather led away by the excitement of the times. The sense of patriotism which has been roused in them has not been directed into the right channel of service like the Boy Scouts, but has degenerated into personal admiration for the soldier and hanging about in places where he is to be found. The N.U.W.S.S. realise that what these girls require is an outlet for their active and restless spirits, and the remedy they propose is the formation of the Active Service Cadet Corps, which would combine both recreation and service.

Another point is this: youth calls to youth, and it is to the educated young woman that this work of bringing in these girls and holding out the hand of comradeship should be entrusted, and to what better task could the younger members of our Active Service League give themselves? The scheme should be run on the broadest lines, embracing all sorts and conditions of girls, and from the first as much self-government as is possible should be encouraged. A recreation room as headquarters of the corps will be necessary in every town where a branch is formed, and there the girls would meet every evening for drilling, first-aid classes, singing, dancing, &c. A social evening held once or twice a week, when the girls could invite their soldier friends, would enable them to meet each other in wholesome and bright surroundings, and gratify the perfectly natural desire of youth.

Had such an organisation as is now proposed been in existence at the beginning of the war, it is probable that this trouble about the girls might never have arisen. There are countless ways in which they could have been made useful as a trained body, which would have filled in their spare time and satisfied their vague aspirations to keep the flag flying, even though they cannot fight. Let the girls feel they are wanted at such times as these. It is just the incentive they need to bring out the goodness and sense that is in each one of them.

KATHERINE M. HARLEY.

## IMPROVED ALLOWANCES TO SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

A Memorandum setting forth the new Government scheme of allowances and pensions to seamen, marines, soldiers, and their dependents, was issued on November 9th as a White Paper. Army separation allowances are now payable to all wives and children, whether the soldier was married "off the strength" or not. Under the new scheme, similar provision is to be made in the case of seamen and marines provided that they make an allotment from pay of 20s. a month; but this allotment is not compulsory. An allotment of 3s. 6d. a week is compulsory in the case of soldiers serving abroad.

The new scale allowances compares with the old as follows:

| OLD SCALE.            |          | NEW SCALE.            |          |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Soldiers.             | Sailors. | Soldiers.             | Sailors. |
| s. d.                 |          | s. d.                 |          |
| Wife with 4 children  | 12 3     | Wife with 4 children  | 18 6     |
| Wife with 3 children  | 11 1     | Wife with 3 children  | 16 6     |
| Wife with 2 children  | 9 11     | Wife with 2 children  | 14 0     |
| Wife with 1 child     | 8 9      | Wife with 1 child     | 11 6     |
| Wife without children | 7 7      | Wife without children | 9 0      |

### PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

Scales of pensions to widows and orphans are to be substantially improved:—

| OLD SCALE.             |          | NEW SCALE.             |  |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|--|
| Widow with 4 children  | 11s.     | Widow with 4 children  | 20s.   |
| Widow with 3 children  | 9s. 6d.  | Widow with 3 children  | 17s. 6d.   |
| Widow with 2 children  | 8s.      | Widow with 2 children  | 15s.   |
| Widow with 1 child     | 6s. 6d.  | Widow with 1 child     | 12s. 6d.   |
| Widow without children | 5s.      | Widow without children | 7s. 6d.  |
| Motherless children    | 3s. each | Motherless children    | 5s. each   |
|                        | child.   |                        | child up to three children, and 4s. each additional child. |

Additional allowances will be granted in cases of necessity on the recommendation of the local Old-Age Pension Committee. All pensions and allowances will be paid weekly through the post office nearest the recipient's dwelling-place.

Those who are working in connection with soldiers' and sailors' families should get a copy of this White Paper for reference, as some of the regulations are rather complicated.

**THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY.** President: THE DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH. RELIEF OF WAR DISTRESS will be administered through LONDON BOROUGH COUNCILS. We appeal to Women Citizens to offer their services. For information apply to: The Secretary, 62, Oxford Street, W.

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## Work of the N. U. in Cardiff and District.

Like other Societies of the National Union, the Cardiff Society has turned its attention to mitigating as far as may be the suffering due to the war. It is well represented on various Committees for the relief of distress, and has supplied over a hundred voluntary workers to various organisations as visitors, clerical helpers, cooks, interpreters, and in other capacities. About thirty members are on the Ward Relief Committee; Miss M. E. Howell (Hon. Sec. W.S.S.) is on the Committee of the Central Relief Fund, and is local agent of the Royal Patriotic Fund; Mrs. Price Williams (member of Executive), Hon. Sec. of the Woman's Advisory Committee, a central committee representing all women's organisations engaged in relief work; Miss Collin is Hon. Sec. of the Women's Work-room Sub-Committee of the S.S.F.A., on the Central Committee of which eight members of the W.S.S. are serving.

### THE WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE BED.

This came into being as the result of an appeal from the Lady Mayoress, who is a member of our Executive Committee, to all the constituent societies of the National Union in Wales asking for subscriptions towards the endowment of a bed in the Welsh Hospital, which was being organised with a view to its being sent to the front. For the endowment of a bed £250 was required. The Cardiff Society collected £88 13s. This fund is now closed, the total sum which has been collected from the various societies in North and South Wales having amounted to nearly £300.

### FOREIGNERS IN DISTRESS.

On the initiative of the International Suffrage Alliance a Committee has been formed to deal with cases of foreigners in distress, and has its headquarters in our office. Several cases have been satisfactorily dealt with, the main object being to find work when possible. We were able to find a post as housekeeper for one, and to provide some paid work for others. These cases are British women who have become aliens in sight of the law because they have married foreigners.

Recently a special Committee has been formed to report on the best means of providing for the education of the Belgian children now in the district, and Miss Collin, a member of our Executive, has been appointed to serve on this Committee.

### FRENCH CLASSES.

Classes have been organised through our office for teaching the Soldiers' and Territorial nurses French. Wounded Belgian soldiers have already arrived at the Base Hospital, so the French thus learned is already in use, and Miss Nautel, our Hon. Literature Secretary, a Belgian by birth and British by naturalisation, is in frequent attendance as interpreter.

### LECTURES.

Lectures had been planned for the autumn to be held in our spacious new office, it being hoped thereby to stimulate interest in the study of various social problems among our members. After the outbreak of the war it was decided to adhere to the main plan of weekly meetings, and to try and organise them with a view to the consideration of the various problems raised by the war. The following meetings have been held:—

October 12th.—A debate: "That in the present crisis it is advisable that women should be trained to assist in Home Defence."

October 19th.—Mr. Ernest Hughes, M.A., lectured on "The Balance of Power in Europe." October 26th.—Professor Polderman lectured on "Belgium and the War," the lecture being thrown open to the general public.

It is hoped that we may be able to continue these meetings after Christmas. Suggestions have been received for lectures on International Law, and on the influence of geographical conditions on the war. If these suggestions are to be carried out, and if the office is to be kept open for the purpose of relief work as described above, members must remember to give as large donations as they can afford to the funds of the Society before the New Year. A sale of Christmas gifts will be held in the office on December 2nd.

### NEWPORT.

Newport is engaged in relief work, mainly in visiting and administering of the Prince of Wales's Fund. The help of the Society was offered to the Mayor, and we are represented in two wards. The Society collected £10 17s. 6d. for the "Woman's Suffrage Bed" in the Welsh Hospital.

### SOUTH KENSINGTON HOSTEL FOR BELGIAN REFUGEES.

Thanks to the prompt and generous response of kind members and friends the Hostel for Belgian Refugees organised by the South Kensington Committee of the London Society at 1, Argyle Road, Kensington, is well under way. The Committee desire to express their most grateful thanks to all those who have so generously provided furniture, money, and personal service. Miss Stoehr has very kindly undertaken to manage the Hostel as Hon. Organising Secretary, and Miss Whitson is generously giving her services as Directrice and will live in the house, which has been generously lent by Mr. Freeman, K.C. Donations and weekly subscriptions are still much needed, and will be gratefully received by Mrs. Felkin, 308, Seaham Gardens, W., who is kindly acting as Hon. Treasurer.

## "THE COMMON CAUSE" FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

The appearance of extracts from letters by an ex-Sergeant in last week's COMMON CAUSE has suggested to several of our readers the advisability of having a copy of our paper in every camp. The letters quoted contained the following words:—

"I received the paper safe and it is now on its way to France, where I am sure some of our brave lads will read it and pass it on."

We are proud to know that the National Union's paper will be read by our soldiers in France. Who will help to send it to them also in every camp in Great Britain?

There are several hundreds of camps. Many of these camps have reading or refreshment tents, run by the Y.M.C.A., the B.W.T.A., the Church Army, or other associations. Will you—as an individual or as a Suffrage Society—undertake to keep one camp supplied with THE COMMON CAUSE, for a certain number of weeks? or "during the duration of the war"?

Or will you undertake to send on your own copy regularly, every Friday evening?

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PUBLIC MORALS.

The National Council of Public Morals is holding a great meeting on November 19th. Lady Jellicoe will be in the chair, and questions of urgent public interest will be discussed. The meeting is for women only, and the speakers will be such experts as Dr. Flora Willey, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Margaret Bondfield, and Mrs. Scharlieb.

### "WINTER AND THE WAR."

A great public meeting will be held by the London Society for Women's Suffrage, at the Queen's Hall, on Wednesday, December 16th, at 8 p.m. The names of speakers will be announced shortly, and the collection will be divided between "Women's Service" and the "Queen's Work for Women" Funds. Application for tickets, price 5s. and 1s., should be made to the offices of the London Society, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

### "THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

Mrs. Fawcett's article, "Our Soldiers as Peacemakers," shows how the fine qualities of Tommy Atkins in war time make for kindly feeling when war is over. Under "Problems of the Day" the question of the utilisation of Voluntary Aid Detachments is dealt with, and an article by "G. E." describes the work of the Dames Infirmières of the French Red Cross Society. Other articles are "Martial Heroines: Agostina Zaragoza," by Miss Palliser; "The Work of Children's Care Committees," by E. Chivers Davies, and "The Literary Treatment of Colour," by J. W. Marriott. In an amusing, and at the same time pathetic, story, "The Substitutes," Miss Lowndes shows two girls looking after the families of two young men whom they have persuaded to enlist.

Those who have not already visited "The Englishwoman" Exhibition at the Maddox Street Galleries should go at once. Saturday is the last day on which it will be open.

### "THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

We wish to bring THE COMMON CAUSE before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

### Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained at 44, Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Papers will be distributed to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

### APPRECIATION OF SUFFRAGISTS' WORK.

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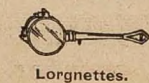
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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

## The Problem of Our Camps.

The unsatisfactory state of affairs in neighbourhoods where troops are stationed in some cases amounts to a real danger, and forms a problem with which neither the civil nor military authorities have so far been able to cope. Women of bad character and flighty girls beset our young soldiers at every turn. Men ply them with drink. The staidier among them are annoyed and embarrassed by these attentions, while the weaker yield to temptation with dire results to their physical and moral well-being.

We are assured by the Prime Minister that the infamous C.D. Acts will not be revived either by Act of Parliament or Police Regulations. But we are impressed with the need for some constructive and not merely negative proposals for combating the temptations of camp and barrack life. It is not enough to clear the neighbourhoods where soldiers are stationed of disreputable women; the problem will still remain of how these women are to be dealt with after they have been driven away. Where are they to go; what are we to do with them? They will still be here among us in their thousands, the victims of a vile social system, and we owe responsibility to these poor creatures as much as to the lads we are anxious to protect from their wiles.

The younger women found guilty of soliciting might well be dealt with by a modified Borstal system, with good hope of reformation. For prostitution is largely an economic question, and many a girl could be kept from the streets if she were trained to work in which she could take a pride and interest, and could earn a living wage.

The problem of the older prostitute, hardened in vice, is more difficult. But she too is a fellow human being. Let us take courage and thresh the whole matter out, in council with men who understand the meaning of our movement, strong in the belief that the nation was never before so ready to face the question boldly as now, when it sees the flower of its young manhood in danger. It is true that this danger always existed; but the present crisis has brought it more clearly to light, so that only the blind can fail to see.

Another problem, scarcely less difficult, is how to deal with the over-excited girls, whose conduct has aroused so many comments in the press. A large proportion may be what is usually called "innocent"; but their very ignorance of life is a danger, especially when it goes hand in hand with high spirits and a love of adventure.

Can we not rouse the self-respect of these girls, and turn their superabundant energy into some useful channel? They may be as patriotic as other girls who are spending their spare time in useful work, and if at present their one idea of showing enthusiasm is to run after soldiers, this folly is largely due to lack of proper direction at a critical stage of their development. We must remind ourselves, if we are inclined to blame them too severely, that very much less is done for them than for their brothers. The boys have organised games, and there are at least ten times as many clubs

for boys as for girls, in addition to boys' brigades, and last, but not least, the Boy Scout Movement, which has been given such powerful and widespread support, while the Girl Guides have met with many snubs.

All young things have a longing for adventure. But a girl's whole upbringing often leads her to associate adventures only with her relations with the other sex. Such vague warnings as she has received from her mother make her scent here a possible danger, all the more alluring because it is undefined. Then, again, from earliest childhood the girl has less money to spend than the boy. She depends to a great extent for amusement on being "treated," and associates going about with a man with having a much more amusing and exciting time than she could have with another girl. The right sort of comradeship between boy and girl is the best influence either can have. But it is deplorable that many girls are so without resources of their own that they will pick up casual acquaintances in the streets, rather than be without a young man to "walk out" with.

It is no use, however, merely bidding high-spirited girls stay at home and be good. We must find some active and engrossing occupation for them to counteract the attractions of the streets. In another column Mrs. Harley outlines a scheme which it is hoped will "do as much for girls as the Boy Scouts Movement has undoubtedly done for boys."

## East and West.

Never was a more palpable untruth uttered than when Kipling pronounced that—

"East is East, and West is West,  
Never shall the twain meet."

If East is represented by Asia, and the West by Europe, the fact is that they have been in close touch with each other from time immemorial. That is what is conveyed by such expressions as "Indo-Germanic," "Indo-Aryan," or "Indo-European." If philologists and ethnologists have not been indulging in flights of imagination only, we have it on the best authority that a good many of the Asiatic races are from the same stock as the European. Indians and Persians, at least, are undoubtedly Aryan in blood, in language, and in culture. Sanskrit and Persian are closely allied with Greek and Latin, as also with Teutonic languages. Similarly there is a great deal common in Hindu culture and Greek culture; so much so that scholars are sometimes puzzled at the identity of language used in the expression of the same thought. Hindus, of course, claim that their civilisation, being of an anterior date than the Greek, the latter has borrowed largely from the former. But even if this be not conceded, as it is not impossible that two branches of the same family should have developed their culture on somewhat similar lines, it has been established without doubt that the basic principles of the two civilisations are very much the same. Then it is a historical fact that the two races had opportunities of exchanging thought with each other several centuries before the birth of Christ. If Indian thought can be traced in Greek literature, influences of Greek art are said to be plenty in Indian sculpture. Even in the domain of science, Europe is under great obligation to India. In the words of Professor Herzen: "India is the source from which not only the rest of Asia, but the whole western world derived their knowledge and their religion." It should never be forgotten that every succeeding civilisation has been built upon the foundations dug for it by its predecessors. Their governing principles, their dominating ideals may differ, but the tree of human knowledge, which is ever growing higher and higher, must have had its roots somewhere before it began to grow. The contributions made to its growth by the various families of the human race may differ in quality and quantity, but that the tree owes its sublimity and grandeur to the multifarious exertions of all, is incontestable. That the East can learn a great deal from the West is assumed; that Asia has great need of assimilating the virile ideals of the West is beyond question. Asia has to occupy the back benches because it has lagged behind in the struggle for life; because it has failed to modernise her ethical and moral conceptions; because its intellectual progress has not kept pace with the times; and last, but not least, because her political conceptions are not sufficiently alive. Asia is behind the times because it still places confidence in the aristocracy of birth; in the immutability of castes; in unjust and inequitable distinctions between men and men, and between men and women. Asia has to adapt the political and social ideals of the West to her conditions of life. The desire for political freedom is not yet so keen in Asia as in Europe, and Asia has to feel that, devoid of

political freedom, life is not worth living. Europe, too, in its turn, has a great deal to learn from Asia. Perhaps the necessity of it was never so obvious as now. The war has brought home to Europe, as perhaps never before had anything else done, the one-sidedness of western thought. It has suddenly dawned on Europe that in spite of its boasted advance in civilisation and culture, it has not learnt the elementary lessons of humanity—control of passions and discipline in strife; that in spite of its Revolutions and Reformation, and in spite of its democratic professions, it is still dominated by militarism of perhaps the worst kind. Europe has to learn that power, wealth, mere knowledge are not the salt of life; that power divorced from its moral foundations is a dangerous weapon, dangerous to one who wields it, as well as to him against whom it is wielded. The West has to learn that the highest life, whether of individuals or of associations of individuals, does not consist in mere possessions; that there is something beyond the mere possession, without which life is barren and unfruitful; that so long as the ruling motive of our life continues to be to get all we can, though at the expense of others, so long life is merely animal. Speaking of India's literature, Professor Max Müller has said:—

"If I were to ask myself from what literature we here in Europe—we who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of the Greeks and the Romans, and of one semitic race, the Jewish—may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human, a life not for this life only, but a transfigured and eternal life, I should point to India."

An Anglo-Indian statesman, Sir Thomas Munro, takes a similar view:—

"I do not understand what is exactly meant by the civilisation of the Hindus. In the knowledge of the theory and practice of good Government, and in an education which by banishing prejudice and superstition, opens the mind to receive instruction of every kind, they are inferior to Europeans. But if a good system of agriculture, unrivalled manufacturing skill . . . the general practice of hospitality and charity amongst each other, and above all a treatment of the female sex full of confidence, respect, and delicacy, are among the signs which denote a civilised people, then the Hindus are not inferior to the nations of Europe, and if civilisation is to become an article of trade between the two countries, I am convinced that this country (England) will gain by the import cargo."

In these days of deadly firearms, of bombs, aeroplanes and submarines, it will be of interest to Europeans to know that the Hindu rules of war prohibit the use of "deceitful machine," or "poisoned weapon," and the slaying of the unarmed, of women, of the old, and of the fallen. To starve out an enemy, or to kill an enemy in an unequal or unfair combat, was out of the question. After a life-long study of the Hindu literature, Professor H. H. Wilson has said that "the Hindu laws of war are very chivalrous and humane." After the bitter experience which humanity is gaining through this war, it will be worth their while for the western people to stop and inquire if in ethical and moral standards there is not much in the standards of the East which they can learn with profit. Submarines and bombs are surely no proof of moral excellence, and a civilisation which can allow the use of either is far from being excellent in ethical standards.

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Mrs. Rackham on How to Help the Various Social Agencies Now at Work.—III.

Mrs. Rackham began her last lecture by giving an account of some organisations of the workers themselves. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES have for years encouraged the form of saving now made compulsory for wage-earners by the Insurance Act. Voluntary workers are often called upon to pay up contributions which are in arrears, and this is a very useful form of help.

SLATE CLUBS are also popular. They give sickness benefit during the year, and divide all surplus money among the members at Christmas.

THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.—There are now about 4,000,000 trade unionists in the country. About one trade union in four gives unemployment benefit, and these can now claim a Government grant of one-third of the money paid out for this purpose. It is necessary to encourage the spirit of trade-unionism among women and girls, none of whose unions can yet afford to pay unemployment benefit. The worst sweated trades are now under the Trades Boards Act, which fixes a minimum wage.

THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE takes up cases of women injured at their work, or suffering from evils due to overtime, unhealthy conditions, fines, or deductions. It also obtains legal advice, and gives compensation to girls who have been discharged by their employers for reporting such cases.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT is growing steadily; there are now 1,400 federated societies, and business is increasing at five times the rate of the increase in population. Anyone can belong on equal terms to these societies, the usual conditions of membership being the payment of 1s. towards a £1 share, and a few pence for rules. A cheque is given with each purchase, and all profits made by the store are divided among the members in proportion to their purchases, a dividend of 1s. to 4s. in the £1 being paid quarterly. These automatic savings go towards paying the balance of the £1 share; after that they are entirely at the disposal of the member. In times of exceptional distress societies come to the help of their members by making advances, paying the dividend before it is due, or keeping down prices, and each usually has an emergency fund for distressed members.

THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD, to which 28,000 working women belong, has promoted various forms of social effort, and since the beginning of the War it has concentrated on the movement for Maternity Centres. It is also interesting to hear that the Co-operative Movement was very strong in Belgium, where the dividend was socialised and used to provide such benefits as old-age pensions and medical advice for its members.

Mrs. Rackham brought her lecture to a close by pointing out the limitations of voluntary work. Volunteers constantly come up against public bodies and find their activities curtailed. It is important for voluntary workers to fit themselves to serve on these public bodies, which should be representative of every class and of both sexes. There are now over 1,500 women Guardians, but more are needed. The County and Borough Councils (Qualification) Act, 1914, makes women eligible for Town and County Councils by residential qualification, so that practically every local authority except the Licensing Body and the Board of Magistrates is now open to women. It is to be hoped that a great many women will take advantage of these opportunities of doing work which is not only valuable in itself, but which may bring with it the power of widening the voluntary worker's sphere of usefulness.

WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE.

An open-air meeting of the Women's Peace Crusade was held on Nov. 1st in Hyde Park, in commemoration of All Souls' Day (Nov. 2nd) and of all those who have fallen in the war. Hymns appropriate to the day were sung, and addresses were given by Mrs. Rothwell (Southampton Branch of Independent Labour Party), Mr. B. N. Langdon Davies, and Miss Jeannette Franklin, Miss Dorothea Hollins, as Hon. Secretary of the Society, was in the chair. The present aim of the Crusade is to encourage the formation of pacifist groups here and abroad (if the latter should prove possible by correspondence) who believe that war can only be brought to an end by the spirit of love and brotherhood, not by further war, except in so far as it is necessary to secure the independence of Belgium and the freedom of Great Britain and France. It is proposed to hold a similar meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, November 15th, at 3 p.m. Weekly meetings are held on Fridays at 5.30 at 274, King's Road, Chelsea, when all women interested are welcomed. Men are requested to apply by writing to the Hon. Secretary, 1, Swan Walk, Chelsea, S.W.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation.

GODALMING.—As a camp will be started at Milford in this district, at the end of this month, we are carrying out the National Union of Women Workers' Scheme for Women Patrols. The Patrols' Committee will hold its first meeting next week. It includes representatives of the local Suffrage Society, the Women's Co-operative Guild, Women's Unionist and Tariff Reform Association, Women's Liberal Association, Women's Local Government Society, and Girls' Friendly Society. The Patrols will be trained in the neighbourhood by an Organiser from headquarters. There has been a rumour that soldiers are to be billeted in Godalming, in which case the town will be patrolled also. The co-operation of the local clergy has been asked in recommending likely Patrols; two or three have responded gladly. French and German classes at the camp are also contemplated. Mrs. Clough Tryman, who is experienced in such teaching, lately attended a meeting of the Suffrage Committee to advise as to the best methods.

GUILDFORD.—This Society is co-operating with the Christian Social Union and other bodies in dealing with women thrown out of work through the war. A Committee has been formed with the Mayoress as Chairman, and the W.S. Secretary is Hon. Treasurer. The Suffrage office is used as a Registry where needlework, and several girls are learning toy-making at the Technical Institute.

The W.S.S. and the Women's Co-operative Guild are urging the establishment of a Maternity Centre, and the Public Health Committee have asked them to draw up a scheme. A well-attended meeting was held at the Suffrage office on October 21st, when Mrs. Alys Russell spoke on the subject. The Suffrage office is also used on Sundays as a recreation room for girls.

Exhibition of Thrift Garments.—Sheffield Society.

By way of "house-warming" for our new offices, we have been holding an exhibition of "Thrift Garments" to which our members were invited to bring parties of mothers' meeting members, girls' guilds, social workers, and any others interested in providing garments for the poor. The Motherhood League lent a large number of warm garments for children under 3 years old, made out of the unworn portions of cast-off "grown-up" clothing, and great admiration was expressed for the cosy vests, jerseys, knickers, &c., ingeniously contrived from stocking-legs, singlets, pyjamas—e-t hoc genus omne—the chef d'œuvre being a smart jersey frock and cap made entirely of the legs of black stockings and beautified by a crocheted collar and cuffs of scarlet wool. The Domestic Economy Centre also sent "Thrift" garments of more elaborate character, some of them being really artistic productions.

From Miss Macbeth's Needlework School (Glasgow) came a consignment of most beautiful work, designed to show what useful and artistic garments can be made at small cost, from simple materials and with the minimum expenditure of labour—beginning with overall pinafores of unbleached calico, with hems of coloured casing cloth, decorated with large hemming, tacking and overcasting stitches in contrasting colours; and culminating in dresses beautifully made and embroidered. There were also curtains, table covers, and other articles for the adornment of the home, so gorgeous in effect that only a close examination could convince one of the simple means used to produce the artistic whole.

The work of visiting "alien enemies" in Sheffield in distress through the war—many of them as British as ourselves—originated with the W.S.S., and the women members of the "Committee for the Relief of Aliens in Distress" are with two exceptions all members of the W.S.S. Committee. (The Chairman is husband of our President.) Four of our members are on the "Lady Mayoress's Relief Committee." We have also supplied helpers to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and some of our members are heads of districts.

One of our members is doing useful work in organising work-rooms for poor women, one as a part of the Relief organisation, and another at her own home. Five of our members are on Civic Aid Committees.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, For List of Meetings see back page.

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service, N.U.W.S.S.

Table listing names and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service, N.U.W.S.S. Includes names like Forward as per Second List, Mrs. Adams, St. Giles, Elgin, Miss Isabella D. L. Boswell, etc.

Table listing names and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service, N.U.W.S.S. Includes names like Liverpool W.S.S., Clara Brunner, Miss Greenlees, Mrs. W. E. Henderson, etc.

Per Mrs. Jas. H. Wood, 2nd Donor, see list Donations for "Wood" Bed. Names on separate list. Mrs. Weir's Donation for the "Weir" Bed. The others to be "Kilmacolm" Beds (7 Beds).
Miss White ... 10 0
Miss Lumden ... 50 0
Mrs. Peters ... 1 10
"Trinity" Society, Treasurer Thos. Baldwin ... 3 10
Mrs. McLaren (£1 to be given to Irish Ambulance) ... 5 0
Mrs. Huckwell ... 1 10
Miss Sargent Florence ... 25 0
Crieff W.S.S. (For "Crieff" Bed) ... 15 0
Collected by Miss Aspinwall ... 7 10
Result of Whist Drive, Gourcock, per Mrs. Paterson and Miss McGaw ... 8 0
Miss McKay ... 1 0
John Galsworthy, Esq. ... 10 0
£2,815 10 6

Donations to be sent to Mrs. Laurrie, Red House, Greenock.

FROM KILMACOLM.

Table listing names and amounts for donations from Kilmacolm. Includes names like Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Barclaven, Kilmacolm, Mrs. Weir, Bellard, Kilmacolm, etc.

Further donations may be sent to Mrs. Wood, Barclaven.

GIFTS.

Donations of clothing for men, shirts, flannel and cotton, handkerchiefs, pyjama suits, operating jackets, pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, hot water bottles, ophthalmoscope and laryngoscope, bandages, have been promised, but more are needed. MOTOR CARS to be fitted as ambulances, also a barge fitted as an ambulance and launch to tow it, have been promised from Colonel Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Tipper, Dr. Pirie, and Miss Courtauld. Dr. Inglis is anxious for more surgical dressings, bandages, sterilisers, and X-ray apparatus.

ASSURANCE TRUTH.

So many of our members have lost financially through the universal fall in dividends owing to the war, that not only have subscriptions had to be reduced, but drastic economies made in other directions. Mr. D. V. Mirams of Assurance Truth, who was one of our earliest advertisers, and is even now supporting us in this way, tells me that many ladies have been exchanging some of their investments for annuities of various kinds. Certainly the advantage of a larger and safer income paid on the day due is very attractive at the present time and other readers will doubtless be sending in their enquiries. They may be quite sure of impartial and sound advice. Letters should be marked confidential and addressed to Mr. D. V. Mirams, Assurance Truth, 8, Pavilion Parade, Brighton.—Adv.

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## Forthcoming Meetings.

Correspondents are urged to write distinctly when sending particulars of meetings.

## NOVEMBER 13.

**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"  
—Monsieur Cailloux on "La Legislation  
Belge"—Chair, Miss K. M. Loudon 4.30  
**Sheffield**—Miss Ann Macbeth on "Needlework  
as an Educational Craft"—Chair (afternoon)  
Mrs. H. L. Fisher (evening) Mrs. H. F. Hall 3.30 & 7.30

## NOVEMBER 15.

**Hyde Park**—Near Reformers' Tree—Mrs.  
Whalley on "Maternity Centres" 3.0

## NOVEMBER 16.

**Birmingham**—St. Stephen's Christian Social  
Union—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0  
**Bristol**—40, Park Street—Working Party  
**Cardiff and District**—At Office, 132, Queen  
Street—Professor Tom Jones on "Unemployment"  
followed by discussion 7.30  
**Deptford**—Central Hall, Creek Street—  
B.W.T.A. Meeting—Speaker, Mr. Ford Smith 3.0  
**North Hackney**—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Katherine  
Tee on "Women's Civic Duties in Time  
of War" 7.30

## NOVEMBER 17.

**Birmingham**—Mount Street, Good Templars—  
Speaker, Mrs. Ring 8.0  
**Camden Town**—Gladstone House—Miss  
Rinder on "The War and the Workers"  
**East Bristol**—Miss Tanner, on "Josephine  
Butler"  
**Norwich**—Thatched Assembly Rooms—Members'  
meeting, re Women Patrols—Speaker,  
Miss Stringer—Chair, Mrs. Hazard 8.0

## NOVEMBER 18.

**Bristol**—Opening of Women's Patriotic Club  
in Montague Street, by Bristol Society.

## NOVEMBER 19.

**Birmingham**—Sparkbrook B.W.T.A.—Speaker,  
Mrs. Ring 7.30  
**Deptford**—Girls' Guild Hostel, 273, Lewisham  
High Road—Speaker, Mrs. Rackham 8.0  
**Golders Green**—Needland Institute—Women's  
Co-operative Guild Meeting—Speaker, Mrs.  
Rawlings 3.0  
**St. Pancras**—13, Bedford Square, W.C.—Drawing-  
room Meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Ricardo—  
Speakers, the Hon. Mrs. E. Franklin, Miss  
Helen Ward, Mr. R. F. Cholmeley 5.0

## NOVEMBER 20.

**Bristol**—40, Park Street—First Aid Class—  
Lecture by Dr. Marion Linton 7.45  
**Edinburgh**—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"  
(National Service League Speaker) 4.30

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