

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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IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Owing to war-time conditions it is now impossible to have as much matter set up on Wednesdays as we have hitherto been able to do. We therefore beg that articles and letters should be sent in not later than Tuesday morning, first post.

Notes and News.

What Suffragists are Doing in Canada.

"Suffragists have banded themselves together for war work," says a writer on "Canada's Work for Women," in *The Daily News*. "All last winter, when distress caused by the war was acute, they supported several poor mothers and children; and during the summer they maintained a rest home for the same purpose on the shores of the Lake. At a meeting the other evening they outlined their plan of campaign for the winter. This included the holding of recruiting meetings, the registration of women to take the places of men if necessary (300 men chauffeurs have just been requisitioned for war work, so women chauffeurs may become a necessity), and the general mobilisation of women with the object of offering themselves to the Government for any service that may be required of them."

In Memory of Sir John Rhys.

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of a good friend to the cause of Women's Suffrage, in Sir John Rhys, Principal of Jesus College, Oxford. Sir John Rhys was the first Professor of Celtic to fill the newly founded Chair in the University of Oxford, in 1877; and as a Celtic Scholar, had a European reputation. But the field of his activities was not only academic. His work as a member of the Welsh Land Commission, which was the basis of the book on "The Welsh People," written in collaboration with Sir D. Brynmor Jones, M.P., was only one way in which his scholar's knowledge was made available for public work. "He was one of the shrewdest listeners to evidence on public commissions," says a writer in *The Manchester Guardian*. "If your facts were doubtful or your deductions faulty, he saw the weakness in a moment, and if you passed the ordeal of his innocent questions you might feel pretty sure that your case was a good one."

The same shrewdness and clear-sightedness led him to advocate Women's Suffrage. In 1913, at Oxford, he introduced a deputation from the Oxford branch of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage Societies, to Mr. Lloyd George, "pointing out that," after the Insurance Act and Land Reform (on which Mr. Lloyd George was then conducting a political campaign), "a third great measure of democratic reform was needed—the granting of the suffrage to women." Sir John Rhys never lost an opportunity of saying a word for women's suffrage. His attitude greatly strengthened the hands of workers in Oxford where both his daughters have been prominent members of the Oxford W.S.S., of which one of them was for some time the hon. secretary.

Canteens and the Workers' Output.

The Report of the Health of Munition Workers Committee, just published, on "Industrial Canteens," gives some extremely interesting information on the benefit to employers and workers alike that follows the establishment of well-managed arrangements for supplying proper food. Less sickness, less broken time, less alcoholism, increased output and efficiency, a saving of time, greater contentment, and the salutary effects of the brief rest and change and ventilation of the shops—all these are described as "the substantial, indisputable, and widespread results of wholesome food supplied under comfortable conditions." "In almost all large works," the Committee reports, "there is a body of men or women (averaging at least 25 per cent.) who, in the interest of physical health and vigour, need canteen provision." The Committee "are convinced that this group of ill-fed workers accounts, in a large degree, for such inefficiency as exists, and that its energy and output is reduced in the absence of suitable feeding arrangements."

Women Railway Clerks.

The President of the Board of Trade has stated that he will appoint a member of the Bar to make an inquiry into the trouble which has arisen on the Great Central Railway owing to the company having prohibited female clerks in the administrative offices from becoming members of the Railway Clerks' Association. Mr. Runciman found, when he went into the matter last week, that there was a difference in the views put forward by the Great Central Railway Company and the Railway Clerks' Association on a question of fact, and evidence will have to be taken to ascertain the true position of the case.

Women Conductors on London Trams.

The women conductors who are replacing the men who have enlisted, have made their first appearance this week in South London, and it is intended to extend their service very shortly to other districts. In other towns their record has been uniformly good. They are reported to be courteous, alert, and equal to emergencies; but the most unexpected tribute comes from the manager of the Salford Corporation Tramways, who shows that the percentage of sickness among their 150 women conductors during the trying month of November, was less than among the male conductors.

News of our Serbian Units.

A telegram has just been received to the effect that twenty-eight members of the Serbian Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals have reached Turin. These comprise members from Kragujevatz, Mladnavatz, and Lagarovatz, including Doctors Chesney, Laird, and McVea.

Superstitions About Women.

II.—THE PHANTOM LOVER.

Once upon a time there was a Frenchman who wrote with such magical charm, such vehemence of delight, that he wove a spell that bound his own generation, and even two that followed it. He is not very much read by this time, for he belonged to the Romantic Period, the great blossoming time of a literature which once set all hearts throbbing and all heads on fire for the new ideals—and that literature for us, in 1915, is, for the most part, as dead as a door nail.

Yet the work of Théophile Gautier survives, in France at least, because he was so great an artist that his art triumphs over out-of-date fashions and can still take us by surprise and tell us something new. Among the short stories, the "contes" for which he was famous, there is one founded on a gruesome legend as old as folk-lore; but in Gautier's hands the gruesome element almost disappears in the perfect work of art. He could write with the joy of an early Florentine painter-goldsmith in ivory and purple and rose-red and delicate minute detail and jewelled settings, and in his prose and poetry (perhaps because he was a Romantic) there is one grace above gifts which is so very rare in French literature that you can hardly find it once in a century—the glow of passionate feeling. It is this glow which transfigures his version of the horrible old vampire story. The vampire, or Lamia, was a woman. She was La belle Dame sans Merci, who to live herself, must drain her life-blood from her lover's heart. And her lover, even after learning her secret, loved her so well that he chose to let his life ebb away for Clarimonde's sake, because parting with her was more dreadful than death. The stern friend who saved him from his fate he regarded as an enemy. The Lamia was exorcised. But he was haunted for ever more by memories. Very long afterwards, as an old man in a monk's cell, he had to confess, that "the love of God was not too much to replace the love of her."

Because of the nineteenth century note of human tenderness in the vampire-lady, because of the gentleness of the close, and a certain elusive line of allegory that colours the tale, the repulsiveness of it sinks out of sight. Reading it on a winter night it is hard to put it down before the end. We read *Undine*, a displeasing story, without repugnance on the same terms. Nobody now, besides, believes in these old superstitions about women; all these lamia and water-witch tales that Romanticism revived and adopted for sentimental readers of drawing-room editions. And so there is no harm done.

It is an abrupt change from "Clarimonde" to tables of wages paid for time-work in certain trades to men and women workers. But though the compilers of the tabulated statements, and the writers of certain pamphlets which contain them, are at work upon the substitution of women's labour for men's, without any intention save that of recording some rather grim facts which patient watchers have noted as significant, the columns of figures have, strange to say, a certain affinity with the legend. That is, they are pervaded throughout by a ghost. There is an unseen presence behind the statistics, just as perceptible as the undiscovered invisible *something*, which an astronomer finds out because it affects or deflects the movements of visible stars. But there is no mystery made about the Unknown in these reports and tables of figures. On the contrary, the strange and terrible thing about it is that the men who believe most firmly in this ghost are not romantic poets nor brain-sick dreamers, but precisely the most prosaic, hard-headed men of business, professors, officials, and even Cabinet ministers. They all insist upon believing in him. It might be ludicrous, if the superstition (like the old belief in witchcraft) were not so cruelly painful for its victims. The ghost is the Phantom Lover.

It is not possible, nor is it necessary, here to give serried rows of figures to show what is meant. Turn to any comparative scales of wages paid to men and women and take any random example:—

Maximum wages obtainable by males 65s. (and war bonus).
Maximum wages obtainable by females 30s. (no bonus).

Or glance along the lists of salaries paid to teachers, to Post-Office servants, to highly-educated women taking responsible posts as secretaries; as often as not the woman's salary ends where the man's salary begins. The woman is paid less because, you see, at any time she may marry.

"By the time you've had a girl in the office six or seven

years, and she has learned her business, off she goes and marries, and all your trouble goes for nothing," says the employer. He forgets that nine out of ten young men who pass through the counting-house would leave him "to better themselves" (if they were worth their salt) in the same time; but the excuse will serve. He cuts down the woman-clerk's salary as insurance against the evil day when she will marry, and gives her all the office-drudgery. "Raise her wages? Can't put anything by? Pooh! She will get married. What does she want to save for? Leave the man she marries to provide her old-age pension."

The Government decides to take the same view. Women do not require salaries. They only need pocket-money. "Why pay a woman a man's wage for a man's work? She doesn't need it. Someone will marry her. He will provide for her."

The Phantom Lover must save the Government considerable sums every year in the Post Office alone. Probably that is why the official mind believes so firmly in ghosts. There were very large numbers of women, even before the war, who must "see themselves through" on their own earnings from girlhood to old age. After the war, alas! the number of them who will have to fight the battle of life unhelped will be enormously greater. But the convenient fiction is still kept up. The girl or the woman can afford to work for less; she is supposed to be in the labour market, as Aramis was one of the King's Musketeers, "*seulement par interim*."

This is the picturesque, the romantic side of the legend, the only side which the employer sees. There is another side to it, and that is repugnant enough. The Phantom Lover, like the unfortunate Vampire lady, is kept alive at the expense and upon the life-blood of his victims. How are you to live, when, as far as possible, your wants must be postponed to a far distant day when the Rescuer shall come? What is the prospect like, when, after too long a period of half-rations, you begin to realise that nothing will ever make good the years of labour and waiting, and the rest of life will be like the slice that is over, except that there is nothing to hope for? Perhaps, for a while, the victim made the best of it: stinted herself in food, and spent her earnings on finery, and tried (who blames her?) to attract her mate? Then, after a few years, as her prettiness soon faded, perhaps she tried for a while to "put by," and then lost heart and gave that up too. For my own part, I venture to think that if she had been paid enough to enable her to get a decent dinner every day, her work would have been of better quality, she would not break down in health quite so often, and would be a much more valuable servant.

And here, by the way, is a story from Munich. The City of Munich, not long before the war, suffered some searchings of heart over the inequality of the salaries paid to its school teachers. One of the City councillors pointed out that the women-teachers were receiving (I am compelled to quote from memory) not much more than half the payment made to male teachers, who even, in some cases, did less work. In the debate that ensued the principle of payment on the same scale of wages for men and women was hopelessly lost, with the approval of my informant (a Social-Democrat of the most uncompromising kind).

"For," said he, "they all receive pensions after a certain number of years. Now, we find that a man works till, say, sixty-five, and then retires, and he does not live very long after his retirement; while a woman breaks down in health by the time she is fifty, or even sooner, and we are paying her a pension for years and years!"

"But if she were properly paid in the first instance, and able to afford herself proper food and service, like a male teacher, need she break down at so early an age?"

"Perhaps not. If she were properly nourished, as you say. But now we have to remember that she may marry, and we shall lose her services, and—" the Phantom Lover, in short.

"And do none of your male teachers ever leave you, Herr Rat, from youth to age? And if they do, what difference does the motive for leaving make?"

But Herr Rat only nodded and repeated: "Women may marry at any time, and so they require less 'sup-po-ort'!" The education departments of all countries, and most other departments besides, "economise" considerable sums out of women's earnings, thanks to the Phantom Lover. He is a modern ghost which common sense finds it very hard to exorcise.

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

LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SERBIAN UNITS.

The Girton and Newnham Unit is now at Salonika, and a letter dated November 21st, from Mrs. Harley, shows that the Hospital had got well into working order before the move had to be effected. The first wounded arrived on November 20th, forty in all, mostly severe cases. Owing to the lack of hospital accommodation in these parts, the work of starting the Hospital had to be hurried forward. Now, alas, Guevgeli is in Bulgarian hands, and our Unit has retired with the French Army to a place of safety.

The Committee have had no further news of the Serbian Hospitals.* On inquiries at the Government offices, it was learned that none of the numerous rumours current at the present time are official. The arrival of Sir Ralph Paget, who is now at Durazzo awaiting the first available chance to return home, is anxiously expected, as it is hoped he may be able to give full details regarding the various hospitals in Serbia.

The Equipment Secretary begs to appeal for the following articles, which are urgently needed:—

Gauze bandages, 6in. and 4in. wide; woollen caps; ward shoes; single bed blankets; cardigans; bed socks; day socks.

All parcels should be addressed to the Equipment Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

The Worcester Society held an all-day sewing-party, and the result was a donation of 804 articles to the Hospitals.

ROYAUMONT.

Last week saw the departure from the Abbaye of Mrs. Forbes Savill. Mrs. Savill has been in charge of the X-ray Department since the commencement of the Hospital. She belongs to that little band who shared all the discomforts of the early stages—when equipment went astray on the railway, when the water refused to work, the hundred and one things that pioneers usually have to put up with. Lately Mrs. Savill was in charge of the Travelling X-ray Car, and her management of this and the X-ray Department has been greatly appreciated.

CENTRAL COUNTIES' BED.

"ELSIE INGLIS" WARD, ROYAUMONT, FRANCE.

Le Sergent Robert.—Robert is a bit of a scribe. When I told him that the people in England who had endowed the bed he lay in wished for news of him, he at once offered to write his story for them, and here it is:—

Pages from the Book of My Military Life.

BY SERGEANT ROBERT.

"From my earliest youth I longed to be a soldier. Not a soldier obliged by the law to do his three years' military service, but a real, professional 'militaire.' I had every opportunity given me of realising my ambition, for my father had served in the Gendarmerie for fifteen years, and when I was only thirteen years old he made application for me to enter a military school. I went to this school for a year, and then entered the 'Ecole Préparatoire de Cavalerie d'Autun.' Here I received a very thorough military education. I learned to ride, and when I left, at eighteen, I was capable of passing, with success, the entrance examination for Saumur. I engaged myself for two years to the 15th Chasseurs à Cheval, at Châlons-sur-Marne. In spite of my certificate, which never was of much use to me, I only managed to pass as a 'brigadier' at the end of ten months' service, although I had never had a day's punishment or a day's illness, and had ever conducted myself as a model!

*For latest cable see front page.

And, beside me, was another, who became 'Maréchal du Logis' in eleven months, though he knew very little of his profession. I remained a simple brigadier for fifteen months, despite all the efforts of my captain, who tried his best to secure my promotion. When I became Maréchal du Logis I remained in my old squadron, and there was nothing before me now but the active work for my entrance examination to Saumur. At the end of two years' service in this rank I presented myself at the written examination, and passed. I was not destined to enter, however, for I was unable to get through the oral examination. I left my regiment at the end of five years' service, and went home to my people. But at the end of three years the longing for a soldier's life came over me again, and, once the call came, my mind was soon made up. I engaged with the 2nd Colonials for two years, passed as a soldier of the first class two days after joining, and one month later sailed with the regiment for Morocco.

"On arrival, I was transferred to another battalion, quartered at Fez. There my life underwent the profoundest change. The heat on the march was terrible. For nourishment we had water that was thick, and meat that had no gravy in it.

"It was at this time that the Zabda column was being organised, and as there was a question of our battalion not

moving, I applied to be transferred to the 7th Battalion, and got my wish. I now became a unit of that famous column commanded by General Maugin. Words fail me to describe our sufferings. How many times have I seen my comrades fall in the burning sands! Often I was in no better case myself by the time we arrived at an oasis, and knew nothing of what was happening to my comrades until I saw their faces glistening with happy anticipation with the prospect of water. We had been on campaign about a month when we advanced into the hills. On the morning of June 10th our general, seeing that we had advanced beyond the line held by the rest of our troops, ordered the column to fall back. But it was already too late. The

Moroccans got round our flank, and were by now in occupation of all the summits. Our seventy-fives and the mountain pieces went into action at once, and began sweeping the hills with murderous fire. To this, some 20,000 Moroccans, hidden in the crevices of the rocks and perched upon the heights, replied with a volley of rifle fire. General Maugin judged the position critical, and flung forward a battalion of Senegalese troops to assault the hill while he withdrew the main body of the column, leaving the Colonials to defend its rear. We did manage to escape but not without terrible losses.

"Not long afterwards I was sent to Casablanca as clerk, and there I remained till the famous declaration of war. On August 9th I embarked with my battalion; on the 14th we landed at Cette; on the 15th we reached Bordeaux, and four days later the first Moroccan Division left that town for the front, arriving in Belgium on August 23rd. There we learned that the French army was in retreat; that the 3rd Corps had been through a most bloody battle, losing heavily. We were filled with fiery ardour and the desire to attack. But on the very next day, at four o'clock, we got the order to fall back. Obligated thus to retire without having seen a single Boche, we once more passed through Mezières and Charleville, blowing up the bridges as we went, always falling back. On the morning of the 28th we were awakened by the sound of artillery. Our regiment formed up with lightning-like rapidity. Every face was radiant; one read in each sunburnt countenance the lust for battle. We took cover behind the hedges of the road, lying flat. Our colonel and our commandant sat their horses close by us, awaiting a favourable moment to order our advance with the bayonet.



Some Patients of the Elsie Inglis Ward. Sergeant Robert on right.

All of a sudden a violent fusillade broke out a hundred metres to our right. Our colonel fell, hit by three bullets, at the moment he was crying 'Forward!' The commandant was killed by the same volley. In less time than it takes to tell we were upon the Boches, and a fearful fight ensued. Though we were less than half in numbers than the Germans who opposed us, in five minutes every Boche that had attacked us lay dead or wounded. I myself accounted for two of them.

"Not having succeeded in their attack, the enemy now directed their artillery upon us with a concentrated fire that caused us considerable losses, while a column of infantry effected a turning movement. During this bombardment, and while the enemy column was attempting to turn us, we charged four times with the bayonet with the hope of defeating their purpose. We inflicted terrible losses upon the enemy, and, on our side, my battalion lost 700 men. My own company was reduced to sixty men, commanded by the sergeant-major. My captain was severely wounded, but brought about his own escape from the enemy with a shot from his own revolver at the very moment when we were about to make the attempt to bring him in. He was only some hundred metres away from us, but he would not survive to see his company almost annihilated and himself in the hands of the enemy.

"During August 29th, 30th, and 31st the fighting continued, but the remains of my battalion took less active part in it. Fighting all the time, we were gradually pressed back to Sezanne, where, on September 5th and 6th, we had to submit to furious attacks. The bodies of the Germans were piled two metres high all around the chateau on our side. The unfortunate Moroccan Division was practically annihilated, but it sold its life dearly! On the 7th I was wounded on both legs in a bayonet charge and was evacuated to Limoges.

"When I came out of hospital I was passed into the 23rd Colonial with the rank of corporal, from October 1st. On the 27th of the same month I was promoted sergeant, and, on my own application, was transferred to the 43rd Colonial Regiment on November 1st. I was appointed to the 17th Company, which was then in the trenches before Monchy, in the Pas de Calais. During the whole of this month we were either attacking or resisting attacks, our trenches only being about fifty metres distant from those of the Boches. Here I volunteered for patrol duty, almost in the enemy lines, but I did not succeed in my enterprise.

"Winter was now upon us, and with winter came torrential rains. More than thirty men of my company had to be evacuated to hospital from frozen feet. At one time we remained for four days and four nights in water up to our waists. We were frozen; we had men who were taken out of the water dead. This lasted from the end of November till January. What ghastly nights those were! From time to time one would hear a man calling; it was a comrade who was sinking in the mud at the bottom of the watery trench. Then we had to take spades and dig him out. The nights were so dark that we could not even see to avoid a fallen man in a trench. In eight days my company was reduced to half its number of effectives. As for food, we could not count upon the kitchens established at Hanne-camps, some two kilometres distant, where there was good food in plenty prepared for us, because, during all the month of January the communication trenches were full of water, and the ground between us and the kitchens quite impassable. It was thus impossible to get anything hot to eat. Indeed, it is quite beyond me to describe the suffering we endured throughout January and February. Never, never shall I forget Monchy!

"I was recommended for promotion to sub-lieutenant in the early part of March, but I never had the pleasure of seeing my name in the lists, which were crowded with other nominations.

"That same month we left Monchy for the trenches before Dompierre, in the Somme district—beautiful trenches, with no water in them, and a sector that was wonderfully calm—but we did not stay there long. Shortly after our arrival we were moved further to the right, to a much more dangerous position in front of Fay. Here, on April 26th, we sustained an attack delivered by a most formidable German corps, which only succeeded in inflicting upon us losses of twenty men killed and forty-seven wounded, whereas we punished them most severely. They left 150 bodies dead on the plain in front of our trenches, and did not return to the attack. Once again the 'habit bleu' (the famous light blue of the Colonials) had struck terror into their hearts.

"Ten days later I was transferred, as a volunteer, to an engineer company, for subterranean warfare, and on June 16th was wounded by a mine explosion while carrying out my duties.

"And now. What has the future in store for me?"

THE BITTER CRY OF POLAND.

WOMEN'S MATERNITY AND RELIEF UNIT FOR REFUGEES INTO RUSSIA.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS F. M. STERLING.
Secretary (pro tem.): MISS GERALDINE COOKE.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS L. KEMPSON; MISS J. FRANKLYN (Equipment).

The inevitable delays and difficulties which we have had to meet in launching our scheme for relief work among the refugees into Russia, are being overcome by degrees. Miss Moberley and Miss Thurstan have arrived in Petrograd, and a cable received December 20th assures us that our Unit will be welcomed there. Lady Georgina Buchanan, the British Ambassador, who is already taking an active part in the relief work, has consented to act as Patroness of our enterprise.

Our personnel is nearly complete. The appointments already made include five nurses, all fully qualified midwives and with varied experience in district and other work; the Matron, Miss Roberts, now assistant matron at the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea, has had six months' experience as Matron of a Unit in Serbia. We are fortunate in securing as cook Miss Curtis, whose experience is unique, in that she went to the Arctic Circle with the Siberian Anthropological Expedition last year and was in China during the revolution. Our organiser, Miss Knight (to whom must be given the credit for the first draft of the scheme), is going as Secretary, and Miss Holden, a Research Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, who, since the war, has worked as probationer at Addenbrooke Hospital, goes as Almoner, to work chiefly among the out-patients.

We have been strongly advised to take an experienced sanitary officer and a trained dispenser; and these appointments will be made this week. We also propose to send our own interpreter. Unfortunately both the doctors upon whose services we had counted were obliged, owing to binding and unexpected engagements, to withdraw, and it is difficult at short notice to fill such responsible positions.

May we appeal to all those whose hearts have been wrung by the many terrible accounts in the Press of the awful suffering among peasant women and children flying from the fighting line into Russia, only to be faced by the rigours of a Russian winter. However many are the demands already made upon our sympathy, surely these thousands upon thousands of mothers and children have a very special claim upon Suffragists, and the fact that we have so far been able to give much less for suffering in Russia than for Belgium, France, or Serbia, should make us the more willing and prompt in answering the call that has come so urgently from this distant land, to help in the saving of health and life itself.

OXY-ACETYLENE WELDERS.

The London Society's School for Welding, of which some account has already appeared in THE COMMON CAUSE, is receiving many applications for trained welders, and women who desire to learn this craft for the purpose of placing their services at the disposal of Government-controlled factories should register their names at 58, Victoria Street without delay.

The course of training may be said, in a general way, to take about six weeks. During a month the pupil receives daily lessons from the instructors; and if, by the end of that time, she has learnt to make a good sound weld, and her work is reliable, she passes on to a fortnight's continual practice with the blow-pipe, that she may acquire quickness and confidence in working alone. This fortnight is liable to be extended if found needful.

The fee for the course is £3 3s., and each pupil, in addition to this, is expected to contribute 2s. 6d. per week during the whole course towards the expense of the oxygen, carbide, iron, and steel, &c., consumed by her while training.

The daily lessons are divided into two relays: a morning class beginning at 10 a.m., and an afternoon class starting at 2 p.m. Each pupil belongs to one or the other.

Already welders trained in the Johnson Street Welding School are doing good work in an aircraft factory in the neighbourhood of London; and others will shortly be ready for taking up similar work elsewhere.

Acetylene-welding, unlike so many occupations women are now undertaking at the call of duty, is no blind-alley trade, and skilled welders are little likely to be thrown out of employment by the return of normal conditions. The oxy-acetylene process is a comparatively new one in this country, and the demand for trained and competent welders is likely to increase rather than diminish.

The wages to be earned by the fully-trained should be not

lower than 7d. per hour to begin with, increasing to 9d. or 10d., according to circumstances.

Women considering the desirability of taking up this occupation for a livelihood, or for the period of the war, should have useful hands, trained preferably to some use of tools, and should be in good health, and strong enough to work standing for long hours. Some of the work may be done sitting, but this should not be reckoned on.

The London Society only accepts pupils who are prepared to attest their willingness to work factory hours when trained and found competent.

The London Society Register at 58, Victoria Street will be closed from December 25th until the following Monday week (January 3rd).

LABOUR-SAVING IN THE HOME.

The article on "A House That Does Its Own Work," which appeared in our issue of November 26th, aroused so much interest that we wrote to the owner of the house asking for further particulars, which she has kindly supplied. The following are some of the labour-saving devices which she recommends:—

A washing-machine of English make, which she considers entirely satisfactory, can be bought for from £4 to £12. "I know of one," she writes, "which has been going nearly thirty-five years and is as good as ever." She also uses a small electric power machine, of American make, which does, "alone and unaided, in two hours a wash that would take a woman a whole day hard at it to get through." There seems no reason why similar machines should not be manufactured in this country, if there is a demand for them.

Our correspondent considers that the cost of power needed for an electric range suitable for a household of six to eight persons, at one penny per unit, averages one shilling per day, or twopence per person. "In obtaining this cost," she says, "I have reckoned in the saving effected by the constant use of a Fireless Cooker." The cooker which she describes is of American make—an elaborate affair, lined with sheet aluminium, heavily insulated by wood, wool, or asbestos, and having one, two, or three compartments in varying sizes. This costs £2 10s. to £5, including an excellent equipment of aluminium cooking vessels, radiators for heating when you want to bake or roast, racks, and hooks for handling the radiators. For most people an ordinary well-made Hay-box cooker, with two compartments, would probably be sufficient; but should a demand arise for the more elaborate type described, this, too, could no doubt be made in England.

Electric kettles and small electric stoves, which can be used on the breakfast table, can also be obtained.

Electric fires, varying largely in style and price, cost anything from 30s. upwards. Some can be fitted into an ordinary fire-place, while others are moveable, so that they can be used in any part of the room or taken from one room to another.

Electric vacuum cleaners can be operated from a light socket, and our correspondent considers, take very little power. A small size can be obtained for £6 15s. These work excellently for all purposes, including cleaning clothes.

An electric iron is an indispensable adjunct to the washing-machine, and the cost of power is almost negligible.

Our correspondent strongly recommends a refrigerator, lined either with opal glass or first-class enamelled iron. Galvanised interiors she considers are actually dangerous. "The cost is heavy—about £15 to £40—but it is worth it, as a good-sized refrigerator eliminates the generally noisome larder." So far, English manufacturers do not seem to have equalled the American, but if the servantless house becomes more common in this country, and there is a general revolution in house planning, more attention will doubtless be paid to such devices.

Another convenient piece of furniture common in America, where there are a dozen or more varieties having the fundamental qualities of compactness and efficiency, is the Kitchen Cabinet, costing about £5 to £10, or more, according to fittings and quality. This combines all the needs of the kitchen—table, saucepan cupboard, and receptacle for all the cook's materials. A picture of one, placed conveniently near the electric range, appears in our issue of November 26th. It does not look very elaborate, and might well be made by any clever carpenter.

A three-compartment sink (also shown in THE COMMON CAUSE of November 26th) is an invaluable help in the scullery and wash-house, and costs about £9 to £15.

All ways of meeting what a correspondent has called "the problem of unceasing work," should be carefully considered and studied in time, for the supply of trained and untrained service is rapidly diminishing. It is not impossible that the household of the near future may be staffed by what may be called "educated labour," the housewife and her assistant both possessing the same degree of culture. In this case, the wear and tear to expensive "plant" would be reduced to a minimum; and women who would wisely hesitate to buy elaborate mechanism to put in the hands of their present servants, may find it a better investment under future conditions.

SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS FOR CLERICAL EMPLOYMENT.

The Executive Committee of the Association of Head Mistresses of Public Secondary Schools for Girls has decided to prepare a carefully classified Register of former pupils of Public Secondary Schools at present employed and willing to replace men leaving clerical employment in businesses and offices to join H.M. Forces.

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The Register will contain Columns I. and II. The women registered in Column I. must have received a general ground-work in business knowledge and office routine. Since, however, some employers may prefer to train their own clerical workers and require only an assurance of liberal education, good ability, manners, and character, names of those who fulfil these requirements only will be registered in Column II.

OVERHEARD IN THE TRAIN.

SPEAKERS: TWO WELL-TO-DO MEN.

First Man.—Have you started women drivers on your motor vans?

Second Man.—No. We haven't come to that yet. F.M.—But I see they are driving motor vans in London and elsewhere.

S.M.—That may be; but our place is hilly—shouldn't like to trust them to drive off the level.

F.M.—But what will you do? Who will you get to drive when more men enlist?

S.M.—Oh. We must do the best we can. We've got on all right up to now. We take the ineligible men. We've got two whose eyesight is defective. One is so short the Army won't take him. Then there's one who is consumptive, and another who is mentally deficient.

F.M. made no further comment, and gave up the conversation. J. U.

CHRISTMAS MYSTERY PLAY.

"The Soul of the World," by Mrs. Percy Dearmer, was given on December 17th and 18th at the East Anglian Sanatorium, Nayland, near Colchester, by members of the Sanatorium staff and patients. The play was reverently dealt with, and each actor gave an impressiveness to his or her part with marked sincerity. Great credit is due to Dr. Jane Walker, who so ably conducted the orchestra and choir and organised the production.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"When our hopes break, let our patience hold."

The Holy State (1648).
THOMAS FULLER.

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The Challenge

The Illustrated Church of England Weekly. EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY

The wider recognition of Women's Contribution to the Affairs of Church and State is one of the vital problems constantly dealt with. Among those who contribute are Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Luke Paget, Miss A. Maude Roydon, Miss Ruth Rouse, Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Mrs. Pember Reeves, &c. A Specimen Copy will be sent to readers of "The Common Cause" on application. You should find THE CHALLENGE on sale at all bookstalls, but if you have any difficulty or would prefer it sent direct, a copy will be posted to you for 12 weeks if you send 1s. 6d. to THE MANAGER, THE CHALLENGE, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.

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 suspended their ordinary 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.

Christmas Pictures.

More than a thousand years ago—no one knows how or where—the thought of the divine Motherhood entered the hearts of men, and partly re-shaped their thoughts of God and religion. It is impossible to trace back the thought to its beginnings. Even the earliest surviving tokens of the idea in ancient art, in mosaics and Byzantine paintings, show so very plainly that they are founded on a much older tradition. Some writers say it is older than Christianity itself. In the oldest paintings we know, the Mother of Christ is for the most part a very dark, shadowy outline upon a dim gold background; we are made to understand that she is divine by the circlet of stars above her hooded hair, and by the crowned figure of the Child in her arms, who holds up His hands to bless. In the Byzantine artist's panel and the modern ikon of the Greek Church (which exactly copies it to this day) it is possible to see a goddess—that is to say, a symbol of divine power, a more than human figure, with the glory of heaven resting upon her, even while she delays here upon earth for a little while. She seems lent to earth, and not of earth—holy and remote.

As we all know, the Byzantine tradition was broken in Italy about the thirteenth century. The Mother of Christ, in Italian art, is not an abstraction nor a "thing enskied," but a human mother. Sometimes she is a stately lady, sometimes a queen, sometimes (especially in the fifteenth and later centuries) the painter's ideal of a beautiful woman, her divinity, and afterwards, even, her motherhood being in the end forgotten. You may look in vain through great pictures by very famous painters for the awe and worship in the mother's face, which older and less skilful artists knew how to render so marvellously. The beautiful Sistine Madonna is not full of worship; on the contrary, she looks out, benignantly, upon her worshippers. Rafael's Madonnas are not goddesses; they are of this earth, on which they live and move. Perhaps he believed, and meant us to believe, that all motherhood has in it something divine; that every birth is a new miraculous sign; that the sweetness of human love brings us so very close to heaven that it is all we need until we reach heaven. He may have meant all this, and yet—there are heights beyond Rafael's conceptions which were reached by greater men with far less powers as artists. What you miss in Rafael you may find in some dim, scratched, rather shadowy remains of a fresco or stiff-mannered panel in pale tempera by an unknown painter. Whatever else the painter failed in, he still can make us feel the Divine Motherhood—there is that in the Madonna's face bent above the Child which we recognise as quickly as the breaking out of light: "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed."

For that is the Divine Motherhood, and before it we, too, bend our heads—we, too, discover what was revealed unto men in the past, perhaps before the revelation of Christ.

It is not possible that the Vision can ever pass away from this earth.

In the dark hour lived through by thousands upon thousands, who will look on some busy London railway station afterwards as their Gethsemane, there has come insight—like the breaking out of light—into the thoughts of "many hearts." In the faces of men and women, strangers whom we shall never meet again, we read the signs and tokens left by the great travail

pain. The cost of a great redemption is paid not only by him who gives his life for us all. Sometimes the knowledge transfigures the face of grief.

There is an institute in a quiet street in South Kensington where crutches and similar things are made for the men who have been maimed for life on the battlefield. Crossing the street, one sunny afternoon, the writer saw, in a careless glance, a young soldier walking painfully between two old people, evidently his father and mother. The young man, pale with illness, had just come out for the first time to walk with the new crutches they had been to get for him. He moved slowly, his head high; a gallant figure, chatting with his old

people as he went, so cheerfully, that the set determination to behave "as if nothing was the matter," was hardly perceptible. The two older people, one would have said thoughtlessly, a year ago, were hopelessly commonplace. But that day, in the one glance, the mother's eyes met mine; and out of them shone, not thankfulness nor pride (though both were there), but something greater than either; the homely old father was transfigured by the same look, the same light, the same spirit. Pity and pathos faded out before it. For one brief moment they lifted up me also to be one with them in their thanksgiving, for they, too, whose souls had been pierced by the sword, "had seen past the agony, and had beheld God in heaven."

The Urgent Need of Training Women for the Land.

Some months ago Lord Selborne warned landowners and farmers that substitutes would have to be found for labourers of military age, and pointed out that far greater use could be made of women's work upon the land. At first this idea met with little favour, but some of the more enterprising farmers have tried it with such good results that prejudice is weakening, and it seems likely that when the rush of spring work begins there will be a large demand for women and girls as extra hands. To meet this demand, and to advise on other new conditions arising from the war, agricultural committees have been established in the counties, and local committees in urban and rural districts, upon many of which women are represented.

Speaking at the Guildhall, Winchester, some days ago, Lord Selborne said he would like to see a canvass of women around the villages like Lord Derby's canvass for recruits. It was not enough to offer good wages; as with allotments, billeting money, and allowances many were better off than they had ever been before. The imagination of the women must be touched. They must be told that their war work was in the fields, and that there they would be contributing as much to the defeat of Germany and our victory as their boys in the Fleet or the trenches. If country women realised this they would come forward, just as readily as women had gone into the shell shops.

In the North, a number of women have already come forward, but in the South, where women have had much less experience of farm work, it seems likely that very few are competent to undertake any but the simplest tasks. Some system of training must therefore be organised as quickly as possible if a sufficient number are to be available when required.

Unfortunately, the facilities for training women students in agriculture were insufficient even for the needs of the country before the war. A Report just published of the Conference appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to consider this question, reveals a very unsatisfactory state of things. "Broadly speaking," says the summary of the Report, "there is no definite instruction in agriculture for women and girls. The question has not been thought out from a woman's point of view." Under the heading "Farm Schools," it states, "One may say that, except in the case of indoor dairy work, there is practically no instruction in agricultural work offered to young women of the tenant-farmer or small-holder class in any fixed institution."

For women of the well-to-do farming and professional classes there appear to be a sufficient number of institutions, but the Conference considers that more attention should be given to training poultry teachers, and to the technical side of agriculture, such as a man would learn on a farm, especially in that relating to the breeding and management of dairy cattle, and the care of animals generally. "There are," says the Report, "practically no facilities provided for women which are analogous to the combination of practical and theoretical instruction provided for men at Holmes Chapel, Wye, Uckfield, Cirencester, and Harper-Adams College. We desire to point out that such instruction is a definite want . . . we think there is room for the provision, at one or more of the institutions, whether entirely devoted to women or not, of a systematic course in general agriculture, comprising both the practical and scientific side."

This lack of facilities in the past for a thorough all-round training, means that few women are available who are competent to teach others, excepting in dairy work and horticulture. It is therefore all the more important that training should be organised at once, before the dearth of men grows any greater.

Many witnesses before the Conference spoke of the good work accomplished by itinerant dairy classes, giving practical demonstrations, which have proved far more popular than evening lectures. But these have only been organised in certain districts. For rather more advanced work farm schools are

needed to provide a short practical course, not only in dairy work, but in the management of poultry and the care of young stock, and other work that women are likely to be called upon to undertake. The number of farm schools in England is quite inadequate. Evidence was given before the Conference as to the beneficial effect of such schools in Belgium and Ireland. In Ireland, where poultry-keeping is entirely in the hands of women, the value of the exports has increased by hundreds of thousands of pounds in the last two years.

A few farm schools have been started by private enterprise since the war, but the needs of farmers are likely to be so pressing that many will have to train their helps themselves, just when they can least afford the time.

The Report lays great stress upon the want of more agricultural scholarships, to enable well-educated girls to study at such institutions as Swanley and Studley—where the cost of training is from £60 to £120 a year—and also for a system of scholarships to help the daughters of small farmers and cottagers, if they are really promising, to go from the travelling school to a farm school, and from a farm school to a centre of higher instruction. Many girls who might do well at agriculture are prohibited by the cost of training, and it will be very necessary to help in meeting this cost if a sufficient number of trained workers are to be forthcoming by the spring.

THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN UNION.

We have received the following particulars from the Women's Farm and Garden Union with regard to one of their latest training schemes and some of their other activities:—

"By the kindness of Lord Rayleigh we have been allowed to send down about ten students to Little Baddow Hall, where he lends a furnished farmhouse for their residence. The Union provides a housekeeper and forewoman, also maintenance for the students. The latter do all the work men would do, and do it to the satisfaction of the bailiff, under whose orders they are, and of the Hon. Edward Strutt, who acts as his brother's agent. Both admit that they had not expected such good and useful work.

"Two of the students have decided that they cannot go on, but the others are enthusiastic and quite undaunted by the bad weather conditions. There are other applications, and it is likely that before long a second home may be filled.

CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL HERBS.

"The latest addition to our activities is the Herbal Subcommittee. It is hoped to arrange for the culture of medicinal herbs on a co-operative basis. Few people realise how urgently needful this will be in the near future. Many societies and individual workers consulted us during the spring and summer as to methods of forming classes or clubs, &c., in villages to incline cottagers to make more of their gardens. Many efforts in this direction were foiled by the apathy of those whom it was sought to benefit. In one instance, at last, the enthusiasm of a lady-farmer has so far infected her neighbours that she is starting early in the year, with a group of forty-two girls and women, in two villages. She expects to get more yet. An Instructress is to spend two days monthly, one in each village. By day she will visit each member's garden, correcting errors, and explaining how to meet difficulties; in the evenings she will lecture. Both cottagers and the women and girls from farms are joining this scheme. The former will (at first) reap small benefit from the visits, but as their knowledge grows they will understand the lectures better.

"The farming class thoroughly enjoy the lectures, and many of them take notes. It is hoped that the Educational Committee of the County Council will give a grant towards the working of this practical scheme."

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, L.L.D. Hon. Secretaries: Miss EVELYN ATKINSON, Miss EDITH FALLER, (Literature), Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary), Secretary: Miss HELEN WRIGHT. Office: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

The Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund has now closed. The total number of applicants amounts to 100, and of these 31 have been given subsidised employment by the Committee during the ten months' work. All these applicants are now provided with permanent posts, or have made their own arrangements with regard to work. The Fund has been the means of bringing help to a number of women in a way consistent with the preservation of their self-respect and efficiency as workers, and the Committee feel that a valuable piece of work has been accomplished.

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Table with columns: £ s. d., Subscriptions, £ s. d. Lists names of donors and their respective contributions.

Active Service Fund.

Table with columns: £ s. d., SECOND YEAR, £ s. d. Lists names of donors and their respective contributions.

"Common Cause" Posters.

As there appears to be some doubt in the minds of Secretaries of Societies about the exhibition of COMMON CAUSE posters, we should like to state that we are always glad to send a poster, free of charge, direct from THE COMMON CAUSE office every week to any newsagent who will exhibit it.

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

Table with columns: £ s. d., Donor Name, £ s. d. Lists names of donors and their respective contributions to the Scottish Women's Hospital.

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FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Table with columns: Name of Bed, Donor. Lists names of donors and the beds they named.

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Table with columns: Donor Name, Contribution. Lists names of donors and the Christmas presents they contributed.

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What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Bristol.

The Bristol Society has had a busy time since its last report, and it has had the pleasure of welcoming the President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett. She came to a public meeting at Hamilton's Rooms on November 23rd, and gave a very interesting account of the war work done by the National Union. Her inspiring words gained several new members to the Society. Canon Talbot, from the chair, was most emphatic in declaring that much might have been saved to the country had some of the present Army work, such as the commissariat, been in the hands of women. A vote of thanks was moved and seconded by Judge Stranger, a life-long supporter and friend of the Cause, and Mrs. Randall Vickers. On the previous afternoon, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, the Executive Committee met Mrs. Fawcett at tea, and members had the opportunity of meeting their President and having counsel and advice given them, which was much appreciated.

On November 25th, the Patriotic Thrift Exhibition at Hamilton's Rooms was opened by his Honour Judge Stanger. Mrs. Rowland was sent by Headquarters to help, and she worked very hard, in conjunction with the Suffrage Society and the Municipal School of Cookery, to arrange an attractive and instructive show. Bath and Weston Societies lent their Suffrage banners, and with a quantity of flags, health and food posters the large hall looked very gay. Demonstrations and lectures took place several times daily, one of the most popular being the Hay-Box Cookery, kindly shown and explained by Miss Blades and Miss Thompson. Miss Atkinson, the Head of the School of Cookery, lent lecturers, students, and apparatus, and the cooking demonstrations of Miss Armstrong, Miss Gordon Grant, and Miss Vining were much appreciated; also the cooking by girls from some of the Council Schools, kindly sent by Miss Janet Grant, of the Education Committee. Miss Browne gave a practical exhibition of laundry work each day, with interesting explanations. Much interest was shown in the fruit bottling, carried out with great skill by Miss Robbins, and for which exhibits were lent by Mrs. Edward Robinson.

A very interesting stall was arranged by the Bedminster and St. Augustine's Mothers' Schools, with cradles, clothing, and other things for infant welfare, and some valuable exhibits lent by the Nurses' Social Union. Two Thrift Stalls attracted much notice. They comprised all sorts of home-made articles, from fire-lighters to furniture, and were of apparent profit to the thronging visitors. The work on the one arranged by the Municipal School of Housewifery was beautifully done. A great many cookery books were sold from the Literature Stall, and Miss Duncan raised over £4 for the Serbian Hospital by the sale of buttons she had painted. Thrift and Infant Welfare Lectures were given by Miss Mildred Atkinson, B.Sc., Miss Richards (Health Visitor), Mrs. Buchanan, M.A., Miss C. Symonds, Mrs. Skemp, M.A., and Miss Zoe Hawley. Teas were provided in one room and a canteen in another, under the superintendence of Mrs. Buchanan, and several ladies' bands enlivened the proceedings.

The Exhibition was a great success, chiefly owing to the untiring energy and foresight of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, and a balance of some £17 will be handed over to the funds of the Bristol Suffrage Society. COMMON CAUSE Day was taken up by the members with enthusiasm, and five hundred copies were sold, some for 1s. each.

The weekly working parties continue. Two of the Bristol Mothers' Clubs are helped. Work is also done for the Scottish Hospitals.

The interest in the Study Circles has been fully maintained, but the meetings are now discontinued until after Christmas. Meetings have been held in the Branch Societies, addressed by Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, and at a debating society in Cotham the subject, "The War and the Progress of the Women's Movement," was discussed with much interest. (Leader, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross.) The Bristol Society is organising a fund to send up monthly a regular sum to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. The Totterdown Branch and members of the St. Andrew's Branch are contributing 9s. monthly.

Mrs. Fawcett's meetings and the Thrift Exhibition have roused much interest and have gained several new members to the Society.

Rotherham.

On Friday, December 10th, a deputation of representative Rotherham women visited the Sub-committee of the Health Committee that had been formed to consider the extension of the Maternity Centre, following on our interview with the acting M.O. some months ago. The following Societies were represented: Women's Co-operative Guild, N.U.W.S.S., Railway Women's Guild, Liberal Women, I.L.P., B.W.T.A., and Primrose League. The representative of the Women's Co-operative Guild spoke of the necessity for pre-natal advice being arranged for; the N.U.W.S.S. representative spoke of the need for more health visitors; the Railway Women's Guild spoke of the necessity of linking up the baby clinic, which now exists for babies of a year old, with the school clinic. She stated that from one year to five years old the infants were under no medical supervision, and hoped to see this remedied. The Liberal Woman gave an estimate of the cost, which she put down at £350 per year as a beginning. The Health Committee had had our scheme, and had evidently based the scheme they were drawing up exactly on the one we had given them. The I.L.P. representative spoke of the need for women to be co-opted on to the maternity scheme sub-committee, and urged that representative working women should be co-opted. The B.W.T.A. representative referred to the need for handy women to help the mothers with the other children and with the housework during the time she was in bed. The Conservative representative hoped the scheme would be on a sound municipal basis.

The Mayor, who was in the chair, expressed the wish of the Health Committee to benefit by the help of the women, and saw no reason why representative working women should not be co-opted on to the sub-committee that would be formed to carry out the scheme. This is now to be put before the full Health Committee, and it looks as if it will get safely through.

The Club for Soldiers' Wives is just now enjoying a splendid course of Nursing Classes. Mrs. Vardy, a trained nurse, has kindly undertaken the classes, and thoroughly understands the possibilities of nursing in a small home. There is a singing class in full swing, too, and we are finding some splendid talent amongst the Club members.

The N.U. holds a Study Circle every fortnight in the Temperance Hall. We are studying "The War and Democracy," and in connection with this, talks have been given on the history of Poland, Mazzini, and Bismarck by the members. Next meeting a member will give a short sketch of the history of Serbia.

The N.U. representatives on the Central Relief Committee still fight on. It is difficult work, as we are so tied up by rules from the headquarters Prince of Wales's Fund, but we feel more should be given, and could be given, without breaking any rules. However, we are lucky to be on the Committee at all, for in Leeds and other places in the West Riding, we understand, the fund is doled out by one man.

Nottingham.

A meeting was held on Thursday, December 9th, in support of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and, in spite of drenching rain, there was a very good attendance. It was decided to make an effort to raise £50 for the support for six months of two beds in Serbia, one of which should be named after the East Midland Federation, and the other after the Nottingham Society. The latter raised a first £25 in May, but the six months have run out. Promises amounting to over £35 were made at the meeting, so the Society hopes to find means to raise the remaining £15. Dr. Sarah Gray took the chair, and in her address spoke of the great pride she felt in the work of the younger medical women at the Front. She referred to the "Holy Crime" of Nurse Cavell, and declared that through her sublime death the status of the whole nursing profession had been raised. Dr. Gray maintained that the humblest calling that a woman had taken up to supply her country's need, if well carried out, was a far more potent argument for the recognition of the rights of women than any platform speeches.

Principal Ritchie, who has lately returned from the Front, gave very interesting accounts, more especially of women's work on the Continent. The work of the nursing profession was

eloquently referred to, and also that of several ladies who had taken their own cars at their own expenses and placed both themselves and their cars unreservedly at the command of the military.

Mrs. Streeter then gave an interesting account of, and an appeal for, the Scottish Women's Hospitals both in France and Serbia.

Liverpool.

A successful meeting, organised by the Liverpool Society, in aid of the funds of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, was held at the Picton Hall on December 6th. Mrs. Stainthorpe, of Saltburn, very kindly gave a lecture on "A Tour through Belgium and Luxemburg," illustrated by excellent slides, and also some Flemish folk-songs, which the audience greatly appreciated. Mrs. E. Stewart Brown, Chairman of the Liverpool Society, who presided, spoke of the splendid success of the hospitals, and emphasised the fact, about which she said there was a good deal of misapprehension, that they were the work of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and were supported entirely by funds raised through the Suffrage organisation. She appealed for further donations from Liverpool to carry on the work of the Hospitals through the coming year.

Dr. Margaret Joyce gave a very interesting account of the hospital at Royaumont, with slides of the building and its inmates, showing how wonderfully the Abbey has been adapted to the needs and work of a hospital.

Altogether about £40 was realised for the hospital funds, and it is hoped that the meeting will have helped to interest a large number of Liverpool people in their work and the work of the National Union.

Huddersfield.

The monthly meeting of the Huddersfield Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. was held at 41, Spring Street recently. The chair was taken by Mrs. Rennards, in the unavoidable absence of Miss Siddon, who was away on county business. Mrs. Wilmshurst, Chairman of the Serbian Hospital Sub-committee, reported that a good number of garments were ready and would be sent off before Christmas. Any members having articles to send are requested to send them to Miss Harrop, 60, West Parade. Mrs. Wilmshurst also reported that two ladies had given "At Homes" at their houses, which had resulted in a good sum of money being raised, which had been used in buying material. The weekly sewing meetings at the above address are still held.

Wakefield.

Many members of the Society volunteered to help with the National Register, in response to a circular sent out by our Society inviting them to do so. Their help was apparently much appreciated by the City authorities.

A sewing party for the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals in Serbia has just been formed and promises to be a great success (see announcement under "Working Parties").

Our Hon. Treasurer (Miss Gilderdale) has been obliged to resign owing to her marriage, and Mrs. A. E. Wales has taken her place.

Sheffield.

On November 26th, Dr. Helen Wilson gave a delightful talk on "The Working Woman's Leisure and Recreation," which was followed by an unusually lengthy discussion, the subject being one of many-sided interest.

A Belgian Pound Day.

The NEWCASTLE members of the Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Society organised a Belgian Pound Day, which was held for the benefit of the Belgian Soldiers' Fund, on Saturday, December 4th. In spite of a very wet day, upwards of 1,000 parcels were received at the chief grocers' shops of the town and at the depôts outside the Municipal and Town Halls, and were dispatched to the Headquarters of the fund, 10, James Street, London, W.

A collection was also taken at the depôts and a sum of £5 2s. 1d. obtained, which, after necessary expenses are deducted, will be forwarded to the central fund. The society has also made two appeals to its members on behalf of the Serbian Hospital Fund, and a sum of £18 odd has been contributed.

Cheltenham W.S.S. Annual Meeting.

There was a good attendance at our annual meeting on December 11th, when Mr. J. T. Agg-Gardner, M.P., J.P., took the chair. He said we were to be congratulated on the improved prospects for Women's Suffrage. Those M.P.s to whom he spoke told him in many cases that they had become converted to our side by the splendid organisation for nursing, industry, &c., which women had accomplished since the outbreak of war. He considered the position most favourable.

Officers and committee were re-elected. The Treasurer's report showed a small balance, although the income had fallen off. The Secretary's report, among several activities, mentioned that the Branch was helping in the local agitation against the objectionable posters and picture-plays often exhibited in the town. A letter to the Town Council concerning them was ready for signature, and nearly all those present signed it.

Mrs. Frances Swiney gave her presidential address, which exposed the way in which voteless women are being exploited in the time of national danger. Miss J. M. Baretta, of Bristol, then made a most interesting and illuminating speech, proposing a resolution declaring that until women have the vote there is no remedy for the prevailing injustice; also protesting against the threatened Manhood Suffrage Bill. Tea was served and a satisfactory collection taken. Mr. Agg-Gardner has for the past three years been a regular and generous subscriber to the funds, and always supports us in other ways when he can. "The Conservative deviseth Liberal things."

A Bath Unit for our Soldiers in France. Newton-le-Willows

Believing that cleanliness is next to godliness and touches good health, the Newton-le-Willows W.S.S. has applied itself to providing a bath unit and steriliser for the use of the South Lancashires in France. The money was got by means of donations and a whist drive. This present for the South Lancashires arrived opportunely, as their Colonel wrote saying that his men had not had the chance of a hot wash of any kind for over three weeks, owing to the difficulties in heating water. Now the South Lancashires are in hot water galore, and it is the Newton-le-Willows' Suffragists they have to thank for it. These wise Dames of the Bath have also applied the surplus of the gold they gathered in buying a large hanging lamp, according to the Colonel's suggestion, for placing in any barn or place that the men have to use as orderly room, thus supplying a felt need for more light. Could there be any more fitting privilege for a Suffrage Society!

New Forest Society.

Early in the autumn our Society was invited to send delegates to a conference on National Economy, held by the Parliamentary War Savings Committee. As a result of this we arranged to get up some meetings in the parish of Milton jointly with the War Savings Committee, and this committee availed itself of the services of our National Union Organiser, Miss Frost, to speak on the domestic side of economy.

Three meetings were held in different parts of the parish on December 6th and 7th, at each of which Miss Frost spoke on "Patriotic House-keeping." The question of food was naturally the main one—how to get the most for one's money both in buying food and also in arranging meals according to the values of different kinds of food. Very great savings can be effected by the methods employed in cooking foods and by the proportions in which they are consumed. Miss Frost's audiences who may have come fearing to be recommended severely negation forms of economy were greatly interested by the position and practical forms of saving which she sketched out. It is impossible in scattered country districts to get large numbers in wet weather, but we were successful in attracting very varied audiences of both men and women, amongst others a native Indian doctor from our Indian Hospital, who charmed the audience by a neat little speech in support of what Miss Frost had been saying. The Rev. J. S. Kelsall and Colonel T. Wood took the chair at the three meetings. We hope to follow them up by more talks to those who were unable to be present, for the meetings were successful in the best way; we feel sure that they made us all want to carry out new ideas of thrifty ways and to impart the knowledge to others.

Bournemouth.

The annual general meeting of the Bournemouth Branch of the N.U.W.S.S. was held at Wilkins' Rooms recently. Miss Kemp Turner took the chair, at short notice, in the place of Dr. Mary Jeremy, who was prevented from attending. After the re-election of the President, Lady Frances Balfour, and all the other officers, and a brief discussion, Mrs. Lyon, the Hon. Secretary, read an account of her experiences at a Goutte de Café in France, which was much appreciated.

The Chairman announced that the Bed in the Boscombe Hospital, which the Society are endowing and which is to be known as the N.U.W.S.S. Bed, is already occupied by an invalid soldier. The many subscribers and friends who have interested themselves in this good work will be pleased to know that the Bed is a success. There is still a sum remaining to be collected for the Endowment Fund, in aid of which Mr. Lyon is giving a lantern lecture at Trinity Hall on the 9th.

Ilkley.

The Ilkley Society organised a Serbian Flag Day on October 30th in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, by means of which £103 6s. 8d. was raised. The expenses were very small, owing to the generosity of the Sheffield Society, who made us a present of the flags, thereby enabling us to hand over a clear £100 to the S.W.H. Treasurer to equip two beds in Serbia, to be named "Ilkley" and "Ben Rhydding."

It is just a year since we opened our Hospital Workroom for the benefit of the S.W. Hospitals. The work appeals to many women who are not in sympathy with the Suffrage Cause, and we were able to keep the room open all through the summer. During the year we have lacked neither money nor workers, and start our second year very cheerfully with a small balance in hand.

Esher and East Molesey.

A large percentage of non-Suffragists helped to fill the Molesey Picture Palace, so generously lent by Mr. Saraski, on Wednesday afternoon, December 8th, and it was obvious that Miss Burke's eloquent pleading for the sorrows of a stricken land came as a revelation to many who had heard but dimly of the Scottish Women's Hospital movement. One doctor who was present was heard to declare afterwards that he could have listened all night, and, indeed, he was not singular in this respect. Miss M. Martineau took the chair, and reminded her hearers of previous local efforts on behalf of the Serbian hospitals. As the meeting was held in aid of the latter, Miss Burke devoted the bulk of her time to the graphic portrayal of the different Serbian units, then dealt briefly with the Troyes and Royaumont hospitals. The lantern slides aroused the keenest interest, especially as they were accompanied by a stream of anecdotes, both humorous and pathetic, which the speaker had gathered in the course of her world-wide travels. This little Branch of the London Society has good reason to be gratified at the financial result of the meeting, which, after the deduction of expenses, amounted to £25.

London Society.

The following meetings, organised by the London Society, have been held in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals:—December 20th, Moffat Institute, Esher Street, Kennington. Speaker, Miss Douglas Irvine. December 21st, Wimbledon Hill School, Mansel Road. Speakers, Miss Kathleen Burke and Miss Edith Webster. December 22nd, Senior Langton, Old Girls' Association, Canterbury. Speaker, Miss Kathleen Burke.

Working Parties.

Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48A, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals. 2nd and 4th Monday in the month, 2.0
Blackheath and Greenwich Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk. Every Tuesday, 2.0—8.0
Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals. Every Monday, 2.30, and every Thursday at 8.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals—Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.0

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party—Every Monday, 3.0

Burton—At Collinson's Café—Sewing Meeting for Manchester and District Field Hospital—Visitors invited. Every Thursday, 2.30

Eastbourne—At the Club, 134, Terminus Road—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals in France and Serbia. Every Monday, 2.30—4.30

Guildford—"Maesmor," East Horsley—Sewing Party. Every Wednesday, 5.0

Muddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street. Every Tuesday, 2.30

Paddington—31, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals. Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party. Every Monday, 2.45

Shipleigh and Baldon—Ladies' Parlour of Saltire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting on December 30th, and fortnightly. 2.30

Sothill—Church House—Working Party for making comforters for the Italian troops. Every Monday, 3.0

South Kensington—Belgian Hotel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals. Every Tuesday and Friday, 2 to 4.30

Wakefield—"The Laurels," St. John's North—Sewing Party. Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0 and 7.0—9.0

Warwick and Leamington—35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Working Party to make Sand Bags. Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.30

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