

# MONTHLY NEWS

of the

## CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST

### WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.

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#### OUR WORK.

##### New Series of Lectures.

The lectures on social conditions in belligerent countries, which were organised by the C.U.W.F.A. during 1915, proved so great a success that, in response to a general wish, they will be continued this year. Details will be announced later.

For the opening of the session two very interesting lectures of a different character have been arranged. The first—*With the Wounded in France and Serbia: Work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals*, will be held on Friday, 14th January, 3 p.m., in St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont Street, S.W., and will be illustrated by lantern slides. Miss Kathleen Burke, whose work in connection with the Hospitals is so well known, will lecture on her personal experiences at the Front, and the Countess of Selborne will take the chair. There will be a few reserved seats at 6d. each, but the greater part of the Hall will be free. The collection, after payment of expenses, will be given to the Hospitals. Members should apply at once to the Office, 48, Dover Street, W., for tickets for themselves and their friends.

The second lecture will be given by Mrs. Pertwee on Tuesday, 1st February, at 3 p.m., at 68, Great Cumberland Place, W., (by kind permission of Miss Edmonds). The subject will be *The Work of the Women's Emergency Canteens in France (œuvres des dames Anglaises)*, from a tour of which Mrs. Pertwee has lately returned. The collection, after payment of expenses, will be given to the Women's Emergency Canteens. There will be no reserved seats at this lecture. Admission free, but by ticket only. Apply, Secretary, C.U.W.F.A., 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly.

##### Meeting in Kensington.

Our Kensington Branch has arranged a lecture on the work of "Women Patrols." It will be held on Monday, January 31st, 3 p.m., at 34, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W., by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. John Bailey, who will preside. The speakers will be Mrs. James Gow (Vice-Chairman of the Patrol Committee of the N.U.W.W.) and a Patrol Organiser. Admission by invitation only. All applications for tickets should be made to Miss L. J. Allen, 19, Penywern Road, S.W.

#### A New Committee.

A Parliamentary Committee has been formed, whose business it will be to watch all Bills introduced into the Houses of Parliament in which the welfare of women and children are concerned. The following members have been elected to serve on the Committee:—The Honble. Mrs. John Bailey (*Chairman*); Mrs. Ridley-Smith (*Vice-Chairman*); Miss Beatrice Cartwright, the Lady Robert Cecil, Mrs. Mylne, Mrs. Rowland Prothero, Lady St. Helier, Mrs. Torrey, Mrs. Worthington-Evans, and the Editor of the *Review (ex-officio)*.

One meeting of the Committee has already taken place. The subject under discussion was the Munitions of War (Amendment) Bill, and the following resolution which was passed unanimously, was sent to the Minister of Munitions:—

The Parliamentary Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association beg that the Right Honble. the Minister of Munitions will consider favourably the addition of the following clause to the Munitions of War (Amendment) Bill:—"That in all places where women are working in Munition factories either with or under the direction of men, a woman-overlooker should be placed in charge of the room."

*Note.*—From a leaflet just issued by the Ministry of Munitions of War we find that women employed under the Act are safeguarded as follows:—

"The Minister is of the opinion that where females are employed they should be supervised by a forewoman, who would act as intermediary between the workers and the shop foreman or manager."

We are glad to see that the Bill to amend the Munitions Bill provides for the payment of a minimum rate of wage to women, and in cases where women are concerned there are to be women accessors.

#### Christmas Day at the Hostel.

From letters received from our guests we gather that Christmas Day at the Hostel was an entirely happy one. Several write that it was the best Christmas they had had for many years, and we are sure that all our members and friends will be glad to know that during the festive season our guests put their sorrows on one side and wholeheartedly enjoyed themselves. A complete list of gifts received for Christmas and the party on New Year's Day will be given in our next issue.

Will readers kindly remember that positions required by our guests are advertised on page 4.



## WAR SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

In a recent report the Home Office drew the attention of the London County Council and other local authorities to the urgent need of finding suitable women to take the places of the many thousands of clerks of military age, who will be called up gradually for service under Lord Derby's scheme. The London County Council consulted with other local authorities and certain institutions for commercial training in the metropolitan area, and in conjunction with them classes have already been opened at:—

1. City of London College, White Street, Moorfields, E.C.
2. Goldsmiths' College, Lewisham High Road, New Cross, S.E.
3. Fulham Training College, Finlay Street, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.
4. Pitman's School, Southampton Row, W.C.

In these classes the students are prepared for the general requirements of a business house, or the particular requirements of a bank, insurance, shipping or railway office. As a rule the courses cover three weeks, during which the students are expected to work for six hours a day. The fee, at first 10/6, has now been raised to 15/-, so that the classes may continue to be entirely self-supporting. Only women who have had a good general education are admitted to the classes because they alone are fitted to profit by this very intensive course of instruction. Those who are most suitable are ex-secondary and high school girls; women who liked mathematics best at school can take the special courses for work in banks and insurance offices, while others who preferred languages can choose the general courses for work in business houses. At Pitman's School, there is a special course of ten weeks for typing and shorthand at a low fee.

The London County Council undertakes no responsibility for finding employment, but is in very close touch with employers, and it is certain that students who pass the proficiency test at the end of the course will have no difficulty in getting posts. Eighty students have already gone into one large insurance office. As a rule employers ask for women between the ages of 18 and 40. They are prepared to pay the women at the same rate as men, so girls over 20 will receive as an initial salary the sum which is paid to a man who enters an office with no experience, *i.e.*, 25/- to 30/- a week, and those who are very capable will be rapidly promoted.

Copies of the Memorandum and Forms to be signed by applicants who wish to join the classes can be obtained from the Education Officer, L.C.C. Education Offices, (Room 149), Victoria Embankment, W.C. A stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed. Applicants should fill in the forms and go to the Education Office to be interviewed between the hours of 11 and 1.

It is clearly understood that this work of substitutes for men on war service is temporary, and probably for the duration of the war only. It is patriotic work, but training and experience are

profitable, and a knowledge of business is an asset to any woman. What further openings and opportunities in the business world will be given to women after the war must in some measure depend on the way in which they do their work in temporary posts now. Those to whom posts are offered through private influence will do well to take one of the L.C.C. courses before they accept them.

### The New Naval and Military War Pensions' Act, November, 1915.

This Act, passed by Parliament and about to come into force, will supersede the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society. It sets up a new central body to be called "A Statutory Committee of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation," which is to be solely responsible for deciding the scales of pensions and allowances and the schemes for administering them. This central body will appoint local committees in each County and these local committees will in turn appoint district committees. These may appoint sub-committees and visitors for the individual cases.

The Statutory Committee will consist of twenty-seven members, of which two only shall be appointed by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Family Association and nine by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society. Six shall be appointed by the General Council of the Corporation, of which "some shall be women." Presumably, therefore, at least two of the Statutory Committee must be women.

County Councils may suggest schemes for the local committee to be approved by the Statutory Committee, and at least a majority of the local committee must be appointed by the County Council or District Council, and "women" and "labour representatives" must be included in the members of the committee. The County Council shall also be empowered to elect a majority of the District Committee, and here too "some women" must be appointed. The final appeal on any case dealt with by the local or district committee shall be the Statutory Committee.

This elaborate new machinery can only be successful if the *personnel* who have hitherto run the Families' Association and the Help Society consent to serve on the new committees and are chosen by the new heads. But in this case why need new and expensive re-organisation have taken place at all? If the same *personnel* do not consent to serve, or are not appointed, dire confusion must follow, inevitable mistakes will be made and the soldiers' and sailors' families must suffer. Perhaps the most serious evil of the Act lies in the fact that pensions for soldiers and sailors, officers and men will not now be paid direct by a military and naval organisation, like the old Patriotic Fund Administration, but will be allotted and administered by local government bodies. This seems a strange way of administering military pensions, granted for military services.

BETTY BALFOUR.

## MOTHER AND CHILD.

The following quotation is from an article on Infant Mortality which appeared in the *Times* of the 26th October. The writer, Mr. Benjamin Broadbent, when Mayor of Huddersfield, tried to save the lives of the babies born during his term of office by certain measures of care and supervision. At the present time this matter is of vital importance to the Nation and it is impossible to exaggerate its seriousness.

In 1905 the output of new human life in the United Kingdom was approximately 1,100,000 babies . . . Out of the 1,100,000 that were launched on the sea of life there were not many more than 820,000 that reached the comparatively safe water of five years old; nearly 300,000 wrecked—decimated thrice over. What should we think of 280,000 casualties—all fatal—out of 1,100,000? . . . The question inevitable forces itself. Was all this waste of human life and health really inevitable? Could not something have been done to preserve in life and health some of the 300,000? . . . In 10 years the shortage cannot be less than 1,000,000 human lives.

It is impossible to repair the wastage of past years; but it is not impossible to prevent the wastage in the years to come. It is pitiable to think of the loss that never need have been, but surely at this time there should come a determination that such a terrible and needless leakage of life shall be stanching. It is our national life blood that is ebbing away, not only in Gallipoli and on the fields of Flanders and of France and in the wide wastes of the world, but also in our own homes safeguarded from outside foes, but not protected from the ignorance and neglect within that kills as surely as the poison gas and shells.

It is no longer possible to say that this loss of life cannot be prevented. There are places where no babies die, there are places in our own country where few babies die. They will to live—these helpless ones—and it is a matter of making the conditions fit for them to live. Where the conditions are right they do live. Nor is there any doubt as to what the conditions are that make the difference between life and death to them.

Nor can it be said that the killing off of the babies is in any sense a eugenic process; the exact reverse is true and should be sufficiently obvious. The conditions that preserve life also preserve health. Where pains are taken to keep the babies alive for one year the result seems to be to establish a resisting power that wards off diseases that maim and kill from one to five. To see the 97 who ought statistically to have been only 83 or 84 and to see them strong and healthy, full of vitality and intelligence, is a sufficient object-lesson.

The *Common Cause* points out the significance of the fact "that in countries where women have the highest status the rate of infant mortality tends to be lowest. In New Zealand, Norway and Australia, where women are enfranchised, the rate in 1912 was 51, 68, and 72 per thousand respectively. In the second group of countries where women are

not yet enfranchised, but where they take an active part in political life, the rate is higher, but not nearly so high as in other countries where women have very little influence in public affairs. The rate in the United Kingdom in 1912 was 108, in Sweden 72, in Denmark 93, and in Holland, 87; while Germany, with all its vaunted *kultur*, has a rate of 147, and Austria 180."

### Booklets of Interest to Women.

Four little books (price 1d. each) have been published by the Women's Co-operative Guild (28, Church Row, Hampstead) which will be of interest to the members of our Association. They are:—*What Health Authorities Can Do*; *The Work of Maternity Committees*; *A Municipal Maternity Centre and Home Helps*.

They deal with controversial subjects, but they are subjects on which all women need to think at the present time, and though there are many points of view to be considered, it is clear that Local Government Authorities are taking more interest in the welfare of mothers and babies than has been the case in the past. We shall all agree that women ought to have a voice in these matters, and are grateful to Mr. Long who has made it obligatory on the Local Authorities to put women on the new committees, under the Notification of Births Act of this year.

The 44th Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1914-1915, (7½d.), contains, as a supplement, a most interesting report on Maternal Mortality in connection with child-bearing and its relation to Infant Mortality. Certain generally accepted conclusions are not supported by this Report. No complementary relationship between excessive mortality from child-bearing and a high degree of employment in factories is visible in the tables. Still more remarkable is the fact that as far as the statistics go, maternal mortality is largely independent of general sanitary conditions. The highest rates of maternal mortality are to be found in the rural parts of Wales, particularly Cardigan and Merioneth, a fact for which there is no entirely adequate explanation.

### Special Number of the Review.

We would remind our readers that the next issue of the *Review* will be a special number devoted entirely to the War work of our Association. It will be a comprehensive record of the many branches of patriotic and philanthropic work on which the C.U.W.F.A. has been engaged, and will be valuable for reference purposes. We hope our readers will make a point of taking at least **one extra copy to give to a friend.**

The *Review* will not be issued until the middle of January, but to avoid disappointment orders for copies should be sent at once to the Office, as we are expecting a great demand; one of our members has already asked for three hundred copies. The annual subscription is 1/- only. Single copies 2d. each, or 3d. post free.



### HOSTEL EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

We have opened a Bureau in connection with the Hostel at the Office, and we shall be glad to receive information regarding vacant posts. A list of positions required will be found below, and we ask our friends to help us to place these ladies as soon as possible.

L.B.M.—A young gentlewoman desires clerical work in Bank or Office.

E.L.B.—Lady desires post as Secretary or Companion-housekeeper. Good plain cook, capable manager. Highest references.

L.S.—Gentlewoman desires re-engagement as Companion to elderly lady. Could nurse. Used to slight mental cases. Excellent testimonials from Doctors and others.

A.B.G.—Gentlewoman (ruined by War) earnestly seeks post as Companion, secretary or housekeeper. Capable and practical. Speaks French and is musical.

F.H.—Lady, bright, and capable, desires post as companion to lady or gentleman, or as Governess to young children. Good references. Thoroughly trustworthy.

H.C.L.T.—Lady requires engagement as Companion, Secretary, or Lady-housekeeper. Highest testimonials and references.

D.B.—Lady, bright, cheerful and energetic, would like to take charge of Girls' Club. Experienced teacher of dancing and physical culture. Disciplinarian. Highest references.

B.D.—Practical woman with varied experience at home and abroad seeks an engagement as Matron in Hostel for Munition workers. Highest references.

H.M.B.B.—Lady, thoroughly experienced, requires post as Housekeeper. Catering, book-keeping. Good Organiser.

J.E.—A practical, capable woman, with knowledge of nursing, seeks post as Matron or Nurse-companion—Housekeeper. Highest references.

L.W.—Post required as Lady-Cook-Housekeeper, where maid is kept for rough work. Salary £36.

N.R.—Lady requires post as Companion. Domesticated, good needlewoman. Salary £30.

All applications to be addressed to the Initials stated above, c/o The Superintendent, 9, Roland Gardens, South Kensington.

### LANTERN LECTURE

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on

## POLAND, Past and Present.

Lecturer: **Mdlle. MARIE A. CZAPLIKEA**

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MEETINGS.

Wed., Jan. 26, 8 p.m.—G. B. BURGIN. "How Novels are Written." Chair: Mrs. Gilbert Samuel.

Wed., Feb. 2, 8 p.m.—Right Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN. "The Mystery of the Alphabet." Chairman: Mr. R. F. Cholmeley.

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