

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.

Women Munition Workers.

Mr. Lloyd George has appointed Mr. Seeborn Rowntree to assist the Ministry of Munitions on problems arising out of the employment of women as munition workers, and to assist in giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Fatigue.

We are glad to know that the Ministry of Munitions does intend to deal with some of these problems, and we believe that Mr. Rowntree will be able to give most valuable help with many of them. But this is 1916, and we regret that Mr. Lloyd George has not made one of the obvious resolutions which the New Year should have brought him, and decided to let women "deal with," or at any rate help to deal with, their own affairs. Perhaps, before he has reached the end of this year, or the end of the "problems arising out of the employment of women," he, and the whole country, will have learnt this elementary lesson.

Men Munition Workers.

Under the Munitions Act Amending Bill, a privilege was to have been extended to women which was not equally shared by men, and it is interesting to see how promptly this anomaly in legislation is to be remedied. The Act proposed that the Ministry of Munitions should take power to control the wages and conditions of work for all women employed in controlled establishments, but did not propose that it should take the same powers on behalf of the new unskilled men munition workers. We understand, however, that Mr. Lloyd George has now promised the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to amend the Bill so as to extend the same protection to men also; and we are heartily glad that this is so. We have always believed that what raises the condition of women workers will raise the condition of men workers, but we confess that even we are surprised at the rapidity of the result in this instance. We have always believed, too, that what lowers the condition of women workers will

lower that of men workers, and in the face of the clear proof of the first principle we could wish that this other far more usual case were as readily understood and as eagerly acted upon by the men workers of the country.

Honours.

In time of war honours are to be won upon the field, but there are honours still among the arts of peace. There is splendid work still to be done and distinguished service still to be rendered in civil life, and we naturally look to our New Year List for the recognition of the honourable servants of the State. But this year, however, we look in vain, for in spite of the changes that the war has brought, there is still no honourable mention of the services of women, glorious and unprecedented though all the world knows them to have been in the year that is passed. Good work is not done for the sake of honours or rewards, and our great women are not less worthy of distinction because they do not receive it; but we wish that our country was more just and our honours list more generous.

"Woman's Year."

In an article under the above heading, the *Times* makes special mention of the success of "the women who undertook the comparatively new trade of welding for aeroplane work. In all the processes of aeroplane work, from the difficult mathematical problems arising out of specifications to the proofing and stitching of the sails, women have been efficient." It will be remembered that the training of women for acetylene-welding, at which they are doing so well, was started by the London Society of the National Union.

The writer adds a prophecy that the coming year may see women called to replace men in the higher branches of the Civil Service and in administrative posts for which their education and training fit them. "But whatever the new year holds in the way of prizes, it is safe to say that the ideal of useful service will be foremost in the minds of the majority of women."

The Rebellion of the Hausfrau.

"It is the testimony of everybody who has visited Germany lately that the women are responsible for the recent symptoms of unrest," says the Rotterdam correspondent of the *Telegraph*. "The women have led the disturbances everywhere, and their criticisms of the state of affairs are very bitter and outspoken. One reason for this is the remarkable change in the status of the German woman that has come about since the war. Before, in no country in the world did the axiom apply so strongly that the place of the woman is the home. Now the Government has had to call in the women to help to keep things going, and the result is a remarkable awakening. With their new-found national importance, the women of Germany, hitherto among the most docile in the world, are claiming their right to discuss and criticise the policy of their country."

Other neutral observers of this unrest, which shows itself chiefly in small local disturbances and riotous onsets upon shops, are inclined to see in it a deeper significance. It is the rebellion of the hausfrau, not of the "emancipated" woman. The hausfrau is at last beginning to realise, now that she is bereft of the men who used to lay down her opinions for her, that the "politics," which once seemed so remote and so exclusively her man's affair, are not beyond her competence, to realise their immediate bearing upon her home.

The Empty Workhouse.

It is pointed out, in an article in the *New Statesman*, that the able-bodied pauper has practically disappeared. "The army of 80,000 tramps has dwindled down to a few poor stragglers; the casual wards are often unoccupied night after night." It is not easy to assume that the employers who have taken this residue of the labour market are getting full value for the high wages which have tempted the tramp to leave the roads, nor to believe that want of skill will be made up for by zeal on the part of the "work-shy" ex-pauper. But it is satisfactory that the person for whom the workhouse was invented has almost (for the time being) disappeared. Most inmates of the workhouse have, in fact, been already removed. But, meantime, as the writer in the *New Statesman* points out, all the expensive machinery for dealing with pauperism is being maintained at full efficiency. The Poor Law system is in full swing and costing nearly as much (about £20,000,000) as ever, though able-bodied pauperism cannot be said to exist, though "Old-Age Pensioners, provision for the mentally defective, the infectious sick, neglected children, and the unemployed have all been successively taken out of the hands of the Poor Law guardians," whose duties are being performed by the Local Health Authority, the Local Education Authority, and other bodies. "We can no longer afford the money we waste on a Poor Law system that we have unwittingly duplicated," is the writer's conclusion.

Committee on War Pensions.

The names of the members of the Statutory Committee appointed under Sec. (2) of the Naval and Military War Pensions, &c., Act, 1915, have at last been made known to the public. The Committee consists of twelve nominees of the Crown, of whom two, Mrs. Sidney Webb and Miss Durham, are women; (it will be remembered that Miss Durham was recently appointed Chief Woman Inspector of Labour Exchanges and Unemployment Insurance Dept.); six nominees of the Patriotic Fund Corporation, of whom two, the Countess Roberts and Mrs. McKenna, are women; two nominees of the S. and S.F.A., of whom one, the Countess of March, is a woman; and seven nominees from the various State Departments.

In Memory of Sir George Scott Robertson.

In Sir George Scott Robertson, Liberal member for Central Bradford, who died on Tuesday last, Suffragists lament a good friend. He voted for every Bill for enfranchising women that has been brought in, and, although an adult Suffragist, would not oppose even the smallest extension of the franchise to women. As he said to one of our officials: "I do not like the Conciliation Bill, but shall vote for it on principle if I find there is no chance of my own views becoming law."

How We Kept Yuletide at Royaumont.

In the midst of war one lays stress, instinctively, on the pagan element of jollity in the Christmas festival, and here, at Royaumont, the older elements of Christmas were forced on us, naturally enough. The Abbaye Church is gone—destroyed in the revolution. But the Monks' Refectory remains, a mighty monument to an age when building was an art, and living a dignified occupation. Scarcely any imagination was needed to turn this huge Gothic hall into the feast room of some mediæval Norman castle. The French soldiers did their part, and we did ours. Their's was to decorate the entire building with greenery and huge branches of mistletoe. Each graceful pillar was entwined to its capitol—the rough line which shows where the oak wainscot was torn away (to decorate French salons) was softened with festoons of ivy. Then we had a Christmas tree such as is never seen in these niggling modern times. Its trunk was as thick as a boy's body, and its topmost branches waved within a couple of feet of the lofty vaulted ceiling. So great was it that we had to tear up the floor in order to plant it firmly in the soil beneath the building. A little party of almost convalescent soldiers decorated it, and a fairy tree they made of it. Our electricity, too, surpassed himself. Invisible wires stretched from every pillar, and temporary lamps lighted up our beautiful Refectory.

Then came our part. When the Hall was full on Christmas afternoon—almost every man in the hospital had been carried down, and there was a long row of scarlet-covered beds down one side of the building—and the fanfare of the Army bakers lent by their Commandant for the occasion, had blared forth a brassy welcome to our guests, one saw an empty throne. It was

draped in scarlet, heaped about with mistletoe, and glistening with Christmas frost. A broad aisle from the arched doorway led straight up to it between the rows of scarlet-jacketed patients. There were expectant murmurs of "Père Noël?"

Another blare from the trumpets announced the change from the twentieth century to the fourteenth. To the primitive music of drum and pipe, played by two solemn musicians dressed in scarlet tunic and hose, with stiff whitened locks cut short on their shoulders, entered Père Noël, who came in in dignified array, preceded by heralds, followed by pages, and with a sledge to carry his sacks of Christmas parcels. He himself was the traditional Father Christmas of all English Christmassing; but his pages were two tiny elves, and his sledge was drawn by a woodman, in tunic and peaked hood and hose, yoked with a real sledge dog. Father Christmas ascended his throne, the dog curled up in the snow beside the sledge; the woodman cut the strings of the sacks, and the musicians and heralds announced the giving of the presents, while the two tiny elves flitted among the delighted soldiers giving each one a substantial parcel. A warm garment to each man, and a souvenir of the hospital—pocket-book, tobacco-pouch, or purse. Then pipes and tobacco, and books, and nail scissors and pocket-knives and pencils and pocket-mirrors, and all the little trifles that the French *poilus* love to carry in their private satchels—and sweets!

Meanwhile a smoking concert, with an interval for tea and refreshments, was in progress; one item on the programme being an excellent little character sketch played by three of the soldiers themselves—the chief part taken by Tocheport, the man who, more than a month ago, was decorated in his bed with the coveted Médaille Militaire.

This over, the men returned to their wards, where a real English Christmas dinner awaited them. The turkeys were popular enough, but when the plum puddings made their dramatic entry, blazing and crowned with holly, their enthusiasm knew no bounds.

There was no doubt about our Christmas being a huge success. The men said they had never experienced anything like it. Their gratitude for the presents was especially touching, and their appreciation of the goodwill of the staff found expression, next day, in the presentation, amid the wildest cheering, of a most beautiful bouquet to Dr. Ivens, as representative of the Scottish Women's Hospitals as a whole, and as a personal tribute to her unflinching sympathy and care. V. C. C. C.

Interviews with Representative Women.

VI.—MISS ROBERTS, Matron of the N.U.W.S.S. Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia.

Miss Roberts, who is going out as matron with our Maternity Unit for Refugees in Russia, has had many varied experiences in her nursing career. During the South African War she nursed in Natal, and, since her return, has held various posts, having been for the past three years assistant matron of the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea. In February of last year she obtained six months' leave to go out with Lady Wimborne's Unit to Serbia: an experience which will be very valuable to her in taking up her new work.

Lady Wimborne's hospital was, Miss Roberts told me, an old Turkish fort. It was in a fine situation, on top of a hill at Skopljë (generally known by the Turkish name Uskub), and in some ways was well adapted to its purpose, having large, airy rooms and thick walls, which kept it warm in winter and cool in summer; but it had certain drawbacks, the chief being a lack of water. Every drop had to be brought up a steep hill from the river in bullock waggons, and every drop had to be boiled before it could be used. This shortage of water was a very serious matter in the early days, when the fort was being transferred into a hospital.

"The place was filthily dirty," said Miss Roberts, "and we had to turn to and clean it ourselves, as there were no char-women available to help. Serbian women mostly work in the fields, and housework, as we understand it, is quite unknown to them. So, much to the astonishment of the Serbs, we rolled up our sleeves and set to work to scrub and clean, assisted by some Austrian prisoners, who worked very well.

"At times the water question became acute. Not only did the economy we were obliged to observe hinder cleaning operations, but a strange flavour of cresol spoiled the tea, which we relied on to fortify us after our toils. After enduring this for a day or two we went into matters, and found that barrels were being used which had contained that highly useful mixture—so excellent as a disinfectant but unpleasant as a beverage.

"The scrubbing was followed by copious white-washing—hard work, but we made a joke of it, and were very proud of the results. Then came the unpacking and sorting of stores, of which we had over a thousand bales and packing-cases, the putting up of beds, and so forth. Only those who have had no experience can realise the amount of work entailed, but everything was ready in a week.

"We arranged an excellent operating theatre. Each sister had two or three wards to look after, and, working under her, women and men orderlies. Also in each ward was an Austrian prisoner to do odd jobs, and very well they did them. I think, when we left, we were quite as sorry to say 'Good-bye' to the Austrians as the Serbs.

"For some time we had a very strenuous life. Patients were constantly coming in—most of them in a terrible state—and we used to operate nearly all day, and sometimes far into the night. We were short-handed, as some of our nurses had been lent to a large typhus hospital near, where they were very badly needed, as so many doctors and nurses were down with that horrible disease. Many of us got relapsing fever, too, which makes one feel very wretched. I had it three times.

"All day long we heard the very beautiful Serbian 'Dead March,' as some officer or doctor was taken to his last resting-place. The soldiers and Austrians also died in great numbers, and at times the tragedy of it all seemed more than one could bear.

"The Serbs make delightful patients, once cured of their unpleasant habit of spitting. They are very like big children. Often after being scolded for some slight offence, one would find a man with the sheet over his face, or lying with his face to the wall, sulking like a naughty child; but a pat on the shoulder and a cheerful 'dobro' (good) from Sister, and he would be all smiles again. Most of them made a good deal

Sir John Rhys and the Oxford Women's Suffrage Society.

The O.W.S.S. has sustained a severe loss by the death of its most valued and kindly President, the Right Hon. Sir John Rhys, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., Principal of Jesus College, Professor of Celtic, Privy Councillor.

At the foundation of our Society, in 1904, he accepted the

position of Vice-President, whilst his eldest daughter gave unstinted pains to the office of Secretary. On the death of Dr. Edward Caird, in the autumn of 1908, Sir John became our President. Both before and after that date he has always proved his readiness to help the cause, in which he strongly believed, in any and every way. The beautiful Lodgings at Jesus College were always at the service of the O.W.S.S., whether for business or for propaganda meetings.

The latter generally took the pleasant form of garden teas; once, in this way, a meeting was given for University Extension Students; once the annual meeting for members was held in the fine drawing-room, and often have special meetings for members met there for the discussion of the internal affairs of our Society. On May-day, 1909, the Principal and his daughters took a large share in the entertainment of foreign delegates of the International Suffragists' Alliance.

of noise over the dressing of their wounds, but that is not to be wondered at, as some of them were terrible."

It was with much regret that Miss Roberts left Serbia, when, after nearly six months' work, it was decided to send the Unit home, as several members could not be spared from their work in England longer.

"It will be a great change for you," I suggested, "going out this time with a Maternity Unit, after your experiences in military hospitals."

"Our work in Serbia was not only for men," Miss Roberts replied. "We were begged to take in women and children as well, as there were so few doctors for the civil population, and this we were delighted to do. We fitted up a nice ward for them, and did what we could. A great many children came for treatment, quite a number suffering, like English children, from tubercular disease. It was difficult, with our small knowledge of the language, to make the mothers understand what we wanted them to do, but it is wonderful what one can accomplish with a few words from three or four different tongues, and I think they did their best to carry out our instructions.

"Among our women patients was a dear little Roumanian, who was a great favourite, as, although she was suffering from an incurable cancer, she was always so cheerful. We used to meet her sometimes when out, and she always used to kiss our hands in the charming Serbian fashion, and was grateful for anything we could do for her.

"Another patient was an old gipsy, with a squint, who used to smoke all day. She used to tell our fortunes by cards through an interpreter, speaking an odd sort of jargon of which we did not know a word. I am glad to say she left the hospital cured.

"I am looking forward very much to my new experience—except that I dread the cold—though I shall be sorry, too, to leave the little ones here."

Sir John Rhys's intimacy with other prominent Liberals was of great advantage to the O.W.S.S. It was through his kindness that a visit from Lord Haldane was arranged to speak at a large meeting on March 9th, 1912. When the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, stayed at Christ Church,

a stronghold of anti-Suffragism and indifference, a deputation to him on the subject of Women's Suffrage was introduced by Sir John (November 22nd, 1913), and earlier in the same year a deputation to a prospective Liberal candidate was received in his Lodgings at Jesus College.

When the Pilgrimage of 1913 halted and passed through Oxford, our President assembled, with other members of our Society, at the Martyrs'

Memorial, at 9.30, July 19th, and accompanied the procession along High Street and to the outskirts of the city. The illustration shows him, a slight figure, in spats and with an umbrella, at the farther side of Magdalen Bridge.

We mourn, not only for his daughters' grief, but for ourselves and our Cause, at the loss of so distinguished and ready a champion.

J. P. MARGOLIOUTH.



Reviews.

In an article in the FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW, entitled "Economics and War," Mr. J. A. R. Marriott makes a survey of the production of armaments since March 17th, when Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Runciman met a number of representative Trade Unionists and appealed to them to relax their customary restrictions, while they announced the intention of the Government to impose a limitation of profits, "with a view to securing that benefit resulting from the relaxation of trade restrictions or practices shall accrue to the State." The subsequent raising of the income-tax, in Mr. McKenna's budget, and of super-tax, and the "excess profits" tax of 50 per cent. "at last went some way to convince manual workers that they were not temporarily relinquishing their cherished rules in the interests of capitalists." In the writer's opinion, the incentive to swift output of quantity, in munition work, is ample; but the price of munitions, according to a recent statement in the House of Commons, has trebled; and the increased cost is a serious question. The rise in wages has also been one cause of the rapid rise in the cost of commodities. "In normal times an increase of price tends to diminish consumption. No such phenomenon is noticeable to-day. The inference is obvious"—there is more money to spend, and "the economic disadvantage of high wages," is yet increased by the disinclination of wage-earners to lend their surplus earnings to the State. In "Leaves from a Ruhleben Notebook," Mr. Francis Gribble gives an account of the transformation of a German gaol into an English colony. The English, in his opinion, came best out of a very trying ordeal, and those who were least English and "most indebted for their education to German culture," were the least adaptable. As to the classes among the interned, who "produced the greatest proportion of Mark Tapleys," Mr. Gribble thinks that the sportsmen and the scholars came first. Thanks to the latter, "Ruhleben became almost a university town, with elementary and secondary schools to feed the university." The tradesmen and merchants seemed to suffer more than any class from the discomforts and strain of prison life, but some among them found a refuge from despair in learning a new language. He concludes, that in spite of the energy with which the prisoners make the best of it "the job remains a bad one," especially bad for those who have little money and no parcels from home. In another article, "Five Months on the Italian Front," Mr. Julius M. Price gives a sketch of life in a country usually strictly forbidden to journalists. Some of the hardest work is done by peasant women; long strings of them plodding up the steep, rocky way, carrying baskets full of coils of barbed wire, each coil weighing about 40 kilos, for a payment of about fourteen pence a day and their food. What impressed Mr. Price most was "the entire absence of the horrors of war"; the Italians are consolidating their gains by winning the good-will of the inhabitants everywhere.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN (Evans Bros., Ltd., Sardinia House, 15.). In "Problems of the Day" the question of teaching handicrafts to partially disabled soldiers is discussed, and the importance emphasised of starting this training before the man has lost courage or acquired "work-shy" habits. Very successful experiments have been made in this direction, notably the scheme for training blind men at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park. It is suggested that if a disabled soldier has made a good beginning in the elements of a handicraft at which he is likely to earn even a partially self-supporting wage, the Pension Authority should be willing to help him to become proficient, even though it has not set up any machinery of its own in the way of classes and grants. "If it waits till the soldier clamours to be taught a trade, it will wait for ever; whatever military discipline teaches, it does not induce any kind of impatience with delay, or any propensity to look ahead and make plans for future years. If we acquiesce in a refusal of training now because a man can get work without it, we shall have to agree to a lack of training later, on the plea that no work is obtainable for discharged soldiers, trained or untrained. If we begin now we shall still have begun eighteen months late. There is no duty more plain and less admitting of delay."

Mrs. Fawcett writes a message of hope for the future of the Women's Movement. "Women," she says, "have not worked as they have during the last seventeen months with any ulterior aim of winning thereby their own claim to citizenship. They have worked for their country from the strongest of all motives, love for her. But men and women, when the end of the war comes, will feel that they have each borne a part in a titanic struggle; they have been 'up against the real thing,' life and death, heroic self-sacrifice for all we hold most dear; and I believe that the nation will realise, as it never has before, that the women of the country are worthy to be recognised as free, self-governing citizens."

Other articles in this month's issue are: "The Ethics of 'Nationalism,'" by G. H. Powell; "Women's Institutes in Canada," by the Viscountess Wolsey; "Mary Slessor (1849-1915)," by D. M. Ford; "Feminism in Greek Literature" (X), by Frederick A. Wright; and "Practical Guidance in Elementary Girls' Schools," by T. La Chard.

A VOICE FROM INDIA. (Temple of Service, London, N.W.) INDIA. ("India" Newspaper Co., Ltd., Westminster, 3d.)

The Christmas and New Year double number of *A Voice from India* is the third issue of this new publication which has, as its avowed object, to bring before the English-speaking world India and all that India implies. Such a revelation is of inestimable value to thoughtful people who realise the great potentialities of this important part of our Empire; and in these beautifully printed pages, columns

full of melodious writing, verses of great sweetness, and articles on a variety of subjects—some in the blunter, more matter-of-fact manner of the West—are gathered together. Kipling's doctrine would seem to be denied, for East and West meet in this paper with every sign of harmony, and the very difference of the styles proves how useful may be such a venture as this. But, as we read of Islam, of the Gospel of Buddha, of the Bahai Movement, full as they are of vague beauty, the thought recurs that this presentment of the soul of India somehow falls short.

The weekly paper *India* presents a contrast to the above, being a pre-eminently business-like production with terse reports of affairs relating to India. The speeches at the Indian National Congress as here reported are much to the point and give a different aspect of the Indian character than we might have been led to expect from other literature. One point to us is clear. The future of India will depend largely on the status of the women who, in spite of high ideals of motherhood are, generally speaking, in a state of complete subjection. It is through the women of the West that their liberation must come.

THE WOMAN WORKER. (National Labour Press, Ltd., London and Manchester, 1d. monthly.)

With the beginning of the year *The Woman Worker* has entered on a new series, and wisely points out the necessity that women must combine if they are to be effective. Miss Mary Macarthur contributes an instructive article on *Women in Munition Work*, and Miss Susan Lawrence writes on *Rent and the Workers*. There are also various items of news of peculiar interest to women trade unionists, for whom the paper is mainly intended.

THE MOTHER'S MAGAZINE. (*The Daily Chronicle*, 3d. monthly.)

This is a distinct advance on the former papers devoted to women's (supposed) interests. Besides useful domestic articles, the January number includes contributions from the Lord Mayor of London, Dr. Saleby, and Miss Clementina Black. The last writes on *A Fair Day's Work for a Fair Day's Wage*, and points out the false economy of under-payment to the community at large.

THE LABOUR WOMAN (National Women's Labour League, 3d.) contains an article on "Women and Drunkenness," maintaining that the need of better homes is the predominant cause of drunkenness; "Women in Munition Works," by Marion Phillips, D.Sc.; "The Worker's Children," and other articles.

FOUR MATERNITY BOOKLETS. (Women's Co-operative Guild, 1d. each.)

These exceedingly useful little books deal with matters relating to maternity work, and give information as to *Maternity Centres*, *Notification of Births and Health Visitors*, *Maternity Committees*, and a wise selection for *Home Helps*. Any who are interested in this important social work will find these booklets of much value.

Correspondence.

THE UNDERPAYMENT OF WOMEN.

MADAM,—I do not think the Phantom Lover is the main cause of women's underpayment, though he may contribute to it. The real husband is more to blame; but the women themselves are responsible. The truth is that women are paid less than men for the same work, because they are willing to do it for less. They are willing to do it for less because, first, they are not making their whole livelihood—that is where the possession of a husband brings down their standard; secondly, because they are more patient than men, and really can live on less.

It is difficult to realise the amount of harm that is being done in our great towns by this very widely spread underpayment of women. It depresses the whole labour market; it robs women of the health and strength which should be employed in building up the next generation; it deprives widows' children of their mothers' care, and does not give them in return even enough to eat. I have never been able to understand the acquiescence of working men in women's low wages, which, indeed, they help to keep down by barring women out of so many well-paid trades. The result is a pool of underpaid unskilled labour, which is at the disposal of employers as soon as machines can be invented to utilise it. A man who would be ashamed to take less than his Trade Union rate himself, will let his wife go to work for a most miserable wage, and never see there is any harm in it. If they both must work, he should try and raise her in the labour world, and not beat her down.

Men are not conscious of doing this, and yet it is a result of their action. They do all they can to prevent women becoming skilled workmen. Yet if a woman is to work, it is far better she should work as a skilled workman, than an unskilled. It is far better she should work in the same trade as her husband and brothers, be a member of their union, have their support in making terms with those who employ her. Every man would agree if he was thinking of his own wife or his own sister. The trouble is, they just think of women—women as creatures weaker than themselves and, therefore, rather contemptible.

MAUD SELBORNE.

PROPOSED SUFFRAGE DEMONSTRATION.

MADAM,—Your comment on my letter, published in your issue of December 10th, was that you did not know what was in my mind. For not making myself clear I apologise. What I hoped to convey was that the N.U., as a society, should join the Suffrage Demonstration which it is proposed should take place in London in March. In its large membership the chief strength of the N.U. lies. If that strength is not fairly represented the Government will have a large body of women to hide behind. To put it more clearly—this body of women in the N.U., in refusing to join the Demonstration of British Suffragists, will have failed to show the Government and the country the pressing demand for the enfranchisement of women and the great force by which it is backed. Waiting to hear more definitely re Demonstration delayed my reply.

VIOLET CAUSTON.

Indian Women's War Work.

Two reports have just been issued by Lady Willingdon, wife of the Governor of Bombay, of the excellent work done by the Women's Branch of the Bombay Presidency War and Relief Fund on behalf of the Red Cross, and in sending comforts to the troops. Lady Willingdon has formed a Committee representing the chief communities of Bombay, the four honorary secretaries being Mrs. Stanley Reed, on behalf of English women; Mrs. J. B. Petit, representing the Parsees; Dilohad Begum, the Mohammedan ladies; and Mrs. Sirur, the Hindus. The work has been highly appreciated both by officers and men, and has brought about a much better understanding between English and Indian women than has ever existed before.

"The principle on which the branch has worked from the commencement," says Lady Willingdon, "is to undertake whatever is required of it. This brought within its scope an extraordinary variety of work."

"In the early days activity was concentrated on providing the St. John's Ambulance Association with material for their ten-bed units for France, and we furnished their depot in Bombay with 49,000 articles for this purpose. Later work was concentrated under six heads, namely, the Lady Hardinge Hospital in Bombay, the Ambulance Trains, the Bombay Presidency Hospital at Alexandria, 'comforts' for the troops, clothing for the wives and children of men going to the front, and the provision of Red Cross bags." The last contain a complete outfit, tobacco, and little comforts for soldiers returning from the front sick or wounded.

A SPIRIT OF SERVICE.

Lady Willingdon pays a high tribute to the great band of workers who have helped. "A spirit of service and sacrifice is abroad," she writes, "permeating every part of the Presidency and animating every community."

Among the reports from local branches are some striking proofs of the women's loyal desire to help. An Indian lady, living forty miles from the railway line, gathered together seventy of her friends and relations, made a spirited speech in Marhati, and collected from them 500 rupees. At a meeting at Jutpur—the first meeting for women ever held there—several ladies not only spoke with fervour of the happiness and prosperity they enjoyed under British rule, but expressed the hope that women would remember this in their daily devotions.

The children, too, are anxious to do their share. "Many little children on all side," says the Report, "seem most eager to do something to help. They wanted to give their toys, any money they possessed, or could have, for presents for the soldiers' and sailors' children, or for the war."

"OUR BRITISH."

The mother of a little Parsee boy writes: "My little boy has only five rupees in his collection box. He is most eager to send it for the Children's Fund. But he is most particular about the use of his money, and bids me tell you to give it all to our soldiers or their children, and not use a single pie of it for the Germans."

Another little boy writes: "I want to help you much, but I have only a few toys to send; but I pray every day that our British may gain the victory."

TIDY WORK FOR THE "GREAT WAR."

In the girls' schools quite a quantity of needlework for the hospitals has been undertaken. "The smaller workers feel most proud to do their share of khaki handkerchiefs and check dusters, and most careful they are to put in their very best stitches in the little hems they sew, lest the work for the Great War be not tidily done," as one little woman of nine expressed it. When they come to hear of any work being urgently needed they beg off the afternoon from lessons to be able to give the work in time."

AN INDIAN WOMAN POET.

The new spirit of Indian women is expressed in a poem by Sarojini Naidu, contributed to the Report of the Ladies' Relief Association:—

"Is there aught you need that my hands withhold?
Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?
Lo, I have hung to the East and West
Precious treasures torn from my breast.
And yielded the sons of my stricken womb
To the drum-beats of duty, the sabres of doom.

Can ye measure the grief of the tears I weep,
Or compass the woe of the watch I keep,
Or the pride that thrills through my heart's despair,
And the hope that comforts, the anguish of prayer?
And the far, sad, glorious vision I see
Of the torn red banners of victory?"

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all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post
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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.

Replanning Our Lives.

Last autumn a significant statement was made in the House of Commons by the Financial Secretary of the Treasury. Speaking upon the financial position, he said that an unparalleled effort would have to be made, and that every citizen must be prepared to yield up half his income, in the shape of loan or taxes, to the State. Even if this is taken to mean that half the nation's income must be made available for needs which have hitherto been chiefly met by drawing upon the great reservoirs of capital, the words apply to us all in two senses—we must cut down our spendings to the lowest limit so as to fill the State money-box; and we must cut down our wants, because the workers are all needed. The nation wants their time and skill in the present emergency.

These two things taken together mean nothing less than a social revolution.

Economist Ministers are telling us plainly that nothing less than "breaking up the scheme" of things is involved; that we must readjust the social order to the changed conditions.

Even if we are not historical students, we know that this is not the first time in the world's history that a great national readjustment has had to be made, or if it has not been made, an upheaval has followed. We remember the upheaval that followed the awful calamity of the Black Death; it shook the foundations of the social structure of Europe; and again we remember that the Revolution of 1789 meant a complete breaking up of the scheme of eighteenth century life. Each time it was a very painful and costly business; but it is for us to remember that the chief cause of the suffering was disinclination or inability to grapple in time with the problems as a whole. The usual method, in almost all upheavals that we know about, was to cling to the very last to the old grooves, to keep on "as usual" as long as possible, and then all the inevitable changes had to be made all at once and all together, so that they caused the utmost inconvenience and suffering and dislocation of the national life. Slowly things "righted themselves," as we say, through a number of expedients and experiments. We have come through crises very much as valleys may be said to have come through floods, before modern engineering brought science to bear on the problems of storm-water and drainage; hardly understanding what is happening, and unable at the time to realise either gains or losses.

But to-day we have developed national consciousness. We know what a complex effort it is that lies ahead of us; we know that our problem is one of life and death; and in all our hearts is the wish to put out all our strength for our national existence and our freedom. The only question is: How to do this.

A number of writers have kindly consented to give THE COMMON CAUSE their views of how to alter our scheme of living with the minimum of injury to others, and so to put a much larger part of our incomes at the service of the State. In this stock-taking of our resources, and replanning of our lives, it is hoped the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will contribute their share. For in these things there can hardly be said to be expert opinion available; it is only by the co-operation of all men and women of good will that we can hope to find any solution of the problem which is going to press so heavily upon us all, yet which must be met in so many different ways that hard and fast rules cannot be laid down for general guidance. How, in the New Year, will you set about doing your share?

The War, Money, and Self-Denial.

(By A GOLDMINER.)

I have been asked by THE COMMON CAUSE if I am prepared, while the war lasts, to live on half my income, and lend the other half to my country.

Of course I am. As a matter of fact, being well off, and a bachelor, I am one of those who are able to do more than the average. Before the war I lived in the West End, and spent £5 a day. Now I live in Brixton, and spend 5s. a day; and am giving—not lending—nine-tenths of my income to the country. It sounds heroic, but to me it is no more than ordinary precaution. I know Germany well. I realise our economic position quite clearly. This war has become a struggle between our money and Germany's men. Unless our people wake up to this fact, and meet it, we shall not last through; and when I consider this, my self-denial seems a very small and ordinary thing indeed.

We need not go into figures. They have recently been put to readers of this paper just as lucidly and authoritatively as they can be put. We are spending five millions a day. Against this we are raising by taxation just over one million a day. Up to the present we have met the balance out of our capital lying in the banks; but we are nearly at the end of these savings now. A man who earns one shilling a day and spends five soon reaches the bankruptcy court. A nation which raises one million a day and spends five is going in precisely the same direction.

What is to be Done?

Suppose we restate the problem this way:—

"Money has become the vital weapon in the war. The people who must provide the money—hitherto described as non-combatants—are fighting just as truly as the soldiers. They must consider themselves as upon their honour, just the same way as the soldiers do."

The ignorance of our people about their duty to provide the money is almost ludicrous, but I find four out of five are receptive of argument and anxious to do their share. The appeal to their honour is the one and only appeal; and I confine my efforts to the well-to-do, who have the surplus, rather than to the poor, who often have not.

Before we can Win the War.

There are only a few who grasp the thing all at once. There are only a few who realise they are up against stark reality. Nearly everyone among the well-to-do classes will undertake a polite, amateurish sort of saving—a saving of 5 or 10 per cent.

Women's Agricultural Institutes.

A TRAINING FOR COUNTRY LIFE.

There is no doubt that small-holdings in this country might be more profitable if there were better facilities for women to learn poultry keeping, bee keeping, fruit and vegetable growing, and other branches of farm work, and if more were done to arouse an intelligent interest in improved methods. In Canada, Belgium, and the United States a great impetus has been given to rural education by the formation of women's institutes. These serve not only as centres for organised classes and local competitions, but also as social clubs, which do much to bring the different classes of the community into closer touch, and help to make country life much brighter.

Checking Rural Depopulation.

An interesting description of the work of such institutes in British Columbia is contained in an appendix to the Report of the Agricultural Education Conference, lately issued. It is furnished by Mrs. Watts, Secretary of the Advisory Board of Women to the Department of Agriculture in British Columbia. In this province, Mrs. Watts explains, there had been a very marked exodus from country districts to towns, and to check this the Government had initiated farmers' institutes, which had done much to encourage co-operation and raise the status of agriculture. It was found, however, that the tendency to move into the towns was due to a large extent to the women, who were not content with country life, with its isolation and dearth of social intercourse, and persuaded the men to leave their farms. This discontent of the women was caused partly, too, by the inconvenience of their homes, the want of employment for the younger women of the family, and the feeling that the

children did not get the same opportunities as children in the cities. It was therefore felt that some sort of organisation among women was necessary, in order to improve the conditions of rural life, and make them more attractive.

For this purpose women's institutes were started under the auspices of the Government. The planning and much of the executive work is done by an Advisory Board of four women drawn from different parts of the province, who confer together from time to time and make recommendations to the Government. By this means the Government is able to learn the requirements of the women of the province, and plans can be worked out to suit the conditions of different districts.

The women's institutes are under the same superintendent (who is also Deputy Minister of Agriculture) as the farmers' institutes, but there is very little supervision; each organisation being left to work out its own plans, provided that the money is spent in accordance with certain definite aims and objects.

Improving the Home.

These aims are, to help to develop agriculture in the province, to organise competitions and exhibitions of women's work and special educational facilities, and generally aid in all matters that are necessary to raise the standard of rural living. An endeavour is made to educate the women in subjects which help them to improve their homes, such as labour-saving devices, dressmaking, and other branches of domestic economy. Lectures and demonstrations are given, and women are encouraged to relate their own experiences, write essays, and so forth, so that they may prove their interest in their work.

The Government of British Columbia pay the institutes 2s. a year for each member. They also pay the secretary of the branch organisation, and all the demonstrators and lecturers, but the institute has to provide all the material used for the demonstrations. Instruction is usually free to members of the institute, who pay 2s. a year as membership fee.

An important feature of the institutes are the monthly meetings, at which members contribute papers on different subjects, and discussions take place. The institutes also aim at getting the schools in the country districts to include in their curriculum subjects which will help in the development of country life, at improving the sanitary conditions and furnishing of schools, and generally at making them more pleasant and profitable to the country child.

Advantages of Co-operation.

Encouragement is given to co-operation; the women being helped to co-operate wherever possible for purposes of buying and selling. A great deal of time is sometimes wasted by small farmers and their wives in going to market for quite small sales and purchases which might well be effected by one person acting for several others, but they are slow to combine. Co-operative jam factories and creameries have been established in some districts, and small industries for women and girls have been started.

Last, but not least, there is the social side of the institutes, their meetings often being the only gatherings for women in the province. Among other activities they help to furnish club rooms and libraries, and to provide entertainments, and in many indirect ways stimulate social intercourse among members. They have had a powerful effect in interesting women in rural life, and in making them think and plan for themselves. New-comers are always welcomed, and the sociable life of the institutes helps them to feel at home and settle down comfortably.

Raising the Standard of the Community.

Speaking of the results of the movement, Mrs. Watts said that whereas agriculture in the provinces was at one time stagnant it is now prosperous, and that this is partly due to the women's institutes. The movement has banded together the people of suburban areas and farming communities with ties of a common interest, such as the development of their country and the improvement of the conditions under which they have to bring up their children. It has also developed a social life which has made a great difference in the comfort and pleasure of the women, so that they are less desirous of migrating to the towns. The conditions of home-life have also been improved. At one time the homes were very inconvenient, but the introduction of modern systems of housekeeping, labour-saving appliances, &c., has raised the whole standard of life of the community. The women have now more time to devote to their children and to helping their husbands on the farm, and for a little recreation as well.

The system of women's institutes is working so successfully in British Columbia, said Mrs. Watts, that it will probably be copied in the other provinces, as it has already been in the United States, Belgium, and Denmark. There seems no reason why it should not be developed with great advantage in this country, too, if capable and energetic women will organise it. At present, there is little chance of the Government taking the initiative.

Maternity and Relief Unit for Refugees in Russia.

It is possible this week to give fuller details of the future work of our first unit. As has already been stated, its destination is to be Petrograd. In some ways this is a disappointment, for, great as the need is there, it must inevitably be greater where there are fewer resources; but invaluable experience will be gained of the language, kind of work, and general conditions which will make further developments of our scheme more possible. The language, Miss Moberly says, is "a real difficulty, nothing but Russian appears to carry one anywhere at all, even in Petrograd."

Our Unit is recognised by the Russian Red Cross, and is immediately under the Tatiana Committee, which will provide us with buildings, give a grant towards their equipment, and a certain grant per month for upkeep. Considering the great strain which must be put upon the resources of the Committee by the huge numbers that have to be fed and housed, we may regard this grant as a generous recognition of the value of our scheme and a cordial acceptance of our co-operation.

Both Miss Moberly and Miss Thurstan have visited some of the "baraks" in which the refugees are housed. They are of the roughest construction, something like large barns, with a scaffolding making a second storey, and are naturally extremely dark. In connection with a group of "baraks" is a feeding station to which the people go for their meals, and where the ladies of the English colony help in turn. Miss Thurstan says about 1,600 per day are fed at the one she visited. Three meals are given—in the morning soup, in the afternoon "kasha" (grain porridge) and black bread, and in the evening tea and bread. But many of the refugees are too ill to go out to the feeding centre. "It badly needs a district nurse to go round," says Miss Thurstan; "they have no one at present"; and she describes several cases which she actually saw, which simple medical attention would have alleviated. "On one bed there was a little baby dying, another sickly little girl with sore eyes, another child with its ears discharging, a woman with bronchitis, too ill to go to the feeding station, and so on."

The barak destined for the National Union Unit is next to the feeding centre. It will be arranged for sixteen beds, with operating theatre, kitchen, and doctor's room; but, unfortunately, there is no large room where out-patients could be seen. Miss Moberly hopes, however, to arrange for this somehow. So great is the difficulty of accommodation that she has cabled to us to send none but the professional members of the Unit at present. Her subsequent letter tells us that there is ample scope for the other workers (she herself is longing for work-rooms and kindergartens), but there is literally no means of housing them.

The prime need is for trained medical and nursing assistance, which alone can be expected to make headway against the conditions inevitable among thousands of refugees. So far, no baby born in a barak has lived for more than a few days. We are sending large stores of milk foods, and shall be glad of as much as we can get, for all accounts agree that milk is practically unobtainable.

The lack of space is a severe handicap, for there is already infectious disease, which is likely to increase during the spring. It is at least one step to have the possibility of taking the maternity cases out of immediate contact with infection.

Though there are many details on which we still urgently need information, yet Miss Moberly's masterly and interesting survey of the situation is most enlightening, and leaves us without any doubt as to the welcome which the Unit will receive. Indeed, we expect soon to receive the call for "more Units."

The urgent need for this new work being now more than ever apparent, we do not hesitate to press it upon the notice of our friends. Instant help will be doubly valuable. We are already cheered by the reception given to our first appeal, but if we collect the first £5,000 in record time the lives and health of many hundreds of women and babies may be saved. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

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Latest News from Our Serbian Units.

The following letter from Dr. Elsie Inglis is dated November 30th:—

"We are told we may send letters home—open, of course; so this is to tell the Committee that Dr. Holway's Unit and mine are working here in the Serbian Military Hospital. Dr. Hutchison's Unit is at Vrnatskabania, and Dr. MacGregor's went southward—possibly you may have heard from her. Some of our people also left with Mr. Smith.

"I am sure the Committee would approve of our work here. We have charge of the 'Magazine,' where the overflow of patients from the hospital are taken—about 300 wounded. (There are 900 altogether.) We are working in the dressing-rooms, and certain wards in the hospital—and the Director has put all the sanitation and laundry-work into our hands. We live in the hospital. There are two rooms given to us.

"On the whole, we have been extraordinarily well: Matron has had influenza, but it has not spread at all.

"I forgot, in talking of our work, to say we have also charge of the little infectious diseases hospital, under Dr. Bofha. Dr. MacDougal and two sisters live over there.

"This is just a bare report for the Committee. I cannot tell you what our next move will be. At present the prisoners are being sent through in thousands. They stay in the hospital grounds, and leave their sick and wounded here, and pass on northward.

"The Committee must not worry about us. We are well and very busy—and doing the work the Committee sent us out to do."

A GERMAN WAR CORRESPONDENT'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE SCOTTISH NURSES.

The Volkszeitung, of Leipzig, contains a very appreciative account, by Dr. Adolf Köster, of some members of our Serbian Unit, whom he met in the interior of Serbia. This account is reproduced in the Morning Post, of January 5th. With true German kultur, Dr. Köster criticises the nurses' hats, which he finds "utterly devoid of taste" (!); but otherwise he has nothing but praise for them. Writing from Krusevac, on December 13th, he says:—

"When we came across them at the cold railway station they were on the way to Krusevac, where they were to learn what decision respecting them had been arrived at by the conquerors. There were four lady-doctors among them, and they all belonged to the Scottish Women's Mission. . . . I was afraid to address them with a complimentary remark, for at the first glance they seemed to be so very forbidding. They walked up and down the platform as if they were at Ipswich or Richmond; they made their tea in the station kitchen among the men of our Railway Brigade, and then they sat on their luggage and looked at us keenly, though not impudently."

He then relates that one of the women doctors asked him if he could help her to recover the bacilli that she had cultivated during the typhus epidemic, and which had been lost during the retreat. She had actually, it seems, discovered that the typhus which ravaged Serbia was of quite a different kind from that which is known throughout the rest of Europe, and the cultures were therefore of great value. Dr. Köster continued:—

"Another of the lady-doctors had studied at Marburg University. This one offered me tea from a little basket, such as is handed into the trains at English railway stations. She talked about the misery caused by the war, and we also discussed the life at Marburg. . . . There was no light in the station, and we gathered round a candle-end that flickered on a packing-case, and waited. Finally, we climbed into the cold, dark, narrow railway carriages, in which we were dragged to Krusevac."

DEVOTION OF AUSTRIAN PRISONERS.

Mr. Arnold Bennett, in the Westminster Gazette, tells the following story of the devotion of the Austrian prisoners to the British nurses, which was related to him by a member of a unit sent out by the Wounded Allies Relief Committee:—

"When the hospital had to be closed, and the nursing staff was to go on to new work at Kragujevatz, the Austrian prisoners broke down and cried. They exclaimed that the British mission had saved them, and that they loved everybody in it. 'Ah,' said Nurse Kettle, with cautious incredulity, 'you talk like that now, but if rifles were put into your hands you would shoot us like you would shoot anybody else.'

"This the soldiers indignantly denied. 'If you leave us we are lost,' they exclaimed."

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Table listing donors and amounts for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes entries like 'Forward as per list of December 23rd, 1915', 'Ware Grammar School for Girls', 'Miss Palethorpe', etc.

Table listing donors and amounts for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes entries like 'from the Matron and Nurses of Robey V.A.D. Hospital', 'Sabbath School of St. Mary's', 'United Free Church, St. Andrews', etc.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully acknowledge further subscriptions to carry on the work.

Table titled 'FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.' listing various beds and donors. Includes 'Glasgow College of Domestic Science', 'Paisley North District', 'Brechin High School', etc.

LABOUR-SAVING IN THE HOME. Owing to the scarcity of servants and the necessity for economy in all households, it is the duty of every housewife to make herself acquainted with the best labour-saving devices...

Advertisement for 'The Nurses' Outfitting Association, Ltd.' featuring an illustration of a nurse in uniform and text describing their services in making uniforms.

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Clothes for Russian and Polish Refugees. Miss Evelyn Bunting, of the London Society, has engaged the interest of the members of her Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives' Club to make useful garments for the Polish Refugees...

The Chelsea Branch of the London Society is getting up an enterprising little entertainment to amuse holiday children and to raise funds for Women's Service.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL. TIPPERY CLUB, St. Paul's Schools, Seacombe. The above Society, which was started last year, opened again on November 11th.

PATRIOTIC HOUSEKEEPING EXHIBITION.—This was opened on November 20th at the Presbyterian Hall, Seacombe, by the Mayor of Wallasey...

THE INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP. Miss A. Maude Royden has kindly promised to lecture on Dostoevski, the Russian Shakespeare, at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand...

Norwich.

Will members of the Norwich Society, who are anxious to join Study Circles, kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary, as several are now in the course of formation?

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS. JANUARY 13. Bridgnorth.—Meeting in aid of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals will be held in St. Mary's Parish Room...

WORKING PARTIES. Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48a, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals...

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

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals...

Wakefield—The Laurels, St. John's North—Sewing Party. Every Wednesday, 2.30-6.0 and 7.0-8.0.

A War Time Intercession Service (arranged by the C.L.W.S.) will be held on January 8th, at 3 p.m., in Southwark Cathedral—Preacher, The Lord Bishop of Lichfield.

BURBERRY WAR BARGAINS. Burberry's annual half-price sale of every sort of tailored garment, that either sex requires for out-door purposes, opened on January 1st...

attractive opportunities: they are conditions precedent to the acquisition of many things, which, before the war, were regarded as indispensable rudiments of life.

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Ten words, 6d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ESOTERIC LECTURES by SUFI INAYAT KHAM, every Tuesday at 5, and Sundays at 6 p.m. Admission free. All are welcome at 86, Ladbroke-rd. (close to Holland-pk. Tube Station). Further particulars, Miss Mary Williams, as above.

MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN—Lecture on Dostoevski, the Russian Shakespeare, at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-st., Strand, Thursday, January 13th, 7.30 p.m. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s., from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-st., Adelphi, W.C.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ADVERTISING WOMEN.

MEETING, at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen-st., W.C., on Monday, January 17th, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. ANNIE SWAN. A cordial invitation is extended to all business women, and those interested in advertising. Admission free. The Secretary, A.A.W., at 154, Clerkenwell-rd., will be glad to hear from those desiring to attend.

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