# The Common Cause

# OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.]

Societies and Branches in the Union 524.

**INON-PARTY.** 

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# Notes and News.

#### The War Census.

The work of distributing Registration forms began on Monday, August 9th. The work is done by thousands of voluntary helpers, mostly women, who visit every house and tenement in their allotted districts. Barges, boats, caravans, and tents are not overlooked, and a memorandum is made of the name, address, and sex of every person for whom a form is left. The collection of the forms will be finished (it is expected) by August 21st.

Then begins the preliminary process of verification, by comparing the entries with those made by the distributors in their note-books, the "males" will be sorted out, and the "females" —the forms for women and girls—will be set aside until the former have been dealt with.

#### "Second Occupations."

The most perplexing part of the War Census will probably be the correct filling in of the answer to the question "in what second occupation, if any," the writer is skilled. "What the registration authority wants to know," says a London representative of The Manchester Guardian, "is whether the person filling up the form possesses skill amounting to professional skill at some definite kind of work. . . Ordinary skill in motor driving will not do, but if a stock-broker (say) is not only a good motor driver, but can act as his own mechanic and look after his car and his engine in all troubles, then he should put himself down as a motor-driver. Anyone who has no skill in anything outside his ordinary work—and this probably means most of us—should either leave the space blank or put in the word "None." What the registration authority does not want on these forms is the offer to do this or that, or an expression of general willingness to do one's bit." Probably a great number of women, especially older women, have more or less experience and skill in sick-nursing, but, in the absence of professional training, it would clearly be misleading to the registration authority to put forward this qualification.

### The N.C.O.'s of Labour.

An interesting article on." Women and the Land" in another column raises a point that deserves our close attention. About

thirty women, we learn, were engaged to plant orchard land in Hertfordshire, and have done all the digging, trenching, and planting without any men's labour at all, and with immense improvement, moreover, to the health of the workers. But the work was done under the supervision of two trained women, from an agricultural college. The pressing need everywhere just now is the woman foreman, and nowhere more than in agriculture, for the principal objection to the employment of women on the land hitherto has been the evil that arises from the brutality and tyranny of overseers. In Prussia, within the last twelve years, it has been no uncommon sight to see gangs of women working in the fields, under a man armed with a long-lashed whip. To come nearer home, great philanthropic efforts were made about twenty years ago to abolish a most objectionable system of women's employment in Lincolnshire. It was even argued that field work for women was brutalising and degrading. But this is not, it is to be hoped, necessarily true if the overseer is a trained and competent woman. In the training of the new army of women workers, everything will depend upon what we may call the non-commissioned officers, who will get the raw recruits into shape. Let us try to ensure that women-foremen shall be trained first, before the new armies are enlisted.

#### Coal Exports.

On August 13th the new Order in Council comes into force, prohibiting the exportation of coal, "including anthracite, steam, gas, household, and all other kinds of coal, and coke," to all destinations abroad other than British possessions and protectorates. The Allied Governments will, however, as Mr. Runciman lately announced, be able to get coal from England on the same terms as it is supplied to our own Government. One result of this Order has been a sudden sensational fall in the value of steamship shares in Scandinavian countries, which have been doing so much of the carrying trade for Germany since war broke out. But the policy was not framed for this end. It has been dictated by the shortage of labour. Since so many coal miners have enlisted, the output has been seriously diminished. Another effect of the Order in Council is less obvious and more far-reaching. The prohibition will at once affect the rate of exchange, for coal is one of the most valuable of the exports we have to set against the cost of imports.

### The National Peace Council and German Outrages.

The Arbitrator for this month contains one of the most complete and scathing indictments yet published of German outrages. After dwelling in detail on the tendency of the nineteenth century to limit war to the fighting forces of the armed Powers, both by land and sea, The Arbitrator reviews the infringements of international\*law, the ignoring of all declarations of the Hague Conference, and abandonment of national treaties and agreements which marked this year of war. Then, turning to the conduct of the war, The Arbitrator passes in detailed review all the horrors by which it has been marked, the murders of non-combatants, the use of poison gas, the poisoning of wells and streams, and the cynical exactions by which Belgium is being, economically speaking, bled to death. "We would extend our protest," the Peace Council concludes, "to all similar violations by whomsoever and wheresoever committed, if and when they may be shown to have been perpetrated."

# THE WAR CENSUS AND THE WOMEN'S REGISTER.

There is a prevalent idea that the National Registration will supersede and render unnecessary the Board of Trade's War Service for Women Register. But we must remember that the National Register will not be ready before October, at the earliest, and that, meanwhile, women are wanted in all sorts of work everywhere.

Discouragement is felt and expressed at the results up to date of the War Service Register, and the figures—"80,000 registered and only 3,000 employed"—are constantly quoted. But does the bare quotation of these figures rightly represent the position? In forming an opinion as to this there are facts that should be taken into account.

For instance, a large number of the women who have given in their names are already in work. In one division of the country this applies to more than half the women who have registered. It would surely not be wise to remove these workers from work they are qualified to do to put them to War Service work, whatever it may be, for which they are not qualified? Then there is a percentage of registered women who are over 50, and who are not skilled in any work. In some instances they amount to 10 per cent. Again, many hundreds cannot go away from home. They cannot, therefore, be moved to where work exists, if it is not to be found in their own

locality. This applies also to part-time work, which is to be found in some places and not in others. It is hoped that the further organisation of part-time work may create openings for many women who have only a limited number of hours to

We must also bear in mind that a considerable number of women have been put on the ordinary Labour Exchange registers, and have thus been placed in work. Nor should we forget that employers are, for the most part, prejudiced against women workers. In many instances necessity alone brings them to employ women.

Once employed, women have their chance of proving their value. This they are already doing, and are thus opening a door by which others may enter. But time is a necessary factor in this connection, and the same may be said of training also. Training is the all-important thing; the thing to press for; the thing to be seized upon, for the bulk of the women available are unqualified in the work that is needed, and often in skilled work of any kind.

A comparison of the National Registration form for women and the Board of Trade "War Service for Women" form will prove both useful and instructive to all women anxious to offer their services to the country.

# N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

GYMKHANA AT KRAGUJEVATZ.

"The other day," writes Dr. Elsie Inglis, "Dr. Lilian Chesney got up a gymkhana for the patients in the Hospital yard, a very simple affair, but it gave them the keenest enjoyment. A good many of the items had to be done by the Austrian orderlies-for instance, a stretcher race, where I thought it distinctly safer to have a well man in the stretcher. There were, however, several interesting items for the patients, for example, the egg and spoon race, a crutch race, and a needle-threading race—the sisters threading the needles. In the middle of the sports I went into the wards to give tobacco to the men who were not able to come out and enjoy the fun, and whilst there I heard such laughter and cheers that I could not help thinking-there we all were, Turks, and British, and Serbs, and Austrians, all playing together as happily as possible. Perhaps if we played more together and knew one another better, such awful things as this war would not happen. At the end we gave some simple prizes-tobacco and cigarettes and knives. Protege, our Director, came and said that the men were obviously getting on so well that he was going to send them back on command at once—a joke that was hugely enjoyed. At the end someone said it had all been so delightful we ought to have asked if the Crown Prince would come and give the prizes.'

LA CROIX DE GUERRE, PRESENTED AT TROYES.

Our Hospital at Troyes was the scene of a very touching incident the other day. One of the patients, by name Camille Guntzburger, had been granted for an act of bravery the Croix de Guerre. It was thought a fitting occasion for a little ceremony, and General de Torcy was asked to come up to the Hospital and decorate the man.

Camille Guntzburger belonged to an infantry regiment, and received his wound at Carency on June 24th; he has been nursed back to health and strength at Troyes, and is now convalescent. The ceremony took place outside his tent, and he had dressed in full uniform for the occasion. General Ce Torcy came first, accompanied by the doctors and Mrs. Harley, and all the patients who could come were drawn up in line After a few words of commendation the General pinned the Croix de Guerre upon the breast of Camille Guntzburger and embraced him. You can imagine how happy the soldier looked. The Croix de Guerre is made of bronze, similar in shape to our Maltese Cross, with two drawn swords laid across one another, nd a small medallion of a woman's head, signifying Liberty. General de Torcy then went round the Hospital, chatting to the men, who are devoted to him. After tea he hastened away, having snatched a brief hour from his labours to honour Camille Guntzburger.

ROYAUMONT.—LETTER IV.

Soon Royaumont will need a new Visitors' Book and a double shift of hall porters to cope with the stream of personages

distingués that flows in upon us in ever-increasing volume. Some weeks ago our youngest *chauffeuse* and our X-Ray assistant went for their day's leave to a certain city where the British fought one of the fiercest engagements in that unforgettable retreat last year, and where the French have held the enemy in check ever since the battle of the Marne. They penetrated thence into the district of another army and within the military jurisdiction of another general. Last week the General commanding the Army Corps in that particular district came to our commune for the four days' leave that a prescient nation is now granting to every mobilised man at the front. General Alby paid the Scottish Women's Hospitals the compliment of spending the greater part of one of those precious days at Royaumont, accompanied by Madame la Générale and his family. He paid our special army a further compliment by stopping to speak with every single soldier in our six wards. One of the men recognised in him the former Colonel of his own regiment-General Alby is one of the younger men who started the campaign as a brigadier, and has risen to his present high rank in the field—and was overwhelmed with joy when the General saw him and knew him again. Like our other distinguished visitors, General Alby seemed delighted with all he saw. Every such visit knocks one more nail into the coffin of the ancient prejudice against women surgeons and women orderlies being employed

On Sunday we had another interesting, if less exalted visitor, in the person of a prisoner just returned from Germany. He vas an infirmier-an organist and music teacher in civil lifewhose relatives are all under German rule near La Bassée, and whose brother, a Huzzar, is a patient here. The Huzzar had just been telling one of our orderlies how his people were behind the German lines, and his brother a prisoner, since September, in



SERBIAN CONVALESCENTS.

Germany, and that he often wondered whether he would see any of them again, when who should walk into the Hospital but the The gratitude of this ex-music master for the care taken of his wounded brother was pathetic. He said that our Scottish Women were as much soldiers fighting for ivilisation against the barbaric principles of Prussianism as were the men in the trenches—and he meant it.

#### COTTONS WANTED.

I cannot conclude any letter without some sort of appeal. This time is for sewing cotton and linen thread, and for mending yarns and ools. The working party in our village, at Asnières-sur-Oise, in the arden of Madame Fox's house, takes no holidays. For months now has been doing all the repairing of our men's uniforms and undertothing. All these Frenchwomen, none of them wealthy, many of them oor, give their time and their exquisite skill. The factories of France hardly working. Lille, Roubaix—they are in German hands. There is a famine of cotton and thread in France, and one pays sixpence for a fittle reel of cotton. So these ladies appeal to you in England and a famine of cotton and thread in France, and one pays sixpence for a cle reel of cotton. So these ladies appeal to you in England and obland to help them to help the Hospital by supplying British thread cotton. Red, bleu d'horizon, dark blue, biscuit colour, grey, white, d black linen thread, and any amount of ordinary sewing cotton is eded. For the uniforms it must be linen thread. Dr. Lewin, 25, mpole Street, W., will take charge of any parcels of thread, &c., and that they are brought out to the Hospital by hand, as all members the Unit, returning to France after leave, call at her house for parcels fore starting, and new recruits are usually asked to do so. Parcels mending material for the soldiers' clothing should be addressed to vetements Dept. at Royaumont.

V. C. C. C. e Vêtements Dept. at Royaumont.

#### MUNITION WORKERS' CANTEENS.

So much has been said and written of the munition worker from the standpoint of his duty to the country that the idea of the country having in any way a duty to him has been slightly overlooked. Yet, if we are to have shells and more shells, rifles and yet more rifles, we must concern ourselves with his health and comfort. An army fights on its stomach, as a great general nce remarked, and surely the same thing must be true of our mition workers.

In many parts of London and the country where premises have been taken over for the purpose of manufacturing nunitions, there is literally no restaurant of any description here men may obtain a meal of the simplest kind. It was to Lady Lawrence that the idea of munition workers' canteens irst came. After reading her letter to one of the daily papers on the subject, Mrs. Cecil Chapman, President of the New Contutional Society for Women's Suffrage, immediately offered, the name of the Society, to organise a canteen. Her offer as one of the first received by Lady Lawrence's Munition lakers' Canteens Committee, whose headquarters are at 58, lictoria Street, S.W.

Canteens have been organised and opened by Lady Lawrence's Committee at Woolwich and Enfield Lock. They have also been started at Abbey Wood, Sheffield, Birmingham, Weybridge, Portsmouth, and other places. At Abbey Wood here are 600 girls to care for as well. A new factory has been pened at Weybridge, where girls and men work together. The anteen workers are to provide meals and refreshments for all the men and women. They have been given a large house, where they will establish their canteen.

The canteen at Woolwich is being run with enormous success and has increased its activities more than sevenfold.

At Enfield Lock Small Arms Factory the canteen is worked members of the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage. The authorities insist on all the work being done at present for the night shift. The food, on wheeled trollies, is taken into the shops at 3, and everything has to be taken out again by 3.15. Local prices are strictly maintained, it not being at all the idea of the organisers to undercut current prices. the canteen proves to be a success, as it cannot fail to do, the authorities will consent to let them work by day as well. night work is by far the most trying, and needs a great deal of effort. Many of the ladies helping have seldom looked upon a suntise before; now they are partially consoled for their loss of sleep by the contemplation of many a lovely dawn!

The trade union leaders at Enfield Lock were approached n the first place, and asked to advertise the canteen to the men. They agreed that the work was a most useful undertaking, one man expressing the opinion that the canteen workers would be doing a great kindness to the men, and also helping to speed up the output of munitions. The officials at all factories have helped tremendously in the work, and have been most sympathetic and encouraging. This work is one that deserves the highest praise, and the gratitude of all concerned in the welfare of our war workers. E. BAKER.

# Correspondence.

All letters sent for publication, even it meant to appear over a seudonym, must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

#### MATERNITY CENTRES.

MATERNITY CENTRES.

MADAM,—In an article entitled "The Value of a Baby," in The COMMON CAUSE for August 6th, there is a slight mistake made as regards Maternity Centres. It states that "all over the country there are springing up Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, but at these centres the medical supervision ceases when the child is one year old, and is not resumed till that child reaches school age." This is not so, as at all Maternity Centres working under the Board of Education the child is under medical supervision at the Centre until school age—so that until the child comes under school inspection it is under the inspection of the Centre, and there is no gap in its supervision. Those of us working at Maternity Centres know that the child under school age is as a rule the most neglected, the latest baby absorbing, naturally, most attention, and we feel as strongly as Miss Hoyer does the need of State inspection of the child; but at the same time we must own that both the Board of Education and the Local Government Board see the necessity of this too, and the Maternity Centres working under them and receiving their grants do keep the child under their care until it reaches school age.

MABEL CROSS,
Hon. Superintendent of the Bedminster Maternity Centre, Bristol.

#### SOLDIERS' WASHING.

SOLDIERS' WASHING.

MADAM,—Reference having been made to the washing scheme of the Woking and Horsell War Emergency Committee in a recent issue of THE COMMON CAUSE, I think your readers might care to hear about it. We heard that difficulty was experienced in getting the soldiers' clothes washed. As we had several women on our books needing work, interviews were held with the officers of regiments concerned, and a subcommittee was formed to carry out the arrangements. Carts go out on Mondays to barracks and camp and fetch the washing to the distributing centres (we now have two). The clothes in each sack are checked and listed, every man's bundle being kept intact. During Monday and Tuesday, women come from all parts of the district, take the sacks of washing home, and return them clean on Thursday and Friday. During a period of forty-four weeks, 56,504 bundles have been washed, and £1,022 10S. 4d. paid in wages, an average of seventy-nine women being employed per week. Last week 153 women were paid £46 19S. 5½d. Our sorters and menders are paid at the rate of 4d. per hour, but most of the menders and all list-writers are voluntary helpers. The success of our scheme has been largely due to the organising ability of Miss H. S. Davies Colley, Hon. Sec. of the Soldiers' Washing Committee.

### MME. CURIE AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

MME. CURIE AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

MADAM,—In one of your notes this week, you make a statement with regard to the Royal Society, which it is only fair to that body to correct. The Davy Medal was awarded in 1904 to M. and Mme. Curie jointly, "for their researches on Radium"—a proceeding involving no injustice to Mme. Curie, as she and her husband worked together on the subject and published jointly. If Mme. Curie was not present to receive the medal, it was not on account of any rule to the contrary. One woman, Mrs. Bertha Ayrton, has been the recipient of the Hughes Medal of the Royal Society, which was presented to her in person at the annual meeting.

Women are on exactly the same footing as men who are not Fellows of the Society, and can (and do) read papers, or be present at the Society's meetings on the same terms as men. The provision of the Charter, preventing the admission of women to the Fellowship of the Society, although obviously an anachronism, could only cause injustice if it could be shown that at the present moment there are any women scientists who would be elected on the merits of their work, if they were men.

CARY SCHUSTER.

### THE COLWYN BAY GIRLS' CADET CORPS.

THE COLWYN BAY GIRLS' CADET CORPS.

Madam,—The account of the Colwyn Bay A.S.G.C.C. in your issue of July 23rd, together with the picture showing the workman-like appearance of the young cadets, filled me with gratitude to the Colwyn Bay Suffrage Society in general—and to Miss Goodrich in particular—who were not only willing to give the scheme a trial—one of the very few Societies in the N.U. who did so—but have made it such a huge success. I quite realise that there was nothing novel in the scheme itself, but when I proposed that the N.U. should start yet another organisation, it seemed to me at that time of strain and tension, at the commencement of the war, that something more vivid and alive than had yet been attempted, was needed to control the excitement of our girls, and to turn their energies into a right channel. I also believed that such work could best be done by Suffrage Societies.

At Colwyn Bay this need was felt very greatly, and the success of the scheme which was set on foot by the Suffrage Society is proved by the testimony of Miss Goodrich, who declares it has raised the standard of girlhood in the eyes of the town, and especially in those of our troops. What appeals to me most is the healthy outdoor spirit, the happy admixture of real work and real play, the discipline and the camaraderie which one reads into that short account of the Cadet's life. One sees in one's mind's eye a band of bright young people trained to use every power that God has given them for the service of the community in which they live; and thus strengthened both in body and mind the girls of to-day are being prepared to take up the tasks and face the responsibilities of the women of to-morrow. How strenuous those tasks will be after this terrible war, who dare predict?

May I plead with other Societies in the N.U. to follow the example of Colwyn Bay, and make the raising of an Active Service Girls' Cadet Corps part of their winter work? It is so well worth doing, and, from

May I plead with other Societies in the N.U. to follow the example of Colwyn Bay, and make the raising of an Active Service Girls' Cade Corps part of their winter work? It is so well worth doing, and, from a patriotic point of view, the training of the girls to be strong and self reliant of such great importance.

Charteloup Heapital Traves.

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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.

### The Beginnings of a New Age.

In our day, when the unfamiliar and even the impossible (as we once thought it) has become the stuff of everyday life, the idea that old things are passed away and that all things shall become new is becoming one of the stock remarks of paragraph writers and public speakers. It is the note of hope on which we end all surveys of these great and bewildering times. The powers of evil shall not endure for ever; the powers of good are even now preparing the future. It is a consoling faith. And while this thought is a spring of courage and energy to those who discover it afresh for themselves, the great majority of us are willing to take hearsay on trust, and to believe that "somehow " out of the dark and terrible anguish of a world convulsion a new age shall be born. And in that new age, "somehow things will go right of themselves. The foul vampire which has driven its fangs deep into the life of Europe, and drained the heart's blood of nations, will cease to exist, old strongholds of oppression will crumble away, old dungeons of the spirit will yield up their prisoners; and in a new day the foundations of a nobler state will be laid. It is a beautiful vision, and it rests with us, ourselves, whether the vision shall take definite shape and become the Future, or fade, as visions have faded before, in the world's history, because the generation that beheld it, and strove to realise it, failed to prepare the ways for the next. "The preparedness of the coming generation for its heavy and responsible task is a matter of national urgency," Lord Haldane says in The Nation. And now is the time to prepare, to look forward, to take up the infinitely perplexing task of mapping out the possible ways of attaining an ideal, and, lastly, to see that our reserves of national energy are kept intact until the day when they shall be needed; this, over and beyond the burden of war, is the work

Of these three duties, the second is a most necessary and most difficult kind of mental discipline. Very few of us have any idea of the feats of mental engineering by which the great thought-roads were constructed for us to pass over, and now there lies ahead of us a rough stretch of new country, awaiting even the preliminary ordnance survey, to say nothing of the roadmaking that must follow. At first sight it seems, to the enthusiast, taking a Pisgah-view, that there is a "path of gold ' to the sunrise (if we would but follow it), straight across hill and plain. But the way of the road-maker who prepares the way for others cannot possibly be made over mountain tops and across marshlands; and it often looks roundabout, for it is one long series of compromises, of efforts to take advantage of bits of high level ground, of curves to enable a bridge to be thrown across a dividing river or to withstand the fury of possible floods. None of our future thought-roads can be a short cut to the millennium, but we shall have to see that there is no makeshift work in our thinking ahead, that the objects we propose to ourselves are clearly defined, the ways of reaching them carefully planned, the great aims always in sight. "Others have made roads for us," runs the beautiful old motto, "we make them for yet others; Christ made a road to the stars for us all.'

The short cuts to a millennium which have been suggested in the twelve months since war broke out have been many. They all have this in common; they are sincerely directed to great and noble ends, such as the abolition of war; the promotion of a better understanding among the nations; the solidarity of "the

workers " of Europe, to whose interest it is to combine to prevent both the wars that lay waste their homes and the predatory competition which wears out human life and energy as wastefully as war itself; and, lastly, the Federation of all the States of Europe. This idea dominates all the others, and has the greatest attraction for most of us. A combination of States, each working out its destiny upon its own lines, but contributing its best to the general welfare through realising itself; an end made of all the arbitrary restrictions which hamper production and human achievement—it seems such a splendid reconciliation of Nationalism and Democracy, such a real "reconstruction of the moral order " (to borrow the unfortunate phrase propounded by the Congress of Vienna, which sowed so much of the harvest of tares which we are now reaping) that it looks like a solution of all problems, and so greatly desirable that we have only to unite to want it, and to have it. But even the most perfunctory ordnance survey" shows us that this is not a straight path o the sunrise. The words "only to unite to want it" imply in themselves the chasms to be bridged—the almost insuperable difficulties. "In South Africa," said one of the statesmen who worked out the problems of federal union here, "we had only two races and two languages to consider, English and the Taal. You have no idea of the difficulty we had to overcome. And in Europe we have how many races? And how many languages? All barriers to any common understanding.'' Where there is a Will there is a Way; but the cost of road-making must be borne

AUGUST 13, 1915.

And some of the cost of road-making must be borne by us.

The burden, it is true, will fall on our statesmen and Ministers, but the nation must be preparing itself for the decisions to come.

The German method of government is to leave the decision to what may be called the experts, who know (or think they know) what is good for the nation, look ahead, map out the political situation, and dispose of the lives and goods of the nation in accordance with their plans. Democracy requires of us that we should first obtain knowledge, before we can "act as the many united in great effort"; that we must get understanding before we can follow our leaders, or find worthy leaders. We are bound to look facts in the face, to take our share in "the business of making real things go right," to help to prepare for the coming of the New Age, which will not come unless we will it with all our minds, as well as with all our hearts.

Another great task also is before us. The work of construction will fall on the young. It is to their strength, as Lord Haldane says, that we must trust. "We shall be a nation in straitened circumstances, and we shall have to look to the coming generation for the deliverance of the country from peril to its position. Are we alive to the fact which really stares us in the face, that the preparation of that coming generation for its heavy and responsible task is a matter of national urgency?" The strength and health of the children is our principal national asset, the education which will enable them to take up the work of nation-building in the new age is our most important work, behind the firing line. Indeed, for what are the men of our armies and navies giving their lives, but to ensure that this seed of the future of the race shall be protected? They are giving all they have for this. Let us do all that in us lies to secure that their children shall be able to grow to their full stature, or the new age will never come into being, because there is "no strength for

### Women and the Land.

According to the census returns of 1911, there were then 90,128 women engaged in agriculture, of whom 56,856 were written down as assisting in farm work, and 20,527 as farmers or graziers. It is therefore clear that farming is no new profession for women. Possibly it is one of the most time-honoured. The very word "daughter" comes from an old Aryan root, meaning milkmaid.

But of late years the milkmaid has been gradually disappearing, and men have been taking the place of women in those special branches of farm work which were once her sphere. Women who are farmers to-day are usually widows, who have stepped into their husbands' shoes. It may be remarked in passing that this admirable arrangement, by which a woman is able to maintain her independence and earn a living for her children, is not always permitted by the powers that be. In some parts of Cheshire there are some farms which no woman is allowed to lease. In the same part of the country I have heard of widows being turned out of cottages also, for the reason that, being voteless, they reduced the voting power of the estate.

Widows who are permitted by circumstances to continue farming are face to face with curious hampering prejudices, created possibly just as much by women as by men. One that obtains in the Eastern Counties is that it is *infra dig*. for them to go "a-marketing." A man servant goes instead. Naturally the mistresses' interests are not so likely to be well looked after as if they did this work themselves.

Of the women who are written down as "engaged in farm work," possibly the majority are in the position of farmservants who give part of their time to household work. Many of this class will also be the daughters of small farmers.

Lately the effects of the war have somewhat riveted our attention on the land. The cry of "Back to the Land," by a sudden turn of the wheel of Fate, now has reference particularly to women. They are rising to the occasion, but we must guard ourselves from imagining that they are turning suddenly into experts. They will make many mistakes at first, and be guilty of many absurdities. This fact was brought home to me very strongly at a demonstration that I recently attended of women's work on the land. One of the first objects that attracted my attention was a small cow being milked. It evidently disliked seeing so many people, and became restive. One of the girls "demonstrating"—in sun-bonnet and cotton frock—went to the rescue. Then the cloven hoof, so to speak, of the demonstrator appeared—in the guise of silk stockings and shoes that had a close resemblance to dancing slippers. I need hardly dilate on their fate. I thought to myself, this demonstration may be entertaining, but is not particularly edifying. But I was wrong

According to the census returns of 1911, there were then lessness by one of its wearers of that beautiful headgear, the sunbonnet, with the idea of making it more becoming.

As I looked at the various exhibits, I became conscious, in spite of the prejudice with which I started, of the excellent work that is being done by women on the land. I learnt something of what the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges are doing. Some of these, notably Studley College and Swanley College, existed before the war, but lately training places have come into being all over the land, and some are subsidised by the Board of Agriculture to give women short training in milking, &c. The new workers have prejudices to meet; farm labourers fear blacklegs, and farmers are notoriously conservative. Practical difficulties arise in housing women.

Mr. Rowland Prothero, M.P., recently pointed out the dangers of inadequate training. He said that Hampshire farmers had shown themselves more favourable to the employmen of women than most other farmers, and attributed their attitude to the fact that the women of whom they first had experience had had longer training than many women in other parts of the country.

The Women's Farm and Garden Society, which has sixteen years' experience behind it, is wrestling manfully at the present moment with the new situation created by the sudden demand for women on the land. It has applications pouring in that it is hard to meet, for naturally the Society takes care to guard the employer from inefficient workers, as well as the worker from bad conditions of labour. The National Political Land League is also doing useful work, but it only came into existence as an organisation dealing with the land after the war broke out. It therefore has not the same experience behind it as the Women's Farm and Garden Union.

From the eugenist point of view, perhaps one of the most interesting experiments has been the transporting of East End workers on to the land. Such an experiment was made at Radlett, Herts. About thirty women were engaged to plant thirty-four acres of orchard, with two trained women from Studley College to superintend them. We learn that "they have done all the digging, trenching, draining, and planting, without any men's labour at all, and the girls have improved immensely in health." (The italics are ours.)

There is one question about agriculture on which girls in rescue. Then the cloven hoof, so to speak, of the demonstrator appeared—in the guise of silk stockings and shoes that had a close resemblance to dancing slippers. I need hardly dilate on their fate. I thought to myself, this demonstration may be entertaining, but is not particularly edifying. But I was wrong.

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

It is, therefore, obvious that a girl accustomed to the comforts which we usually associate with the educated classes, will hardly be able to provide them from such wages as she is likely to get. The brutal fact is that the average woman may possibly get a subsistence wage, but no more.

If a girl has capital, the case is different. Good financial results are then always possible, whether in times of war or peace, provided that she knows her work and has a fair share of business capacity. It is for this class of women, and also for those who want to do their own gardening, or at least take an intelligent interest in it, that the long course of training of the Women's Agricultural Colleges (as distinct from emergency training) is so admirable

Co-operative schemes are being tried which make it possible for women with a very small capital to earn a living. In these communities, implements, transport expenses, &c., are shared, thus reducing costs, which fall very heavily on the small producer. If women of education, but without capital, take up farm work, it must be for other objects than money-making. The land has, indeed, compensations to offer. Open air work often means better health and increased zest for life. To some the beauty of the country and communion with Nature mean much. As for garden work, a poet once said :- "One is nearer the heart of God in a garden than anywhere else in the world.'

### GRÂCE À NOS FEMMES.

It seems strange to us over here to read of processions walking the streets of London to plead women's right to serve. In France every man serves by law, and every woman serves by necessity. Thanks to the women, the nation is enabled to 'carry on." A striking tribute to them is contained in a leading article published by a French deputé, a member of the commission of the Budget, in Le Matin of July 27th. It is entitled "Du Blé," and it announces that the harvest of 1915 will be sufficient for the needs of the mobilised men and the civil population during the coming year. Then occur these paragraphs

With many of our departments invaded; with others embarrassed by the necessary movement of troops; with the heads of the households away and the young men mobilised, resulting in a dearth of labour; with the absence of transport facilities consequent upon the requisitioning of horses; with the impossibility of obtaining manure—faced with all these difficulties, our splendid women have still been able to produce and gather in a most satisfactory harvest. What a comfort to France, and what a surprise!

' Side by side with that homage due to her silent heroism and devotion to the wounded, what homage should we not render to the Frenchwoman who has accomplished this miracle of determination, energy, and hard work? It is a miracle that will not astonish those who know her for what she is; but it serves to teach a watching world her quality, and to divorce her for ever from that stupid and snobbish literary image which for so long has depicted her as a doll.

Thanks to our peasant women, our working women, our bourgeoises, and our châtelaines, this year's harvest will on the more fill to the full the granaries of the nation.

It is a gallant and generous tribute, and it is thoroughly well deserved. It needs imagination to realise what this miracle is that Frenchwomen have accomplished. Picture England an agricultural country, robbed of all her men. Picture her green fields under the plough. Take from her several of her counties, and see them in the hands of the invader. Imagine the southern counties and the midlands scored and wounded by a network of trenches reaching to within a few miles of the Marble Arch, with barbed wire entanglements growing amid the corn, and machine gun emplacements nestling in every coppice. Picture each farm robbed of its horses, and all the trains and canal boats busy in the service of the Army. It is under conditions such as these that the widowed mothers and bereaved wives of France have produced and reaped a wheat harvest that will feed the nation for another year.

V. C. C. C.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB. FOR MEN AND WOMEN. 9, Grafton St., Piccadilly, W.

NOTICE. - The Club is closed for Cleaning from July 31st to August 27nd, inclusive. Catering now re-organised on NEW lines. Luncheons & Dinners from 1/-.
Tel.: MAYFAIR 3932.

#### MILITARY RANK FOR WOMEN DOCTORS.

Dr. Everett Maclaren (a member of the Glasgow Women's Suffrage Society), Resident Medical Assistant at the Oakbank Hospital, Glasgow (250 beds), which was recently taken over by the War Office and is now constituted a branch of the 3rd Scottish Military Hospital, has received official notification that she has been appointed Resident Pathologist and Bacteriologist at that Hospital under the Military Authorities. Dr. Maclaren, in addition, is allowed to carry on her duties as part-time Medical Inspector of Schools under the Glasgow School Board. Her new appointment is, we believe, the only one of its kind in Scotland, and carries with it the rank of Captain.

Dr. Maclaren was among the first to take up V.A.D. work in Scotland in 1909, when the Scottish Territorial Red Cross Brigade was recognised by the War Office, and was Commandant of a detachment when war was declared. It is interesting to note in this connection that there were thirteen V.A.D's. in Glasgow at the outbreak of war, and of these twelve were composed of women.

According to a Reuter's message, Dr. Helen Sexton, Director-in-Chief of the Australian Hospital at Auteuil, which has now been given a military status, has been awarded the rank of Medicin-Majeur. The staff of this hospital is entirely composed of women. It has been organised, we understand, through the private initiative of some Melbourne ladies, Mrs. Smith and her two daughters and Mrs. Helen Blackwood, who supply the funds necessary for its maintenance.

#### FOOD PRICES.

There has been a very considerable fall in the price of American bacon in the wholesale market, and large stocks now held in Liverpool are further swollen by sales of prize cargoes. The retail price remains as high as ever. The public is quite willing to believe in high "war prices," and submits to pay is. 3d. and is. 4d. for bacon which would bring the grocer a good profit at 11d., so says a correspondent of the Liverpool Daily Post, who supplies a table of wholesale prices for the past The retailer's excuse is that there is a shortage of Danish and Irish bacon, which both command higher prices. But that does not account satisfactorily for the high retail price of American bacon. Let housekeepers note this, and also remark that the wholesale price of American lard has fallen from 52s. in June, to 43s. in July-less than 41d. per lb. wholesale! The habit of paying high prices without questioning, because it is war-time, does not make for thrift.

The price of cheese is also artificially raised—somewhere. The wholesale quotation for cheese," says a writer to The Times of August 11th, "is 74s. to 76s. per cwt.-or about 8d. per lb.-and yet we find the public are still being asked to pay from 1s. to 1s. 1d. per lb. In normal times the margin of profit is in most instances 1d. per lb.; at the present time it is Stocks of cheese in this country are very heavy . and are accumulating." As meat is scarce, and we are asked on all sides to eat more cheese, economical buyers must make a

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

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£ s. d.	£ s. d							
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Already acknowledged 51,307 15 42	Mrs Inglis							
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	Per Miss Jarvis, Hon. Sec.							
A Manchester Suffragist 5 0	Per Miss Jarvis, Holl. Bec.							
*Lady Chalmers 5 0 0	Sheffield — 1st instalment							
Miss A. L. M. Armstrong 1 1 0	"Sheffield Women's Effort							
Mrs. Durno 10 0	for Serbia," to name two							
A District Nurse 4 0	"Sheffield Citizens' Beds"							
Miss B. Caird 10 0	in Serbia for one year, per							
MISS D. Carra	Olivan C Wilson Fea Lord							
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Barnsley W.S.S., per Thos.	Mr. and Mrs. H. Ellis Hill,							
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Proceeds of Play given by	*Edinburgh W.S.U., per Mrs.							
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to name "Balfron" Bed	Lilias Mitchel (6s. 6d.), Miss							
(France or Serbia) 25 0 0	A. M. Duncan (14s.) (Serbia) 1 0 0							
Collected by Miss L. J. Robert-								
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	Jas. G. Thorburn, Esq 10 0 0							
Proceeds of Cake and Candy	Allon 10 0							
sale, per Miss L. Sprouil 5 0	Dr Donglas 1 0 0							
Miss Helen S. Neill, c/o J.	Dr. Douglas " 1 1 0							
Randolph Colledge, Esq 2 0 0	MIS. F. L. WIEGE							
Edward Wadsby, Esq 2 10 0	Proceeds of Teddy Bear 2 0 0							
Alexander Paton, Esq 5 0	Poems, by Miss A. C. Haig 2 0							
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castle W.S.," per Miss F. L. Jenkinson, Hon. Treas. Kinloch, Callender (Serbia) "Nurse Toughill, per Miss Bury, Edinburgh (salary returned as donation) ... "Miss Brene Grant "Employers of Wm. Rowan & Sons (Mile End Engineering Works) ... "Mrs. Macqueen ... Mrs. Marion B. Golder ... Dr. Eliz. Courtauld ... Thomas Dunlop, Esq ... "Per Miss O'Shea, Hon Treas. Surrey, Sussex & Hants Fed., per Miss Helen Wright, Brighton and Hove," Horsham (£2 9s. 6d.) (Previously acknowledged from Horsham, £36 0s. 6d.) (Serbia) ... "Per Southport W.S.s., per G. H. Grundy, Esq., Treas.—Miss Rigby (£1), Miss Benton (£1), Mrs. Crathe (5s.) ... Miss E. A. Shaw, per Robert Shaw, Esq. ... ... "Miss L. Cochrane—Collected by lending out book containing drawings, etchings, photographs, &c. (Serbia) ... "Lady Ardwall Miss E. Fleming ... ... "Lady Ardwall Miss E. Fleming ... ... Lady Ardwall Miss E. Fleming ... ... "Per Mrs. E. Osburne, Vice-President, Lyceum Club, The University, Melbourne, Australia—To name "Dr. Elizabeth Ross" Bed (Serbia)—"A tribute from the Lyceum Club, Hemilton, per Miss Hemilton, per Miss Miss Chalmers ... ... Miss Maclaren ... ... Dr. Ada Miller ... ... Miss Isabella Paterson ... aig, R.A.M.C.T. (£2 2s.) bara Sutherland ... F. Powel (monthly butions of 2s. 6d.) ... Crosshills...

\*Per Mrs. Gunn, Edinburgh, per Mrs. Dobbie—further towards proceeds of Lady Mackie's Garden Party (Total, £92)

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Miss Gertrude Mann

Per Miss Harris, from Pupils, Berkhamsted School for Girls, Herts (Serbia)

Miss Buchanan d Mrs. A. J. Raeburn... Irene T. Hickman Serbia)
W. Hickman, Eeq. (Serbia)
s. J. B. McMeekan
sorge Brown, Esq.
ss Rose Turlin, Essex, proceds of Sale of Milk Jug
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(£36 0s. 6d.) (Serbia). For	
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W.S.S. (£7 11s.), Eastbourne W.S.S. (£7 2s.) (additional to subscription of £17 18s already acknowledged to name "Eastbourne" Bed— Troyes), Seaford W.S.S. (14s. 6d.)—Total ......

\* Denotes further donation.

A further instalment from the Scottish Serbian Flag Day Committee's been received, amounting to £3,238. This will be acknowledged in ext week's total.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all friends who have elped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions

cheques should be sent either to Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treas., Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Erratum Note.—In list for week ending July 29th, "Barrow-in-urness" Bed, should read "Roose Council School, Barrow-in-Furness"

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Further particulars from E.L.F.S., 400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E,

# Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. Hon Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH. Secretary:
MISS GERALDINE COOKE. Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, 8.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone—4673 Vic. & 4674 Vic.

The Telephone Company have altered our telephone numbers in order that the two numbers should be consecutive. We shall for the future be Vic. 4673 and 4674.

#### Press Report.

The Press have given excellent accounts of the Memorial sent to Mr. Asquith in favour of admitting women to the Higher Grades of the Civil Service. Among the papers in which it has been posted appearable of the Civil Service. has been noticed, generally at some length, are: The Times, Manchester Guardian, Daily Chronicle, Westminster Gazette, Morning Post, Standard, Evening Standard, Yorkshire Post, Nottingham Daily Express, Yorkshire Herald, Newcastle Chronicle, Newcastle Daily Journal, Western Mail.

#### Contributions to the General Fund.

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Dr. Elizabeth Courtauld 10 0 0	Miss Maud Morin	10 0
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Miss Marion E. Smith 1 1 0		£6,791° 5 1
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#### FOR LADY MOTORISTS.

The opening lecture on mechanism and running repairs of the motor car, will be given at the Ladies' Auto Workshop, 8, Brick Street, Piccadilly, at 8 o'clock, by Miss C. Griff. There will also be a actical demonstration. Fee, 35s. for one month's course; 2s. 6d. for a

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Paddington—8, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of lessrs, William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. cottish Women's Hospitals

Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Blackheath Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—Tuesday, 2 to 6, at 8, hooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk.

#### PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Lld., Ll, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

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'HAUFFEUSE (War Service) wishes post, certifi-cated and experienced driver; can do all running repairs.—Apply "J. S.," Annfield, North Berwick.

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