



CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC
FAWCETT COLLECTION

Calcutta House
Old Castle Street
London E1 7NT

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0352

The Common Cause.

THE ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION
OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Editor :

Mrs. EDMUND GARRETT.

Volume VII.

April 8th, 1915, to March 31st, 1916.

London :
"The Common Cause" Publishing Co., Ltd.,
14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

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The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union 602.* [NON-PARTY.]

VOL. VII., No. 313.]

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1915.

[PRICE 1d.
Registered as a Newspaper.]

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Notes and News.

Temperance and the War.

The question of temperance reform has never been taken so seriously as at this moment. There are some who desire to narrow down the problem to the immediate need for sobriety in war work. This necessity may have given rise to the controversy, but assuredly the question cannot end there. To allow it to do so would be disastrously to miscalculate the magnitude of the present need. The war gives rise to many grave perplexities besides the supply of ammunition. The question of infant mortality is a war question of the first importance, and we know from the reports of the Medical Officer of Health to the Local Government Board that it is closely bound up with the question of drink. That the temperance problem is to be faced and the cost of reform defrayed by the nation as a whole, not by any one section of it, gives the surest ground for hoping that reform will be so thorough and broadly based as vitally to affect the racial problems which immediately confront us.

Votes and the Double Standard.

Much genuine bewilderment was expressed a short time ago, when we entered a protest against special temperance legislation for women. "How odd," said even our tried friends; "surely you don't want women to get drunk!" The justice of the double standard was assumed. To-day, the working-man is accused, exactly as the women were, of endangering high national interests, by excessive drinking. But observe. He is enfranchised; and there is practically no talk of special legislation to meet his case. If he abstains, his wife will certainly abstain, too; if the public-houses close, the clubs will follow suit. The King and Lord Kitchener, with all their households, are leading the way, and parts of our Overseas Dominions are already hastening to fall into line! The justice of the single standard is assumed. This is magnificent, and Suffragists will not fail to rejoice; neither will they fail to draw the moral.

Women and War Service.

We learn with the utmost satisfaction that the Women's

Conference with the Board of Trade desired by the National Union, as mentioned in our last issue, is to be held on Monday, April 12th, at 3.30 p.m., at Whitehall Gardens. Mr. Runciman invites the N.U.W.S.S. to send "not more than two representatives" to attend the Conference. On Saturday last the total number of applications received from women for war work was estimated at about 33,000.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The business of filling up the gaps in the ranks of labour by extending the employment of women is steadily increasing. A notable instance is the putting of women to the machinery by which the tins of Army rations and jam are hermetically soldered down. So far, this work has been exclusively done by men, but owing to a shortage of male labour to deal with the immediate pressure of work, women are now employed. We are glad to note that the men insist that the full trade union wage shall be paid to any woman employed, and accordingly these new workers are earning nearly £2 a week.

Woman and the Motor Van.

We learn that the National Motor Cab Co. now employ nearly thirty women, who are already making a success of driving motor vans about the London streets. They are paid 4s. a day when in the garage, and 5s. a day when out with the van. The driving of taxi-cabs, however, is still forbidden, and no woman can obtain a license in London. That this prohibition is based rather on prejudice than reason, is proved by the useful work of the Parisian "Chauffeuse," who is taking the place of her man at the front, and driving the car which is often his private property. She is successfully at work also on the trams and underground railways of Paris.

Women and "Economic Conscription."

About three hundred representatives of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop-Assistants assembled at Manchester on Sunday for their annual Conference. In the Presidential address a strong protest was made against a threatened "influx of cheap labour, coupled with a most invidious form of economic conscription in the shape of a suggested replacement of able-bodied male labour in the shops by female labour, a replacement which the union was asked by authority to forward by every means in its power." It is evident that only the strict application of the principle of equal pay for equal work can meet this difficulty, and, in any case, the practice of dismissing men of military age in order to force them to enlist is a form of tyranny against which we cannot too indignantly protest.

Sweated Shop Assistants.

But when the President of the Union goes on to condemn women's labour in shops on the ground of its unhealthiness, we are not deeply impressed. The conditions of women shop assistants cannot be too carefully safeguarded, but this masculine concern for the health of women competitors is too familiar a piece of bluff to be taken very seriously. We much regret that the meeting, while passing an emergency resolution to insist

Central Counties Federation.

A Lantern Lecture in aid of the Yardley and Stechford Red Cross Hospital, and the Scottish Women's Hospitals combined, was held at the Council Schools, Stechford, on Tuesday evening, March 14th. The chair was taken by Dr. Lydall, nephew of General French and Mrs. Harley. Dr. Mary Phillips gave a lantern lecture to a large and appreciative audience on her work and experience with the Scottish Women's Unit in Calais and Serbia. The success of the meeting was largely due to Mrs. Mare (a member of the Birmingham Society residing in Stechford) and her Red Cross Nursing Class, who worked indefatigably in getting up the meeting. The amount realised by the sale of tickets was £70, and after the lecture a plate at the door was found to contain £2 3s. 4d. given by the audience as they went out. This sum was given for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and the ticket money divided between the local Red Cross and the S.W.H.

Rugby.—On March 17th, a lecture on "Hospital Work in Calais, Malta, and Serbia," illustrated by slides taken from her own photographs, was given by Dr. Mary Phillips at The Laurels. Miss Dewar briefly introduced Dr. Phillips, speaking of the valuable services which she had rendered to the Scottish Women's Hospitals abroad. The lecture was followed with keen appreciation, and a collection of £9 8s. was taken in aid of the Serbian Hospital Fund. Mrs. Steel, President of the Rugby W.S.S., warmly thanked Dr. Phillips for her very interesting lecture. Previously to this the Rugby Society had collected £16 15s. for the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Tiverton.

This winter's third meeting for the receiving of equipment and money in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals was held on March 13th, at Bank House, by kind invitation of Mrs. Jefford. There was a good attendance, and seventy-five articles of hospital equipment were received, as well as £1 6s. 6d. in money, which was equally divided between the S.W. Hospitals and the Russian Maternity Unit.

Miss Frost very much interested all present by her talk on the great value of Englishwomen's work among the Allies in bringing about a better understanding between the nations. She, of course, specially dwelt on the splendid work of the S.W. Hospital Units in France and Serbia, and of the great need for the work of the Maternity Unit in Russia.

Miss Frost showed how we could all help our Allies, as well as ourselves, by practising thrift in every possible way, and testified to the great success and usefulness of the Patriotic House-keeping Exhibition in many places, and the desirability of having it in Tiverton. At present, however, there are great difficulties in arranging it here, but these may be overcome later.

Norwich.

The annual meeting was held on March 17th. The Society was fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Alice Hutchison, who held her audience spellbound for over an hour listening to the vivid descriptions of her thrilling experiences in Serbia. Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave a short account of the work of the National Union during the war, which was followed with the greatest interest by those present, who included many who were not in the habit of frequenting Suffrage meetings. Mrs. James Stuart took the chair. The Society is pleased to be able to hand over £32 to the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service as the outcome of this meeting.

Richmond.

On March 11th the Richmond Society held a very successful Household Thrift Exhibition at the County School for Girls, Parkshot. The exhibition included fuel and labour-saving appliances, made-over clothing, home-made cleansing materials, comparative food values, substitutes for meat, dishes made from scraps, &c., &c. Mrs. Graham Lacey, of the National Food Reform Association, gave three very interesting and instructive cookery demonstrations, the objects of which were to show the possibility of economising in food without diminishing its nutritive value.

The attendance at these demonstrations was very large, and those present gained a good many valuable hints. The possibilities of fire-less cookery by means of a "hay box" were shown in the afternoon, and an appetising dinner for four people, at the cost of 6d. a head, was also cooked and was much approved. The exhibition was under the patronage of the Mayor of Richmond (who attended), Alderman Clifford Edgar (Chairman of the Education Committee), and Dr. Crocker (Medical Officer of Health).

North-Western Federation.

CARNFORTH.—The annual meeting of this Society, on the 23rd, was held at Red Court, by the kindness of Mrs. Barton. The attendance was small, a fall of snow keeping the country members away. The officials and Committee were re-elected, with the exception of the Treasurer, Miss Slinger, who could no longer give the time necessary for the work. A hearty vote of thanks was given to her, and Mrs. Walker was elected in her stead. The report of the year was satisfactory. Four lectures on the war during the winter had paid their way. The supply of THE COMMON CAUSE at the Working Men's Clubs had roused interest and brought new members. As the Federation could no longer carry on the scheme, some members offered to send their own copies each week. A short address was given by the Vice-President, Mrs. Barton. Miss N. Walker-Jones, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, gave an account of the Annual Council Meeting. A paper on "War Work in Carnforth" was read by Mrs. Walker, and one on "The Education of Young Children" by Miss Clay, who was unable to be present, was read by Mrs. Barton.

KENDAL AND DISTRICT continues to hold sewing meetings for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Many members are engaged in the agricultural registration for women, and two are on the Tribunals, while some are entirely responsible for the Red Cross work done in the town and district.

Forthcoming Meetings.

MARCH 31st. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home" Speaker: Miss S. P. Morrison; Subject: "Experiences in Serbia" 4.30

APRIL 1st. London Society—Quarterly Council, Dennison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., Saturday, April 1st—Chair: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.—Members of the Society are cordially invited to be present.

APRIL 3rd. Birmingham—Sparkbrook—Motherhood—Mrs. Barrow Cadbury 3.0

Birmingham—All Saints' Church House—Motherhood—Sex Teaching, Mrs. Atlee—Second letter 3.0

Birmingham—Bradford Street Wesleyan Mission—Motherhood, Sex Teaching—Mrs. Harrison Barrow 3.0

Birmingham—Harrison Road—Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 3.0

Birmingham—Soho Co-operative Guild—Motherhood—Mrs. Wynne 3.0

Birmingham—St. Basil's, Deritend—Motherhood—Miss Albright 3.30

Reading—The Abbey Hall—Meeting in support of the Maternity Units for the Relief of Refugees in Russia—Chairman: The Mayor—Speakers: The Countess Gurowska, Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

APRIL 4th. Wallasey and Wirral—Liscard Concert Hall—Speakers: Miss G. Cooke and Miss E. F. Rathbone 3.0

APRIL 6th. Birmingham—Acock's Green—Meeting—Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 3.0

Scottish Women's Hospitals

APRIL 4th.—The Criterion Theatre—Dr. Elsie Inglis, on "Pioneer Hospital Work in Serbia"—Chair: The Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G. 3.0

Working Parties.

Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 49A, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 2.0

Blackheath and Greenwich Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk Every Tuesday, 2.0-6.0

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30, and every Thursday at 8.0

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit Every Monday, 3.0-6.0

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

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street—March 29th 3.0-5.0

Bristol—Working Party at St. Agnes Vicarage—March 30th

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

Chiswick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit On Thursday, at 2.45-4.15 p.m.

Highgate—At 25, West Hill—Hostess, M. Garnett—Members and friends cordially invited every 3rd Friday

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held in the Office, 41, Spring Street Every Tuesday

Paddington—22, Kildare Terrace, West Grove (by kind permission of Mrs. Barrow) Working Party for London Units N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day

Redhill—At Miss Woodward's, 10, Road—Sewing Party Every Tuesday

Reigate—For N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Hospitals and Maternity Unit Refuges—February 28th and alternate Scarborough—6, Falconer Chamber Party Every Tuesday, 2.45

Shipley and Baildon—Ladies' Parlour, Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting Every Thursday, 2.30

Southampton—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit, at Hazelhurst, Hulse Road—Hostess, Mrs. Farquharson Every Wednesday, 3.0-6.30

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

Wakofield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.30-6.0

Warwick and Leamington—35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Working Party to make sand bags Hospital Garments Every Tuesday and Friday, 2-2

Erratum.

By an error, Mrs. Townley appeared as Organiser to the South-Western Federation instead of to the East Bristol Society in the list of Federations and Societies.

Announcements.

There will be a meeting on Rural Education at the War, on April 5th, at 2.30 p.m., at the Caxt Hall, under the auspices of the National Land Home League. The President, Colonel Lord Hen Bentinck, M.P., will be in the chair. Admiss free; tickets from the League offices, Queen Anne Chambers, Tot Hill Street, Westminster, S.W.

A recital of Henry Ibsen's "Peer Gynt" (translated by William and Charles Archer), by Miss Arna Henie, on Saturday, April 1st, at the Margaret Morris Theatre, King's sea. (For further particulars, see page 6)

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