

THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE REVIEW.

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INTROSPECTION.

The New Year is ever a period of introspection. Stock-taking in the commercial world has its counterpart in the case of the individual in a reckoning which will be, according to temperament, more or less sustained. This year few of us will escape the tendency to carry out on our own account a national stock-taking, to weigh the events of the past year, to see how things stand with Britain and her Allies. It will be found, in all probability, that both the sanguine and the pessimistic can meet on common ground. No one disputes to-day the original unpreparedness for war. Neither the efficiency and readiness of the Navy, nor the existence of that gallant Expeditionary Force of which so little remains, refutes the fact. The former alone was equal to its task; the very size of the latter showed how inadequate had been the national conception of our responsibilities. Now, thanks to their command of the sea, the Allies find themselves after seventeen months of fighting, with a marked superiority in resources over the enemy. But this stage has only been reached over the stepping-stones of diplomatic blunders and military defeats. Until within the last few weeks little has been done by the Entente Powers to secure unity of direction for their diplomacy or for their efforts in the field. The shortcomings of both in the Near East have been conspicuous. We are no longer at pains to disguise the failure of the Dardanelles operations, and only the intricacy of the position in the Balkans prevents us from seeing clearly there also the writing on the wall. From the wealth of explanations that have accompanied the conduct of the war one fact emerges. It has already been summed up in the words, "Too late!" In this matter the nation as a whole cannot divest itself of its responsibilities. It may think now that blame attaches to those who did not believe in war, and would not prepare for war, but in so far as it allowed them to influence the course of its affairs, it is itself to blame. If

introspection is to be carried out honestly, we must admit, as a nation, that ignorance and above all indifference have contributed to our present misfortunes. We have been too intent on domestic matters to appreciate the trend of events abroad. Even when the latter sounded a trumpet-call of warning, we have remained indifferent. The very fact that we find the Near Eastern question perplexing implies the lack of previous effort to understand it. Taking its cue from the man in the street, British diplomacy made up its mind seven years ago that the Balkans were nothing to Great Britain. When the present war started in the Balkans it still could not bring itself—as the official correspondence proves—to realise that the Balkan question was part of the general European question. Little wonder, therefore, that the whole handling of the situation in the Near East has been marked by mistakes of omission and commission.

Since the war began the delay that has taken place in getting abreast of military requirements—munitions and men—has been in no small measure due to a reluctance to face the situation. At first the war was to be over before the end of 1914; then it was to be finished by a grand assault in the spring. Last summer it was held to be unlikely that there would be another winter campaign. We have allowed optimism to becloud our judgment. Instead of making up our minds, as a nation, that the only way to wage a war of this nature was to put forth at once our maximum effort, we have coquetted with half measures, trusting to the war being over before we should be compelled to take certain steps that we were anxious to avoid. In no other way can the shortage of munitions be explained; it is awkward to have to mobilise the whole of our man-power, and for that reason the war was allowed to continue for fourteen months before even Lord Derby's scheme of recruiting was tried. Public opinion is apt to throw the whole of the blame on the Government; but, if we carry the process of introspection

a little further, we shall find that the Government in this respect has reflected the popular attitude. There has been on the part of the nation as a whole a striking reluctance to accept the war as the supreme factor in its existence. If it were not so, there would be no need for repeated appeals for public thrift; nor could there be any strikes, if every section of the community realised that the war was paramount and that nothing else counted. In our private lives there is the tendency to "carry on" as far as possible on the lines to which we were accustomed before the war, and the Government, following this example, has applied the principle to the conduct of public affairs.

If now we extend the scope of our introspection to include the object which before the war united us as Anti-Suffragists, how does the land lie? There is no need to avoid the question because for the time being our thoughts are centred on the war and the efforts which it has called forth. However much we may wish to be rid of the Suffrage controversy, it is evident that it is being kept alive in spite of the war, and will be pushed as far as possible to the forefront of political issues when the war is over. The national crisis through which we are passing may well serve as a warning in regard to the Suffrage question. The European War was not avoided, nor was Britain kept out of it, by the refusal of the nation to admit that war was possible or by its unwillingness to prepare for it. In the same way we shall not get rid of the Suffrage controversy by refusing to recognise its existence. On the other hand, unpreparedness to meet the issue may place us in the predicament in which the country found itself at the outbreak of the war. In the case of a political question there is less likelihood of our having a long period within which our preparations may be completed without the danger of final defeat. The political campaign, if it comes, may be short and decisive, unless our position is held strongly enough to withstand all attacks. An initial retreat, due to our having set our hearts too much on domestic peace during this time of crisis, may spell irretrievable disaster. If this fact be borne in mind, introspection will enable us to decide how far individually we have contributed towards the permanent strength of the Anti-Suffrage position. If some, for one reason or another, have grown luke-warm, they will have done as much to betray the cause as those who in the face of the German menace would have had Britain content with a small Navy and would have deprived her of a military striking force, however small. Most of us, in regard to domestic affairs at least, are pacifists, and would like to see the domestic controversy over Woman Suffrage eliminated from politics, particularly after the country has been called upon to face the supreme issue—a war of life and death. But we have seen the futility of crying "Peace! peace!" where there is no peace, and have realised, or ought to have realised, that those who set their personal predilections above the country's welfare, not only act the part of traitors but prejudice the cause they have at heart. Those who encouraged Germany to believe that Great Britain would never fight, least of all in a quarrel originating between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, not only bear their share of responsibility for the war, but have shut the doors for many a decade on friendship between the Germans and ourselves. In the same way those who now encourage the Suffragists to think that they can steal a march on the country on the strength of women's work in war time are not only paving the way for embittered controversy after the war, but are helping to keep the women of the

country permanently in two camps. The surest way to eliminate the political strife which it is sought to avoid in the future is to bring home the lesson of the war to those who based their agitation on the belief that government had ceased to be based on physical force.

"SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE."

Nineteen swift years had sped
Since his wee downy head
First slept on my heart:
Now strong and tall and straight—
Sprung into man's estate—
War tore us apart.

Gladly he crossed the sea
To fight for liberty,
England, and home, and me,
To face death fearlessly,
Somewhere in France!

Nineteen slow days have passed
Since his brown hand I clasped
In cheery good-bye—
And his dear, sunburnt face
Bent with a boyish grace
To kiss me tenderly.

My arms stretch yearningly,
Would I could near him be,
Where he fights faithfully,
Daring death dauntlessly,
Somewhere in France!

Nineteen long weeks have gone,
No more writes my darling one
Love letters to me.
'Neath the unflinching skies
Cold, pale and still he lies,
That men may be free.

Bravely the jasper sea
He crossed for liberty,
England, and home, and me,
Now he sleeps peacefully,
Somewhere in France!

How many days, weeks, years,
Ere the glad hour appears
Us two to unite,
In that fair country where
Enters nor pain nor care,
Nor darkens the light.

Where there is no more sea,
Where there is liberty,
Safe for eternity,
There my child waits for me—
Somewhere in Heav'n.
BERTHA HUDSON.

We regret to have to record the death of Lord Glasgow, a Member of Council of the League. At a meeting of the Executive Committee it was resolved that a message of sympathy should be conveyed to Lady Glasgow, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Scottish League.

MOTHER AND WAGE EARNER.

MISS G. S. POTT.

Public attention is drawn in the Press almost daily towards two questions closely connected with each other and with women. The saving of child life and the condition of women wage-earners are engaging the general interest of all classes, and have been the subject of several articles in recent numbers of the ANTI-SUFFRAGE REVIEW. The importance of sound economic principles in our political, financial and social life is great even in normal times, but becomes highly accentuated by the war. The appearance of Miss B. L. Hutchins' "*Women in Modern Industry*" and of two books containing reports of enquiries undertaken by societies specially interested in working women is, therefore, doubly interesting at this moment. Each publication deserves the careful attention of those who are taking part in social reform. "*Maternity*," with a preface by the Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., is a collection of letters from working class mothers, put together by the Women's Co-operative Guild, and written in answer to enquiries issued by that Association as to the conditions under which the children of the writers had been brought into the world. "*Married Women's Work*," edited by Miss Clementina Black, contains the report of an investigation into the conditions of wage-earning wives and widows of the industrial classes, organised by the Women's Industrial Council in 1909 and 1910. The latter publication appears in the form of papers written by a dozen women, the longest contribution, as well as the preface and introduction, being by Miss C. Black herself. Familiar problems re-appear in these pages. Irregularity of work, cut wages, evils of home industry, child labour, bad housing, sub-letting, and the like, all conducing to extreme poverty. One writer notes the "rare phenomenon of industrial competition between men and women," and that "the effect of the woman weaver has been to reduce the wages of men." All such conditions of poverty are well known, but present so overwhelming a problem that every honest attempt towards investigation of their causes is welcome. The aim of the Council in arranging this enquiry seems to have been elucidation of the question as to whether women's work in the labour market is detrimental to herself, her children, or the home. These points are of such importance that one wishes a larger proportion of the workers engaged in the trades affected had been included in the enquiry. Eight glove makers, four upholsterers, sixteen artificial flower makers, nine street sellers, etc., are not sufficient numbers upon which to base reliable conclusions regarding the conditions of those trades in London. But Miss C. Black is aware of the Report's shortcoming in this respect, as is shown by the final paragraph of her introduction. We are told in the preface that the record of every case was obtained through a personal visit from one of a group of individuals engaged by the Women's Industrial Council, and the Edithress points out that practically every witness tells the same tale.

One of the greatest difficulties connected with this kind of enquiry is the elimination of the personal opinion or bias of the investigator. In the absence of information as to the selection of enquirers by the Council, it is not possible to judge how far the individuals appointed for the work were likely to hold strong views as to the desirability or otherwise of legal interference with married women's work, or were convinced supporters of certain proposals of social reform.

But it is well nigh impossible for any ardent believer in a given form of legislation or an enthusiastic disciple of particular socialistic reforms, when collecting facts relating to industrial conditions to prevent personal prejudices from influencing such evidence; especially when, as in this case, the collection is made by personal enquiry. Due allowance should, therefore, always be made for these circumstances. The various papers contributed differ greatly in value, some showing careful and painstaking preparation, others being slight or superficial. Miss Hutchins' chapter upon Yorkshire is an admirable instance of the former class of writing, the paper upon Reading, by Miss (? Mrs.) Celia Reiss an equally striking instance of the latter. Reading presents as interesting and complicated problems of modern industry as any south country town in England, but the article dealing with it in this volume is written in so careless a style as to be valueless to the student. In every industrial centre one can find "a case of a woman earning from 6s. to 10s. a week"; of one "working at an average of 3½d. or 3¾d. per hour"; or of another "earning 10s. a week." To quote such instances without information as to the proportion they bear to the number employed in the trade in the town, affords no clue as to their relative values.

In dealing with the question of the woman wage-earner in relation to home life, and how far the latter is affected by the industrial work of the former, the writers do not always distinguish sufficiently between full and part time labour. It is obvious that a mother who performs her work at home, or who goes out to work only two days in the week is able to give more attention to private duties than one who spends five-and-a-half days out of every seven in a factory. The children in the one case will be less neglected than in the other. Very different values are placed upon "home" life or "home" influence. Some writers appear to think that, if arrangements for the care of children in crèches can be secured, the presence or absence of the mother is immaterial. Other individuals in this world still hold that a good mother's care and influence are of a kind that no stranger can replace. That wives should be given a legal right to a fixed share of their husband's earnings is also suggested. No one seems to be prepared to tackle the question as to whether in such a case the husband is to be given a corresponding legal right to a given standard of food or cooking at home, or whether such legally endowed wives should be held responsible for the provision of sufficient food for the children and be punishable for shortcomings in this respect. Miss Black inclines towards the proposal that the woman worker's house work and the care of her children should be undertaken by "trained experts." These presumably would be supplied by the municipality. Is it not a curious conception of economy that advocates the public training and payment of women to perform the work of other women, in order to release the latter to earn private wages? One seems to scent an underlying suggestion of the "right" of an individual to "live her own life in her own way"—that plausible cry which usually ends in the individual demanding that some one else shall contribute towards her support. A large number of ardent social reformers appear to forget that many values cannot be represented by money.

The authors of the three volumes alluded to, in concert with Miss MacArthur in the *Daily Chronicle* of November 3rd, lay stress upon the economic pressure which drives women into the industrial labour market. It seems al-

most impossible as yet to determine absolutely how far such labour *per se* is detrimental to motherhood and child life. But if, as many experts think, the life of both, and therefore, the future of the nation, do suffer from women's presence in industry, one would wish to meet with some attempt towards dealing with the pressure responsible for the same. No such attempt seems to be made. All writers appear to direct their attention towards easing the woman's position in the labour market, not towards removing the cause that is driving her there. Perhaps the task suggested is too Herculean to be contemplated!

How far industrial employment is responsible for a high rate of infant mortality is a complicated question, touched upon by all our three authors. That poverty and density of population are unfavourable to the health of children is probably admitted by everyone. That the breast-fed baby has a better chance than the artificially-fed child is also generally acknowledged. That factory work prevents the mother performing this duty is obvious. The little volume entitled "*Maternity*" already mentioned gives a painful picture of the sufferings of numbers of working women, and deals with a problem that has been forced to the forefront of public interest of late. To lower the rate of infant mortality we must give greater attention to the mother, both before, during, and after childbirth. The Rt. Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., who has recently told us that in this matter "the Legislature is ahead of the nation," commends to public interest those records collected by the Women's Co-operative Guild, and points out the large powers of local authorities in dealing with the needs of mother and child alike. "The need at the moment," he writes in the Preface, "is to create among the local councillors and their electors a body of opinion which will secure the adoption of this scheme (i.e., assistance to mothers recommended by the Local Government Board a short time ago), and its administration on effective lines." At a recent Mansion House meeting this same subject was urged, and the importance of ante-natal clinics, schools for mothers, etc., advocated. The apathy of electorates is well known. Women as well as men fail to record their vote in the election of councillors, and are absolutely ignorant of the powers of local authorities.

A good deal has been written recently in the Press regarding the necessity of placing women upon Town Councils. Provided the right women be forthcoming, their election is extremely advisable. But it should be remembered that Mr. Alderman Broadbent did not wait for a woman to organise his successful campaign against infant mortality in Huddersfield, nor do the most useful experiments regarding the supply of pure milk in England and New York owe their inception to the official authorities. Individual effort and quiet, but hard work lie behind all such reforms. "The infant," writes the Rt. Hon. H. Samuel, M.P., "cannot be saved by the State. It can only be saved by the mother." So likewise we would urge that the mother's ignorance, which oft-times is responsible for the improper feeding or neglect of the health of her child, can most effectively be remedied by the woman friend or visitor, not by the State. Much legislation exists as to pure food, inspection of dairies, etc.; it has not proved effective. Every individual bears some portion of the blame for this failure. Knowledge is in the possession of the public to-day which was not revealed to our forefathers. Science and medical skill have made vast strides during this generation. The

responsibility of each person is infinitely greater now than it has ever been before. Miss MacArthur's article in the *Daily Chronicle* above referred to, asks for the future expenditure of some few millions of pounds per annum from the public purse in this cause. No one would grudge necessary expense in such a matter, but the calls to-day upon the public purse are of so overwhelming a nature as to make one regard future reconstruction of finance with anxiety. The trend of reformers even before the war was largely in the direction of laying all responsibility upon public authorities, and ignoring the duties of private effort. The public purse is not unfathomable, and many of us believe that after the war this fact will be revealed with startling vividness. In any case, whether public funds be plentiful or scanty, women should not wait for officialism in a matter so closely connected with their own sex as the welfare of children and mothers. That voluntary workers can bring about almost miraculous reforms is proved by Mr. Broadbent's success. If in each large centre or town in England to-day another "Alderman Broadbent" would arise, our rate of infant mortality would be halved. The Huddersfield experiment was tried while the public was apathetic, and had no belief in such methods; yet it was successful. To-day the public is awake to the importance of the subject, and to the probability of success. Voluntary effort can therefore build on the firm foundation laid by Mr. Broadbent. Will women workers not be forthcoming?

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY WAR WORK.

SUGGESTIONS BY AN ONLOOKER.

It is said that onlookers see most of the game, and as the writer of this article has been incapacitated from taking any of the practical parts which women can take in the great war-game now being fought out in three continents, this must be her only claim for offering a few remarks and suggestions to the readers of this REVIEW.

When it is asserted that it is "the thing" to be doing war-work, and that it has even become almost "infra dig." to be doing anything else, there is no intention of belittling the splendid spirit which women have shown in throwing themselves into the nation's work, or the fine quality of the work they have started, and are carrying on in far too many departments to be enumerated here. In every town, perhaps it may be said in every village also, there is the same spirit of ceaseless, sometimes almost feverish, activity. It is not too much to say that, were it not for the personal services rendered by the women of the United Kingdom, from the first moment of the war until now, Britain would not be holding the place she does in this life and death struggle of the nations, either in the eyes of her Allies or of the neutral countries who are looking on.

But the fact that war-work is at the height of the fashion probably is largely accountable for some of the waste of voluntary effort, labour, and funds so greatly to be deprecated at a time when it is becoming more and more necessary to husband, in the thriftiest way, all our national resources. An instance of unthrifty expenditure seems to be furnished by the rapid multiplication of small Red Cross Hospitals, some of which must necessarily suffer from the results of amateurish management, or, if report

speaks true, of mismanagement, and all of which are a most expensive method of using up war funds and war workers. That the need for these small hospitals is not always urgent is proved by the scarcity of patients in some of them, and I heard only recently of one which its promoters intended to close on this account. In the case of hospitals, and more especially military hospitals, it may perhaps safely be said the larger the better. In nursing the wounded, union, instead of separate effort, means strength both as regards efficiency and economy. In a word, I would say, Don't start a small V.A.D. hospital because a house may be offered for the purpose; unless there is, as sometimes happens, a special demand for one in a certain limited locality, perhaps as an adjunct to a base hospital. Where these conditions do not hold good, save funds and voluntary work until a suitable opportunity offers to start something on a fairly large scale, and then let it be under the most expert supervision, and even discipline, that its promoters can command.

Apart from personal services rendered in nursing, and in ministering in many other capacities—new in the history of war—to the wants of our fighting men, the largest material contribution sent to them from women takes the form of needlework. Here apparently, there has been a good deal of waste, probably due to lack of co-operation amongst groups of workers, and to imperfect knowledge of the needs at the front and in military hospitals. Contradictory reports as to these needs are frequently met with in the press and in the personal experience of needle-workers. I will give an instance of the latter, which, even if of no importance in itself, serves as an example of how the uncertainty works out in practice. A servant, wishing to send her mite, knitted some woollen sleeping helmets with neck-pieces attached, in accordance with a pattern given to her. She took them to the depot for war needlework in a large manufacturing town, and they were returned to her with the intimation that only helmets without neck-pieces were wanted. Shortly afterwards a visitor came to stay at the house where she lived, and gladly despatched the helmets to the destination where this pattern was wanted (I cannot at the moment of writing remember whether the destination was another branch for needlework or an officer at the front). At one time also—to give an example on a larger scale—persistent rumours were afloat of a well-known house in town said to be stacked with garments for the troops, which were, however, held up from distribution owing to one cause or another. Then again, there was the sand-bag controversy. Without wishing to re-open that thorny question in these columns, it may be said that the fact that such a controversy could have arisen on a point so vital as the adequate supply of a life-saving commodity, is another proof of the difficulty of obtaining accurate information as to the smaller requirements of the troops. No doubt the most welcome voluntary contributions of needlework are those sent in direct response to private appeals from officers for their men, but this method is only available here and there, when supplies from friends and relations can be drawn upon. Another way of making wants known is by letters to the press. One such letter has just appeared at the time of writing these words, in *The Times* for November 27th. It contains an appeal from a "Sub." "In the Field," for carpet slippers for "the ordinary infantryman, who is only allowed one pair of boots." In the same letter the writer says: "Judging by the number of enquiries I myself have received, there

are a large number of people at home only too anxious to help us, but a little perplexed as to the best means of doing so." One of the causes of this "perplexity" arises from the difficulty of keeping the various organisations, large or small, for voluntary needlework in close touch with Government provisions for the equipment of the forces on sea and land. Now, at last—since this article was begun—a detailed list of the "Army's winter kit" has been issued by the War Office Department (see *The Times* for November 22nd), and the extras wanted from voluntary workers to supplement the kit are carefully specified. It is to be hoped that many similar lists may be published, so that the waste caused by duplication may be avoided. I believe that ample contributions of needlework would always be forthcoming to supply the men of both Services with all the additional comforts needed over and above the Government equipment, if only reliable information as to these extras were speedily obtainable by workers at home.

What seems to be most needed is some central organisation or enquiry office, to serve as a direct and easy means of communication between those at the front and the various agencies for voluntary needlework at home. The business of such an organisation could be exclusively clerical, and no patterns or materials need be supplied by it. To cover ground in this latter way would be to overlap with work of which there is already—judging from the clash of patterns—a superfluity. There would also be no question of interference with the work of existing agencies. The idea would be simply to supplement that work by affording every group of workers, or even individual workers, the opportunity of learning at first hand and directly from the front, what extra garments or comforts are most needed at any particular time and place. Letters would be invited from Army and Naval officers, stating these requirements, but no responsibility for supplying them would be undertaken, either by the proposed central office or by needleworkers or societies applying to it for information. If such responsibility were to be accepted it would mean the starting of another war fund, which is a consummation devoutly *not* to be wished. The sole function of such an office would be that of receiving applications from the front and handing them on to workers at home. Full addresses could be forwarded, with other particulars, and parcels could be despatched to their destinations, just as they are now, by those responsible for them.

The one and only object of the scheme, imperfectly outlined here, is to secure the maximum amount of comfort for the troops, by utilising to the best possible advantage the big output of voluntary needlework. To achieve this result is pre-eminently women's business, and no apology is needed for ventilating it in a women's REVIEW. Perhaps I may be permitted to add that, if it should be found possible to institute a central enquiry office for gifts for His Majesty's forces on the lines of the above suggestion, it could be used for obtaining information about small comforts and luxuries, other than needlework, which would be most appreciated by the men.

The need for public and private thrift and economy is being urgently pressed upon the nation from many pulpits. Waste has to be guarded against no less in the use of voluntary funds and work than in other departments of war activity, and none of the eagerness to help, of which "Sub." speaks in the letter quoted above, so germane to these "suggestions," should be dissipated in doubtful ventures, just for the sake of "doing something," or

being *dans le mouvement*. Far better that the eagerness should be restrained until the clear call comes, and that all resources of our national life and energy should be carefully husbanded to meet fresh exigencies in the hard time yet to come.

In a postscript the writer adds:—

Since my article was sent to the Editor of THE ANTI-SUFFRAGE REVIEW, a detailed notice of the "Army Council's Scheme for Co-ordinating Voluntary Effort" has appeared in *The Times* for December 10th, in the form of a letter written by Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Director-General of Voluntary Organisations.

So far as I am aware, this is the first definite statement of the kind that has been published, and it evidently covers much the same ground as that where I have ventured to tread. Multiplication of agencies to do the same kind of war work is one of the pitfalls most to be avoided, but if these "suggestions" only help to make the scheme of the Army Council more widely known, they will by no means have failed in their main object, i.e., to secure the best results from and to avoid waste in voluntary war work.

"ONLOOKER."

The following is the notice issued by Sir Edward Ward for general information:—

The Army Council's scheme for co-ordinating voluntary effort has received an enthusiastic response throughout the country. A large number of county, city, borough, and district associations have been formed, and they in turn are setting up local branches and "groups of workers."

The organisation has already been the means of supplying many thousands of knitted articles for the use of the troops overseas, and it is apparent, with the excellent support the scheme is receiving, that in the near future the great work of securing a regular and even flow of comforts for the fighting men and for the wounded in the military hospitals will be accomplished.

In any district where arrangements have not been completed for the formation of a voluntary organisation the county, borough, or district official is invited to take immediate steps to complete the association, and thus secure War Office "recognition" in order that the efforts of all voluntary workers may be directed into the most useful channels.

Among the advantages of working under the Army Council scheme are:—

- (1) The right to publish the words "Approved by the War Office."
- (2) To be supplied, when necessary, with standard patterns (free of charge) of all articles.
- (3) The inspection of finished articles by an expert.
- (4) Free transport from a depot or sub-depot of all articles requisitioned by the Director-General direct to destinations determined by him.
- (5) To receive a badge of recognition as a voluntary worker subject to the conditions laid down by the D.G.V.O. (It should be noted that the only official badge for voluntary workers is issued through the office of the D.G.V.O.)
- (6) To obtain advice on all matters connected with the association and guidance as to what articles are really needed.
- (7) Workers have the satisfaction of knowing that finished articles will be delivered by the quickest possible route free of charge to the troops most in need of them. All will have a fair share, and this is particularly necessary in these days, when detachments and units are rapidly moved from place to place, and consequently lose touch with their regimental associations or the working parties interested in particular battalions or individuals.

The demands on the department of the D.G.V.O. are very heavy at the present time, and all voluntary workers who desire really to help the fighting troops and military hospitals in the most useful way by providing comforts should communicate at once with their local voluntary organisations centre.

WOMAN'S PLACE.

Miss Edith Milner writes:—

Never was woman's place more clearly defined than at the outbreak of this great world war. First and foremost it is in the hospitals, and nobly did the women answer the call. But the number, though unlimited as far as need goes, can only be estimated by the special gift, and above all, by long and careful training. As the matron of a well-known hospital said to a Suffragette who announced herself as a born nurse, "We have no room for such here." Women in hundreds went in for training, and came out qualified, and there are thousands everywhere, fulfilling woman's highest calling. But what of the millions left? There is work for every one, but it is work that must not or should not be advertised. Nothing has been more offensive than the braying of trumpets, the processions, the meetings, of the Militant Suffragettes, who horrified the civilised world by their wanton destruction of property, their attempts, in some cases too successful, to destroy sacred buildings, their threats to the clergy, their profane interruptions of God's services, in fine, these forerunners of the Huns, who only stopped short of taking the human lives their antics had certainly endangered. Are they now to dictate to England's law-abiding daughters what woman's duty is? One of these (and probably there are hundreds more) has been inundated with Suffragette literature, because she responded to the request from the men at the front, and made a public appeal to the women of the North, which was magnificently responded to, for help to make sandbags for the trenches. She was patted on the back and invited to meetings to hear Miss Christabel Pankhurst on the situation. Needless to say she received no offers of help in the necessary but non-advertising work of making sandbags. Only a week or two ago one of the Suffragettes came uninvited to a party given weekly to wounded and convalescent soldiers, and was heard urging them to record their vote for women in the near future, on the first opportunity. The men listened politely, they are all gentlemen, these gallant defenders of ours; then one of them said, "And when you get the vote, madam, will you respect noble mansions, public property, and sacred buildings, or if you find the vote does not bring you all you expect, will you still terrorise the weaker vessel, man?" Her reply was not heard. I think this confirms the statement one hears on many sides, of the base advantage taken by many of these persons in their visits to hospitals, in order to air their sentiments, and to make shameless bids for the vote. Some say that when the war is over the women will get the vote. I say, as I have said before, if the kind that want it do force it on women who deserve that noble name, God will have forsaken England. How can I better conclude than by laying my homage at the feet of that noble woman, Nurse Edith Cavell. She gave her life for her country, for her God, for the womanhood of England. She had devoted her great gifts to the noblest work women can do, and in the full flower of her splendid womanhood she passed on, murdered by the perpetrators of such acts as Suffragettes have not been ashamed to commit, and she will live for ever, not only in the Courts above, but in the memory of her sister women and the true manhood of the whole world.

Can arrogance further go? I can hardly realise that the *Suffragette* has blossomed into *Britannia*. One after

another of the secretaries have bombarded me with the paper, patting me on the back for my letters to *The Times*, and inviting me to read Miss Christabel Pankhurst's effusions. Many pence were spent on me. At last the worm turned, and I wrote on a post-card: "Miss Milner has barely time to glance at the headings of the war news in *The Times*. She does not in any case think she need read Suffragette literature in order to learn how to do her duty. She is certainly not likely to find any thing congenial in the papers devoted to the dissemination of Suffragette principles, expressed by women who set such a magnificent example to the Huns, when they destroyed sacred buildings, committed sacrilege in God's House when His services were being held, burnt and injured private property, threatened venerable priests—in short committed every sort of outrage that would have held its own with the Huns' conduct." Now, it seems to me the Women's Social and Political Union and the whole organisation want to take upon themselves to dictate not only to the Government,—we can make them a present of whatever concessions it gives them—but to the women who from the very beginning of the war placed their services in the hands of those who needed them. The quiet work that has been done will never be known, except to those who have benefited, perhaps not always even to them. These workers' one plea is not to be advertised. What are these self-advertisers doing that the daughters of England are not doing? Well, they "process" on every possible occasion, a hideous and unwomanly method of attracting attention; they are calling meetings, and preaching—what? When all is done that can be done, we cannot give the mothers back their dead sons, the widows their husbands. We can help the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the deaf to hear, thanks to the wonderful gifts of God in helping man to develop the power of healing. It is not given to every one to nurse, but every one can give up time and their own pleasures to sit with the convalescent, to cheer the men in the long dark evenings that are so fast drawing in. But let the women who deserve the name do their work quietly and circumspectly. There is much to be done. Homes can be utilised for the convalescent men in hospitals when they can get out. They are generally strangers in the towns where they are sent to recover. But let us work silently, without advertisement; let us keep away from public meetings. Let woman's motto be "Deeds, not words," and England will have cause in the future to be thankful that God made woman to be man's helpmate.

One word I should like to add with regard to a great work which belongs especially to women. A Y.W.C.A. Club was opened yesterday in York by Lady Wilma Lawson, wife of the General Commanding Yorkshire Forces, as a club for girls. There they can bring their friends of both sexes. An excellent canteen is provided, and I should like to send later on a full account of the result after a month's trial.

The Beehive.—The Beehive's recent activities include a party for poor children at Baldovan, arranged by Miss Young, and another in the Foresters' Hall, Dundee, at which nearly 70 children were present. Lady Griselda Cheape spoke at each gathering. A contribution of 15s. has been sent to the Abercorn Orphanage, a package of socks despatched for Highland soldiers, and twenty 1s. calendars bought for the Blue Cross. Anyone wishing to help this society can do so by applying for a calendar, sending 1s. and postage to Lady Griselda Cheape, Straththyrum, St. Andrews.

THE INFORMATION BUREAU.

415, Oxford Street, W.

The Committee have much pleasure and gratification in reporting that Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to award to the Bureau her special certificate, as a mark of her appreciation of the work done for Her Majesty's Needlework Guild.

The meeting at Lady Haversham's, previously referred to in the REVIEW, took place on Monday, November 29th, at 3 p.m.

There was a large and distinguished gathering, which included Viscountess Parker, the Dowager Countess of Jersey, Maud Lady Calthorpe, Lord and Lady Charnwood, Lady Montgomery Moore, Lady Sloggitt, Lady Wilson, The Hon. Lady Tryon, Mrs. Austin Chamberlain, Miss Bonar Law, The Hon. Mrs. Bernard Malet, The Hon. Mrs. Southby, the Hon. Mrs. Kennell, Col. Blenkinsop, Col. and Mrs. Fenn, the Misses Frere, Mrs. John Aparcar, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar Buller, Mrs. Willoughby Dumerque. The chair was occupied by Mr. E. A. Mitchell Innes, K.C., who opened the proceedings by thanking Lord and Lady Haversham for their generous kindness in lending their house for the purpose of giving valuable aid to the Information Bureau. After giving a statement of the objects of the Bureau and of the work it had accomplished since the declaration of war, Mr. Mitchell Innes said that the party truce entered into in August, 1914, had been most loyally kept by all members of the N.L.O.W.S. The Bureau had taken to itself a new name, and had devoted itself exclusively to works in connection with the war. He gave an account of the many organisations that have already derived benefit from the exertions of the Bureau, and stated the substantial help in the way of warm clothing and other comforts that had been given, not only to all branches of our own Army and Navy at home and abroad, but also to various organisations of our Allies, notably the Croix Rouge Française, the Serbian Relief Fund, the Russian Hospital, and several Belgian societies. Other important work had been done for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, generally in response to some urgent appeal from that body, e.g., the demand for respirator bags in May last, for pyjamas in September for the Russian Hospital, and many others. Mr. Mitchell Innes spoke of the valuable help given to the Y.M.C.A. by the Bureau, of how £500 had been promised, of which £300 had been raised, of one hut already in being at Seaford, and of another £100 still required to complete the sum. In June last the military authorities had requested the Bureau to take over the provision of extra comforts for certain of the military hospitals, and this had been and was being done, with excellent results. Miss Dormer Maunder, Organising Director of Belgian Hospitals, had expressed a wish that the Bureau should act as her sole agent in London for the providing and receiving for dispatch various necessaries and comforts for the Belgian wounded in the Military Hospitals at Bourbourg and elsewhere. The Chairman begged his audience to give these facts their serious consideration, and to do all in their power to support the Bureau and enable it to continue its patriotic work for Britain and her Allies. Since the war there had been a sensible diminution in the subscriptions, and it was necessary that the rent of the room should be guaranteed until next July at any rate: he appealed to their generosity and patriotism not to let so useful an organisation fall to the ground for want of timely assistance.

Lady Tree then recited Kipling's "If," and a poem called "The Debt," by an anonymous writer. She also told the "Little Hatchet" story of George Washington and his father, to the great amusement of the audience.

Mr. John Foster Fraser gave an interesting address on Russia and the Near East. He stated that the chief amphitheatre of war had shifted back to the Near East, not from the present failure in the Dardanelles, nor the failure to take Constantinople, but chiefly on account of the German ambition to gain a port on the Mediterranean, and also to get a clear run for her railway to India through countries in which she, and she alone, would be the dominant Power. There was also the great wheat supply of Southern Russia, over which Germany wished to obtain control. This wheat was supposed to be shut up at Odessa when war broke out, and to set the Russian grain ships in the Black Sea free was supposed to be one of our tasks in going to the Dardanelles. He had been in Russia this autumn, and had seen there great stores of grain; he was happy to say they were quite safe, but they were not at Odessa. Everybody must have been filled with admiration at the part Russia had played in the war. For many years the English had thought of the Russians as barbarians. Their ideas were being modified by the study of modern Russian literature, by the reports of travellers, and, above all, by the behaviour of the people themselves with regard to the war. They thought of it as a holy war, and that it was their duty as Christians to take up arms against the powers of evil as embodied in the Germans, who for many years had practically enslaved them commercially, and to a large extent socially. The religion of the Russian is the most vital factor in his life, and a far greater reality to him than national consideration. Hence his unpracticalness and the difficulty of getting regular work out of him. He was an idealist. That there had been black spots on the Russian character was beyond doubt. The people themselves were conscious of it, and were determined to get rid of them, and to develop Russia on true Slav lines rather than imitate Western nations. The Tsar's prohibition of vodka had shorn the revenue of £67,000,000 a year; but it had meant the salvation of the people.

This war was a war of liberation for Russia; she was passing through the throes of distress; and she had lost to the enemy a piece of territory as large as England. She was, however, gaining such strength as not only to hold him up, but to thrust him back. There were no hospitals such as we have here, except in some of the large towns; but almost every private house had been turned into a hospital.

The Dowager Countess of Jersey rose to move a vote of thanks, and said she was there for a fivefold purpose: (1) To thank Lord and Lady Haversham; (2) to thank Mr. Foster Fraser for his eloquent words; (3) to thank Mr. Mitchell Innes for his facts with regard to the Information Bureau; (4) to thank Lady Tree for her charming recitations; (5) to thank all who had contributed to the success of the meeting, and especially the Royal Geographical Society for their loan of the map of Europe.

In her reference to the Bureau, Lady Jersey said that all the workers took their share in the excellent work carried on so splendidly and successfully by Miss Blenkinsop.

Lord Haversham thanked Lady Jersey, and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Fraser for his interesting lecture.

Mr. Cummins, R.A.M.C., spoke of the excellent work done by the Bureau for his Military Hospital, and of its appreciation by both staff and patients.

The proceedings then terminated, and Lady Haversham entertained the company to tea, after which they proceeded to view the exhibition of articles made by the Bureau workers, which included dressing gowns, knitted waistcoats, pyjamas, bed-jackets, helmets, operation shirts, helpless case shirts, wadded quilts, cushions, cap covers, vests, shirts, kit bags, special arm cushion, and other things, besides bandages and sponges in great variety, these latter having been made under the direction of Miss Wadsworth and Miss King, in the new room in Westmorland Street.

A large number of articles have been sent to various Military Hospitals during the past month, and another large consignment has been sent to Miss Dormer Maunder, including a great number of purple jackets and seven padded quilts, the gift of the Dulwich working party. One of these, with a charming design of kittens drinking out of a saucer, was entirely hand-made by Mrs. Parish with her customary skill and beauty of workmanship.

A letter received from Miss Dormer Maunder says: "The last ward jackets are much the nicest with the piping in green. There is such keen competition in the wards as to which will be the next to receive ward colours; they do make the wards so careful their ward shall be the next."

A barrel of apples, kindly sent by Lady Page Wood, accompanied the parcel of coats. A useful parcel of clothes and an outfit for a young girl going to service has been received from Mrs. Gale, of Bardsea Hall, and distributed between Mrs. Macdonald and Miss Phillot.

A consignment of shirts has been sent to prisoners of war in Germany.

A number of white cotton caps and lavender bags were supplied to Miss Frere for her stall at a sale of work.

An application was received from the Westminster Division of the S.S.F.A. for a maternity bag. The request was a matter for some surprise to the Committee that bags should be still required by any divisions of the S.S.F.A.; it was, nevertheless, acceded to.

A similar bag was sent to a very poor district in Ireland where it was thankfully received and greatly welcomed.

Miss G. F. Martin has kindly undertaken to overlook this department of the Bureau's work.

In response to an urgent appeal from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild for comforts for the troops going to Salonika, a large parcel of socks and warm garments of various kinds was sent and gratefully acknowledged.

In addition, four Bashliks, or Russian hoods, the gift of Mrs. Whittick, were made and sent to an officer in a remote part of the Balkans.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

A message of hearty congratulation on the recent defeat of the Woman Suffrage amendments in the States of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts has been sent by the Executive Committee of the N.L.O.W.S. to the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage in New York.