

THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY.

Societies and Branches in the Union
602.

LAW-ABIDING.

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidency of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

Keeping the Flag Flying.

We are obliged to curtail somewhat the voluminous correspondence that we receive, because of lack of space. A letter from a Newcastle member, however, so admirably puts women's duty and aspiration that we print it entire, and are proud to know, from reports to hand, that just in that spirit are the great majority of National Unionists meeting the crisis. We see it asserted in *Votes for Women* that we have "dropped all political work for the time being," and the *Irish Citizen* states the National Union is "abandoning all its Suffrage propaganda." These are mis-statements, and it is essential that our members should correct them. The National Union has "abandoned" nothing. It has announced that it has temporarily "suspended ordinary political work," but it is doing a good deal of extraordinary political work, and with excellent results. The Union is not made of cast iron, and when the political situation changes in a way utterly incalculable, a movement that is alert and living like ours will change its work to meet the situation. But Suffragists do not change their minds, or lower their flag.

Minding the Baby.

We hear of many schemes afoot for keeping the children alive, and we hope to report them. No doubt women will have the sense to work in with existing organisations such as schools for mothers. The system of day-nurseries or *crèches* will probably be extended and Suffragists will find this way of "minding the baby" particularly congenial. It is urged that wherever such nurseries are established, every possible effort should be made to maintain breast-feeding and to see that the mother is adequately provided for.

Difficult Readjustments.

It really is a little difficult for "comfortable" women to know in every case what is the right thing to do. On the one hand, appeals are being made to their patriotism and they are feeling they want to work and work hard. On the other hand, they are being told that, by doing for nothing work which is ordinarily paid for, they are depriving working women of much-needed wages. Here is a case for which we can vouch: A large town, in which poorer housekeepers were discharging servants and still poorer ones going without the usual charwomen and washerwomen simply because they had no money with which to pay wages; where, also, a considerable number of factory hands were thrown out of work. In this town it was decided to open a hospital, and the Red Cross and V.A.D. were called up to work, with the astonishing result that two hundred ladies were willing—probably anxious—to scrub floors. If we follow out the results, we see that the unemployed charwomen, laundry-women, factory hands, &c., would have to come upon the Relief Fund and be kept, workless, on a small pittance. The ladies, on the other hand, would probably scrub the floors less well than the women who were used to the work. Whatever one may think of the doctrine that all women should cook and clean, no matter what else they are fit for, it will be seen that the present crisis is not the moment to add an unnecessary item to the existing dislocation of industry. The ladies interested in Red Cross work would be better employed in organising the employment of working women for wages than in doing the work themselves. In an emergency, and where there is no labour available, the ladies would be patriotically employed in doing any work that needed doing as well as they could.

What Soldiers' Wives Should Do.

The Official Press Bureau has issued the following:—
"During the war the regular allowance will be issued in the case of all British units at home or in the colonies and Egypt (not India) to wives and families of all non-commissioned officers and men married off the strength, provided that marriage took place before the date of this notice, August 14th, 1914.
"Women married off the strength should at once write to the officer in charge of the records of their husband's regiment, giving the soldier's name, rank, regiment, regimental number, date, and place of marriage, names, ages, and sexes of children (if any). Marriage and birth certificates to be enclosed, if possible, to avoid delay. The paymaster at the station where the record office of the regiment is situated will issue the allowance, and all inquiries as to payments should be addressed to him."
It has been found necessary to see that all birth and marriage certificates are endorsed "To be returned to Mrs. —," with name and full address, otherwise they are apt to be mislaid and great suffering and confusion caused.

Some Hints for Organisers.

Schemes for providing work for women and girls out of employment are being started in various parts of the country. It is to be hoped that their organisers will realise the necessity for skilled supervision, if the work turned out is to be really satisfactory. Even good seamstresses are often quite incapable of cutting out the simplest garments, while many girls who profess to be needlewomen are thoroughly inefficient, spoiling anything entrusted to them unless they are carefully looked after. It should, however, be easy to find an experienced forewoman who would give the less skilled workers the training they

Winter Clothing for School-children.

[We leave writers perfectly free to expound facts and suggest remedies, but in no case does the N.U.W.S.S. take responsibility for the views set forward in signed articles. Our object is to provide a platform for free discussion.]

The proposal that the National Union should specialise during the war in the care and relief of necessitous child-bearing women and of their infants will doubtless commend itself to us all. The work is peculiarly appropriate to Suffragists, and it is of vital importance to our country's future.

But I should like to suggest a further field for our labour, one equally appropriate and really a natural continuation of the other. This is the supply of warm clothing during the winter to the many needy children who will be attending the Elementary Schools. Everyone acquainted with the schools knows that whenever there is distress in the homes, the children's clothing goes short. And in the winter this is a prime source of illness among the children, and often means life-long injury to their constitutions.

I venture, therefore, to suggest that every society in the Union should at once form a Children's Clothing Committee, which will collect money for the purchase of materials, cut out the garments, and distribute them among the members of the Society, who will make them up in their own homes between now and December, when the pinch of cold will begin to be felt.

The number of children likely to require such aid in the particular neighbourhood, and the kinds of clothing suitable should, of course, be first roughly ascertained through the teachers.

A wise and careful distribution of the clothing could also be easily effected with the teachers' aid. Moreover, through the co-operation of the teachers with the Committee, the clothing, once provided, could be secured to the child; the teacher would see that the child wore it. This is an important point. For clothing given to the poor is very apt to find its way to the pawnshop; it then becomes a very wasteful and undesirable form of charity. This should be carefully borne in mind by the many "Sewing Circles" which are now concerned with relief. But upon the pawning of these children's clothes a check could be kept through the schools, and the temptation to pawn them be put out of the way of struggling parents.

Perhaps a word should here be added about the cry that is going up all round: "Don't work yourself, but pay for the work to be done." The cry is plausible, and in some directions it gives a useful caution. But when things are looked at broadly it does not rest on an altogether sound economic basis, and there is considerable danger that it may paralyse useful activities, and cause a great reduction in the sum total of relief of all kinds available for our working-class population. Many people can give work who have no money to spare, or who already are giving all the money they can afford to other objects connected with the war. If these can extend their charities by their labour, why should they not do it?

As regards this making of children's clothes, there could, of course, be no objection to one's paying (if one can) some woman one knows of, who is in need of such employment, to do it. But, in the first place, many unemployed women will be unable to do needlework decently, and, in the second place, odd jobs will not be of much value to them. For most of them appropriate work of a regular sort will have to be organised, as for the men, on a large scale; and after the first crisis of industrial disorganisation is past, there is every prospect that work will be found for a large proportion, though doubtless at reduced wages.

The economic question is too complicated to enter upon here; but I would offer just this one point as a sample of the kind of thing to be taken into consideration: Suppose that A (whose means, say, are limited—and all our means are ultimately limited) could only afford to provide one child's coat if she paid for its being made as well as for the material, could provide two or three coats if she made them herself, then not only will more children be properly clad, but the workers, men and women, at the factories where the stuff is made will have so much more employment—and employment in the regular course of their trade, which is so important. But every care should, of course, be taken by those who offer their labour gratis that they do not thereby displace paid workers from their ordinary employment.

MARY WARD.

IRISH WOMEN ON LOCAL COUNCILS.

We have received from the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association a leaflet giving the names of nine women serving as Town and County Councillors in Ireland, forty-one serving as Rural District Councillors (who are also Poor Law Guardians), and 118 elected as Poor Law Guardians.

Review.

BOY LIFE AND LABOUR. By Arnold Freeman, with a preface by Dr. M. E. Sadler. (King, 3s. 6d.)

Mr. Freeman's book is based upon a careful investigation into the lives of some hundred lads in the City of Birmingham, and throws valuable light on some of the problems of unemployment. He deprecates the tendency of the present day to lay too much stress on the evils of "blind alley" employment, while overlooking many other causes of subsequent failure which are far more important. Even, he maintains, if we were to prevent boys from entering upon many of the occupations which are particularly unpromising, large numbers of them would still, at seventeen or eighteen, be incapable of earning an adequate living.

"What we need to consider is not the sacrifice of a certain number of youths through faulty industrial arrangements, but the lack of training and the manufacture of industrial inefficiency in the majority of boys between school and manhood. The deterioration which has been too readily associated with the blind-alley occupation is, as a matter of fact, caused within a year or two of leaving school. And it would still be created even if all industrial 'blind-alleys' could be transformed into honest thoroughfares."

In his investigation Mr. Freeman excluded of set purpose on the one hand the boy who, at sixteen or seventeen, had got into the higher grades of labour, and on the other the youthful street-traders and "casuals" whose conditions of life readily explain their downfall. Taking the lads belonging to the "unskilled" boy workers, he shows that the various agencies brought to bear upon the average boy of the poorer classes after he leaves school—the home, the street, the club; the picture palace and the music-hall; the "penny dreadful" and halfpenny comic paper—leave him in early manhood ill-prepared for the duties of citizenship and responsibilities of parenthood.

Among unskilled workers the home is usually "so small and unattractive that the boy spends in it very little of his time"; the parents are not sufficiently educated, mentally or morally, to influence him much. Nor does his daily work tend to develop his character or ability; while the influence of his amusements is generally bad.

The chief remedies which Mr. Freeman suggests are the reduction of the hours of juvenile employment, and a system of continuation classes calculated to develop all-round efficiency. This education, he considers, should not be purely technical, but should, at the same time, "be free from the academic traditions of our secondary school system."

Much of what Mr. Freeman says applies with equal force to girls, who suffer quite as much as their brothers from lack of proper direction on leaving school.

REVIEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE, by the Rev. Canon Masterman (Women's Local Government Association, Hendon, pp. 15, 2d.). A very useful and inspiring pamphlet, particularly necessary for Londoners.

GIVE US WHITE MEN! (A symposium on the Social Evil from the woman's point of view, edited by Peakes Withers (Cassell & Co., pp. 119, rs. net). A very mixed volume, with a very misleading sub-title. Some of the articles are mutually destructive.

THE FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, by M. E. Bulkeley (G. Bell & Sons, pp. 278, 3s. 6d. net). This volume, issued under the Ratan Tata Foundation of the University of London, is a valuable and practical up-to-date manual with facts and figures on this important subject of particular use at the present crisis.



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Correspondence.

"OPPORTUNITY."

*"If you trap the moment before it is ripe,
The tears of repentance you'll certainly wipe;
But, if once you let the ripe moment go,
You can never wipe off the tears of woe."*—Blake.

MADAM,—We have often, during the long years of our Suffrage propaganda, been confronted with the "war argument"; war is men's business, we have been told; in the event of an appeal to arms women could not respond, and therefore should not be given the full rights of citizenship.

We have replied, confidently, over and over again, that the work of women in the nurture and care of humanity was at least as valuable as that of men in armed defence. We have asserted, countless times, that the care of the feeble, the starving, the children, and the aged, was woman's contribution to her country, and that she was prepared to take a responsible share in their protection. Now, and now only, is our opportunity to offer our contribution. No one would suggest that women should share in the warfare; but if we are not to do the lion's half of the work that is to be done at home, if we allow this burden, too, to be borne chiefly by men, we shall, as Suffragists, injure our cause more heavily than any "Society for Opposing Women's Suffrage" can injure it for us, for we shall shirk the citizenship we have so long asked to be allowed to share.

It is, moreover, in all cases specifically as a Suffrage Organisation that we should proffer our help to our fellows, for all men and women should see that those who claim the privileges of the State are also the first to offer to do its work.

At a time like this, when war is taking husbands and sons from the homes of our women of all ranks, the most indifferent and the most ignorant are forced to see that "politics" are not "outside their sphere," and to feel that the Government of the country touches the most vital interest of women as of men. We Suffragists have been trying to teach this for forty years; a rougher teacher than ourselves has completed our lesson. It is now our unique opportunity to bring it to pass that this new spirit of patriotism and of sisterhood among women shall weld us all permanently together in the bond of fellow-workers for our people.

We shall want all the practical business capacity which some of us, alas, have hardly attained; we shall want none of that disabling diffidence which so often robs us of our opportunities, and we must remember the old story, "With brains, sir!" We must see that our work is wise, as well as vigorous. A sock is a more obvious piece of work than a plan to help unemployed needlewomen; it is easy to sew, and difficult to think.

All our members, we know, are ready to toil individually at their posts, whatever these may be; we would ask them not to lose sight, in the rush of detail-work, of the effect our actions during this crisis may have on our great movement towards the freedom of women.

A MEMBER OF THE NEWCASTLE SOCIETY.

CONSTRUCTIVE WORK.

MADAM,—I am not a member of the Union (but of the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union), yet I am a regular subscriber to your paper, and I am wondering if you could give publicity, through it, to a suggestion. It is that all Woman Suffrage workers should at once band themselves together for another great piece of constructive work. We are all doing whatever lies in our power in the temporary necessities of alleviating the distress and suffering that must come so heavily upon us through the war. But our eyes are ever on the future, and we are "out" for a world-wide mission. Mr. Arthur H. D. Acland last week in the press pointed out the damage to the national life that must result from the war, and suggested that there shall be a more concentrated effort, "in the interest of the coming generation," on health work for the babies, and the teaching of the mothers. It is not for me to attempt to emphasise his plea. But for some months I have been in close touch with many of our Home Counties villages, and have realised acutely how urgent is the need for this kind of work in them. And over and over again I have said to friends: "What a splendid field of service there is along these lines for our Woman Suffragists, if, and when, their energies can be concentrated on it."

Could not the powerful machinery which we women have already set up be at once utilised for this purpose? Could we not, all of all constitutional societies, set out to organise, with the aim of getting as quickly as possible, something in the way of a School for Mothers and a Baby Clinic established within the reach of every town and village mother and home? I am aware of the enormous difficulties involved, but unitedly we could overcome them, and the accomplishment of the purpose would, undoubtedly, be an invaluable service to our nation.

ALICE TATTON.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

MADAM,—Is there no hope of persuading the Government to vote a certain amount of money to provide work for some of our women during the present crisis?

It is so important for the vitality of the nation that the potential mothers of the race should be saved from the physical exhaustion produced by cruel want. Much will be done by private effort and charity, yet not nearly enough for the sake of the race; and besides, what we want to keep the nation healthy is not charity, but work! I understand that the Government has voted money for building purposes in order to give employment to men—a most excellent scheme; and it must surely be possible to find some work useful in itself to the country, that would give employment to large numbers of women. The work might be carried on in some of the factories that have been obliged to shut down; and if some of the many who have offered their houses as hospitals, &c., and whose offers have been refused by the War Office because they have already more than enough, if some of these could be persuaded to fit up dormitories instead of wards, and offer their houses as temporary hostels, the women's wages would not need to be large enough to cover rent. In this way the State and the individual could co-operate to save very many

from starvation, thereby warding off some of the weakening effects of this war from the nation of to-morrow.

In any case, whether Government can be persuaded to bring forward a scheme or not, is it not possible to turn to account some of these patriotic offers of houses?

C. WINIFRED HAMILTON.

THE CARE OF NURSES.

MADAM,—Amongst all the preparations for the care of the wounded and sick in the war, we have noticed no announcement of any special provision for invalided nurses. We should be very glad of any information on the subject; it is quite possible that arrangements have been made.

A nurse's working life is a short one, and the conditions of war are likely to shorten it still further. The supply of nurses has for some time been insufficient even for ordinary needs. In time of war her life is as valuable, as indispensable, as the soldier's. Surely, then, it is of the first importance that every possible care should be taken of nurses who fall ill, and that they should be restored to health as speedily as possible. We believe that provision is made for the Regular Army nurses, but is there any for the civilian nurses who have volunteered?

This letter is partly inspired by our knowledge that at one hospital in England where splendid arrangements have been made for the wounded, the nurses are housed in crowded bedrooms in a separate building, and can obtain no food when off duty, since it is all cooked at the hospital itself.

We feel that it would be appropriate if the N.U. could find out whether any of the many houses and institutions offered as hospitals and convalescent homes have been set apart for nurses, and, if not, could, perhaps, make representations which would lead to this being done.

EMILY D. GIBB, President,
EMILY E. CATT, Chairman,
MARGERY K. DANIEL, Hon. Sec.,
Scarborough Branch.

"THE COMMON CAUSE."

MADAM,—So one correspondent has proposed that THE COMMON CAUSE should be suspended so that all Suffragists can give their full time to Red Cross and relief work. Surely, if this correspondent is herself a Suffragist, she cannot realise the greatness and seriousness of the cause to make such a proposal. Although I am not a member of your Society, I can recognise the great need of your organ as a medium of keeping alive the Suffrage movement during the present crisis.

I read THE COMMON CAUSE regularly in the public library, and I see men and women besides myself interested in its pages. I think it would be a calamity if the paper were discontinued, even temporarily.

AN ADMIRER.

CLASSES FOR WORKING GIRLS.

MADAM,—I suppose it is probable that large numbers of working girls will be on part time this winter. I believe the usual Evening School Courses for girls comprise little beyond sewing, cooking, and domestic science. The intelligent girls have been through these already, and their intellectual needs are still unmet. If there is no extension of the Girls' Evening School curriculum proposed, could not small private classes be formed among working girls to study, in an interesting way, science, history, literature, economics, or any other subject desired by the majority of those joining? Although the proportion of girls with intellectual cravings is small, their actual numbers must be large, and their developed powers will be needed when the franchise is won.

L. H. ENSOR.

LORD KITCHENER'S MESSAGE.

MRS. FITZROY HECHT (Broadway) protests against our note of last week concerning Lord Kitchener's Message. "In times such as this it behoves us to lie low and not press our grievances, above all to avoid anything approaching self-consciousness or pique."

MRS. DUTTON (Sidmouth) writes that "to disparage or misinterpret Lord Kitchener, when the whole nation is thankfully relying upon his steadfastness and moral force, is ungracious and unwise, and calculated to bring discredit on our cause."

[We cannot agree that it behoves us to "lie low." We are under no illusions whatever as to the nature of the temptations against which Lord Kitchener quite rightly intended to warn the troops. But the habit of mind is revealed in the use of the phrase "women and wine," and it is against that habit of mind that we must testify as much in war-time as in peace. Nay, more! Women have important war-work as well as Lord Kitchener, and he must not hinder that work.—ED., C.C.]

DR. MARION PHILLIPS appeals for gifts of baby food to be sent to Baby Clinics, Schools for Mothers, and similar institutions. Powdered milk, cod-liver oil, fresh eggs, are suggested, and no doubt any of the established organisations could suggest various useful patent foods. In fact, she urges that in this hot weather, with infantile diarrhoea prevalent, food is a greater necessity to the babies than clothes.

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST (321, Roman Road, Bow, E.) writes that her East London Federation is supplying free milk at the "Women's Hall" for babies in need, and that a nurse is in attendance. They are anxious to open a similar centre at "Crowder's Hall," Bow, for South Bromley, and at 319, East India Dock Road for Poplar babies. When the Distress Committee gets to work the milk will be given in co-operation with the Committee. She appeals urgently for milk and eggs and barley.

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS to be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all ADVERTISEMENTS must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.

NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

A National Shame.

"What is he but a brute,
Whose flesh hath soul to suit,
Whose spirit works lest arms and legs want play?
To man, propose this test—
Thy body at its best,
How far can that project thy soul on its lone way?"

ROBERT BROWNING.

A Suffragist correspondent, writing from an industrial centre which has suddenly been converted into an armed camp by the arrival of a large contingent of troops, pleads passionately for the protection of our young soldiers, many of them only nineteen, from the solicitations of women. He says that those who do not witness the scenes cannot conceive of the extent of the evil, nor of the necessity for Lord Kitchener's warning to the men.

We are under no illusions as to the extent of the evil; we have seen the streets of garrison towns at night; we desire, as all Suffragists must, that men as well as women should be forewarned and strengthened to resist evil. How can the evil be diminished? How can the young soldier be armed against it? There is no more urgent problem for patriotic women to set the best of their hearts and minds and efforts to solve.

Our correspondent makes several excellent practical suggestions. One is that hospitality and entertainment should be freely offered the men in these new centres where no mess, barrack, or recreation rooms exist. Those who have followed the efforts made by Lord Kitchener and others to diminish venereal disease among soldiers in India, know that in the provision of healthy and rational recreation lies one of the most hopeful ways of combating the evil. Work is good, but recreation is good, too, and here in England at least, it should be possible to give these lads a taste of home life as well, for there is no doubt that the kindness and comradeship of good women are strong safeguards to self-respect. Another suggestion is that the streets should be patrolled between the hours of 7 and 10 every evening. Wise and kindly women of mature years, who have kept sympathy and understanding for the young, could do this work, and often help other women to a better life, too. Police women are wanted. The restriction of the sale of alcohol is wanted.

But Suffragists must not be content to take the evil as they find it, and merely sweep the streets of it. They must go into the causes, and while they do what lies in their power to palliate and to heal, they must earnestly seek to remove the causes. We know that economic conditions have much to do with them. It is not only that some women find they can earn money more easily in this way than in others; it is that by the conditions of their lives, by the overcrowding and alcoholising and brutishness of their lives, many girls and boys have been bred to have no pride and reverence for their own bodies and the bodies of others. We shall never get near the solution of the problem until we realise that to these women it seems a light matter that they should throw themselves away. The woman or girl who invites a stranger to intimacy is guilty of disrespect not only for him, but for herself. What is needed is to make the weak, loose, careless

girl strong, proud, purposeful; to find work that she can do, and help her to do it; to make her feel that she has friends who expect much of her, and who will grieve if she disappoints them. We must find the girls while they are young, for if we do not, our task is infinitely harder, and if we sweep them from streets and public places, yet they will lurk in corners, and infect our too comfortable lives.

If we think of the problem in this way, there can be no question that to encourage men to regard women scornfully is to encourage men to degrade women. It is the degraded woman who is a danger to men. What one wants to keep before the minds of men is—not the vile, mediaeval notion of "woman the temptress," a thing to be avoided, a "necessary evil"—but the humanity (which some people know as divinity) in woman, a thing to be revered, a thing, we must believe, that can be found in every woman while she lives, but found only by the corresponding humanity, or divinity, in man. We want the young soldier to recognise that common humanity or divinity in himself and in women. The recognition of it is the one and only hope of making war a less hideous barbarism, and of gradually abolishing it altogether.

We cannot hide from ourselves that a state of war is itself an encouragement of prostitution. Misery, unemployment, the breaking up of homes, the division of healthy mixed society into two camps—one of men only—all these are causes in which women have had no hand, yet the evils are for women to heal and prevent with all their might.

Eking-out the Food Supply.

No. I.—VEGETABLES.

Much is being written just now on the utilisation of waste-land for vegetable growing. It must not, therefore, be concluded that all vacant ground can be so used to advantage. The "waste-land" of towns consists chiefly of sites where old buildings have been pulled down to the ground level, but the foundations are left, and there is generally only a few inches of soil of the poorest quality. Indeed, it can scarcely be called soil at all, consisting as it does mostly of dust and crumbled mortar. The amount of labour in digging (where there is depth to dig) in order to aerate and sweeten, and of manure to render it at all fertile, would far exceed the value of any crops that could be grown there.

The use of stable or farm-yard manure would be imperative, since no artificial fertiliser supplies the necessary humus. And horse manure, long scarce, will now be a vanishing quantity since horses are requisitioned in so wholesale a fashion for military needs. In the country, too, there exists waste land that would not produce vegetables, though capable of utilisation in other ways—a matter we cannot now enter upon. But any unoccupied ground, having what gardeners call "good heart" in it, can and should be made use of. Such are disused gardens, or places where turf has been stripped off and the ground left bare, and so on. But more important still is it to see that every bit of every garden is under "intensive culture." It is customary to leave some plot unoccupied in winter. There are good reasons for this, but at present they must be set aside. When the main potato-crop is lifted, cabbages must at once go in, and every row of beans done away with, to be immediately followed up by something from the seed beds. And seeds must be sown in them at once, for in a few weeks it will be too cool for them to succeed. It becomes evident that enthusiastic, but unaccustomed, gardeners fondly imagine that all seeds recommended for present sowing will come on for use this autumn or winter. Only a few will do this, but others should be sown to give a larger supply than usual for next spring and early summer. Housekeepers who have to be economical must know how limited their choice becomes from February till May or June—they cannot afford forced asparagus, or cucumbers, &c., and each week there seems less variety of cheap green vegetables. We do not want that difficulty to become more acute. In gardens, one must be for ever taking Time by the forelock. Now we must do this on a more extended scale, lest a prolonged war period stop our imported supplies, when we may be reduced to curtail our meat-eating and depend on vegetables to make up the deficiency.

It is customary to sow more than is actually thought to be needed of all vegetables grown from seed, lest they come up poorly or suffer damage later. Where some of the surplus seedlings now remain, they must be pricked out in any vacant ground instead of being thrown away.

Of seeds which may now be sown, we will take those which

can be matured before this fateful year is out. These are New Zealand spinach, swedes, endive, lettuces, and mustard and cress. Some people do not like New Zealand spinach, and where this is the case the long-standing prickly kind must be used, but the former is the hardier. Swedes, if sown immediately, will be fit for use in winter, because they are best for cooking when comparatively small, and not left to attain the full size required for fodder. Many persons prefer them to turnips. Those who have not tried them do not know how nice they are. The variety known as Swede-turnip, or garden swede, is best. Of lettuces, Giant Cos, Prince of Wales, Hardy Winter White, All-the-year-round, Cabbage Lettuce, and Tom Thumb are suitable to select from. A constant succession should be kept going, and in severe weather covering given. Where frames or handlights are available, shelter all day, in case of extreme cold, will not preclude light, nor air entirely; but where these cannot be had, lettuces may be grown in short rows, and sticks placed slant-wise over these, opposite others crossing at the top. A sort of over-all of stout brown paper can be made to slip over them at night, or rather from about 3.30 p.m. till morning, when it can be laid aside to dry till wanted again.

Of vegetables for next year's use are recommended Crimson Globe beet, Turnip-rooted beet; Flower-of-Spring, Ellam's Early Dwarf Spring, Enfield Market, and Wheeler's Imperial cabbages; Early Scarlet Horn or Early Nantes carrots; Giant Rocca, Ailsa Craig, Red Tripoli onions; Giant curled parsley, and Early Snowball, Early White Stone turnips.

Plenty of onions should be sown, as we get many of these for winter use from France, and our own winter stock may become early exhausted, in which case young ones will be useful in spring for flavouring purposes. Cultural directions are always obtainable with seeds, and space forbids giving them here. But it may be helpful to know the times when the vegetables in our last list may be expected to come in for use.

Beet.—Ten weeks from sowing.

Spring Cabbages.—Plant closer than usual: when first ready use every other plant quite young, leaving others to grow on.

Carrots.—May be drawn small in October; others left to develop till it is obligatory to draw.

Onions.—Young in early spring.

Turnips.—Use some young—leave others for "tops" in spring.

Swedes.—October and November.

The next article will deal with fruit, and a third with other produce, and market prospects, so far as can be foreseen.

EDITH L. CHAMBERLAIN, F.R.H.S.

"FOR A' THAT AND A' THAT."

(With apologies to the Scotch Bard.)

The vote is our necessity
To help our work, and a' that!
The timid "Anti" we pass by,
We'll have the vote for a' that!
For a' that and a' that,
Opponents' fear, and a' that!
Sex may seem the guinea's stamp,
Worth's the gowd for a' that.

What though we learn to cook and sew,
Wear petticoats, and a' that!
Give us the chance the world to show
We're patriots too, for a' that,
For a' that and a' that,
We've other gifts, for a' that:
The finest brain, despite the sex,
The country needs, for a' that!

* * * * *
And men there are of sterling worth,
Renowned in war, and a' that!
'Twas woman surely gave them birth
And brought them up, and a' that;
A' that and a' that,
Chastised them well, and a' that:
Her pith of sense and pride of worth
Should rank as high for a' that!

Then let us pray that come it may—
As come it will for a' that—
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth
Shall bear the gree, and a' that.
For a' that and a' that,
It's coming yet, for a' that,
That men and women the world o'er
Shall equal be, for a' that!

LILIAN NIELD HARRISON.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS K. D. COURTNEY, MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary), MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press), MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary: MISS CROOKENDEN.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London.

Workrooms for Unemployed Women.

Since last week the National Union has opened a workroom for unemployed women, of whom a very large number have called at the shop in Parliament Street, asking for work. The landlord at 14, Great Smith Street has very kindly lent a room for the purpose, and it is hoped that we may here keep six or eight women employed if we can raise sufficient funds to pay for material and wages. Gifts of material and funds are urgently required. If the scheme is successful, we shall be opening another workroom on the shop premises, and we shall need donations to pay the wages, amounting to about £4 a week. The women are to work for forty hours a week, at 3d. an hour, so that each will receive 10s. A donation of 10s. will thus pay an unemployed woman for a week. Please send donations to the Active Service Fund for this purpose.

Voluntary Workers.

Our Labour Exchange for voluntary workers has now become known to a large number of associations, and we have more appeals for help than we are able to deal with. The N.U. has steadily discouraged the substitution of voluntary for paid work, but we gladly supply voluntary workers to organisations which always make use of them: Care Committees, Girls' and Boys' Clubs, Schools for Mothers, &c. We could make use of any number of people ready for social service who offer themselves to us, stating the kind of work they would like best. We have made a point, both at the shop and also at the office, of distributing offers of help as soon as possible, and being in touch with a number of agencies for relief, &c., we are able to tell people immediately where their services are most required. We have also ascertained what possibilities there are for training, and are able to advise those who need it. Our office and the shop in Parliament Street also serve as a sort of Information Bureau about the activities of other women's organisations which are taking up work in connection with the war.

Maternity Centres.

In July the Local Government Board sent out a memorandum to County Councils and Sanitary Authorities recommending the establishment of maternity centres for ante-natal, natal, and post-natal assistance for mother and child. The L.G.B. offers in this memorandum to make grants to the local authorities of half the cost of establishing and maintaining such centres, and in the Supplementary Estimates £12,000 was allocated to this purpose.

The Women's Co-operative Guild, recognising that the general distress caused by the war is most acutely felt by the poor mother, and that the nation depends for its very existence now more than ever on the production and rearing of healthy children, is making a determined effort to get these centres started at once all over the country. The earnest co-operation of many women will be necessary to make the scheme a success.

As regards the nature of the work, the first step will be to get influential deputations to the Public Health Committees, in order that they may apply for a grant to the L.G.B., and to the Local Distress Committees in order that they may apply to the National Relief Fund for a grant to defray the other half of the expense. Then when the centres are started, there would be work for everyone in the provision, under doctor's orders, of milk for the babies and nourishing meals for the mother—and in the personal help in the home, so necessary when the mother is incapacitated.

Full cognisance would of course be taken of all existing agencies for this work (such as schools for mothers, babies' welcomes, and so on), and the work would be carried on through and in co-operation with them.

Hyde Park Meetings.

An even larger crowd gathered round the National Union banner on Sunday last, and listened sympathetically and asked a good many questions at the end. The well-dressed hooligan has disappeared. Let us hope he has reformed and gone to the

war. It is a mistake to suppose you can't make Suffrage speeches now. You can make them better than ever now, because there is so much to say and because the people are so ready to hear it. The attitude of the crowd makes one hope that since in adversity women cannot and do not wish to separate themselves from men, a happier time is coming, when, in peace and prosperity, men will not wish to separate themselves from women.

The hour of meeting is 3.30, and the place is a little westward of Marble Arch, in the great open space opposite Hyde Park Place, Bayswater Road. It is impossible to miss our Red, White and Green banner.

The speakers last Sunday were Mrs. Ransom and Mrs. Swanwick. The same speakers will be there next week.

We appeal for helpers to give out leaflets, and more especially to sell THE COMMON CAUSE. We want to see that our organ is well known and widely read during this time. It is of more than usual interest, as it contains what none of the other dailies and weeklies contain—a full account of the activities of women and of the N.U., and it is hoped that an article may appear every week describing the work of the many agencies for relief.

Country Homes for Children.

Hospitality in the country is urgently needed for children who have been sent back from their Convalescent Home, and for others who ought to go to the country. The children are not ill, but convalescent, and in need of plenty of fresh air and milk. It is very desirable that they should not be sent far from London, as railway fares are a consideration. Offers of such hospitality will be welcomed at 14, Great Smith Street.

Items of Interest.

Members of the National Union will be interested to learn that our Organiser, Miss Thurston, who is a trained nurse and a member of the Red Cross, has been ordered abroad, and has gone to Brussels in charge of eight nurses. We have received a postcard from her, saying that she is safely across the Channel, and giving us an address in Brussels to which to write. We have, of course, heard nothing from her since the occupation of Brussels by the Germans.

One of our Organisers, whom we lent till the end of August to a Society which concentrates on the care of children, has proved herself so valuable that the Secretary writes begging that she may remain through the winter. Unfortunately, we fear that her services will be required elsewhere.

The N.U. office has lost one of its clerks, as her brother is with the Territorials, and she is undertaking to run his business. There are probably many cases of this kind, when the husband, a brother, or a son is able to go away with an easy mind, knowing that his business will be well looked after by his wife, or sister, or mother.

Press Report.

Throughout the country the Press reports abundantly and with great appreciation the work that is being undertaken by the Societies of the National Union and by the office at Headquarters.

Owing to the strict censorship on the Press, shortage of paper, and the dropping of advertisements, there will be a considerable amount of distress amongst those who are engaged in literary and journalistic work. The Press Department of the National Union hopes to co-operate in an effort to afford relief to the families of some of those who will be temporarily out of employment, and it will be glad to receive offers of money, hospitality, or applications for paid secretarial work.

ACTIVE SERVICE FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	116	1	6	Miss Hickson	0	4	0
Received, Aug. 18 to 24, at				Miss Kitty F. Jones	0	4	0
50, Parliament Street—				Miss Clarissa Graves	1	0	0
Miss Hooke	0	4	0	Miss Margaret Todd, M.D.	2	0	0
Lady Clerks, F.O., Charles				Mr. G. B. Dibblee	1	0	0
Street, Haymarket	1	10	0	Mrs. J. A. Bright	10	0	0
Mrs. Stuart	0	10	0	Mrs. Carl Flügel	10	0	0
A working man	0	2	6	Miss Thania Aitken	1	0	0
Anonymous	0	4	4	Miss Lindsay Jardine	1	0	0
Miss A. L. Hargrove	0	7	6	Mrs. Pyffe	1	0	0
S. G.	0	1	0	Mrs. Hinde	1	0	0
Miss Anne R. Vincent	0	10	0	Miss Rackham	0	5	0
Miss C. M. Forster	0	5	0				
Mrs. Harley	10	0	0				
Mrs. Craven, junr.	0	5	0				
					£158	16	10

All members of the National Union engaged in the organised relief of distress are urged, if possible, to wear the Active Service League uniform.

Dark green coat and skirt, 2 guineas complete, from MESSRS. SWAN & EDGAR, Piccadilly Circus, W.

Material for the same (any length cut), 2s. 6½d. per yard, from SOUTH DEVON SERGE WAREHOUSE, Teignmouth. (Carriage paid value over 10s.)

Hats (complete with badge), 4s. 9d. Ties in the colours of the N.U., 1s. 3d. Carriers (guaranteed waterproof), 3s. 9d. Badges: ribbon, 3d.; leather, 5d. To be had from MESSRS. PARNELL & CO., Wilton Road and Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, S.W. (Carriage paid value over 5s.)

SAVAGERY.

We read in the papers that the Servians are claiming that, since Austro-Hungarian troops have committed "atrocities," Servians are entitled to commit them. It is asserted that elderly non-combatants, women, and children, have been murdered and mutilated. The Servians announce that "these atrocities have called forth such high indignation and anger among the Servian soldiers that it will be very difficult to prevent them from taking revenge." We have no means of ascertaining the correctness of the accusation of "atrocities." What we wish to point out is the curiously savage notion that if Austrians really did murder and mutilate inoffensive non-combatants, Servians would be justified in murdering and mutilating inoffensive non-combatants. But, after all, these non-combatants are not the property of either army; they are human beings. In view of the many rumours of unspeakable brutalities, we cannot too firmly keep this in mind.

THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION.

The Irish Citizen, a paper with strong militant sympathies, states in its issue of August 22nd, that the W.S.P.U. has suspended "all activities," its organisers have been dismissed with a week's notice, and its offices have been closed. The Suffragette has for the present ceased publication.

Notes for Women, which is now the organ of the "United Suffragists," in its issue of August 21st, publishes the following:—

In a letter issued by Mrs. Pankhurst it is pointed out that militancy must be "rendered less effective by contrast with the infinitely greater violence done in the present war, not to mere property and economic prosperity alone, but to human life." The letter continues:—

"As for work for the vote on the lines of peaceful argument, such work is, we know, futile even under ordinary conditions to secure votes for women in Great Britain. How much less therefore will it avail at this time of international warfare?" It is further pointed out that not only will "much energy and a very large sum of money" be saved by this course, "but an opportunity will be given to the Union as a whole, and above all to those individual members who have been in the fighting line to recuperate after the tremendous strain and suffering of the past two years."

ASSISTANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

An informal Conference was held at the office of the Girls' Friendly Society on August 20th, Mrs. Chaloner Chute, President of the Girls' Friendly Society, being in the chair. The interest of Her Majesty the Queen was shown by the presence of Lady Bertha Dawkins. Those present included:—

Mrs. Creighton (National Union Women Workers), Mrs. Gow (National Union Women Workers), Miss Margaret Frere (Education Committee, L.C.C.), Mrs. Horace Porter (Guild of Church and Empire), Hon. Mrs. E. Hubbard and Mrs. Maude (Mothers' Union), Miss Martindale (Church Army), Miss Clapham (Labour Exchanges), Miss McLaren (Y.W.C.A.), Miss Courtney (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies), Miss Gilchrist (Church League for Women's Suffrage), Mr. Pringle (C.O.S.), Mr. W. A. Coote (N.V.A.), Mrs. Hoster (Secretarial Training School), Miss Lefroy (British Women's Emigration Association), Mrs. Townsend, Miss K. M. Townsend, Miss Digby, Miss F. J. Lawrence, Miss Thorp, and Miss Wilson (Girls' Friendly Society).

The object of the Conference was to discover as far as possible the experience of the workers of the Societies represented as to the amount of unemployment directly or indirectly traceable to the war amongst professional girls and women such as secretaries, governesses, typists, theatrical employees, better-class dressmakers, &c., with whose special needs the present National Relief movements do not appear to be arranging to deal. The experience of those present showed that a great number of these girls were already in urgent need of help, that the number unemployed was daily growing, and was being added to by the many English girls returning from Continental posts, some of whom had lost all their possessions in addition to their posts abroad, and have been temporarily accommodated at the G.F.S. Diocesan Lodge, 29, Francis Street, Westminster, S.W.

Particulars of certain offers of hospitality and of work in temporary work-rooms, &c., were given, and it was suggested that immediate steps should be taken to classify the various applicants for employment of this kind apart from the ordinary trades for working girls and women, that all the offers of assistance and posts open to such girls should be co-ordinated, and that the chief Societies in touch with the girls concerned should endeavour to be represented on all the Municipal Committees now being formed under the Local Government Board.

WOMEN SHOP ASSISTANTS.

In London the increase of unemployment among women shop assistants belonging to the Shop Assistants' Union is about 25 per cent. more than it was this time last year, but the numbers out of work are not very numerous. During the month ending August 23rd, 1913, the number of female members upon the funds was 17; during the month ending August 22nd, 1914, it was 23; out of some 3,700 members.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to the dislocation of business caused by the war, we are compelled to go to press earlier than usual. Correspondents are asked to let us have matter on Saturdays if possible, or Mondays at latest, and it must be taken into account that the postal service is somewhat erratic.

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



To H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,
BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LONDON.

I beg to enclose £ : s. d. as a donation to
the National Relief Fund.

Name.....

Address.....

The envelope containing this coupon need not be stamped.

Bournville
Cocoa
"The highest grade of nutritive cocoa"
Cadbury
(THE MEDICAL MAGAZINE)

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 7, NICHOLAS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

The Bank collects Bills, Cheques, Coupons, &c., receives Dividends, undertakes the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, and Investments generally, establishes Credits at home and abroad, and transacts every description of Banking business. Strong rooms are provided, free of charge, for the deposit of Deeds and other Securities lodged by the customers of the Bank.

On ordinary deposit accounts interest is paid at the following rates:—

£3 per cent. per annum, subject to one day's notice of withdrawal in respect of not more than £5, and to seven days' notice in respect of the balance.

£3½ per cent. per annum, subject to one day's notice of withdrawal in respect of not more than £5, and to one month's notice in respect of the balance.

£4 per cent. per annum, subject to three months' notice of withdrawal.

Current Accounts are opened in the usual way. Any further information may be had on application. W. W. HAYES, Manager.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W. FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

Subscriptions: Town 1 guinea, Country 1 guinea and 10/6, Foreign 10/6. Valuable Lending and Reference Library for Members. English and Foreign Books dealing with every aspect of the Woman's Movement. Non-members enrolled as Associates by paying 5/6 per annum. LUNCHEONS, 1s. 3d. DINNERS 1s. 6d. ALL PARTICULARS—SECRETARY. Tel.: 3932 MAYFAIR.

News from the Societies and Federations.

Suffragists and Red Cross Work.

Many of our members are busy with work in connection with the Red Cross Society. We publish the following from Colchester as an example of this form of activity:—

Colchester is brown with khaki, and we seem to live in the midst of war's alarms.

Suffragists are very busy here. Some of us are serving on the Relief Committee, others have joined the Red Cross. We have fitted up a large empty house as a hospital, and already have a few medical cases in from the Territorial camp. Only those who have gained their First Aid and Home Nursing certificates do the actual nursing; but there is plenty of work for the others. There are cooks to each detachment, and they are responsible for the patients' food. Boy Scouts run errands and do rough work; Girl Guides scrub and clean, and everyone most willingly does whatever work is nearest. We are fortunate in having an experienced Superintendent. She was an Army nurse who served through the Boer War and gives us excellent and practical lectures.

We have borrowed all the beds for our hospital to save expense. Each bed is lent, fitted out with bed clothes, all plainly marked, and the bedsteads have labels with their owners' names affixed. We have also been on very successful *begging* expeditions, and have had quantities of old bed and house linen, towels, night-shirts, &c., given to us. Then we have borrowed glass, china, kettles, saucepans, buckets, brooms, &c.

Our Medical Officer is a keen Suffragist, and she is also Doctor to the Council Schools, so we can claim to belong to an enlightened generation here.

"This is a Woman's Job."

Work in the little towns and villages of North Durham has been of necessity very different from that of other Northern districts. For one thing, the Unions of local authorities, on which the responsibility has fallen of the distribution of relief—have for various reasons got to work later than the Corporations of the large towns, so that our organisers have had more time to make their arrangements. What is of still greater importance, men and women in an E.F.F. constituency are already accustomed to working side by side; we have no prejudice to beat down. The practical abilities of women, too, are more obvious among the working-class than on a stage a little higher up. At Bishop Auckland, for instance, a Special Relief Committee was formed from the League of Help, consisting entirely of women, for the men went out of the room, saying "This is a woman's job." (The Valhalla of the Suffragists may now be definitely located!) The Suffragists on this Committee—they include the Organiser—are already trying to direct opinion towards giving work and wages instead of doles of relief.

The town's meeting in SPENNYMOOR asked each of the women's organisations to nominate two representatives for its Committee. In some much larger towns only philanthropic associations would be meant in such a request; in Spenny Moor the N.U. is one of the most prominent women's societies, and was mentioned as a matter of course.

SHILDON holds its town's meeting on the day of going to press, but its women, led by the N.U.—held their's a week ago, and have already formed their plans of work to be laid before the general meeting later.

In many of the small villages of the neighbourhood the Suffragists are the only organised body of women. We are glad to report that usually they have quickly faced their task and have called a general meeting of women—not Suffragists only—and have talked over the best methods to adopt. As the Committee of this Union has only thirty members for the whole area, no doubt the help of these tiny local Committees of women will be found invaluable, and when distress arises, the women will be found ready at their posts.

The Richmond Branch of the London Society, having offered its services to the Mayor on August 10th, circularised all its members. Mrs. Gronson has classified all the replies, and the branch is getting into touch with other women's organisations to co-operate in relief work. As yet the branch is not officially represented on the Mayor's Committee, but the three women elected are, as a matter of fact, all members of the Suffrage Committee.

Notes on the Work in Birmingham.

The various sub-committees of the Citizen's Committee are now organised and getting at once to work. Great efforts are being made by Suffragists to prevent the work undertaken from increasing unemployment. It is so much easier to "make garments for our soldiers" ourselves than to supervise others who really need the work, and pay them for doing it. But it is only adding to the vast amount of unemployment to do voluntary work of some kinds in an indiscriminate way.

One method of helping is particularly useful; and that is to take care of a child for an over-taxed mother. On Friday morning, a lady living in the country near Birmingham came into the office and said she would take a baby till the war was over. We at once offered one. The mother had no relations in the city to help her, while her husband was with his regiment. She had one older child, whose care could be arranged for, so that the mother could continue her work and keep things going, if only it were not for the little baby. By mid-day her mind was set at rest, and she only too gladly availed herself of a good home for her infant till better days. If every lady of means would take this opportunity of getting a complete outfit of underclothes also, it would be of great help; new house linen and covers for furniture, curtains, &c., would all give employment, and the money so spent be doing more good than if it were merely given to relief funds.

One hundred and sixty-eight of our members are now working for the Citizen's Committee, and other names are booked waiting their call to service. Twenty-five of the members of the Society are already placed on either the Executive or Sub-Committees of the Citizen's Committee.

FROM READING we hear that the Society has undertaken to start and run a day nursery during the present time of distress. A sub-committee has been formed and the district selected will cover ground untouched by any organisation that may be doing similar work. It is hoped to find room and equip a house in Newtown, a populous district, where laundry work is to be obtained. Members of the Society are being asked for help of all kinds. Many offers have already come in. Besides this, two members of the Society have undertaken to keep the "Register of Assistance" for the Local Committee.

Work for Unemployed Women.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS Society is arranging working parties, having material cut out, and is proposing to give it out to be made up, on the recommendation of the Distress Committee, the workers to be paid instead of receiving monetary relief.

NOTTINGHAM Society, learning that some firms have offered to lend their machines for the use of girls out of employment, if work can be found for them, are discussing whether it will be possible to have the machines at the Society's office and employ girls there.

NORWICH is "taking up a work-room scheme for giving work to out-of-work women."

Several correspondents protest against the performance by voluntary workers of work that might far better be given to women out of employment, and write that their Society is going to do all it can to promote the provision of work, for those in distress, rather than the giving of doles.

An Information Exchange.

Haslemere W.S.S. has opened an Information Exchange, which seems likely to prove very useful. The premises of an old bank have been secured at a small nominal rent, and the fittings of the bank have been left so that hardly any furniture was required, and that was lent. There is a front office, with a big window overlooking the market place in which notices can be put up, an inner room for Committee meetings, &c., and a kitchen.

The Chairman, Miss C. A. Jones, and the Treasurer, Miss E. A. Jones, are in charge, and have got card registers and everything on the most business-like lines. Many inquirers came on the first day—ladies offering to pay for garments to be made by unemployed workwomen, people offering hospitality and help in relief work in Portsmouth, and so on. As the Society is in communication with all the organisations

in the district, as well as in London and Suffrage Societies everywhere, it is able to pass these requests on; for instance, in the last case, to the Portsmouth Suffrage Society.

The Committee room will be used by the Ladies' Relief Committee, and it is hoped that a representative of the Guildford Labour Exchange may be installed there. A request that the recruiting sergeant might use the room had to be refused.

Comforts for Soldiers in Camp.

The Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association has opened a tent for the troops encamped on Stourbridge Common, where tea and light refreshments are sold at low prices. Writing materials, soap, matches, candles, and other things are also obtainable; and at certain hours daily, helpers, who are good needlewomen, mend clothes, sew on buttons, and darn socks free of charge. The tent is greatly appreciated, as the camp is some distance from the town of Cambridge, and is occupied by thousands of soldiers.

Jam Making.

Street W.S.S. intends organising jam-making parties, now that fruit is cheap, and thinks that other Societies may be glad to know of this original idea. The jam will, later on, either be retailed at cost price, or else it will be used for school children's meals.

Experienced Workers Wanted.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is daily receiving applications for experienced workers, especially from such bodies as the Children's Care Committees, the Charity Organisation Society, the National League for Physical and Educational Improvement (Schools for Mothers), and the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. Any women with time to spare and who are willing to devote their energies to relieving distress should apply to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall, or 58, Victoria Street (London Society), where full information will be given.

A Machine with a Real Live Heart.

One of the N.U.'s workers who has been busy at Bernondsey writes to Miss Courtney as follows:—

The work is terrific, I am there sometimes ten and eleven hours a day, glad to have the chance of doing it, and to feel that I really can be of some little use. If you have anyone wanting work who is used to visiting among the desperately poor, will you send them down to us? For all the other branches of work we have enough helpers, and they are all people that one loves to work with. Colonel Bevington is wonderful, as are all the local clergy who are working with him. It is a machine running with a real live heart. I think we must be dealing with nearly fifteen hundred cases.

Obituary Notice.

RAMSGATE SOCIETY.

The Ramsgate Society has sustained a great loss in the death of Mrs. Channing-Pearce, which took place, after a very short illness, on August 17th.

Since the formation of the Society nearly six years ago, which was accomplished largely by the efforts of Mrs. Channing-Pearce, she had worked indefatigably in the cause of Women's Suffrage, and was Vice-President of the Ramsgate Society and a member of its Committee. Less than a week before her death she attended a Special Committee meeting to discuss plans for work in alleviation of the distress likely to be caused by the war. In spite of frequent periods of ill-health, she always took the most eager interest in Suffrage work, and was, besides, a generous contributor to the Society's funds.

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Suffragists on Relief Committees.

TIVERTON.—Society represented on Devonshire Patriotic Fund Local Committee, and on Town Relief Committee.

TYNEMOUTH.—Four out of eight women on General Citizens' Committee are members of the W.S.S., and eleven out of seventy on Ladies' Committee.

WALSLEY.—Two members on Citizens' Committee (fifteen women, of whom three are on the Executive).

WALLINGFORD.—Five members of the W.S.S. (out of seven women) on the Mayoress's Working Party Committee.

WINCHESTER.—Two members of the W.S.S. act as Hon. Secretaries to Ward Committees, on which there are three women altogether.

WOKINGHAM.—Two members of W.S.S. on Local Relief Committee.

WOLVERTON.—One member of W.S.S. on the Hospital Equipment Committee, and one on the General Committee.

WOLVERTON.—Two members of W.S.S. on Mayor's Relief Fund Committee; one member on Lady Mayoress's Committee; four members on Citizens' Committees.

WOLVERTON.—Four members of the W.S.S. on the War Relief Fund Committee.

GATESHEAD.—Eighteen women have been elected on to the Town's Committee of eighty members, including the Chairman of the Suffrage Committee, and several other Suffragists. On the Executive Committee (thirty members) there are seven women.

PURLEY.—Two members of the Suffrage Society have been officially placed on the United Urban Relief Committee for Coudson and Purley, and several others are serving unofficially.

NEATH.—The President of the Suffrage Society has been appointed a member of (1) the Mayor of Neath's Relief Committee (Executive), and (2) the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association Committee for Neath and District (Executive).

The name of the President of the Neath Society was wrongly given in our issue of August 7th as "Mr." Coombe Tennant. Mrs. Coombe Tennant is President.

REDDHILL and REIGATE.—Fifteen women have been elected on to the Relief Committee of seventy members. Among these three are members of the Suffrage Society, including the President, Mrs. Auerbach.

GODALMING.—Society represented by two members on the Mayor's Committee, on which several other members of the Society are serving in other capacities.

PORTSMOUTH.—A representative of the Society will be on the Relief Committee.

WARRINGTON.—Out of seven women on the Municipal Committee of thirty-nine members, three belong to the Suffrage Society.

RICHMOND.—As yet the Branch is not officially represented on the Mayor's Committee, but the three women elected are, as a matter of fact, all members of the Suffrage Society.

MANSFIELD.—Eight women on the Municipal Committee, of whom four are Suffragists, one representing W.S.S., one the Women's Co-operative Guild, one the Education Committee, and another being a Guardian.

WOLVERTON.—W.S.S. represented on St. James's Ward Relief Committee.

FALMOUTH.—Three members of the W.S.S. on General Relief Committee (one of them being the Mayoress); two on the Finance and Executive Committee (eighteen members on Committee, of whom three are women).

BEDFORD.—Eighteen women on the Citizens' Committee, of whom eight are members of the W.S.S. and one a member of the C.U.W.F.A.

ACRINGTON.—One member on the County Advisory Committee, and another on the Mayoress's Working Committee. The Society hopes to be represented on the Citizens' Committee when it is formed.

NORWICH.—One member of W.S.S. on Lord Mayor's Committee (four women altogether); three members President, Vice-President, and Secretary on Civic League Committee (out of four women); four members on Workrooms Committee (out of eight people).

NOTTINGHAM.—Society not represented on Committee, and letter asking for representation merely acknowledged.

LEEDS.—Six members of W.S.S. on Lady Mayoress's Executive Committee, of which the Organising Secretary is Mrs. Renton, Secretary of the W.S.S.

WEST RIDING FEDERATION.—The County Council Distress Committee consists of sixty members, of whom seven are women, and the Executive of fifteen members, of whom three are women. Two of these are the President and Chairman of the W. Riding Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

BIRMINGHAM.—Twenty members of the W.S.S. (four men and sixteen women) on the District Committees of the Citizens' Committee; two members of the N.U. and two other Suffragists (out of five women) on the Executive of the Citizens' Committee; four members of the N.U. and several other women on various sub-committees.

(To be continued.)

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SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE LONDON SOCIETY'S "CLEARING HOUSE FOR VOLUNTARY WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL CRISIS," 58, Victoria-st., S.W., is inundated with demands from every part of London for efficient voluntary workers. Members, or others who have not yet registered should do so immediately. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Organisation Fund are greatly needed and should be sent to Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 88, above, "End's" "White Dove" leaflet, 1d.; 4s. 6d. a hundred.

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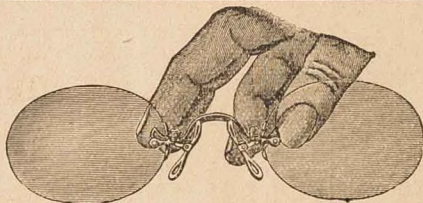
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