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.

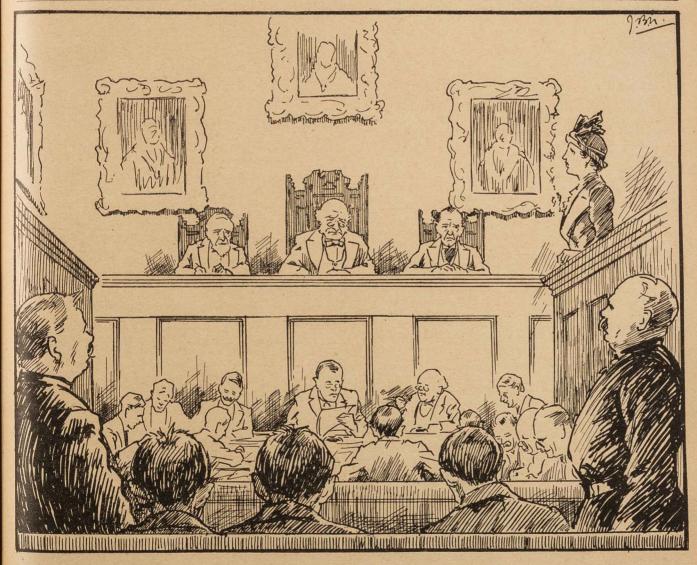
LAW-ABIDING.

Vol. VI., No. 296.]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1914.

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?



THE CRIME OF BEING A SOLDIER'S WIFE,

MAGISTRATE: Do you confess that your husband is serving his country at the Front? SOLDIER'S WIFE: Yes, Sir,

MAGISTRATE: Then you must be put under police surveillance at once.

Notes and News.

The Cardiff Case and Martial Law.

By the Defence of the Realm Act recently passed, the property, the liberty, and even the life of us all are placed at the mercy of a Court Martial. At one stroke, every hard-won guarantee of personal liberty has been swept away, and we are all liable at any moment to be under martial law. It may be that these powers are necessary for the common weal in war time, and especially in view of a possible invasion. But it behoves us to watch that these extraordinary powers are not abused, and especially that the poor and friendless are not subject to arbitrary oppression. An illustration of how the Act may be used came to us last week from Cardiff. Certain women were notified that they were not to be out of doors between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. Nevertheless, they went out. They were arrested, tried by Court Martial, and sentenced to sixty-two days' imprisonment. This is what might happen to any of us, men or women, under the new Act. These women were reputed prostitutes; but the report does not indicate whether the question of their trade was brought up in court: it was sufficient that they had disobeyed a military order. But it was because they were prostitutes that the order was issued. We need say no more about the high-handedness of the proceeding, which is sufficiently apparent. What was the immediate object in view? Not, if we are correctly informed, the suppression of all prostitution, since only certain women had orders served on them; but something very like the regulation of prostitution—and we believed the public mind was thoroughly persuaded of the immorality, injustice, and hygienic futility of regulation.

The Protection of our Troops.

Whatever the immediate attempt, the ultimate object was no doubt to protect the troops from venereal disease. It is a good object, but it will never be obtained by oppressive measures, which defeat their own ends. There is only one kind of protection which is complete and always available, and that is chastity. Many of our troops, both old and new, have done well in this matter. The others must be taught: it is understood that lectures on the subject are about to be given in all the training camps, and if they are on the right lines they should do much good. It is also right and necessary to protect the men from flagrant temptation when off duty, for some of them are young, weak-willed, and inexperienced. If the public-houses are closed early, if the police take care to close disorderly houses, to stop solicitation and to move on loiterers, if the younger girls are dealt with by women patrols or, in case of need, by the very complete powers of the Children Act, much could be effected to make the vicinity of a camp a safer place, morally and physically. Other things too are needed—women probation officers to deal with cases brought to court; more ample and more kindly provision for treatment of diseased women (and men) in workhouses, hospitals, or rescue homes; clubs or institutes where men, women, and girls can find social life and wholesome interests. No one measure, however stringent, can succeed alone, and, indeed, it may be surmised that the less compulsion there is in the whole business, the greater will be the Success.

The Need for Temperance.

Above all, it should be more and more clearly brought home to every man and woman that temperance and self-control go together. Every form of self-imposed restraint is made more difficult—more nearly impossible—by the abuse of alcohol. It is impossible to over-emphasise this fact. If it were fully realised we should cease to regard drunkenness as an excuse, and class it rather as an additional offence. It is bad to commit an offence: but it is worse knowingly to create in oneself the condition of mind and body in which the most hideous offences may be committed because the power of self-control has been thrown away.

Prohibition in Russia.

We are informed by Prof. Vinogradoff that the giving up of the State monopoly of the sale of vodka in Russia probably does not involve total prohibition. The private distilleries will continue, but the price will rise and consumption be lessened. Prof. Vinogradoff warns us that it is difficult to get trustworthy information at present, and in any case the enormous sacrifice of revenue from their monopoly remains a magnificent testimony to the sincere desire of the Russian Government to make this a "temperance war." It will interest Suffragists to know that

a measure of "local option" came into force in Russia last year. The towns and villages of the Empire voted on the question, and in many places vodka was "voted out." On this occasion, the women were allowed to vote as well as their husbands, on the ground that they were equally or more affected, in their home life, by the question of the sale of vodka.

The War Office Circular.

Quotations from the circular sent by the War Office to the police, practically putting all women dependents of soldiers under supervision, have appeared in the daily press, and some passages are quoted in our leading article this week. We are obliged, however, to quote from quotations, because it is apparently impossible now to obtain a copy of the circular. We wrote to ask for one, and receiving no answer, sent a representative to the War Office. She was told that no copies could be given except to the Army paymasters, and advised that the Home Office had "pamphlets" on the subject which she could have if she called. She called at the Home Office, and was told there were no "pamphlets," and she must have been misinformed. No doubt she was.

Sir Edward Henry's Decision.

Meanwhile, we are glad to know that the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Edward Henry, has decided not to carry out the order in his area. No lists of soldiers' dependents will be sent to London police-stations. But, hurrying now to the opposite extreme, the Chief Commissioner orders that "when a woman is arrested for being drunk and disorderly... if she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature," &c. Such proceedings really almost make one despair of the "better nature" of those in authority over us. Could we, for the moment, try appealing to their common-sense? If soldiers' and sailors' wives are ever "drunk and disorderly," their conduct is just as bad, and no worse, and no better, than that of other "drunk and disorderlies." They do not want specially good treatment or specially bad treatment. They want to be treated like other ordinary human beings.

The "Unmarried Wife."

Resolutions of protest have been sent by the Mothers' Union against the decision of the Government that a woman who has been living with a soldier as his wife, solely dependent on him, and the mother of his children, shall be placed in the same position as a legally married wife, as regards payment of pensions. Women have at heart before all things the good of the race, and we believe that the vast majority of them believe that monogamy is the best form of sex-relationship, having that end But this very fact should make us realise the significance of the undeniable fact revealed by the new order, that a large number of women prefer not to be legally married to the men they live with. Such couples are often entirely faithful to each other. Why then, do they neglect, or even definitely refuse, the legal contract of mariage? "Because they are wicked" is a simple reply, leaving us totally unconvinced. "Because they repudiate the monogamous ideal" is a reply equally far, we believe, from the truth; for these men and women are in many cases perfectly faithful to each other. Is the reason not in marriage itself, but in our marriage laws? We believe that this touches at least part of the truth. An institution will be respected not because people pass resolutions saying that it must be, but because it is respect-worthy. Monogamy is a respect-worthy institution: our marriage laws are not. They are frankly abominable. There are women-sincerely religious womenwho would, if they could, be married by the religious and omit the legal ceremony. Can such women be called "immoral," whom marriage is an indissoluble sacrament, but to whom the position into which our marriage laws force a woman is intolerable? We do not think so; and we hold that it would be more profitable to consider why so many men and women refuse or neglect to marry, than to pass uncomprehending resolutions condemning and seeking to punish them. What is the essence of morality? Does anyone pretend that it lies in a legal contract?

"How to Help."

We call the attention of our readers to a letter from Mrs. Fawcett, in our correspondence columns, describing a club for soldiers' wives, on new and interesting lines.

THE LIBERTY OF THE (WOMAN) SUBJECT.

The recent crop of regulations restricting the liberties of women is a further evidence of the insecurity of an unrepresented class, and of the need of women for the vote to protect their special interests from these special attacks. Apart from the injustice of imposing restrictions on the liberties of women without at the same time limiting those of men, these regulations are of extremely doubtful legality.

DECEMBER 11, 1914.

First, there is the arrangement between the police and the licensed dealers that women shall not be supplied with drink in London before 11.30 a.m. As drunkenness among women is, and always has been, very much less than among men, if either sex were to have had a restriction imposed on it, surely it should not have been the women. Besides, it is doubtful whether this rrangement between the authorities is legal. Only the House f Commons has the legal power—I do not say right where the nrepresented are concerned—to limit the liberty of the subject. It required special legislation to exclude children under fourteen rom public-houses, and to forbid juvenile smoking. The licensng Acts do not explicitly give power to the police, or to the icensing justices, to place conditions on the licenses dis-riminating between men and women. It is interesting to speculate whether a charge of conspiracy might not be successly brought against the police and the licensed dealers for naving "plotted together" and drawn up an agreement to prevent women exercising the liberties accorded them by law.

The recent attempt of the Plymouth Watch Committee to have reintroduced the discredited C.D. Acts proved a failure, and the Government has officially stated through Mr. Asquith that it has no intention of reintroducing these Acts either in letter or in spirit. Notwithstanding this pronouncement, we find the Commanding Officer at Cardiff issuing, under the Defence of the Realm Act, orders instructing certain individual women to remain indoors between certain hours. Press reports stating that his order applies to all prostitutes are incorrect. The order is directed against certain individual women said to be of the prostitute class.

Does the Defence of the Realm Act give power to the Commanding Officer at Cardiff to issue orders inflicting punishments on individuals who have not been proved guilty? Are these women ordered to stay within doors because they are prostitutes, or because they have committed some offence? If they have been punished because they are prostitutes we have the beginnings of the C.D. Acts. That this is probably the case is to be inferred, otherwise the women might have been left to the civil courts, who have ample powers to imprison prostitutes for offences committed and proved. If they have committed no offence, they should not have a special new form of punishment imposed upon them.

The third attack is that directed against the wives of our soldiers and sailors. Lord Kitchener and the Army Council

"are most anxious that the police should endeavour to prevent . . . such a course of conduct by women receiving allowances as would be likely to lead to loss of the allowance." The allowance is to be liable to forfeiture for drunkenness, immorality, or neglect of children. Official circulars issued to the police authorities throughout England and Wales include the following:—

"When a woman is arrested for being drunk and incapable, drunk and disorderly, or drunk in charge of children, she will be detained at the police station until sober.

"If she is the wife of a soldier or sailor, the station officer will not proceed with the charge, but will appeal to her better nature, warn her of the serious consequences including the loss of separation allowance, that must ensue if she persists in such irregularity of conduct, and urge upon her to prove herself worthy of the husband who is fighting for his country.

for his country.

"A record will be kept of such admonitions having been given.

"Should the wife of a soldier or sailor be convicted in court on a drinking charge after previous warning, or of immorality, or other serious offence, the fact of the conviction will be reported."

In this short extract, exception must, first, be taken to the idea that a woman is to be treated differently from a man receiving a State allowance. We do not hear of instructions issued regarding the special action of the police towards civil servants, Members of Parliament, or Cabinet Ministers, found drunk and incapable, &c. Yet the salaries of these gentlemen also are paid out of the public funds. Secondly, there is the new power given to the police, a power which they are to exercise, not over the whole community, nor even over all women, but over the wives of soldiers and sailors—the implication evidently being that they are of specially bad character. Any policeman is to have the right to admonish the wife of a soldier or sailor. It is not even to be necessary to prove that she has been drunk. A record is to be kept of such admonitions. This means that the mere charge of a single policeman, which has never been proved in court, is to rank as a conviction in a magistrate's court. Even a magistrate has no such power to admonish before an accused person has been proved guilty.

Thirdly, a new offence is created, and the only subject who is to be found guilty of this new offence—immorality—is the wife of the soldier or sailor. Opinions may differ as to whether it is well to make this a punishable offence. There can be no two views, however, that, if such new offence is introduced into our law, it should be applicable not only to the wives of soldiers and sailors but to the whole community.

There are already laws on the statute-book which lay down the conditions on which parents are to be deprived of the care of their children, or civil servants or pensioners to be deprived of their allowances. If these laws are sufficiently severe for the rest of the community, they are sufficiently severe for the wives of our soldiers and sailors who are serving the country at home as bravely as are their husbands at the front.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

THE NEED FOR MEDICAL WOMEN.

Several letters have lately appeared in the Press calling attention to the shortage of doctors which has already begun to be felt, owing to so many of our physicians and surgeons having gone to the front. Mrs. Scharlieb points out, in *The Times* of December 5th, that medical women are beginning to fill some of the vacancies thus caused in hospitals and other instituions, and are proving themselves equal to their duties, but that the demand for the services of medical women is greatly in excess of the supply. She writes:—

"May we not hope that when this urgent demand for women doctors is realised by the public many women of good birth, education and ability will be desirous of entering the medical profession? It is certain that all such women cannot, and do not, expect to marry, and that in default of this most natural and desirable condition of life some women must seek other spheres of usefulness. From an experience of medical life now verging on forty years, I venture to think that no career could offer greater happiness and satisfaction to a woman, nor greater opportunities of practical usefulness, than medicine. I should like to point out that women medical students need not of necessity be very young. The more mature woman has certain great qualifications for the task; her verbal memory may not be so strong as that of her juniors, but her trained mind, experience of life, and general savoir faire are of considerable service to her as a student and still more as a practitioner."

Mr. Howard Marsh, Professor of Surgery in the University of Cambridge, in *The Times* of December 8th, writes:—

"I can confidently endorse Mrs. Scharlieb's opinion that there are many departments in medicine in which qualified women doctors can render perfectly adequate services on a much larger scale than at present

—in public health, in hospitals for women and children, in women's wards of the large general hospitals, in missions, and often in general practice.

"Some years ago nursing was found to provide an opening for a large number of educated and able women, whose work was epoch-making in that profession. I believe another epoch for women is at hand. From an experience exceeding, instead of verging upon, Mrs. Scharlieb's forty years, I beg to say that 'no career can offer greater happiness and satisfaction to a woman nor greater opportunities for practical usefulness than medicine."

Unfortunately, however, the opportunities offered to women or training are comparatively few.

THE LONDON (ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL) SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOR WOMEN has just issued an urgent appeal for funds to increase its laboratory accommodation, and provide new research and lecture rooms, in view of the increase of women wishing to study in London. £25,000 are needed for the additional buildings and their equipment, and an adjoining site has been secured.

Excellent work has been done by the school, which was founded forty years ago, when there were only two women on the British Medical Register. There are now about a thousand, of whom over six hundred are former students of the School. The annual entry of students has doubled in the last six years; 212 are now in attendance, and if the present annual entry be maintained this number will soon rise to 300.

Donations should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M. J. Henderson, The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, 8, Hunter Street, W.C.

THE ARMY, THE NATION, AND ALCOHOL.

commonly held belief that to get anything done for the Army you have only to secure the co-operation of "K. of K.

592

When, therefore, Lord Roberts makes his farewell appeal upon what he calls "a most vital subject, which is causing me very great uneasiness," and is "prejudicial to our chances of ' why does Lord Kitchener stop short at suggesting the "formation of local committees to form public opinion" on

Mrs. Parker thinks public opinion is already ripe. She asks with touching simplicity-" Would it not be possible for the House of Commons to agree, by consent of all parties, to do away with intoxicants during the war? Russia has done it. France has done it. Why not Britain?" The answer is, Russia has prohibited the sale of vodka, of which the Government had the monopoly. France has prohibited the sale of absinthe, but not of other intoxicants. And the reason why Britain cannot do even so much as her allies is that the House of Commons is very tender in dealing with vested interests.

A German lady thinks that Britain has not only followed the example of her allies, but has learned from her enemy, who began well but has relapsed. "On the question of alcohol," she writes in an appeal to German readers, "the public is beginning to lose its sense of responsibility at the very moment when our enemies have learned what the German troops have gained by the prohibition of alcohol, and have imitated us by forbidding all spirituous liquors in their armies. In the London streets, which formerly witnessed orgies of drinking, there are now huge placards with the following exhortations: 'Shall we drink alcohol when our brothers are dying for our country? Give to the Prince of Wales what you formerly spent at the bar. Surely, as pathetic a belief in placards as Mrs. Parker's in the House of Commons, or in the War Office. "For," says Mrs. Parker, "if the country were placed under martial law, there is no doubt whatever the military authorities would immediately and drastically change all this." Is there no doubt? Why wait for martial law? The Commanding Officer has merely to put all public-houses out of bounds, as he occasionally puts a few, and treating at any rate will cease to be a danger. But are there no vested interests among Army officials, as well as among brewery shareholders? Have all the evils exposed by the Lipton scandals been drastically swept away? The advocates of true emperance advise us to offer attractive alternatives. Good. But when by voluntary effort we raise a dry canteen, why do the officers who run the wet canteen almost make it a condition of granting us a site that we share the profits of our catering with

Two friends of mine opened a temperance tent in a camp. At the end of a week the military police informed them that cases of drunkenness had fallen by 20 per cent. With such evidence, and the fact that the cost of erecting a hut can be covered in the course of a camp's existence by the profits of an amateur dry canteen, why are the official dry canteens provided with such poor refreshments, charged for at such exorbitant prices (a 5d. pot of jam for 8d.) that the men are practically driven to the wet canteen to obtain anything agreeable within their limited means? What is the use of appealing to public opinion when the War Office will not move a finger for fear of alienating officers?

But it is not only the officers whom the War Office fears to offend. While every sporting coach insists on his men being temperate in all things that they may obtain the mastery, the military authorities, in whom Mrs. Parker trusts so implicitly, have decided that the risk of imposing a sudden restriction, especially upon raw recruits, is too great. It would lead to a revolt or desertion. Let us frankly admit this as a corollary of our British ideal of personal freedom. It means, however, that while a gradually tightening discipline may ultimately secure a more or less general compliance with outward sobriety, much valuable time must be lost in training not only the intemperate, but the temperate, whose efficiency is retarded by the dullness

The history of Prohibition in America is quoted as an exampie of how not to do it. I remember hearing F. E. Smith in the House of Commons professing to quote a Foreign Office Report on the subject. "Almost every State," it ran, "has abandoned Prohibition." "Read on," cried Mr. Leif Jones. But Mr. Smith would not read on. Why? Because the Report continued, "abandoned Prohibition in favour of Local Option"-

Lord Kitchener's sister (Mrs. Parker) naturally voices the | and the Bill Mr. Smith was opposing was to grant Local Option to Scotland.

The history of Local Option in the United States may be quoted as an example of how to do it. Few people realise that more than fifty years ago, after a wave of temperance enthusiasm, some fifteen States passed prohibitory laws. Within a year all but Maine had revoked them. Why? The refusal of the local authorities to administer the laws showed that legislation had gone in advance of public opinion. What was to be done? Clearly to throw upon the administrative authority the responsibility of passing its own law. And with what result? There immediately sprang into existence a number of so-called Dry Areas. Adjoining Wet Areas, seeing the prosperity that ensued, followed the example till the whole counties became dry.

In one State it was found that the five wet counties sent as many prisoners to the State penitentiary as the fifty dry counties; and the State itself imposed Prohibition. In like manner, through the experience born of self-government, some eleven States have adopted Prohibition, while vast areas in other States are dry by the exercise of local veto. As a result, there is now a population of some forty millions among whom

alcoholic liquors are not publicly sold.

The question is often asked, "Does Prohibition prohibit?"
One might as well ask "Does the prohibition of murder pro-What is meant, of course, is—does it prevent? prevent what? In some States it is only the public sale which prohibited. In others it is the manufacture and sale. others, again, the importation, manufacture, and sale. Until recently, owing to a Federal inter-State law, the enforcement of non-importation was almost impossible. A new Federal law now makes it illegal to dispatch alcoholic liquor into a Pro-

The real question to ask is, "Does Prohibition succeed in diminishing crime, in fostering prosperity, and in general in promoting the common weal?" And the answer is unhesitatingly in the affirmative, judging from evidence which accumulates from widely different areas and over long periods of time.

The Common Cause has recently disclosed startling evidence

of the bitter and well-organised hostility of the liquor trade to the extension of the Suffrage to women. The trade assumes, and rightly, that Woman is on the side of Temperance. But so is the trade. At least its representatives profess to be so. Is their hostility then, due to their doubt of Woman's capacity to deal with so complex a situation in a spirit of statesmanship? Or are they needlessly afraid of Woman's antagonism?

In The Common Cause of November 27th there appeared a map of the U.S.A., showing in white the States in which women have won the vote. A comparison of this map with one issued by the Prohibition party, reveals this interesting fact: the Suffrage States are mostly in the West. The Prohibition States are central or South-East. Kansas is the only State white in both maps. Of the ten other Suffrage States seven are wet, and three have only partial local veto. In the majority of Suffrage States the vote has been won in comparatively recent years. What use will Woman make of her newly acquired power?

The N.U.W.S.S. has hitherto avoided such burning questions as Temperance and War. If it is now forced to discuss them it is a double testimony to the fact, that these questions, and Woman's ultimate power to decide them, have come into the sphere of practical politics.

D. B. McLAREN.

Since the above was written three more Suffrage States have carried Prohibition.

THE HOSPITAL AT DOVERCOURT.

A paragraph has appeared in the newspaper of the Men's Society for Women's Rights, stating that their hospital at Dovercourt is not under the Red Cross Society, but is authorised directly by the War Office. The statement made in The Common Cause of November 6th that this was not the case, was based on letters received at the N.U. Office, both from the Red Cross Society and from the War Office, denying that the hospital was authorised by them. These letters, which are perfectly explicit, are dated Oct. 27th and Oct. 28th respectively. If, since then the required authorisation has been received, we shall be glad to inform our readers; but so far, inquiry has failed to elicit it.

War Pamphlets.

DECEMBER 11, 1914.

PAPERS FOR WAR TIME. (Milford, Oxford University Press. Price

OUR OUTLOOK AS CHANGED BY THE WAR. (Heffer Cambridge, 2d.) OXFORD PAMPHLETS, 1914. (OXFORD University Press. 2d. each.)
PAMPHLETS OF THE UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CONTROL. (1d. each.) FERMANY AND THE PRUSSIAN SPIRIT. (Macmillan. 6d.)

KAISER OR CHRIST? (James Clarke & Co. 1s.)

THE CHURCH'S OPPORTUNITY IN THE PRESENT CRISIS. (Headley

ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD. (Bowes & Bowes, Cambridge. 6d.) Papers for War Time is the title of a series of discussions of the r chiefly in the light of Christian duty. The first of these, by the v. W. Temple, sees no way out of war but the establishment of a ritual empire, with an authority greater over the individual than

spiritual empire, with an authority greater over the individual than the State's; but, as a whole, it is vague, and prefatory to the series which deals chiefly with the war's duties and opportunities for Christians. One paper, "The Woman's Part," by Elma K. Paget, is written in a spirit of deep humility and penitence. She holds up for women a war-time ideal of noble and self-sacrificing labour, but only in one sentence does she seem to realise the greatest effect of war for women—that there must be many more who "may break their hearts alone and unemployed." Relief work, nursing, and general sub-missiveness and economy are not enough to go round, and there may issiveness and economy are not enough to go round, and there may e some use in the spirit she deprecates of those who "grumble . . . and elaborate improvements of their own," if it is directed towards ecuring more work of a vital economic kind for women. Alice Gardner, in her address at Newnham College on "Our Outlook as Changed by the War," takes a similar line in this matter, revealing an outlook not yet changed into anything definite. She thinks women should cease striving, not only for the vote, but for any other new paportunities of public usefulness till the crisis is past. She is subprofitables of public usertimess the trisks is past. She is sub-nissive that a great many of us are, for public purposes, superfluous, but this superfluity, under modern conditions, may have dangerous esults if submission is the only attitude; and if the state of Europe ontinues critical for very long, it is to be hoped our outlook may hange beyond the point Miss Gardner indicates.

The Oxford Pamphlets form a decidedly useful series of discussions the war, its causes and possibilities. They are designed chiefly to

esent the British case in its strongest light, and one is struck by the ct that the more speculative ones do so much better than the histhat the more speculative ones do so indict better than the more speculative ones do so indict better than the more topical. There is such a vast number of facts and causes to advance that it is impossible not to distrust some of those advanced on both sides, but in reading Gilbert Murray's "How can War ever be Right?" and A. D. Lindsay's "War against War," we cannot doubt nat much of our best idealism is enlisted in our defence of France and Belgium. Two others of this series, "Germany and the Fear of ussia," "Serbia and the Serbs," are intended to relieve the uneasiussia," "Serbia and the Serbs," are intended to relieve the uneasises many Britons feel concerning our more distant Allies. Someting of an antidote to them is provided by H. N. Brailsford's amphlet, "The Origins of the Great War," which is one of the most erspicacious war pamphlets yet published. This last is issued by the Union of Democratic Control.

There is a variety of "educational" pamphlets giving the causes the war; but we are a united nation, so they are all much the same each other and the Government Blue Book. Of articles on the my, Germany and the Prussian Spirit is, perhaps, the best thing

its size and scope that has appeared. A volume of war sermons, by the Bishop of London, Dr. Clifford, A volume of war sermons, by the Bishop of Lordon, Dr. Chilotd, and others, has appeared, entitled *Kaiser or Christ?* with a good red over; and they are good sermons, in no way suggesting, as their reface does, that if the Kaiser won, Christ's kingdom would be eaten and Nietzsche's established.

Dr. Hodgkin, in *The Church's Opportunity*, pleads the Quaker int of view towards war, and accepts with confidence the taunt

hat he is "a dreamer of dreams."

But, best of all these tiny books, in which little people write of mighty things and big people (alas!) sometimes take rather smaller riews than we expected—best of them all, because it achieves greatin its thought, eloquence in its sorrow—Romain Rolland's postrophe, Above the Battlefield, carries us up like a strong fresh postrophe, Above the Buttleflett, Carries us up like a strong freshind, right from its opening phrase, "O, young men that shed your lood with so generous a joy for the starving earth!" Where is the teble violence of so many German and English pamphleteers beside his chivalrous humility? "There is not one," he says, "who does ons chivalrous numility? "There is not one, "he says," who does not proclaim with conviction that the cause of his people is the cause of God. . . . And I, too, proclaim it." But while the agony of his country controls his emotion by that power which no human soul escapes, it shall not impair his humanity nor darken his sympathy. Even in time of war it remains a crime for the finer spirits to compromise the integrity of their thought."

THE ENGLISHWOMAN for December contains, in addition to the appeal or funds to provide anæsthetics for French wounded, mentioned in our structure, interesting articles on "Our Lost Illusions," "Rex Orbis lundi," "The Difficulties of Small Industries," "The War and Boots," Russia During the War," "Swahili Women," &c.

Jus Suffragel (Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Adam Street, Adelphi). Contains news from many countries of women's ork in war time, including a specially interesting article on "Frenchomen During the War," by Mme. G. Rudler. An account is given of work of the International Women's Relief Committee, and some

THE NEED FOR ANAESTHETICS IN FRANCE.

A paragraph which appeared in *The Times* saying that there was no shortage of anæsthetics in our hospitals in France has perplexed some of the readers of our appeal for help in this matter last week. We point out that our plea was for French hospitals for French soldiers—not for British hospitals for British soldiers These latter, mercifully, are not short. Allies are, and it is for them that we appeal, most urgently, for help. Miss Lowndes asks us to say that she is sending those anæsthetics which the French Croix Rouge is specially in need of, and subscriptions should be sent to her at *The Englishwoman*, 11, Haymarket, W.

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE AND THE WAR.

Children will find the Little Theatre open every afternoon from Boxing Day onwards, where "The Cockyolly Bird," a real uproarious Christmas play, will be given. The promoters of the Holiday Theatre are determined that this theatre shall not be shut down; but shall the control of the holiday. continue to give happiness to boys and girls home for the holidays, as well as providing work for scores of people who otherwise would have little chance of getting it. The co-operation is asked of parents, school teachers, and people who are interested in children of all classes, both before and behind the curtain. Subscription tickets to admit to both before and behind the curtain. Subscription tickets to admit to the 7s. 6d. stalls four adults or eight children (or any equivalent combination, two children counting as one adult) will be issued at £1 is. each, provided that application is made before December 26th to the Manager, Matinee Holiday Season, Little Theatre, John Street, Strand, W.C. An appeal for support is issued by Miss Gertrude Kingston and Mrs. Percy Dearmer.

THE AUTHORS' BELGIAN CHRISTMAS FUND.

A sale of books by well-known authors, specially autographed, will be held between December 14th and Christmas Day at the offices of Canada's Grand Trunk Railway System, 19, Cockspur Street, S.W. A short story of a Belgian Red Cross dog, Dik: A Dog of Belgium, specially written by Elizabeth Banks and illustrated by Herbert Didsec will be sold at the

Dicksee, will be sold at id.

No book will be sold for less than one shilling above the regular published price, and for some books double or three times the ordinary price is expected.

All the proceeds will be handed to *The Daily Telegraph* Belgian Shilling Fund. Books should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Banks, Hon. Sec., 17-19, Cockspur Street, S.W.

"EAGERHEART."

There will be performances of "Eagerheart" (a Christmas Mystery Play) at the East Anglian Sanatorium, Nayland, on Friday and Saturday, December 18th and 19th, at 4 p.m. Ickets free, but a collection will be taken, as the expenses connected with the production of the Play are considerable. An exhibition of Children's Work will be on view

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Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

WAR AND PEACE.

WAR AND PEACE.

Madam,—Your correspondent Miss Jessie Brodie asks for what high ideal Great Britain is fighting in the present war. In the opinion of those of us who support her action, she is fighting for international good faith and for freedom. She entered into the war to redeem her pledged word, to defend the sacredness of treaties, and to help France and Belgium against a power which threatened their existence as free nations. The fact that it has now become evident that her own freedom was also threatened does not make her duty less plain, nor does it prove that she is not fighting for an ideal. There is no necessary antithesis between interest in the higher sense and idealism. If there were, we should be forced to believe that Women Suffragists who think that enfranchisement is for the interest of women are not struggling for an ideal. It is certainly for the interest of Great Britain that treaties should have binding force and that Prussian militarism should not dominate other countries as it now unfortunately dominates Germany. It is also for binding force and that Prussian militarism should not dominate other countries as it now unfortunately dominates Germany. It is also for the interest of mankind. The Greek States in their struggle against Persia, the Netherlands in their struggle against Spain, Italy in her struggle against Austria, were all fighting for their best interest: they were also sustaining that imperishable ideal for which Belgium is bleeding to-day, and for which England will, we believe, make every sacrifice.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS.

Madam,—A few weeks ago I urged in your columns that the childless widow of a soldier ought not to be "pensioned off" with a full allowance and thus kept permanently out of the labour market, but that it was more desirable in every way that she should return to wage-earning. Mr. Hammond asks whether in my opinion the pensions of officers' widows should be reduced below the maintenance line. It is of course impossible to reduce the pensions of widows of officers or privates below the sum which was promised to their husbands when they joined the forces. If it were possible to start afresh I should certainly wish that the childless widows of officers and privates (who were not incapacitated in any way) should receive not a permanent pension but an adequate allowance for two or three years plus a sum of money for training in industry, business, or profession. At the end of that time the young widow should be absorbed in the community as an independent worker—not remain for the rest of her life a drone in the hive.

At present among the working classes a girl naturally looks forward to wage earning until her marriage, and she knows that she may return to it on widowhood. To assume that this is for her an impossibility or a hardship is to reduce her to the parasitism of many women of the upper classes who have not learned or expected to maintain themselves in any circumstances. When an adequate pension is given to an officer's widow (without children) it is at any rate only carrying on a bad tradition—that a women must be dependent on someone, if not on her husband, then on the State—but to take the childless widows of private soldiers out of the labour market is definitely to place them in a position which, while it is undesirable in itself and a loss to the community, is also one to which they have not previously been accustomed. C. Dorothea Rackham.

MADAM, Since reading Mrs. 'Rackham's most logical and lucid

MADAM,—Since reading Mrs. 'Rackham's most logical and lucid letter in The Common Cause of November 20th, concerning widows' pensions, I have several times heard the "Class Distinction Argument." This argument puts me in mind of a little boy I once heard declaring "It's not fair!" because he saw his baby brother being carried while he had to walk. If the officers' widows are considered incapable of earning even a part of their keep so much the worse for them.

No one could desire the abolition of class distinction more than I do, and that is the very reason why I should regret it, if young, able-bodied and unencumbered women were placed in a position in which they would form a little leisured class to themselves. The Chelmsford Branch of the Co-operative Women's Guild, to which I belong, has had several lively discussions on the subject, and the conclusion arrived at was that for the widows' own sakes, they should be given, if healthy, childless, and under thirty-five, £1 a week for the first six months after their bereavement, to enable them to find employment, and after that 7s. 6d. a week.

Louise Maude (Mrs. Aylmer Maude).

Louise Maude (Mrs. Aylmer Maude).

THE BATTERSEA WOMEN'S WAR CLUB.

MADAM,—I believe the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will be interested to hear the history, as told to members of Mrs. Creighton's Consultative Committee on Wednesday, December 2nd, of what promises to be a very successful club for soldiers' wives, lately started at Arthur Street,

Battersea.

The story was told by one of its founders, Mrs. Wood. A small group of ladies interested in the locality collected a sum of £50. With this they hired an old public-house, spent a few pounds on necessary repairs, and fewer still on furniture. The Committee gasped with astonishment to hear how microscopic the furniture account was but Mrs. Wood explained that the ladies had bought old chairs for sixpence a piece, and had scrubbed and painted them themselves, and had in all ways been most ingenious in economy. They obtained addresses of wives of soldiers and sailors from the local branch of the S. & S. F. A, and invitations were sent out. The distinctive feature of the Club is and invitations were sent out. The distinctive feature of the Club is that the members, and not "the ladies," form the committee of management and are responsible for the social side of the Club; if any case bearing on conduct or misconduct of a member has to be investigated this is done by the Committee who are in a better position to arrive at a fair judgment upon it than the ladies who are less closely in touch with

DECEMBER 11, 1914.

the realities of life on £1 a week or less. There have thus far been no difficulties and no disturbances. Babies in arms are admitted but not older children. The subscription is 2d. a month. The ladies who started the Club are strictly forbidden to welcome the members. "How would you like it," said Mrs. Wood, "when you visit your own club in St. James's Street if someone met you at the door and welcomed you?"

The hours during which the club is open are from 10 a.m. to 10 pm. but it is shut for a couple of hours in the middle of the day. The amusements and occupations of the women are dancing, singing, and knitting. Singing is very popular and the women like to go to the Church Army and Salvation Army and sing hymns. Some of them have given themselves the name of the Battersea Warblers. Once a week a simple lecture is given on the progress of the war.

Mrs. Wood reported one curious fact. There is a babies' room at the Club for babies in arms. It contains seven cradles made out of banana crates, and the ladies take it in turn to be responsible for this room. When Mrs. X is in charge all the banana crates are full and the floor is often covered with babies for whom there is no cradle available; but when Mrs. Z is in charge the room is empty: none of the women will entrust her with a baby. For this difference there is no obvious explanation. Poor Mrs. Z is believed to be quite as good at caring for babies as Mrs. X but she somehow fails to inspire confidence. It is an instance of the difference in the personal equation.

The Club has been particularly fortunate in its caretaker, who is very keen and capable. She is paid 15s. a week with board and lodging, She prepares refreshments of a simple character sold at cheap rates, but at a price sufficient to cover expenses and make a small profit.

When Mrs. Wood had finished her interesting narrative the Committee with one voice asked "may we come and see the Battersea Women's War Club?" The reply was not an unqualified affirmative. Visitors may come, but not too many

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

WASTE OF GRAIN.

MADAM,—In view of the fact that there may be a serious shortage of grain if the war continues for two or three years, it is surely desirable that the Government should prohibit its use for making alcoholic beverages. Distilling was forbidden, both in England and Ireland, during certain periods of scarcity, with excellent results, and might well be forbidden again in a time of threatened scarcity. Writing of the stopping of the distilleries in March, 1757, Smollett says:—

"The Bills relating to supply being discussed, the House proceeded to enact other laws for the advantage of the community. Petitions having been presented by the cities of Bristol and New Sarum, alleging that since the laws prohibiting the making of low wines and spirits from grain, meal and flour had been in force, the community appeared more sober, healthy, and industrious; representing the ill consequences which they apprehended would attend the repeal of the laws, and therefore, praying for their continuance, a committee of the whole House resolved that the prohibition to make wines or spirits of any sort of grain, meal, or flour, should be continued to the 24th day of September, 1759."

Again, we have the testimony of Mr. Colomboun, in his "Treatise on

Again, we have the testimony of Mr. Colquhoun, in his "Treatise on the Police of London," that:—

e Police of London," that:—

"It is a curious and important fact that, during the period when the distilleries were stopped, in 1796-7, though bread and every necessary of life were considerably higher than during the preceding year, the poor were apparently more comfortable, paid their rents more regularly, and were better fed than at any period for some years before, even though they had not the benefit of the extensive charities which were distributed in 1795. This can only be accounted for by their being denied the indulgence in gin, which had become in a great measure inaccessible through its very high price. It may be fairly concluded that the money spent in this imprudent manner had been applied in the purchase of provisions and other necessaries. The effect of their being deprived of this baneful liquor was also evident in their more orderly conduct; quarrels and assaults were less frequent, and they resorted seldom to the pawnbroker's shop; and yet during the chief part of this period, bread was 15d. the quartern loaf, and meat higher than the preceding year."

quartern loaf, and meat higher than the preceding year."

Further convincing evidence of the good effects of prohibition is given by Dr. Lee, in "An Argument for the Suppression of the Liquor Traffic," published in 1859. He shows by a table of imports, given below, that a comparison between "The years of the stoppage of the distilleries, and the consequent comparative sobriety of the nation, with the years when they were full of activity," shows "the startling anomaly that a year of scarcity, with prohibition, is better than a year of plenty without it." 1809-10 and 1813-14 were seasons of scarcity in Ireland, and distillation was stopped. The average consumption of spirits in 1811-12 and 1815-17 was 7½ millions of gallons, in the other years not quite 4¼. The saved 3¼ millions reappear in the form of an increase of various useful articles.

TABLE OF IMPORTS.

FAMINE YEARS: 1809-1			YEARS OF	PLEN	TY: 1811-	12: 15-17
Haberdashery (value)	£140,936		£110.936	***	£30,000	dearens
Drapery (yards)	3,778,514		2,422,444		1,356,070	
ron & Hardware (value)	£467,109	7	£337,458		£129,651	"
Blankets (number)	60.094	- 110		0.00	33,401	99
Cotton goods (value)	£197.198		£104.198			1)
rea (lbs.)	3,530,638				£93,000	"
		***	3,189,132	***	341,511	"
At the present time has	381,278	***	306,934		74,324	.,,

73,000,000 lb. of barley and grain, 3,000,000 lb. of rice or maize, 9,500,000 lb. of sugar or sugar equivalents.

9,500,000 for or sugar or sugar equivarents.

This could be acquired by the Government, and stored for future use in case of scarcity. The money which the people would save if they could not procure strong drink, would be usefully spent in other ways. According to a pamphlet issued by the United Kingdom Alliance, £3,500,000 is spent in drink in less than eight days, while it took eight weeks to raise £3,000,000 for the Prince of Wales's Fund.

A. M. M.

Xmas-Gift Suggestions.

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Cloth				Fact 27 6
Gentlemen's Smoking	Jackets	in	tine Black or	Navy Cloth.

Gentlemen's Gloves in Tan Cape, lined wool. A pair 4/11 & 5/6 Gentlemen's Gloves in Tan Cape, lined Fur. A pair 6/11 & 8/11

Cigarettes

The	well-known b	oran	d of	f "Ma	rcovitch"	Cig	arette	S
	Turkish,	25	for	1/3	100	for	5/-	i
	Russian,	25	-	18			66	
	Virginian,	25		13			5 -	
	Con Amore,						7 -	
			"	17/1-		",		

ish Cigars (Havana filling) in boxes of 50.

Tobacco Pouch	es		
"Elegants"	- ***	 	106
"Petits Cabinets"	***	 	129
"Imperials"		 	166

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returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

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 midday on Friday. It 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 to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

"Woman's Part in War Time."

Now that our country has been at war over four months, it becomes possible to get some kind of idea of the part that women are playing. And passing the interminable weeks of strife in review, two aspects of "the part of women in war time" deeply, and even painfully, impress the imagination. There is the great and growing record of help given and work done; there is the daily more perplexing problem of work hindered and human lives wasted.

The moment this country knew that war was imminent, the women began to offer and organise help. The Suffrage Societies, the great bodies of organised women, individuals everywhere, set to work according to their powers and opportunities to help. Work-rooms have been opened, new industries started, workers trained, money raised, and spent. Not only so, but the women whose husbands have gone to the front, have orne the double burden of bread-winner and home-maker with silent heroism which the nation as a whole hardly appreciates, hough it unconsciously relies upon it, and is not disappointed.

There is another side to this picture, not so pleasant to contemplate. Side by side with the eulogies bestowed on the women who are helping, stand bitter and repeated complaints of the women who are hindering. Some, we are told, are wasting the money paid to them as "dependents" of men at the front. Others-mostly quite young girls-are hanging about the camps, pestering the recruits, and getting themselves into trouble. Yet others are professional camp followers, responsible, in part, for the "10 or 15 per cent." whom the Prime Minister admitted to be "wasted" from among those who have joined the colours.

Of the first class of these "hinderers," not much need be said. If a few soldiers' wives are wasting the money that is paid to them, they are very few. And it is largely because these few are now receiving more money than they are accustomed to control that they are wasting it. We remember a friend, whose husband died from eating poisoned food, and who received £200 compensation, which she promptly "wasted" --not on riotous living, certainly, but on every kind of delightful and innocent amusement for her children. The money gone she explained with large eyes of astonishment—" Miss, it didn't seem as if anyone ever could spend £200!" So is it with some women to-day; only the pitifulness of the sum which to them represents such unspendable riches brings home to those who have the least power of imagination, the poverty which is their habitual lot. As the Insurance Act has revealed the almost incredible ill-health of the working-class wife and mother, so the payments to soldiers' wives is revealing a poverty which has become a national peril. A determined and steady effort to improve economic conditions among women must be made, and in the meantime every kind of help must be given to those to whom the spending of money is so unaccustomed an enjoyment Such help would probably be given with more practical effect by women of the Co-operative Guild type, than by those who are at least as ignorant how to administer very small sums as the women of whom we speak are of large ones.

The girls around our great camps are another problem. Women-patrols report that though in some cases complaints have been grossly exaggerated, it is nevertheless true that quite young girls from thirteen or fourteen to sixteen, are making themselves a positive nuisance to the men, and are a source o danger to themselves. They are, we are told, "without selfrespect "; the speakers who are invited to go and address them are begged to appeal to this non-existent virtue!

DECEMBER II, 1914.

There are many girls to whom this state of affairs is odious Yet the state of affairs remains, and it is well to face it. It represents the inevitable result of all that Suffragists have been combating for years. Let us be honest. As long as girls are taught that to attract men is the first duty of woman, and to attract one sufficiently to persuade him to marry her, is "the vocation of woman," so long as a woman who fails in this vocation" is regarded as a maimed and wasted being who, whatever her work and value, is really "superfluous" long, in short, as the expression "a superfluous woman" has any meaning, so long will the temptation to hang about those places where men congregate, exist, and in many cases be irresistible. Women have been economically dependent on men for their pleasures, and even their support. They have been taught that marriage is their one vocation, and to marry they must please men. They are hardly regarded as having a human value except in this vocation (hence the expression-" superfluous woman "). Is it not, then, futile to expect any other consequences than those we see to-day?

Let girls be taught to respect themselves indeed, but it must be by our realising their value first ourselves. Every humanbeing is of infinite value, and remains so whether male or female married or unmarried. Marriage, when it comes, is, or should be, a great happiness, a sacred duty; but it is not upon marriage that the value of any human soul depends, nor is there an deeper profanity than that conveyed in the phrase-" a superfluous woman." No one dreams of calling the men who live in countries where women are in a minority "superfluous." have their human value as human beings, whether they find their mate or not. So it is with women. This truth was slowly emerging in the minds of all of us before the war began. Nov t is in danger once more of being submerged. This is why we feel bound to emphasise it here. A pamphlet which reached us recently, containing an address to the students of Newnham College, puts the point with perhaps unusual brutality. It is useless, the author believes, to deny that many of us are at present superfluous. It is also, let us add, useless to appeal to the self-respect of girls who are in the same breath taught to regard themselves in a way which makes self-respect impossible It is true that, from our knowledge of Newnham girls, such teaching will, in their case, fall on deaf ears. The most respected tutor in the world will not persuade them that they are superluous, and self-respect is too ingrained a habit of mind in them to be destroyed even by war. But while this is equally true of many young women in every rank of life, it remains a fact that to destroy a young girl's belief in herself and respect for herself as a human being, is sometimes only too fatally easy. And we submit that, if we are to appeal to her self-respect on behalf of her country, we must first begin by respecting her ourselves, and realising her value, not as a copy-book maxim, but as a living and effective faith.

Finally, there is the problem of the professional prostitute. She represents, in an extreme and final form, the woman exploited by society. We hope that those who are now earnestly engaged in thinking out this problem will before long be able to give the result of their thought and expert knowledge to the public. In the meantime, letters that have reached us on this ubject impel us to warn those who are not "expert" of the extreme difficulties of the question. It is useless simply to drive away " these women, to imprison, or to flog them. They do not cease to exist because we hurry them out of sight; and concealed danger is not less a danger from being concealed. It useless to appeal (as one correspondent suggests) to their patriotism. They have none. A prostitute is without ationality. Her hand is against every man, and every man's hand against her. Society has exploited her, and she exploits Society. What has her country done for her, in heaven's name, that she should know "patriotism"? Nevertheless, she is uman, and every proposal which assumes that she is not, is bound to fail. It is the duty of us all to remember and to help her if we can. But it is supremely the duty of the women of the woman's movement, who painfully and with much faltering and nistaking have asserted their own human rights and human value, never to forget that the claim that they make is invalid unless they make it equally for every other human being.

The British Cause.

On November 21st a letter appeared in the public press signed by the Prime Minister and others. In this letter it was urged that "British public opinion may well prove to be the deciding factor in this great struggle." Most Britons would desire that it might be so. The letter announces that for the formation of this public opinion a "Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations" has been formed, and "men and women of good will" are adjured "to associate themselves with the Central Committee, and to make possible the fullest development of its work by contributing according to their means they are also invited to act as local hon. secretaries. One feels that some acknowledgment is due to Mr. Asquith for his recognition that women have a right to an opinion on this grave nternational issue, and that that opinion should count as public "opinion. For, if indeed women's opinion were not art of this public opinion, Mr. Asquith has no need to call for ur subscriptions: he could tax us. The request for subscripions implies the right to refuse them and, therefore, the right to an independent judgment.

There will be many women who agree with Mr. Asquith's statement that we are fighting "not alone in defence of our existence and freedom, but for the right of small nations to enjoy the same freedom and for civilisation and democracy as we understand them." These will doubtless also feel that there are specialists better qualified than they to state the national case nd will gladly pour forth money and service in order that their leaders may bring the knowledge of the British case to the uttermost parts of the earth. As regards the facts of the case, probably most of us would admit that we have not and cannot have enough knowledge to form a just judgment upon the intricacies of diplomatic history. We may know that if all the nations had earnestly desired peace there would have been peace. Some of us may think that if even one Power so great and free as Great Britain had for the past ten years earnestly desired peace, and had been willing to hazard a good deal for the sake of peace, things would have gone differently. Of course every man said he desired peace, but it is rare to find a man who is a Christian in the same burning sense that he is a rate-

Be that as it may, there are certain activities of the spirit in which we approach a settlement which require no special knowledge and involve no subtlety of reasoning. They are (1) regard for the value of difference (or variety) in character and onduct; (2) sympathetic effort to understand these differences; 3) recognition that militarism will never be destroyed by brute force alone. It is because public opinion on these points needs expression and the strength which comes from association, that it seems worth while to point out how certain sentences of Mr. Asquith's might be wrested so as to imperil the first and third, and how, with regard to the second, some less responsible utterances in the press suggest that there is something unpatriotic in being, or in trying to be, intelligent.

In the letter to which allusion has been made, the following sentence occurs: "This great driving power of public opinion must not be left to shift and vary as temperament and the changing fortunes of war may dictate."

This might be construed to mean that there was only one point of view that could be tolerated, and that was the official point of view. But "temperament" is perhaps the most important part of a whole nation's being. We speak of the temper of the troops" being excellent; the "temper of the people "being loyal. The temperament of a free people is good precisely because it is allowed to develop freely; but the suggestion that public opinion is to be formed, not by free minds dealing with facts, but by an inspired official statement not only of selected facts but of the judgments we are to form upon those facts, is a suggestion which reactionary people will not be slow to read into this letter. We say that our army is a splendid fighting force because its men are not drilled out of all semblance to the men God made; we say our institutions are great and free because they have been established by men who understood the value of differences of temperament and of courageous criticism, men who took risks and knew that life is dangerous and only death is safe. Only by maintaining the freedom of temperament to affect public opinion shall we save our institutions from Prussianism and develop still greater freedom and intelligence. The desolating dulness of regimented opinion fills

the soul with mourning and kills its life. In this letter, as in all

of his speeches, Mr. Asquith has set his approval to the assertion that it is our aim to abolish "militarism." Regimentation of minds as well as of bodies is the essence of militarism, and the spiritual evil is the greater of the two. If we tolerate the regimentation of minds, we not only abandon all the virtues of difference (or variety), but we make the abolition of militarism more, not less, difficult. War is a military affair: it must be conducted by soldiers, in the military spirit. But policy, a pacifist policy, a policy directed to the "abolition of militarism" s not a military affair: it must be conducted by civilians in the

civilian spirit. Mr. Asquith, in his speech at the Guildhall, said: "We shall never sheathe the sword until Belgium has recovered all, and more than all, that she has sacrificed " (if this were literally true, then we should never sheathe the sword again); "until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed." He is a careful speaker, and in the last sentence he obviously chose his words carefully: it is the domination of Prussia which is to be destroyed, and no Briton will feel disposed to quarrel with that. But there is a serious danger that our British militarists may leave out the essential word and look forward to the destruction not of Prussian domination but of Prussia. We cannot of course destroy Prussia, but we can try to do so, and thereby assuredly destroy all hope of abolishing Prussian militarism.

The truth of this assertion will only appear to those who have made an honest effort to understand different points of view: yes, even the Prussian point of view. For, in so perilous and magnificent an adventure as the abolition of militarism, we must be cunning and wary, and how can we be so, if we refuse to learn all that it is humanly possible to learn about the nation which is the most powerful and philosophic exponent of the militarist creed? Yet many things are being written and said which suggest that it is somehow patriotic to refuse to understand the Germans. This has actually been asserted by a Nonconformist minister writing from Preston to The Manchester Guardian, and in a suburban paper a writer has recently fallen foul of Mrs. Creighton, and said she was hindering recruiting because she recited some of the good deeds of Germans.

It was part of the chivalry of the Round Table to " speak no evil, no, nor listen to it." But these twentieth century patriots would have us forget Goethe and Beethoven, and only tell over the beads of the wrongs of Belgium. So should we never understand that German militarism, obscene and evil to our eyes, yet has some rays of a clearer patriotism could we but separate them; so should we sneer, as a leader writer in *The Times* sneers, at "the pacifist enthusiasts who think that they can persuade the disciples of Bernhardi to beat their swords into ploughshares." If indeed we can never do this glorious and difficult deed, we must despair of ever destroying German or any other militarism, and this colossal war will be only one in an endless chain of wars extending to the crack of doom. cannot destroy militarism by militarism. German militarists have nursed the Napoleonic dream, it is true, and if we conquer that dream will vanish for the time. But fear and the longing for revenge will survive and feed the military spirit, unless by the peace we "dictate," Germany as well as France is 'adequately secured against the menace of aggression," and unless the rights of Germany as well as those of smaller nationalities are "placed upon an unassailable foundation." To that aim public opinion should be directed, and our diplomatists should be made to feel that in embodying that aim they are truly representing the essentially pacific British nature and bringing into a treaty the conception of public Right. It is for the victors to declare that they will respect public Right even in the flush of victory. So, only so, can they make their treaty a Treaty of enduring Peace. H. M. SWANWICK.

Next week: "International Arbitration," by G. Lowes Dickenson.

WORK IN BRISTOL.

Ever since the war broke out, the Bristol Society has been very sy. A member of our Committee is on each of the Ward Relief Committees, and through them cases are investigated of girls applying for admission to the Training Centre at the University Settlement, and grants are made to very needy cases from the store of jam made by our members in the summer, and from the clothes renovated or made at our weekly working parties. At these we are able to give employment each week to one or two women who are out of work owing to the war. Woollen garments are also made for children in the Mothers' Schools, to be given away at Christmas. Two of these Schools are now becoming Maternity Centres, and a grant of \pounds_5 has Suffrage Societies in towns where soldiers are stationed.

been made to each from our funds. Every week there is a first-aid lecture by Dr. Linton, at which there is a large attendance. Each member of the class pays 2s. for six lectures, the fees being given to

FRENCH CLASSES FOR SOLDIERS

have been started, which have proved such a success that they are now being held every evening, Mrs. Talbot and the Misses Barnes kindly lending their rooms for three evenings each.

A WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC CLUB,

for the wives and mothers of soldiers and sailors, has been started for the wives and mothers of soldiers and sailors, has been started lately, and is proving a great success. Four rooms have been taken in a house in one of the poorest parishes in Bristol, open to women who want news, companionship, and talk. Here there are bright fires and a warm welcome every week-day afternoon and evening. In and a warm welcome every week-day afternoon and evening. In one room, where there is a piano and a gramophone, the women are entertained, if they like, or can sit quietly and talk; in the writing-room they can write or dictate letters, or read the papers; in the nursery the babies are cared for and amused, and during the evening tea, cocoa, hot lemonade, and cakes may be had at very low prices. Workers in the parish tell us that we are getting just the class of women whom we wished to help, and the women themselves tell us how they have wished for such a club. A second club is being started in another part of Bristol by the New Constitutional Society, and we hope that more will follow. It takes at least eight helpers each day (in two shifts of three hours each) to manage the club, so it brings a large amount of our members into active work, besides bringing non-Suffragists, and even Antis, into co-operation. Besides the work organised by our Society, special work in connection with the war is being done by various members of our Committee: ing done by various members of our Committee :-

Miss Cashmore has gone as Secretary with a Friends' Relief Party to the orth of France, to give medical, nursing, ambulance, and sanitary aid to

North of France, to give medical, nursing, ambulance, and sanitary aid to non-combatants.

Miss Pease is Hon. Sec. of the Training Centre at the University Miss Pease is Hon. Sec. of employment owing to the war are taught cooking and dressmaking until they find work, and receive 4s. a week, a good meal daily and occasionally one of the garments made there.

Mrs. Nierenstein is taking French classes at the University in place of the Lecturer, who has joined the French forces, and is also teaching French to soldiers. Miss Baretti manages the French classes already mentioned.

Mrs. Randall Vickers and Miss Meade King are running homes for Belgian Refugees. Miss Gunter is doing Red Cross Hospital Nursing. Dr. Linton and Dr. Lily Baker are both giving First Ald Lectures. Miss E. H. Smith is Chairman of the Patrol Committee, and Miss Clough and the Misses Tanner are acting as Patrols. Miss Sturge is Chairman of the Women's Patriotic Club Committee, Hon. Sec. of a Mothers' School where Feeding of Mothers is being instituted.

Last week we held a public meeting, when our new County Court Judge—Judge Stanger—made his first appearance on a public Bristol platform. It was cheering to welcome so good a friend to our cause in Bristol. Six years ago he introduced his Bill for abolishng the sex disability from existing franchises in the House of Commons, so his ready help is that of an expert. The other speakers vere Miss Geraldine Cooke and Mrs. Whalley

FREE CLUB FOR SOLDIERS.

NEATH SOCIETY has opened a Free Club for Soldiers, to be run on the lines that have proved so successful in Swansea, Cardiff, and elsewhere, at 158, Windsor Road, where excellent premises have been rented for the purpose.

The club will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on week-days and

from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. Newspapers, magazines, writing materials, games, &c., will be provided free of charge, and tea, coffee, and buns at a small charge, the idea being to make a meeting place where all soldiers in uniform will be welcome and can smoke, talk, nd foregather under comfortable conditions. No such meeting place t present exists in the town, and the scheme has the approval of the nilitary authorities. Over one hundred men of the 5th (Supernumerary) Battalion of the Welsh Regiment are billeted in Neath, and

s probable that the number will be increased. The club was opened on Thursday, December 3rd, by His Worship

the Mayor, supported by Captain Davey, C.O.

Members of the Neath Women's Suffrage Society have formed a Corps of Volunteers to darn and mend soldiers' clothing free of charge, and to be on duty at the club daily. The club is open ery Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. for the inspection of subscribers.
Assistance is earnestly asked to meet the running expenses, and

promises of weekly donations (however small) will be especially welcome; also offers of the loan of a piano, easy chairs, small tables, games, &c. Subscriptions and gifts will be gratefully received by Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Cadoxton Lodge (President), and Mrs. Tonner, 22, Rugby Avenue (Hon. Secretary).

THE RUNNING OF THE CLUB.

By dividing the time into two-hour shifts it has been possible to secure the presence of a member (or in the case of younger helpers two members together) on the premises during all the time the club is open, except from 12 to 2. That shift is taken by a widow, who desired employment at a small fixed sum per week. The club is open

week-days 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

By invitation the Neath W.S.S. has conferred with the Colour Sergeant and arranged that the orderly in barracks for the day shall, as part of his duties, visit the club twice daily. This co-operation is welcomed by the men, and ensures a means of communication between them and the promoters of the club.

The club is emphatically a success, being largely used by the men even in these early days. Here is work to be recommended to other

OFF AT LAST!

Departure of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital (First French Unit) to France.

The National Union as a whole, and more particularly the Scottish Federation, may well feel proud. Dr. Hutchison is in Calais, whither her nine remaining nurses have followed her, and our first complete hospital unit has arrived at Chantilly, after many struggles with "red tape." I wonder how many of our readers knew that they were crossing the Channel during that terrific gale last Friday? Those of us who had waited outside the tragic little barrier at Victoria from early morning hours to wish the hospital Godspeed, spent an anxious afternoon, listening to the howls of the tempest, thinking of our unit on its long, weary journey, of the discomforts a little, perhaps of othe dangers by sea more than a little. Miss Courtney, Miss Macnillan, and our Editor, all were there, and Dr. Inglis accompanied the party to the boat.

age, and water supply, and electric lighting, procured through the instrumentality of Madame La Vicomtesse de la Panouse, President of the Croix Rouge of France. Here they will be in just the right position to act as a base hospital for that part of the French fighting line extending from Noyon, through Soissons, to Reims

The personnel of the unit, under Dr. Ivens, of Liverpool, includes three surgeons, two physicians, and an X-ray operator. Ten trained nurses, and nearly as many dressers and orderlies, and two cooks have also gone. Miss Cicely Hamilton, whose name will be especially familiar to Suffragists and to readers of this paper, went out with an advance party of the unit, to serve as clerk, and among the orderlies is at least one National Union organiser, who has worked with the Union and with the Oxford



Photo, by Kate Pragnell,1

FIRST UNIT FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE

I called it a "tragic" barrier. It was, for some. But I spent nearly three hours there, watching, and I came away feeling proud of British women. Of all the wives and mothers and daughters who had passed through to see their menfolk off to the War, not one came back with tears in their eyes. They kept them hidden away in their hearts. They had smiled to the last. And after that I saw our Hospital go, and that, too, made me feel proud of our women. We, of the National Union, are going to feel more and more proud of that quiet, unobtrusive uniform as time goes on-quiet and unobtrusive, but with its little splash of green on collar and hatband to tell that the Scotswomen who wear the tartan are of the same dogged, staying breed as the men who wear it in the trenches. The English, and Irish, and Welsh members scattered among the staff are proud to wear it too, as a soldier wears the decorations of another nation, out of compliment.

They have gone to the Abbaye Royaumont, Asnières-sur-Oise, in the department of Seine et Oise, some nine miles from Chantilly, a fine house, with ample accommodation, good drainSociety for four years. Two motor ambulances and one car, given respectively by Mrs. Prys-Owen, Miss Alice Percival, and Mrs. Alice Cohen, are following the unit to serve the hospital -motors, indeed, being a prime necessity for a hospital situated nine miles from the nearest station.

Now there is just one word to say. Mrs. Laurie is asking for more money, and THE COMMON CAUSE wants to endorse her appeal. The prices of almost everything connected with the work have rushed up, and the French Red Cross Societies are almost at the end of their resources. We shall have to support our units, and we want to support them well. Almost the last thing Miss Ivens said as she stood on the platform at Victoria was: "The N.U. will see us through, won't it?" and Miss Royden, thinking of the response that always comes to an appeal in The Common Cause, replied, "We are on our honour to you." These women are giving their work and their lives. Let us give our money. Send it to Mrs. Laurie, Red House,

V.C.C.C.

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 EVELTN ATERINSON (Literature).
MISS CROOKENDEN. Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Annual Council Meeting.

The Annual Council will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 4th and 5th, 1915, and, if necessary, on Saturday, February 6th, at the Kingsway Hall. A public meeting in connection with it will take place on either Thursday or Friday. The Birmingham Society, which had kindly invited the Council to meet there, finds that under the changed circumstances this is not possible, and it will accordingly take place in London.

Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Will Societies please note that Miss Marshall has returned to town? Letters should be addressed to her at the office.

Press Report.

The Press is showing great interest in the toys made in the National Union Workrooms, and now being sold at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, Whitehall. Excellent notices have appeared, in some cases with pictures, in The Daily Graphic, The Daily News and Leader, The Challenge, and other papers.

Treasurer's Notes.

Our financial year closed on October 31st, and we give to-day the final list of the contributions to the General Fund during the year. These, together with the contributions to the Active Service Fund from August to October amount to £10,415 7s. 3d. In addition to this amount, £891 2s. 6d. was raised in connection with the Women's Kingdom Exhibition, and £1,978 7s. 9d. was contributed to the Election Fighting Fund, making a total of £13,384 17s. 6d. received at Headquarters during the year.

Work-rooms.

The work done in the Menderies shows marked improvement, and convinces us that the fraining which the women are receiving will prove really useful to them when they leave the rooms and take up their usual work again. We are open to receive more orders now, and we should like to appeal also for money to assist in the payment of the wages. Some of the women practically pay their own wages by their work, but others cannot yet do so, so that donations to the

by their work, but others cannot yet do so, so that donations to the Active Service Fund earmarked for work-rooms will be very welcome.

The staff of a large girls' school has sent a second donation of £4, half to pay 10s. a week to a professional woman during December, and half for the wages of a woman in one of our work-rooms.

Hospitality Department.

Of all the offers received at Headquarters, none are more welcome than those of hospitality. At the present moment not one of our hostesses in London is without a guest from us, and very few in the country have their spare-rooms empty. We cannot sufficiently thank them all. That their guests are welcome is proved by so many being asked to prolong their visits. Some, who cannot offer hospitality, send us donations instead, and with these we have been able to provide heard and ledging, and also fares in some cases. It will readily be board and lodging, and also fares in some cases. It will readily be understood that doles cannot be offered to the ladies who apply to us, and they would be unwilling even to accept a loan. Many are competent teachers, wishing to give lessons in languages. Can any reader offer them work in teaching, translating, &c.?

The Hospitality Department deals not only with those of mature

age; happy homes have also been found for many little ones.

A home, with experienced care, is needed for a baby girl of seven months. She comes of a nice family, and needs good feeding and attention for some months, being rather weakly.

Active Service League Shop, 50, Parliament Street, S.W.-Urgent.

An English girl, who has for months vainly been seeking work in London and is now quite destitute, has received an offer of a permanent home with an old school friend in Paris, provided she can get the money for her fare given to her; about £2 would probably see her through. Will anyone help?

The sale of toys at the Shop has been brisk this week. After Box

The sale of toys at the Snop has been brisk this week. After Box Cottage, which is the prime favourite, the toys which sell best are:

An attractive series of "Storiedols" designed by, and made under the supervision of Miss May E. Cull, consisting of an "Alice in Wonderland," "Alice through the Looking Glass" and a "Red Riding Hood" series, each containing four pieces, at 7s. 6d. the set; a box with four soldier dolls, the British Tommy, Our Silent Navy, the Gallant Scot and the Brave Belgian, which are perhaps having the best sale of any, can be sold either at 10s. the box, or 2s. 6d. a single doll, and a

dainty doll dressed like Pavlova in the swan dance, who performs acrobatic feats in the window rather to the detriment of her nose. We have also a charming set of jewelry made in our workrooms, and designed by Miss Janet Robertson, out of daintily gilded cones and leaves, fairy acorn cups and a sort of butterfly decoration in silver and gold. The demand for these is already large. The necklaces are sold at 1s. 6d., and charming wreathes for the head at 1s. 6d. and 2s., ear-rings at 6d. a pair, and brooches at 6d. each.

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Active Service Fund.

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Miss M. O'Brien 2 0 0 tion)	9	0	
W.S.S 5 0 0 Friends, "B" (2nd donation)	2	0	0
Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser Miss C. M. Forster (5th	-		
(Girls' Cadet Corps) 10 6 monthly donation)		5	0
Anonymous 15 0 * Received for Scottish		O	0
Mrs. E. Gamble (9th weekly Women's Hospital	0	5	0
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Miss Mary Moore (2nd donation) 1 0 0 Miss Robinson		E	0
Miss M. White 10 0 Miss P. G. Fawcett (five		0	U
Mrs. E. J. Ellis de Vesian 2 0 0 weekly donations)	-	0	10
Miss Nellie Gough 2 6 Mrs. F. Taylor	0	10	0
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Mrs. Walter Wigram 10 6 Anonymous	5	0	0
Mrs. Pole 10 0		100	-
Miss Alice Clark 5 0 0	,190	18	0
*The names of the individual contributors will appear later und	or f	e m	ho
Contrict Women's Hearital "	CT	1	H.C.

CHRISTMAS 1914. To Country Readers. NEW YEAR 1915 Unique Studio-printed Message and Greeting Cards from three half-pence each. Dainty and original calendars from sixpence each, the work of women artists.

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A FIELD DAY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

DECEMBER II, 1914

The London Society's meeting at the Queen's Hall next Wednesday intended to be a field day for Women's Service. The distinguished is intended to be a field day for Women's Service. The distinguished speakers should ensure a large audience and practically the whole field of what has been done and what remains to do will be covered. The Choir of the North London Collegiate School for Girls, specially augmented for the occasion, as well as the beautiful scheme of appropriate decoration to be carried out by Miss Lowndes will strike the note of cheerful courage which should distinguish Suffragists. An appeal for support for the Women's Service Fund has already been issued in connection with the meeting, and if this is responded to with generosity by every member and friend of the Society the manifold estivities in social service for which it has made itself responsible will ctivities in social service for which it has made itself responsible will have an assured future, and the fear now resting upon those engaged the work that it may have to be curtailed will be removed.

SEWING MACHINE WANTED.

The gift of a sewing machine in good order (treadle if possible) is urgently needed by The Bee Toymakers (L.S.W.S.), 58, Victoria Street, S.W., for their work-rooms for unemployed women.

THE IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCOTTISH HOSPITAL.

Miss Vera Collum appeals to "every member of the N.U. who has a drop of Irish blood in her veins" to help raise £70 at once for Irish ambulance to go to France with the next Unit of the Scottish uffrage Hospital. She has had the offer of a car from Mr. Hurlin, a ood Suffragist, but it will need to be fitted out with special tyres, c., and there will be sundry other expenses. The car could be used ther to carry serious cases, or as a mobile soup kitchen, an Irish cook aving volunteered to go with the car. Will any Irishman volunteer o drive it for one month, as women are not accepted in this capacity? ill a Treasurer has been appointed, all communications should be ddressed to Miss V. Collum, 4, Milton Chambers, Chelsea, S.W.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING,

We wish to bring The Common Cause before a much larger public, in order that they may know how women are helping their country and how they can do their part. No better way can be found than street selling. Will you help?

If you cannot sell yourself please send us some money so that we may employ out of work women to sell the paper. Donations should be sent to the Manager, The Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

The following additional donations have been received for this purpose:—Miss Rosa Button, 5s. (2m monthly instalment); Mrs. Fyffe, £1 (2 months' instalment of 10s. promised monthly); The Lady Scott Moncrieff, 6s. 9d.; Miss E. Rathbone, 10s.

Where to Sell.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots where Papers and Posters can be Obtained.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can be obtained from the Lady Clare mesley, 44 Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT .- Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street,

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Papers will be distributed to helpers any day except

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., r, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the city is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

OUR THANKS TO OUR READERS.

Our warmest thanks to our readers for their response to our appeal or papers for the camps. We are now able to supply all the Y.M.C.A. tents except ten! Please send us promises of money to supply these (3s. 3d. is a six-months' subscription), or send your own paper on yourself to an address which we will send you. Then let us begin on the B.W.T.A. rooms, of which there are a considerable number; and the Y.M.C.A. rooms to be established in three or four French ports.

One kind correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "that our let in the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts "the correspondent wishes us success, and trusts in the correspondent wishes a considerable with the correspondent wishes the correspondent wishes a considerable with the correspondent wishes a consi

oldiers will more readily appreciate the ability of woman than our politicians have done.

The following additional donations have been received towards

The following additional donations have been received towards pipplying our camps with The Common Cause:—

Miss Crichton Stuart 6s, 6d., Mrs. Hensham 3s, 3d., Mrs. Finke 3s, 3d., Mrs. chitt 1s., The Lady Scott Moncrieff 3s, 3d., Miss A. Sharp, 3s, 3d., Miss E. M. uncaster 6s, 6d., Mrs. G. Talbot 3s, 3d.

The following have offered to send on their own copy to a camp:

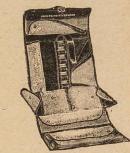
Miss Cherry Morris, Miss Carr, Mrs. Rowland, Miss E. M. Theobald, Miss F. Merhill, Mrs. Dowse, Mrs. Maris, Mrs. Burr, Miss R. Hale, Miss A. Gardner, es. Allmond, Mrs. Strathem, Mrs. Holder, Miss E. Bafley, Miss F. Bunce, Mrs. Barrett, Miss E. G. Hebblethwaite, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Gandy, ss Scovell, Miss Wright, Miss M. W. Ross, Mrs. Jessiman, Mrs. Rechitt, A. Scott, Miss M. Shatwell, Mrs. Wright, Miss Taylor Smith, Miss C. L. A. Holder, Mrs. Merichley, Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Adeney, Mrs. Frank ylor, Mrs. Stephens, Miss Lovelace, Mrs. Pollock, Miss J. M. Oswald, Miss M. Thorpe, Miss E. Batson, Miss Robertshaw, Mrs. Sonnenschein, Mrs. odrich, Mrs. Davis.

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What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Help for the Wounded.

Help for the Wounded.

THE ORCADIAN SUFFRAGE SOCIETY is doing a good deal of useful work at present. Our secretary, Mrs. James Cursiter, has been able to raise funds to the extent of £25 for the "Scottish Women's Hospital" for Foreign Service, also £8 for our Naval Emergency Hospital, whilst two of our members, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Heddle, are active workers in the Hospital. Several of our members are on the committee formed for promoting the interests of the "Queen's Work for Women," while others are subscribers and workers for the War Work Association.

Sidmouth and District-Food Economy.

Sidmouth and District—Food Economy.

Under the auspices of this Society, Mrs. Burton-Brown has given a series of six Talks on Food Economies for Working Women, which proved most helpful and suggestive. Miss Leigh Browne very kindly lent a room at Woolcombe House, which was fitted with a gas cooking-stove for the occasion. Each Talk was illustrated by the cooking of simple and economical dishes, suitable for breakfasts, dinners, suppers, and invalids. Two Talks were also given on the Use of Food, and how to make the most of unconsidered trifles commonly neglected or thrown away. It was under discussion to suggest the inauguration of the League of Honour, but that has been started through other agencies, with whom the members of the Suffrage Society are only too glad to co-operate.

Members have been devoting themselves to working for the Devon Linen League and other patriotic objects, and a large quantity of garments, blankets, &c., have been sent to various places, including articles for the use of Dr. Inglis's Field Hospital. Gifts of jam and jelly made by members have also been sent to hospitals in Exeter and for Belgian refugees in Sidmouth.

Central Counties Federation.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—A successful rummage sale was held by the "Friends of Suffrage" in connection with the Wolverhampton Suffrage Society. The sum of £10 13s. was realised and given in aid of Queen Mary's Work for Women Fund.

West of England Federation.

West of England Federation.

The annual mediang was held at Wester-Super-Mare on November 26th, Mrs. Ingram Baker in the chair. There were representatives present of twelve societies, who gave reports of their work—Bristol, East Bristol, Bridgwater, Burnham, Clevedon, Gloucester, Portishead, South Somerset, Street, Taunton, Weston-Super-Mare, Winscombe, and Cheltenham.

The annual report recorded a large number of meetings held in unbroken ground early in the year, Miss Thurstan's brilliant scheme of a Suffrage camp, carried out at Weymouth at Whitsuntide, and a Federation Library, established by the generous gift of £50 by a friend, besides the present work in connection with the war, on the lines indicated by the National Unnon.

After the ordinary business was transacted, Miss Cooke, in an eloquent

cated by the National Union.

After the ordinary business was transacted, Miss Cooke, in an eloquent address, gave a report of the Provincial Council meeting, and made a strong appeal to women to use their spiritual force for constructive work in the future. Mrs. Whalley also made a brilliant speech, after which the Western Society kindly provided tea. It was a time of reunion, which was felt to be a help and strength to the Federation

Solihull and District.

(Affiliated to the Central Counties Federation.)

(Affiliated to the Central Counties Federation.)

The Solihull Branch is able to record some useful activities during the past month. An open meeting was held at the Public Hall, Solihull, with the primary hope of being able to raise the sum of £10 to equip a Field Hospital bed under the Red Cross Society. The chair was taken by Mrs. Julian Osler, and a charming address was given by Miss Muriel Matters on "Women's Work in War Time." The speaker pointed out that the crisis afforded a golden occasion for women to assert their adaptability, helpfulness, and influence, and that they should firmly grasp and retain the power and opportunity which the circumstances place so ready to hand. The meeting, though not too largely attended, was particularly cordial and enthusiastic, and the amount aimed at was readily realised. Mrs. Maurice-Davis most kindly defrayed the cost of all printing, as well as that of hiring the hall.

Mrs. Maurice-Davis most kindly derrayed the cost of all printing, as well as that of hiring the hall.

Our Branch has also contributed the sum of £5 to the Birmingham Central Society's Relief Fund, and has further sent two maternity bags, costing some £5, to a maternity centre in Birmingham.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation,

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. Federation.

Brighton and Hove Women's Franchise Society, in conjunction with the local branch of the N.U.W.W., is opening War-time Clubs for sailors' and soldiers' wives and mothers and their women friends. As a beginning one will be opened in Brighton and one in Hove, but if they are successful and if the necessary funds are forthcoming, other clubs will be started in various districts of the two towns. The Clubs are to be open from 3 to 10 p.m. each week day and it is hoped they may prove pleasant resting places where women can come for solace and companionship, bring their babies and their sewing, write letters and post-cards to their men folk at the front, read magazines, listen to songs and music and have wholesome refreshment at little cost.

The Brighton Club at 42, John Street, was formally opened by Lady Louise Loder on December 3rd, when Mrs. Thomas Stanford—the wife of one of Brighton's M.P.'s—took the chair, and Mrs. Timpany, Hon. Sec. of the Brighton Club, spoke. Mrs. Wakefield is Hon. Sec. for Hove.

DORKING.—A social meeting was held on November 11th, in the after-oon, in the Oddfellows' Hall. Mrs. Alys Russell gave an address on The War and Infant Welfare." Miss Aston took the chair.

THE BARGAIN BASEMENT at Mde. Charlton's, I, Lower Seymour Street, W., which has just been opened, is well worth a visit from our readers. Charming blouses, lingerie, besides many dainty articles of wear, suitable for Christmas presents are there, and we find, throughout, the smartest of goods at the smallest of prices, and moreover purchasers have the additional satisfaction of supporting a staunch Suffragist and constant advertiser in Suffrage organs at the same time

N. U. W. S. S. Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service.

DECEMBER 11, 1914.

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Tunbridge Wells Society has contributed £2 6s., not s. 6d. as was stated in our last issue.

Further donations to be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Red louse, Greenock.

Belgians' Relief Fund—8, Chiswell Street, E.C. (for articles of clothing).

Some Useful Addresses.

Employment and Relief, &c.

Local Government Board-London, Edinburgh, and Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund-3, Queen

Anne's Gate, S.W.

Central Committee on Women's Employment—Miss
Mary Macarthur, 8, Grosvenor Place, S.W.

Government Committee, consisting entirely of
women, to deal with questions of women's employment. The Committee will be prepared to give
advice on any schemes for employment and as to
the nature of work which can be done without dislocation of ordinary trade or interference with
wages, hours, &c.

ween's Work for Women Fund—Communications to Lady Roxburgh. Cheques, Mrs. Lionel de Roths-child, 33, Portland Place, W.

orkers' National Comm. e-28, Victoria Street, Represents the mass of organized Trade Unionist, cialist, and Labour organisations throughout the untry, and has appointed an Advisory Committee representatives of wage-earning women to assist

onal Union of Women's Suffrage Societies—Sec., ss Crookenden, M.A., Parliament Chambers, 14,

diss Crookenden, M.A., Parliament Chambers, 14, reat Smith Street, S.W.

Las established: (1) A register of voluntary rkers to supply associations requiring voluntary p. (2) Employment Bureau for those who are town out of work by the war. (3) Emergency rkrooms, the menderies, and the toy-workrooms, ere destitute women are given temporary work, d are trained for permanent employment. (4) spitality Department for registering and arranging hospitality. (5) The National Union is also corrating with the Women's Cooperative Guild for establishment of Maternity Centres throughout computers on the basis of the circular and

ndon Society for Women's Suffrage (N.U.W.S.S.) Nec., Miss Phillippa Strachey, 58, Victoria Street, Women's Service. Clearing House for voluntary orkers, and information bureau. Also assisting eligian refugees and establishing hostels. Worksoms for needlework and toy-making.

omen's Emergency Corps—Old Bedford College, Baker Street W

aker Street, w. bluntary workers classified, organised, and con-led to prevent overlapping and to safeguard the labour market. Industrial centre for organising

id employment.

omen's Freedom League—1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

Workrooms for making children's clothing. "Softy" workroom; a house for sick women and
illdren, who, owing to London hospitals being
owded with wounded, cannot get admitted; a
staurant for 1d. and 1½d. vegetarian dinners for

rsing mothers, &c. **st London Federation of Suffragettes**—Miss Sylvia ²ankhurst, 221, Roman Road, Bow, E. ³Baby clinics, milk depôt, "cost-price" restaurant,

-making industry, &c. pressional Classes War Relief Council—Hon. Secs., Chambers, Esq., A. Goddard, Esq., and Mrs. lotto, 13 and 14, Princes Gate, S.W. rganises assistance for the professional classes in tters of education, training, emigration, maternity

nd, and temporary employment.

ress Contributors' Emergency Fund—Sec., Miss Hall,
care of N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.
To assist journalists who have lost their occupa-Middle Classes Co-operative League—Miss Geraldine O'Brien, 4, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C. For mitigating distress among professional and middle eleast present the control of the control o

Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries—Miss

war Emergency Fund (same address).
omen's Co-operative Guild—28, Church Row, Hamptread N.W. Making a determined effort to get Maternity tres started all over the country.

tish Dominions Overseas Women's Suffrage Union

Newcomb care of International

SCHEMES FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AMONGST WOMEN AND

ctive Service Girls' Cadet Corps—Mrs. Harley, A.S.G.C.C., care of N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. An important development of the National Union. Oject: To band together the girls of Great Britain Active Service for their country, ational Organisation of Girls' Clubs—118, Great Titchfield Street, W.

Girl Guides—116, Victoria Street, S.W. (Head Office). eague of Honour—Mrs. Porter, 6, York Buildings, omen Patrols Committee-N.U.W.W., Parliament

Club Rooms for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives, Tipperary Clubs, Cheer-up Clubs, &c.—London Secretary: Tipperary Rooms, Block's Road, Hammersmith.

SOCIETIES DEALING WITH REFUGEES AND STRANDED FOREIGNERS. War Refugees Committee - General Buildings,

The Belgian Relief Fund—The Belgian Legation, 15, West Halkin Street, W.

Departmental Committee for considering the question of employment of Belgian Refugees.

Secretary: Local Government Board, Whitehall,

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee-Whitehal Are providing accommodation for wounded soldier who are fighting as Allies of England. A register ibeing kept of all Belgian soldiers to assist relative

French Section of the War Refugees Committee The International Women's Relief Committee-7, Adam

Monteflore, Home Office.

Aliens' Relief Fund-Hon, Treasurer: W. Hanbury
Aggs, Esq., Barclay's Bank, Pall Mall East, S.W.

The United Aliens' Relief Society-68, Finsbury
Pavement (for helping distressed foreigners).

HOSPITALS AND AMBULANCES.

British Red Cross Society-9, Victoria Street, S.W. and 33, Pall Mall, S.W.
Order of St. John of Jerusalem—St. John's Gate,
Clerkenwell. Chairman: Hon. Arthur Stanley.
French Croix Rouge—Anglo-French Committee:
Arthur Stocking, Esq. 33, Pall Mall.
Union des Femmes de France—Union des Dames
Francaises—Association des Blesses—London Representative: Madame la Vicomtesse de la Panouse,

Scottish Street Westminster C.W. S.S.-14, Great

ORGANISATIONS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association—23, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. London business at 11, Tothill Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society-Major Tudor Craig, 122, Brompton Road, S.W.

Craig, 122, Brompton Road, S.W.

Officers' Families' Fund—Lady Lansdowne, Hon. Sec.
Lady Hope, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, W.

Prisoners of War (Information Bureau)—49, Welling-

Offers of Hospitality to Dependents of Men at the Front—The Under-Secretary of State for War, War

Omee, Whitehall, S.W.
Free Doctors and Cheap Drugs for Soldiers'
Dependents—Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W.
Clothing for Soldiers, Saliors, their Families, and
Person in Distress—Queen Mary's Needlework Young Men's Christian Association—13, Russell Square W.C.

A New Year's Offering for Women.

An appeal is being made on behalf of The Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, to the An appeal is being made on behalf of The Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, to the women of the United Kingdom to contribute a shilling each as a New Year's offering to the Fund. Over sixty workrooms have been started in various parts of the country, and in London alone employment or training is now available for several thousands of unemployed women and girls. The schemes of work and training throughout the country, and approved already, involve an annual expenditure of over £250,000.

All donations should be sent in by December 16th, so that the total may be announced in the Press on New Year's Day. Every woman can augment this great New Year's offering to the less fortunate of her sisters. For those who feel that they are unable to afford a shilling, can easily collect this sum; and, those who are able to afford more, can make up for the deficiencies of others by sending several shillings.

Hon. Treas., Mrs. C. Arthur Pearson, The Queen's "Work for Women" Fund, 33, Portland Place, W.

Forthcoming Meetings, see over, p. 604.

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Brighton—Franchise Club, 4, New Road—Mr. Merrifield on "Masculinity: Its Great Predominence in Prussian History" Its Great Predominence in Prussian History "Bristol—Display at Swedish Gymnasium by Miss Johnson's pupils in aid of Women's Club—Chair, Mrs. Stanger 40, Park Street—Ambulance Class Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker, Colonel Seton (National Service League), on "The British Army" Knutsford—King's College House—Councillor Margaret Ashton on "Women and War,"—Mr. P. M. Oliver on "Points Raised in Mr. Asquith's Dublin Speech"—Sept 25th, 1914—Chair, Mrs. S. Woodhouse

S. Woodhouse heross Coffee House—Members'
Meeting to discuss "The Attitude of the Society
towards War"—Speaker, Mrs. W. C. Roberts

DECEMBER 13.

Birmingham—Ashton Labour Church—Speaker,

Mrs. Ring

Hyde Park—Near Reformers' Tree—Speakers,
Miss Dawson, Miss I. O. Ford

DECEMBER 14.

Birmingham—Town Hall—League of Honour
Meeting—Speakers, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs.
Mackenzie—Chair, The Bishop of Birmingham
Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party
42, Montague Street—Women's Club—Open
daily

ally
16, Berkeley Square—French Class for Solders
Manchester—Gardenwall Street, Oldfield Road
South Salford Club—Meeting
DECEMBER 15.
Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class
Hyde—P.S.A. Hall—Public Meeting—Speakers,
its Ashton, Mr. G. Armstrong—Chair, Mrs.
C. Beeley

DECEMBER 16.

DECEMBER 16.

Birmingham—Erdington Women's Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Ring. on "Women and War".

Bristol—5. Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class London—Queen's Hall. Langham Place, W.—Speakers, Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LLD., Sir George Pragnall, Lady Roxburgh, Miss H. Ward, Dr. Florence Willey.

DECEMBER 17.

Birmingham—Farcroft Avenue Church, Handsworth—Debate on "Women's Suffrage" between Mrs. Ring and Mr. Davis

Bristol—5. Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class DECEMBER 18.

Bristol—5, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class

DECEMBER 18,

Bristol—16, Berkeley Square—Soldiers' Class

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"

—Miss Alice Crompton, M.A., on "Review of the

National Union's Work during 1914, with special

reference to the War"

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Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager. The Common Cause Publishing Co., Limited, 3, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

POSTPONED TILL DECEMBER 18th, 7.30, p.m., Concert by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick, in the Memorial Hall, Manchester; unfamiliar works for two pianofortes.—Tickets available, or money returned by Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126, Deansgate.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (N.U.W.S.S.) Clearing House for Voluntary Workers and Information Bureau, 58, Victoria-street, 8.W. Donations for the Society's Women's Service Fund urgently needed by the Treasurer, Honble. Mrs. Spencer Graves.

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