

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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

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Notes and News.

Women and the National Register.

The inclusion of women in the National Register is a measure of the plainest common-sense. If the register is to be used to any purpose at all in the organisation of our national resources, it cannot afford to ignore the only part of the strength of the nation which remains undiminished by war, and we are glad that Parliament has at last recognised this fact, even though it may still be far from acting upon it.

Mr. Long truly recognised that women would have been both injured and humiliated had they been excluded from the register, but the justification for their inclusion is wider than this; it is as wide as the nation's needs. Indeed, we think it would have been the nation itself, and not only its women, who would have been humiliated, if Parliament had thought and proclaimed that of all the women that the nation contains, none by any possible arrangement would be allowed to be of any use at all in the national crisis.

Lord Lansdowne's Disappointment.

It is rather curious to turn from Mr. Long's speech to Lord Lansdowne's, on moving the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords. For the motive he puts forward for including women in the Register is entirely different. It was done, not to spare women the humiliation of being left out; but, apparently, because women were not coming forward in sufficient numbers to undertake the work of men. "An attempt was made," Lord Lansdowne said, "to set up a voluntary register for women with rather disappointing results. The Board of Trade Circular was received by 13,000,000 women, but only 90,000 placed their names on the register. We came, therefore, to the conclusion that we should include women." Lord Lansdowne might have added that only about 3,000 of those that registered themselves received work through the channels through which they were asked to apply. This was hardly an inducement to others to sign on. Further, from private inquiries, we find that the great majority of women never seem to have had a Board of Trade Circular at all, and we think Lord Lansdowne must have assumed, without sufficient proof, that it had been in the hands of every woman.

Lord Kitchener on Women's Service.

Speaking at the Guildhall last Friday, Lord Kitchener urged on all employers the duty of releasing men for service with the Colours, and replacing them by men unfit for active military duties, "or by women, as has already been found feasible in so many cases." Lord Kitchener went on to say, "And here I cannot refrain from a tribute of grateful recognition to the large number of women, drawn from every class and phase of life, who have come forward and placed their services unreservedly at their country's disposal." The words of the Secretary of State for War will echo through all women's hearts. Perhaps the thought may follow, Can we release more *women* for their country's service?

"Women's Work in the War."

This is the title of the forty-sixth number of the *Times' History of the War*. It gives an extraordinarily wide survey of the field of women's work from that first day of August, 1914, when "a quiet group of matrons of the nursing service spent the Sunday waiting, in the electric atmosphere of the War Office," for the news which was to summon together and then scatter abroad all the hundreds of trained women who knew exactly what to do when the call came. The marvellous swiftness of their response was as wonderful in its way as the mobilisation of the Expeditionary Force. The women who were not ready organised for war service, lost no time in following the example. The women's voluntary medical units were not long behind the military organisation, and got to work under the auspices of the French Government. The *Times' History of the War* gives a full account of how it was all done. How the hospitals founded by the Scottish Federation, on a scheme initiated by Dr. Elsie Inglis, grew until the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have equipped and are maintaining 1,150 beds for the French and Serbian wounded; and how the splendid success of Royaumont, staffed as it is entirely by women, led the French military authorities to send a special request that Royaumont should take the most serious cases, and to ask for repeated extensions of the Scottish Hospitals' work—is all related in this chapter of women's efforts. A short summary of the work of the vast and complex organisation set in motion by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is given on page 273. Altogether, when our friends in the Dominions, and the United States, write to ask us what we are doing, we must remember to send them copies of this excellently illustrated number, which gives an immense amount of information in a handy form.

Postmen and the Harvest.

The Postmaster-General has announced that a large number of the male staff are to be released for enlistment, and women are to be more generally employed. He also announced that postmen who wish to do harvest work are to be granted special leave, provided that they pay for substitutes. There was no objection, added the Postmaster-General, to women as substitutes, provided the load to be carried was not too great. Mr. Herbert Samuel's words recall the solitary flash of humour in the Postal Guide, which has been the delight of many an idle clerk. It is provided therein, that a rural postman who has already as much as he can carry, and is "unable to obtain assistance, may

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

Table listing donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital. Includes names like D. Donaldson, J. Davidson, and various amounts in pounds and shillings.

Table listing donors and amounts for the Scottish Women's Hospital, continuing from the previous table. Includes names like 'The Senior Pupils of Keith Grammar School' and 'The Perth W.S.S. per Miss M. M. Douglas'.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Table listing supplementary donors and amounts. Includes names like Webster (£1 6s. 9d.), MacArthur (£1 9s.), and others.

BEDS NAMED FROM JULY 1ST TO JULY 8TH.

Table listing named beds and their donors. Includes '2nd "Eton Terrace"', 'Devon', 'Cornwall', and 'Plymouth'.

* Denotes further Donation.

What Some of Our Societies are Doing.

Oxon, Berks, and Bucks Federation.

Berkhamstead.—By the kind invitation of Mr. Stevenson the annual general meeting of the Society was held at Glanmor, Doctors' Commons Road, on June 14th.

Tickets and collection realised over £20, and we shall be able to send £18 to the Serbian Relief Fund, earmarking it, at Mr. Seton-Watson's suggestion...

Encouraged by the success of this lecture, we hope to have a course in the winter with the same object as the educational scheme now being inaugurated by the National Union...

Maidenhead.—A very successful garden meeting was held at Abbotsleigh, Cookham Road, on Thursday, June 10th, for the Friends of Women's Suffrage.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants. BRIGHTON AND HOVE.—Rain caused a poor attendance at the Friends' meeting which Miss Wright addressed on "The Scottish Women's Hospitals" on May 13th.

Cuckfield.—At a meeting of the W.S.S. held on June 28th at Warden Court (by kind permission of Miss Gray and Miss Priestman), Miss Douglas Irvine gave a most graphic and interesting description of the state of things in Serbia...

Hastings, St. Leonards, and East Sussex.—Miss Burke addressed a meeting in the Hastings Council Chamber on June 5th in aid of the Scottish Hospitals, the Countess Brassey presiding.

Purley.—Mr. and Mrs. Baker held a garden meeting on June 12th at Somerfield, Mrs. Arkwright in the chair. Miss Beatrice Hunter, Hon. Equipment Secretary, gave an excellent address on "Women's Hospitals in the Invaded Countries."

Great Yarmouth. The Great Yarmouth W.S.S. held their annual meeting on June 17th. There was a good attendance. Mrs. W. J. Palmer was in the chair.

Forthcoming Meetings. July 16. Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Mrs. Stones on "Shakespeare and War" 4.30

July 17. Shipley—"Merlestead." Baildon—Annual Meeting and a Garden Party—Speaker, Mrs. Renton—Collection for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 4.30

July 19. Barnes—Technical School, North Worpole Way—Miss Beatrice Hunter on "The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals" 8.0

July 20. Paddington—6, Hatherly Grove, Westbourne Grove—by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen Ltd.—Working Party for the London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals—Every Monday and Thursday 2.30-5.0

South-Western Federation.

Four most successful meetings have been held in the South-Western Federation in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospital, at which Miss Kathleen Burke was the speaker.

The first meeting was held at the Museum Hall, Torquay, on the afternoon of June 17th, the Hon. Lady Acland taking the chair.

The Barnstaple Society issued invitations for a meeting on the afternoon of June 18th at the Imperial Hotel. The Mayoress of Barnstaple presided and kindly aided to the collection of £11 the sum of £14, which she had collected for medical aid for Serbia.

Miss Burke's greatest success was achieved at the meeting in the evening at the Church Institute, Bideford, at which the Mayor of Bideford, S. R. Hope, Esq., took the chair.

From these meetings and a few donations the South-Western Federation has been able to send over £100 to help the work of maintaining the hospitals for our Allies.

North-Western Federation.

The annual meeting of the North-Western Federation was held at the Station Hotel, Carnforth. Excellent arrangements had been made by the Secretary of the Carnforth Society, and the meeting was fairly well attended.

A resolution was passed thanking the retiring members of the Executive for their work in the past, and hoping that circumstances might soon enable them to take a full share in the work in the future.

Very few reports have come in from Societies; so many members are doing relief and social work that it is difficult to get even a committee together. Societies seem ready to take up the Educational Courses. Little can be done until October, for during the next two months the district will be inundated with visitors.

Keswick held its annual meeting, a purely business affair. Twenty members were present and officers and committee elected. Four delegates were sent to the Birmingham Council. The local papers are very good in putting in notices of women's work and news; such as, the enfranchisement of Danish women and the views of Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., on "Women Workers and the Railway."

Help Wanted. ORDERS taken for Casualty Clearing Bags (Lady Smith-Dorrien's request), 12 by 10, with linen labels, 2s. 6d. dozen post free.—Women's Employment Committee, Council Offices, Woking.

Reading Women's Suffrage Society Day. NURSERY.—Articles urgently needed for Sale of Work in aid of the above on July 28th.—Address parcels: Miss Mafflage, Ashton Lodge, Christchurch rd., Reading. Please help to keep the Nursery open through the winter.

Positions Vacant. GOOD COOK-GENERAL for two ladies; no objection to a young girl if willing and trustworthy.—Harvey, 48, Talgarth-rd., W.

Position Wanted. MRS. CORBETT, Danehill, Sussex, most highly recommends lady housekeeper companion, now disengaged, for any position of trust.—Box 5,188, COMMON CAUSE Office.

Gardening, Etc. GARDENING FOR HEALTH in a Sussex Village.—Ladies received; charming country residence; elevated position; efficient instruction; month or term; individual consideration.—Peake, Parsonage Place, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

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