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The Common Cause

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TO OUR READERS.

Early in February "The Common Cause" will begin a new life as "The Woman's Leader."

"The Woman's Leader," like "The Common Cause," will stand for equal opportunities for women in every sphere of life. It will, we hope, be a real help to all the women who are out to get these opportunities and to use them.

In order that it may do so it is necessary that it should have a larger scope and reach a larger number of women than it has ever touched before.

We will do our part in providing new matter and we earnestly ask you to help us by putting the paper into the hands of new readers.

We hope that each reader of "The Common Cause" will not only take in "The Woman's Leader," herself (or himself), but will get at least one new subscriber, and will let us know that this has been done.

Next week we will publish further particulars of the first number of "The Woman's Leader." Please look out for them, and meanwhile please send us in names of new subscribers!

—ED. "THE COMMON CAUSE."

Notes and News.

Filius Nullius.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child has drafted a Bill for improving the status of illegitimate children, based in the main upon the Bill already issued by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. This will be known as the Bastardy Bill, 1920. It differs from the measures now in force in that it takes the welfare of the child as its chief object, abandoning the attempt to deter young women from breaches of morality by penalising their possible children. The Bill provides that where the paternity of an illegitimate child is admitted or proved, the name of the father as well as the mother shall be registered, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in the Births and Deaths Registration Act. If paternity is admitted before the child's birth the father is liable to contribute towards the expenses consequent upon or preceding the birth. If paternity is subsequently admitted or proved, he may also be charged with the expenses of adjournment of the Court made necessary by his denial. Payments on

this account and in respect of the maintenance of the child are to be made not to the mother, but to a collecting officer, and he shall be responsible for collecting such allowances and arrears.

The Unmarried Mother.

If the present Bill becomes law, an unmarried mother is obliged on registering its birth to disclose its paternity. Thereafter the State accepts the duty of claiming for the child its natural rights. If the parents subsequently marry it is thereby legitimatised; if the father wishes to acknowledge and provide for it, he is enabled to make an agreement which shall be binding upon him. If he refuses, it is the collecting officer and not the mother who institutes proceedings against him; if he lets his contributions fall into arrears, the collecting officer must pursue him at law. The mother is liable for the child's support only if she has the means to do so, otherwise the father, or, failing the father, the State, shall provide for it till it is sixteen. In any case except that in which the father shall have fully recognised and fulfilled his responsibilities, the child shall be a ward of the Children's Court of the area in which he lives. The unmarried mother is not relieved of responsibility for her child, but she is no longer asked to do impossibilities. She is not liable for its maintenance unless she can in fact maintain it; she is not asked to enforce contributions from its father when she lacks the means and the knowledge so to do. The way of transgressors is not to be made easy, but they are to be given the chance, be they men or women, of atoning in some measure to their child for the wrong they have done it.

The Working Women's College.

The Y.W.C.A. has this month opened its Working Women's College at Beckenham with ten or twelve students, a small number, but even so, larger than is really justified by the funds already in hand. But in addition to the £1,600 (which is £400 short of the estimated expenses for the first year) they have promises of scholarships from several large employers. They are arranging for a residential staff of two only, and relying upon the generous help of voluntary visiting teachers, and they are receiving donations from the savings of working girls themselves, which should be a good seed bringing in a hundred-fold from women who care as much for learning as the would-be students of the new college, and have themselves reaped in fields that others have sown. Nor should Beckenham look in vain for the help of working men; Girton, Newnham, Somerville, owed very much to professional men, living, many of them, on incomes barely sufficient to keep them fit for their work.

And the Oldest Women's University.

Women's colleges of any kind seem to us to be growths of yesterday, but Professor Sayce tells us of a women's university existing in a Babylonian colony ruled from Ur of the Chaldees some centuries before Abraham was born. In this republic of Burus, acknowledging the shadowy suzerainty of the Babylonian kings, there were princes ruling over cities and prefects governing provinces, and beside each was a "princess" or "prefectess" with equal powers and rights. Records of this civilisation have been preserved on incised bricks which then held the place we give to books and written and printed documents. One of the latest of these to be discovered and deciphered relates to the "women's town" which was the seat of a women's university with its two faculties of Literature and Arts, and its two principals, who were men. So we, like Scott, have reached our goal only to find that another was there before us; we are pioneers only in our own imagination. But for those who rule their lives by precedent, how delightful to find that they can send all their daughters to college without raising a blush to the cheek of Abraham's great-grandmother if she hears of it in the fields of the departed.

Women Welders.

The present attitude towards women in industry creates some strange situations and none is more strange than the position to-day of the women oxy-acetylene welders who did such good work during the war. The training of women in this trade started in 1915, at a time when welding was a fairly new process in this country, and only a few hundred people could do it. A school was started, and the women paid for the training themselves, and afterwards entered aircraft factories as probationary workers, gradually getting higher wages as they became more experienced. They formed a society and fought hard to obtain equal pay and status with the men welders. Nominally they did obtain it, good workers getting about £4 a week, but the men's higher bonuses really gave them higher pay than the women. Employers spoke well of the women welders, and they were accounted a great success. There is still welding to be done to-day, and as wages are six times what they were at the time of the armistice, there would appear to be a scarcity of skilled workers; yet all but about a dozen of the seven hundred members of the Society of Women Welders are out of work and no one will employ them. The country is in need of increased production; the trade is short of workers; the men back from the Army who can weld are all settled—yet skilled welders, with four years' experience, have to stand idle because they are women. It is impossible to fill the gaps with beginners, because welding needs time and practice and a great deal of hard work, and as there is no way of testing a weld save by destroying it, it is evident that beginners cannot be used for important parts. The Pre-War Practices Act does not touch the welders because, before the war, there were not enough men in the trade to make it a separate occupation. It is not illegal, therefore, to employ women welders to-day, but, owing to the antagonism of the men's unions, that fact does not seem to benefit them much.

Women Clerks and the Prime Minister.

The representatives of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Miss Christine Maguire and Miss Dorothy Evans, who were to have left London by aeroplane last Friday, in order to interview Mr. Lloyd George in Paris, were unfortunately held up by the weather. They are, however, determined to lay their views before the Prime Minister, though they have decided, in view of the probability of Mr. Lloyd George's early departure from Paris, to postpone action until his return. Their demands are as follows: (1) In Ministries not in being prior to the war no woman to be demobbed for reasons other than inefficiency, independence, cessation of work, or substitution by disabled. Those retained to be kept on the work in which they have gained experience during the war, and not to be degraded for reasons other than reduction of work. (2) In every case where a woman is substituted by a disabled man, a non-ex-service man to be similarly substituted. (3) Ex-service women to be treated equally with ex-service men. (4) One month's notice of dismissal individually for all temporary staff, or one month's pay on dismissal. (5) A service gratuity on dismissal of £20 for each year of service for all temporary staff discharged after the cessation of the unemployment donation. Among the societies which are supporting the women clerks is the Civil Service Union, which has a large membership of disabled sailors and soldiers.

Scientific Research by Women.

A friend of Girton College, Cambridge, has given £10,000 to be applied, both capital and interest, during the next twenty years for the encouragement of research by women in mathematical, physical, and natural sciences. The fund is intended to assist in the development of scientific research, upon which to a large extent depends industrial progress. It is thought better to devote both capital and interest during twenty years than to expend a smaller annual sum in perpetuity, as would be the case if the interest only of the fund were expended.

Duties of the Scottish Board of Health.

An interesting account of State Health service during past ages until the present day, was given at a meeting of the Edinburgh Women Citizens' Association last week, by Miss Muriel Ritson, the only woman member of the Scottish Board of Health. Describing how this Board came into existence, Miss Ritson said its setting up was only one step in the direction of the new health arrangements for the country. It had no new powers which were not exercised previously by different Government Departments. The basis of public health administration in Scotland was the Local Authority. The Central Authority in

Scotland supervised, guided, encouraged, and co-ordinated the work of the Local Authority. It disbursed the various Government grants given in relief to the local rates. The Board supervised all the housing work of the country; the various public health measures, such as infectious diseases, maternity, and child welfare work, sanitation, the provision of pure food; it supervised the giving of medical attention, and the money payments made through the Insurance Committees. The Board also guided the Poor Law Relief, Old Age Pensions, and medical treatment and inspection of school children carried out by the Education Authority. They disbursed the Government grants given in aid of tuberculosis, maternity, and child welfare, the training and maintenance of the blind, and medical attention and nursing in the Highlands and remote islands. Looking to the future, Miss Ritson said that the greatest stress must be laid on the necessity for preventive work, and a love of fresh air, open air life, and clean, healthy living, must be instilled into the children.

P.R. and the Irish Municipal Elections.

The results of the municipal elections in Ireland, as far as are now to hand, are fairly satisfactory. In the first place, there is proof that the P.R. system is not beyond the intellectual powers of the average voter—even the woman. The proportion of spoiled papers so far does not exceed two per cent. in any area, and these were mainly due to that partiality for the old familiar X and for the determination to give the favourite every chance by placing the figure 1, not once, but several times against the name. The next outstanding feature is the demonstration that P.R. does indeed give the minority a chance. For instance, in Dublin City, Sinn Fein, though meeting with the moderate success for which it has worked hard, does not sweep the board, while in Belfast, a Nationalist is returned for a hitherto solidly Unionist ward, and it looks as if Labour would have a larger representation, even in the more Unionist districts. Finally, under P.R., organisation is more, not less, necessary than under the old system. The defeat of three most capable women candidates in Dublin City is attributable to the superior organisation of the party systems. The same reason accounts for the similar defeat of the non-party women's candidate in Belfast. The work must begin early and must be carried on without ceasing. It was interesting to notice how the Sinn Fein candidates reaped the benefit of careful drilling, as those at first at the bottom of the poll, came in on later counts with transferred votes. Organise and educate, that is the last lesson of the elections.

Dr. Caroline Spurgeon.

Dr. Caroline Spurgeon, Professor of English Literature at Bedford College, has gone to America as the guest of the American University Women. She was a member of the British Educational Mission which visited American universities in 1918, and goes now in her capacity as President of the British Federation of University Women. Dr. Spurgeon is distinguished in games as well as in letters, is an excellent public speaker, and is possessed of a very genial personality. There is nothing insular or narrowly academic in her outlook, and she is exceptionally adapted to recommend English university education as a preparation alike for professional and social life. If, as Mrs. Muriel Harris says in her letters to the *Manchester Guardian*, there is in America a tendency to take women's work a little less seriously in the States than in England, Dr. Spurgeon may do a good deal to alter this attitude.

Cost of Living at Oxford and Cambridge.

The Royal Commission which is enquiring into the needs and finances of the older universities, has available the long experience of the women's colleges at Oxford and Cambridge in providing adequate board and lodging for their students at a much lower rate than that paid by the ordinary undergraduate, and in many respects combined with greater regard to health and comfort. When, at the beginning of the war, beds were to be requisitioned from Oxford colleges for a war hospital, few or none were up to the required standard, except those belonging to the women's colleges. Girton and Newnham had bathrooms long before most of the ancient university foundations, and Newnham to-day has an air of being speckless without visible effort on the part of anyone, which puts to shame the exceedingly obvious efforts of gyps, bedmakers, and other college servants to clean the rooms and courts inhabited by dons and undergraduates. There is no need for young men desirous of returning to the simple life of a semi-monastic Oxford or Cambridge to submit to a mediæval standard of discomfort.

Woman Suffrage in the U.S.A.

After years of agitation, the question of Federal Suffrage for Women in the United States is at last before the country, in the form of a national proposal, requiring only the affirmative action of the State Legislatures to give it effect. It is neither a party nor a sectional question, but a national one, though there are still advocates of woman suffrage who urge that the matter is one which should have been left to each State to decide for itself. A forward move was made by the Republican National Committee, at their meeting at Washington last month, when they urged that in all States in which the Republican party is in control, special sessions of the Legislators be called, if necessary, in order to ratify the pending woman suffrage amendment to the Federal Constitution before February 1st. Since the submission of the proposed amendment by Congress last spring, twenty-five States have ratified it, but in order to obtain the three-fourths' majority which the Constitution requires, eleven additional States must give their approval. The National American Woman Suffrage Association is now staking its reputation on the prediction that the ratification schedule will be completed in February. Suffragists have set February as the date to aim at, in order that women voters may take part in the primaries and conventions which will begin about that time, in preparation for the Presidential contest.

How the Various States Stand at Present.

The States which ratified the woman suffrage amendment between June and December last year are, in the order of ratification, Wisconsin, Michigan, Kansas, Ohio, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Texas, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Utah, California, Maine, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Colorado, and on January 6th Kentucky and Rhode Island were added to this number. In seven States the action of the Legislature was unanimous, and in all the others the majorities were large. That the course now recommended by the Republican National Committee is not unprecedented, is shown by the act that eighteen of the twenty-five States which have ratified the amendment did so at special sessions, fourteen of which were called solely for that purpose. The ratification of four Western States was the sequel to a trip throughout the West made by Mrs. Chapman Catt, the well-known American suffragist and President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. These were California, North and South Dakota, and Colorado. At the special session of the Colorado Legislature, Mrs. Stuart D. Walling, a leading suffragist, was placed on the platform by the side of the speaker of the House, and at the third reading and final passage of the Ratification Act, Mrs. Anna M. Scott, the President of the Suffrage Association of that State, was invited to speak to the House during recess. It is expected that the woman suffrage amendment will be accepted this month at the regular Legislative sessions in New Jersey and Maryland, and of the ten special sessions which will then be necessary, the American suffragists are hoping that seven will be in Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, and Oklahoma. In these States there is already full suffrage for women, but the Governors have thus far declined to call special sessions of the Legislatures to ratify the amendment. As five of the Governors are Republicans, the advice of the Republican National Committee is counted upon to help them change their minds. In the United States, as in other countries, it is now generally recognised that the theory of votes for women is no longer within the field of controversy. The only question now is how soon the desired result can be accomplished.

Women in the Philippine Islands.

Our New York contemporary, *The Woman Citizen*, states that the Philippine Senate has passed a Woman Suffrage Bill, which has now gone to the House of Representatives. The question of equal suffrage was introduced into the Legislature of the Islands a short time ago—not by the initiative of American women, but urged by Madame Apacible, wife of the Secretary of Agriculture and National Resources. A petition signed by 18,000 women endorsed a joint legislative hearing on this question, and was sent to the law-makers, who granted their request. At this hearing, three Filipino women spoke, Mrs. Conception Falderon, a successful business woman, Mrs. Teodoro Kalaw and Miss Alameda, a practising lawyer. *The Woman Citizen* also gives some interesting details of the position of the Filipino woman, saying that she has come into her own with far less struggle than either her American or her Spanish sisters, because the laws affecting her have combined

the best of Spanish and American precedents. In these islands married women may hold property in severalty; they are guardians of their own children; of the property which accrues to a married couple, the wife is half administratrix of one half. These are vested rights and cannot be taken away from her. In 1918 there were 555 women out of a total of 3,313 students, and the number of women graduates is steadily increasing every year. They study medicine, pedagogy, fine arts, music, nursing, law. Professional opportunities are as good for women as for men—they are already members of the Philippine Bar Association; they are in business for themselves and are successful as physicians, so that it only needs their political freedom, which they are now expecting, to set a seal on their equality.

Miss Royden's New Work.

Miss Maude Royden and Dr. Percy Dearmer have arranged to begin Sunday Fellowship Services on new lines in a London hall shortly. Mr. Martin Shaw will be Master of Music. Miss Royden will preach, after a revised service of Evening Prayer, at 6.30 every Sunday, the sermon being followed by discussion. At 3 p.m. there will be a "Five Quarters" service, including readings, songs, motets, hymns in an improved musical form, and a short lecture by Dr. Dearmer. The main idea is to reach some of the growing number of people, many of them quite young, who are estranged from organised religion, and rarely, if ever, enter an ordinary place of worship. A representative Advisory Council is being formed, and further particulars will be announced later. Miss Royden is resigning her post at the City Temple in order to take up this work.

Better be Unhappy than Unmarried.

The *Times*, discussing in a leading article the influence of the European war on marriage in Great Britain, reverts to the attitude of mind of last century or even the century before last, remarking that, from the woman's point of view, almost any marriage is better than none at all. What exactly is meant by the woman's point of view? Is it what women think, or what women ought to think, or does it mean in consonance with women's real interests, or their supposed interests? Probably it stands for none of these, but for something non-existent which men imagine or affect that women are thinking and should be ashamed to think. So long as newspapers fill odd spaces with this stuff that dreams are made of we shall need a woman's Press. We know, the *Times* knows, even the leader writer knows on reflection, that women are increasingly reluctant to marry as a livelihood, because marriage is customary, or even because marriage offers opportunities of a fuller life. Recent economic and social developments have made the life of the spinster easier and that of the married woman harder in almost every class of society. When a man says that almost any marriage is better for a woman than none at all, he seems to be arguing that women gain much more by marriage than is supposed; he is really admitting that some men justify themselves in giving very little.

Wife Still a Chattel!

In a recent divorce case illuminating remarks in regard to the legal status of woman passed between the judge and the counsel, and opinions were stated aloud in the light of day which, as a rule, are only whispered behind closed doors. The discussion arose over the principle on which costs and damages are awarded against a co-respondent. Counsel, a certain Mr. Ludlow, said that up to the Matrimonial Clauses Act, 1857, a woman was regarded as a chattel, and a jury had to award damages according to her value to her husband. Mr. Justice M'Cardie said that in other words, the adulterer had to pay to the husband, as the owner of the property, according to the damage done—that was the elevating aspect of the case. He then asked when a wife had ceased to be regarded as a chattel. Counsel said he had not suggested that this idea had gone. His Lordship then asked if counsel considered that a wife was still to be regarded as a chattel, to which Mr. Ludlow made reply, "Yes, with slight modifications. The question in assessing the damages is, What is she worth?" Later, the judge asked whether among the old cases of criminal conversation there was any case of an action brought by a woman against another for enticing away her husband's affections. Counsel said there was no such case, and there could not be such an action, because she had not got the same legal status or the same legal rights. Of course, at the time of the third reading of the Sex-Disqualification (Removal) Bill, the Solicitor-General did say that this gave "almost a complete measure" of sex equality, but apparently some enlightened members of the legal profession would hardly go as far in their view of the present position of women.

THE SPIRIT OF MAN.

BY MRS. HENRY FAWCETT.

Let us not always say
 "Spite of this flesh to-day
 "I strove, made head, gained ground upon the whole!"
 As the bird wings and sings
 Let us cry, "All good things
 "Are ours, nor soul helps flesh more now than flesh helps soul."

THERE have been signs, especially, as it seems to me, during the last few months, that in the eternal, age-long conflict between soul and flesh, idealism and materialism, or however it may be described, these two warring elements are moving, surely and steadily, towards reconciliation.

No doubt the war has helped. Unbounded and overwhelming necessity for physical force, for material vigour in all its forms, was felt by soldier and civilian alike to be dependent on the spiritual force which inspired and directed it. This is what made a man, so essentially materialistic as Napoleon, say that in war the moral was to the material as five to one. This is what we mean by the common saying, "It is not the gun, but the man behind the gun" that really matters. Without the supremacy of the spirit of man the most tremendous physical force crumbles in the hands of those who wield it. Nevertheless, life is so ordained that these two uneasy partners, soul and flesh, must run in double harness to the end of time, and it is this that makes all efforts at harmonising them and bringing them into accord so eternally interesting and absorbing.

This harmony is promoted by whatever strengthens the spiritual side of man's nature, for the physical side needs no nurture, it takes care of itself. It was the all but universal recognition during the war that moral force was as essential as physical force, which really caused the collapse of anti-suffragism. We no longer hear the once familiar words, "In war a country depends on physical force, and physical force is male." There are almost as many fallacies as there are words in this sentence, and the war made this so clear that the way-faring man, though a fool, could not but see that it was so. I invite readers of THE COMMON CAUSE to look round and see what has been happening since the beginning of 1920, to show that the spiritual forces which surround us are full of vigour and vitality. The first new organisation to which attention will be directed is the League of Youth; it is open to both sexes between the ages of sixteen and forty. Too much space would be occupied were I to quote the ten axioms on which the League is founded, therefore I must content myself with giving only the first and the last. The first is: "That love and not hate is the fundamental truth on which hangs the well-being of the world, and that reliance on brute force is incompatible with the highest social good." While the last is: "That given the vision to see, the faith to believe, the will to endure, and the courage to act, the unconquerable spirit of man can, in response to the call of the Divine Spirit, begin to build, here and now, the City of God."

These young people joined in a service of dedication in St. Paul's on the first Sunday of the year. They have many practical activities and have formed an educational group, a parliamentary group, and an industrial group. They are backed by some of the leading men and women of the day, including Sir Oliver Lodge, Mr. John Masefield, and Lady Astor. The League of Youth is, as yet, untried, but its very existence is an encouraging sign of the times.

I would also call attention to the New Year's message from the Prime Ministers, Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues of the overseas Dominions. It is the first time that such a mes-

sage has been sent from such a source, reverently reminding us all of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, and placing on record the deep conviction of those who signed it that "neither education, nor science, nor diplomacy, nor commercial prosperity, when allied to the belief in material force as the ultimate power, are real foundations for the ordered development of the world's life." This, they say, must be based on a recognition of the Divine purposes for the world, which are central to the message of Christianity.

This was quickly followed by another message of a like import, signed by the Archbishops, and by the leaders of the great Free Churches of this country. The tenour of their message is best described by its motto, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

Thus, almost simultaneously, have come, from three widely different sources, messages of a practically identical character exalting the power of the Spirit and setting up a standard by which it can be tested.

Even more remarkable than any of these, however, is another message, in part of a similar nature, but from a widely different source. I mean the memorials proceeding simultaneously from financiers and statesmen of Great Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Italy, Japan, and the neutral countries of Europe calling for the summoning of a conference of financial representatives (to which delegates from Germany and Austria would also be invited) to consider the economic crisis which has resulted from the war, and the question of co-operative assistance to those countries most needing it. The memorial itself is again too long to quote. Most of our readers will already have seen it in the daily papers of January 16th. It approaches the financial and economic problems resulting from the enormous destructiveness of the war in the spirit indicated in the New Year's message of the British Prime Ministers. One sentence may be quoted from it.

"Only if we recognise that the time has now come when all countries must help one another can we hope to bring about an atmosphere in which we can look forward to the restoration of normal conditions and to the end of the present evils." The memorial is signed for this country by members of all parties and includes Mr. Asquith, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Walter Leaf, Sir Donald Maclean, and Mr. J. H. Thomas.

Identical memorials have already been presented to their Governments by groups of leading men from Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway. These are facts of no little significance and of good import. Moreover, the signing of the Peace has brought the League of Nations into actual existence and the first meeting has been held. It is true that it has yet to be inspired with vigour and activity. This will be a stupendous piece of work, but it is one from which the spirit of man will not shrink. The organisation which supports the League in this country has a leader in Lord Robert Cecil, who has shown in a hundred ways that the spirit of the League of Nations, the spirit of courage, and of faith and hope, is his spirit. There is not, at this moment, a statesman more entirely trusted by all parties and in all countries. He and President Wilson are the chief authors of the League. For the present, at any rate, President Wilson is rendered powerless to prosecute the work he helped to initiate; but Lord Robert is a host in himself, and will carry on the work until the time comes when America will once more take her place in the new Council Chamber of the Nations, and help to create, as a living force, this great machine for securing the peace of the world.

A WOMAN'S HOSPITAL IN WAR

By FLORA MURRAY, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

The Military Hospital, Endell Street, was opened early in May, 1915, in the old workhouse of St. Giles, Bloomsbury. At the request of the Director-General, Army Medical Service, the management and work were undertaken by the Women's Hospital Corps, which had been working in France since the previous September. On March 22nd the buildings were handed over to the organisers (Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray) by the colonel who was then in charge of the work of reconstruction. This gentleman was seriously disturbed by the innovation of giving women a command, and strove to make them realise the impossibility and the indelicacy of the proposal. Finally, having accepted receipts for the keys and the coals, he wrung his hands and exclaiming, "Oh, good God, what difficulties you will have!" he left them in possession.

The work of conversion of the old buildings had been in hand for some weeks. Lifts were being placed in each block, sanitation and lighting renewed, operating theatres and laboratories constructed, and painting and cleaning carried out. Some four hundred workmen were on the premises. There was an indescribable chaos, and a great mass of lumber and useless furniture impeded progress.

Out of it all order gradually was evolved. The workmen really worked; fatigue parties of Guardsmen were obtained to clear up the mess; indents went in for equipment, stores, instruments, and all the thousand things a hospital needs, and, though the delivery was slow and uncertain, the supplies brought home from France by the Corps made it possible to be ready in the first days of May.

The medical staff, which numbered fifteen women, included many well-known specialists. It comprised Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson (chief surgeon), Dr. Winifred Buckley (surgeon), Dr. Amy Sheppard (ophthalmic surgeon), Dr. Louisa Woodcock (physician), Dr. Helen Chambers (pathologist), Dr. E. M. Magill (radiologist), and Dr. Handley Read (dental surgeon). The death of Dr. Woodcock in 1917 deprived the hospital of one of its most valued members. She was succeeded by Dr. Margaret Thackrah. The work of administration fell to Dr. Flora Murray as Doctor-in-Charge, assisted by Miss Olga M. Campbell, the Quartermaster. The doctors were graded as officers and drew the pay and allowances of the various ranks, as well as the bonus and rates which were subsequently granted to officers.

Miss Hale, the matron of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, and a member of the Territorial Forces Nursing Service, was seconded, by request, for service under the War Office and accepted the post of matron. She had thirty-six trained nurses under her. The rest of the nursing and the work in the stores and offices was undertaken by women orderlies. The orderlies were, perhaps, the most distinctive feature of the hospital. They were young, with all the beauty and charm of youth. They brought courage and inspiration to their work. Girls who had never worked before took up the daily grind in the wards or stores, and brought to it such gaiety and buoyancy of spirit that patients and staff were alike uplifted and sustained. They wore their graceful uniform of drab with blue facings with pride and dignity. They worked splendidly. They laughed and the men laughed with them. They were the spirit and the life of the hospital. They were ready to get up tea-parties, to dress-up the men, to act for them, sing to them, to disguise themselves in cats' skins and horses' skins, and play antics, till every sick man in the ward forgot himself and laughed till he cried. And with it all they were tender and careful. They had sympathy and knew how to comfort, and whatever demands were made upon them they never failed.

The hospital contained five hundred and seventy beds in seventeen wards, which were named after women saints—St. Anne, St. Barbara, and so on. They were fine, large wards, well lighted and airy, and gay with coloured blankets and flowers. There was a recreation room also, with a small, but well-equipped

stage, on which wonderful plays and pantomimes were frequently produced, by the kindness of many of our best known artists. Miss Bessie Hatton, the organiser of amusements, provided at least two entertainments a week, and eventually the hospital could boast of its own orchestra and its own troupe of "Follies." The "shows," as the men called them, were very popular. The room used to be crowded with beds, and wheel-chairs, and men in blue, forming an enthusiastic audience. On one occasion, when Her Majesty, Queen Alexandra, was coming to see a play, a very sick man asked to be taken down in his bed. The surgeon demurred, thinking it was too much for him, but he said, "Doctor, you wouldn't be hard on me. The only one of the Royal Family I've seen is Sir Edward Carson and I would like to see the Queen"; so he went, and, when Her Majesty was told about him, she went to his bed and spoke to him specially, making him very happy.

The Library was a very important department, and under the fostering care of Miss Beatrice Harraden, it made itself felt in every ward. Day by day, with note-book in hand, Miss Harraden went round taking orders. She taught many men to read, leading them on through the paths of literature from "Tit Bits" to Shakespeare. For some patients there would be subscriptions at Mudie's, with books changed daily; for others, fiction, history, or technical books were provided. Whether Dante or "Don Quixote" in the original, or mathematics, or a treatise on old china was asked for, it was always procured. The means for providing these books and entertainments and many other small comforts came through the liberality of friends outside, who, for four-and-a-half years, generously supported the fund for extra comforts. One man, addicted to the perusal of stories published at twopence, was persuaded by the Librarian to read a book of H. Seton Merriman's in the sevenpenny edition. Next time she went round, he said, "Librarian, I think this sevenpenny author is an improvement on the twopenny one. Now I might try something else? Have you got a shilling author for me?" Of course, she found one. A great deal of poetry was read. Shakespeare was popular and technical books of every kind were in great demand. The book-cases were not locked and, though a few books would disappear, that only meant that the patients and the staff were reading.

The War Office method of opening a new hospital is to transfer cases to it from other hospitals, and, on the opening day, a hundred such cases were received. The method has its disadvantages, because hospitals are wont to transfer cases which are undesirable for some reason, and this does not make things easier for the opening hospital. In the case of Endell Street, the convoys of wounded poured in during the first week, and the staff worked night and day to receive them and to get the hospital into working order. It was situated near the stations and, at all times, received a high proportion of stretcher cases and heavily wounded men.

The R.A.M.C. staff attached to the hospital numbered eight non-commissioned officers and men and it was necessary to train the orderlies for stretcher work. They did it very well and enjoyed it. If the convoy bell rang in the day time, the girls would run out of the offices and stores and line up ready to help, and, at times of pressure, a squad from the nursing section would voluntarily stand by till 10 p.m. to help if need be. Convoys most frequently came between midnight and 3 a.m., and the staff was often up every night for a week taking in.

In the dawn of an August morning in 1915, a large convoy of Australians from Gallipoli arrived. The men were dreadfully wasted and ill and the few who were on their feet were like grey ghosts in the dim morning light, as they wandered off to inspect the occupants of the beds under the glass screen in the square. Some thousands of Australian and New Zealand men passed through the hospital. They were pleasant patients and very responsive. They had, too, a welcome point of view where women were concerned. One would say that it was "a queer

country this, that lets its women do work like this and won't give them the vote," and the whole group would agree. But response to gentle influences marked all the men. They always thought that their ward was the best in the hospital, and their doctor the best on the staff, and that no one else could possibly have saved the leg or arm under discussion: and, indeed, the ward medical officers did such gallant and devoted work, that no man could ever feel that he had been passed over. The men would point out to visitors, generally quite wrongly, that the worst case in the hospital was in their ward, with conscious pride, and, at the tea-parties to which they were invited, they would boast about their hospital and their doctors and their nurses, while the hostesses sat amazed and edified. The sight of the dental surgeon crossing the square never failed to thrill them, for her power to extract teeth was considered marvellous. The photograph which had the best sale in the canteen was a scene in the operating theatre. Their faith in Dr. Garrett Anderson was unbounded. She used to go round the severe cases quietly, between five and seven in the evening. She would sit by a man talking to him about his case, comforting him, and explaining gently and clearly what she felt should be done for him, seeking his confidence, but never hurrying his decision, until at last it would come: "I leave it to you, Doctor. If you think it's best, I'll have it done."

A kind friend introduced the electrophone into the serious case wards and the men took immense pleasure in listening to the Halls. Perhaps the "Bing Boys" was the favourite turn. It helped to cure many of them. They would lie with rapt smiles, gazing at the ceiling, chuckling gently, till they fell asleep, with the receivers still on their heads. New cases could hardly believe it and waited eagerly for the evening to come. One, who had just come in and who was having an operation done that afternoon, made the others promise to rouse him in time for the "Bing Boys." His operation was a severe one, but they kept their promise, and he was found thoroughly happy, with the receivers on his ears and a smile on his face, in the evening.

Christmas was a great festival. It seemed to last a month, for decorations and rehearsals and preparations began early and entertainments went on after the New Year. The staff formed a

carol choir and sang at night in the square, and on Christmas Eve in procession round the wards. In 1917 they were singing in the square of peace and goodwill when the air raid warning came through and the anti-aircraft guns began to fire; they had to put out the lanterns and finish in the dark with "Abide With Me." The ward decorations were most wonderful, and there would be a succession of teas, entertainments, dinners, and pantomimes, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. As one patient said: "I never knew you could have such pleasure and enjoy yourself like that without getting drunk."

Now and then there would be a staff supper and dance, when everyone joined in the revel. The C.O.'s would personate Colonel Dugout and his lady; the matron, Mrs. Gamp; the Sergeant-Major, a lady doctor, and the fun would be tremendous.

In the four and a-half years that the hospital was open twenty-six thousand patients, of which two thousand were women, passed through the wards, and seven thousand operations were performed. The hospital was closed on October 31st, 1919.

The staff had lived and worked together in great happiness and harmony. Their hospital had grown very dear to them, and they could not bear that its memory should be lost. They have decided to raise a Commemoration Fund, with which to endow beds in the Roll of Honour Hospital for Children, 688, Harrow Road, in memory of the Military Hospital, Endell Street. The appeal for this endowment has gone out to former patients all over the world, and the first £1,000 has been nearly subscribed already. The collecting cards come back with a few shillings collected in threepences and sixpences, and with touching illiterate notes, which show that Endell Street is not forgotten:—

"... I was cared for kindly at that hospital and I was sorry to leave it. I was wounded twice after being at that hospital, but I wasn't cared for anywhere else as kindly as I was at Endell Street."

Messages and donations are coming too from mothers and wives whose men have been killed since they left the hospital but who were "set on Endell Street," and these little tokens are justly treasured in memory of a great opportunity given to women.

WOMAN'S ECONOMIC STATUS AND OUTLOOK.

III.—IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS. WOMEN'S GUILDS.

BY MARY WARD.

In a previous article* it was contended that a considerable percentage of the wives and mothers of the working classes—and we might well add of the poorer middle class also—are overworked and ill provided, that they command no fair remuneration for their labour either in cash or kind, and have practically no security for any, though their labour is directly and on a large scale productive of wealth. But this being granted, the fact remains that women in general can take, and ought in the future to take, a much larger part in the work of production. Unless they do so no very great improvement in their economic position is likely to take place—or will indeed be possible.

Along with her new powers and privileges the "free woman" will have to shoulder some new burdens; and the first of these is to increase her economic output. Will women shirk the task? The temptation of the "fleshpots of Egypt" in the way of a parasitic life with comfort and ease "provided," with leisure and irresponsibility, may well prove too strong for some. But this temptation, in the hard times ahead of us, is not likely to assail so very many. And women's war-work record augurs well. When women come to realise the necessity, in the national interest as well as their own, of this increased production the majority will assuredly rise to the occasion, and they will then find that this new burden is a much lighter and more agreeable load than some of the old ones which it will enable them to shake

off. The "lion in the path" is not likely to be women's want of will but the difficulty of finding under present conditions proper outlet and scope for their productive energies.

The position of helpless economic dependence in which long ages of subjection have placed women has resulted not only in the drudgery and penury of multitudes, but in the creation of numbers of wholly or partially unemployed women—women who are practically "unproductive consumers" and contribute nothing—in normal times—by head or by hand to the national income. Such are to be found in all classes of the community. "Unemployed" here does not altogether tally with "unoccupied," for some of the busiest women may fall into the category. It only means that their work, whatever it is, serves no useful purpose, or at any rate yields a wholly inadequate result. That this should be so is in most cases more women's fate than their fault. Idleness and inefficiency have been fostered, and often even enforced, by the conditions imposed on them. Every discouragement has been theirs that social conventions, that lack of suitable education and training, that poor rewards (no *carrières ouvertes aux talents*) and a very limited range of choice of employments could offer.

From similar causes it results that much of the hard work women actually do in many important fields is wasteful and inefficient. This is particularly true of their home work, and it is likely so to continue as long as men alone are responsible not

* II.—Women's Work in the Home, Nov. 7, 1919.

only for house planning and construction but for all the furnishings and fittings, the utensils and apparatus that belong to the woman's home workshop. Reforms in the general conditions of women's actual work would alone greatly increase their output relatively to their toil. They might easily produce more and labour less. But better utilisation of women's normal labour will not alone suffice for the economic need. More, many more, women workers must be brought into the field. Their country needs them almost as urgently as it did during the war. The nation's victory at arms has been effected, but there remains the scarcely less important task of securing its economic salvation.

It should, by this time, be plain to every intelligence that the one and only thing to save the country from economic and financial disaster is production, and ever more production—not of idle luxuries, but of all the necessities, conveniences, comforts that are conditions of happy and progressive civilised life.

What in general terms is the problem? It is to increase the national pre-war annual output to such an extent as (1) to repay within a term of years our enormous national debt and, meanwhile, to discharge the interest upon it—this being in itself a mighty sum; (2) to pay for many years to come vast amounts in pensions to soldiers and their families, and others who have specially suffered through the war; (3) to allow of a much higher standard of living for the mass of the people. This last is a matter of vital importance, for unless this "higher standard" be secured anarchy lies ahead of us. Mere redistribution of wealth, the transference of a good deal of it from the monied classes to the wage-earners such as Trade Unionists hope to effect, and on which many of them seem mainly to rely for improvement in labour's lot, will not meet the case. If all big fortunes were levelled down the average rise in the incomes of the workers would be almost negligible. The demand for higher and higher wages to counter the continual rise in prices which shortage of goods entails reminds one of a snake trying to subsist by swallowing its own tail. The primary necessity is goods, more goods.

But what prospect is there, we may well ask, of bringing about this great increase of production? We almost need to double our pre-war output. The task looks staggering; yet recent experience shows that good will, common sense, a dose of patriotic zeal, and above all, hearty co-operation among all classes of the community would accomplish it. During the war we had a never-to-be-forgotten object lesson in the vastness of the productive forces of the nation when they were fully called into play—when the sleeping ones, those of women especially, were roused to action. Practically every man and woman left in the country set to work; there were no drones in the hive. Though much of the work was crude, amateurish, ill-organised, and therefore wasteful, the total output was nevertheless enormous, for it was done with a will, and, above all, people with education and brains did not scorn humble tasks. The paralysing, conventional dividing lines between work for the masses and work for the classes were swept away. No work demeaned that served the country. It is in that spirit that we should go forward into the new era. It is the spirit of all true democracy.

There can be little doubt that if our national output during the next decade equalled per head of the population the war output, we should not only avert economic calamity but should be in a fair way to secure for the whole people those higher and happier conditions of life that we dream of. Anyhow, the fact is—let us not blink it!—that the rise or decline of the British Empire does depend upon a new will to work and upon a new and vigorous application of what brains and knowledge its sons and daughters may possess to the problems of production.

First and foremost stands the necessity of maintaining and greatly developing the splendid productive energies and capabilities that women displayed during the war. It is "women to the rescue" now as then. But in what position do they find themselves?—it is every man's hand against them in almost every serious and important employment. Regardless of their fitness and efficiency they are being turned out of one industry, business, office after another. And there is little likelihood that any mere appeals to men's justice or common sense will avail in the heat of the present struggle between labour and capital, and the impending disruption of the old economic system.

WOMEN'S TRADE GUILDS.

Evidently there is nothing for it but for women to help themselves—and the country—by their own independent, intelligent, and energetic co-operation; leaving the men (who will have none of them) to their own wasteful and dangerous, though seemingly unavoidable, strife. It is up to women to lead the way at the present juncture to that co-operative system of production which is likely finally to emerge from the men's struggle. Let women proceed at once to form for themselves industrial, commercial and professional guilds, somewhat on the lines of the old mediæval guilds, all sorts and conditions, all classes, uniting. The guilds would be organised, financed, directed, controlled and worked in all their departments by women themselves, and each guild would have its own central committee or corporation to appoint the managers of local branches, do the wholesale buying, provide for the training of apprentices and circulate up-to-date information concerning the particular trade conditions.

The scope for such guilds is almost unlimited. We want women farmers, dairy keepers, pig and poultry keepers, kitchen and nursery gardeners, architects, builders, house decorators and upholsterers, carpenters, cabinet makers, shoemakers, druggists, printers, shopkeepers of all descriptions; we want, in particular, hostel and restaurant keepers, the restaurants to undertake to supply hot cooked meals to occupiers of private houses, flats and lodgings. The demand is growing for such public kitchens, and indeed for everything that will simplify housekeeping and lessen the need for resident domestic servants.

In all fields which the guilds enter they must look for success, and for holding their own against old-established monopolies and competitors, to *intensive* production, and to the economy of close co-operation. They will start free of conventional trade grooves and trammels, and can discard many old, wasteful, ignorant methods. Educated women will be needed to lead the way here and apply brains and scientific knowledge to trade problems.

But what about the capital requisite to start a guild? Where is that most necessary article to come from? When once a guild was established and prosperous investors in it would be easy to find; but at first some risk would have to be taken, and women are comparatively speaking, the unendowed and disinherited sex; few have property they can afford to lose or "lie out of" for any length of time. A solution of the difficulty might be to rely at first upon large numbers of investors of small sums, say about £20. A good many women could venture that much. A register would have to be opened at some central guild office, in which the names of prospective investors could be entered, together with the amounts they were prepared to invest in any particular guild when called upon—or, perhaps, only after they had satisfied themselves that the enterprise was sound.

Shortage of capital and scarcity of trained workers will at first limit the guilds to small undertakings, and to those industries in which (1) skill is readily acquired; (2) the cost of plant and materials is comparatively small; and for the products of which (3) there exists at the moment a keen and widespread demand. A good sample of such a trade is that of inside house painting, papering, decorating, and upholstering. I believe there is at this moment scarcely a town where a few capable, energetic women with quite a moderate amount of training, working in close partnership and supported and advised by a central guild committee, could not immediately earn a good livelihood in this employment. The demand for such work is great and certain to grow.

One of the most important functions of the guilds would be to organise and utilise to the full women's half-time labour. There are everywhere, in town and in country, numbers of women whose home work does not absorb their whole time and energy, and who would welcome an opportunity for engaging for a few hours, daily or weekly, in some profitable industry, whether in their homes or outside. Really great sources of useful production are to be tapped in this direction. Women's Village Institutes have already proved it and prepared the way.

It is impossible, as well as needless, to go more into detail here in regard to this scheme of women's guilds. The first step towards forming them would be to get together, preferably in London, a small provisional committee of women of practical capacity and experience in affairs (war-work has brought many such to the fore) to consider the whole question and to work out minutely and carefully all those practical details which form the life-blood of every enterprise.

As a starting point, I should be glad to communicate with any sympathisers with the guild project who have suggestions to offer in regard to ways and means, and in particular in regard to suitable persons for the provisional committee.

THE HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Annual Report for 1918 of the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education is the tenth to be published since the health inspection of elementary schools was instituted, and, in ordinary circumstances, it would have contained an elaborate survey supported by figures and tables of the results of inspection, the extent to which it had been followed by remedial treatment, and its effect upon the health statistics of children of school age and those who had recently attained school-leaving age. This review has not been possible. During the war the school medical and nursing service was seriously depleted and a make-shift system of inspection of ailing children of all ages had to be substituted for the routine inspections which, as provided by the Code, normally take place on entry into school at the age of five years or under, at the age of eight or nine, and again at twelve or thirteen, before the end of elementary school life. The figures for the years 1915-18, therefore, are impossible of comparison with those of the earlier part of the decade. The inspection of ailing children to the number of nearly half a million served the primary purpose of inspection by securing treatment, or furnishing a basis of selection for special schools, but neither these half a million scholars, nor the eight hundred thousand examined at given ages could be regarded as a fair sample of the school population to compare with the two millions annually examined in normal school years. The secondary uses of medical inspection were foregone, and medical officers were neither able to detect and remedy early and slight defect, nor to obtain statistical evidence of the value of inspection carried out over a term of years. With regard to London, however, a certain amount of comparison is possible, and Dr. Hamer reports that the story told by the London figures "is one of which London may well be proud, for it is one of continuous amelioration throughout the whole period of the war."

"Whether judged from the state of the children's clothing, from their health as expressed by their constitutional well-being, or from the conditions found as regards cleanliness, the result is the same, practically steady improvement in each particular."

Reports from other districts show a very large number of defects, physical and mental, in the case of children first entering the schools, but comparing the year 1918 with 1917, there seems to be "no evidence anywhere of much physical progress, nor, happily, of retrogression, except as regards pulmonary tuberculosis." Some medical officers attribute the increase of this disease to the prevalence of influenza and some to dietetic deficiencies due to war rationing.

It is interesting to note that 1917 showed an increase of verminous conditions, due to infestation of soldiers on leave from the front, but that the more frank and tolerant attitude of public opinion with regard to this matter resulted in less expenditure of parental energy in angry denials and a large measure of co-operation in curative treatment. This is important, for elementary schools were disliked, chiefly on this account, by a considerable number of parents who were entitled to the advantage of free education for their children and could not afford them an equally good education in other schools. But the especial interest of this allusion to the influence of trench conditions on our domestic hygiene lies in the recollection that even the most cautious prophets anticipated grave and devastating epidemics of typhoid, typhus, cholera, and plague, as a result of infections from the Continent. That a comparatively few cases of verminous infection should be all there is to record of five years of war conditions is an extraordinary tribute to civilian and War Office health measures, and an augury of material progress when inspection and remedial treatment shall be further extended.

Two measures extending the field of health inspection are already on the Statute Book and will come into operation during the present year. The Education Act of 1918 makes it the duty of a Local Education Authority to provide for the medical inspection of children and young persons in Secondary Schools and Continuation Schools provided by the Authority and enables them also to provide remedial treatment for the scholars of these schools. The Ministry of Health Act, 1919, co-ordinates under the Health Minister, this school system of inspection and treatment with Maternity and Infant Welfare Health work. From this year, therefore, the great majority of children will be under medical care and subject to periodical inspection from birth, until they cease, at the age of sixteen, to attend continuation schools. After 1926 the continuation school age will be raised to eighteen. In the interval nursing schools for children from two to five will have become general, and secondary schools not provided by the education authority will (either voluntarily or compulsorily) have come into line with those subject to

inspection. When this point is attained and young citizens during their whole period of growth, under the strain of education, and while facing the varied risks to health of entering on wage-earning employment, will obtain medical advice enabling medical treatment to be begun at an early and hopeful stage of any defect or disability, and in a very large proportion of cases they will receive this treatment free of charge.

We may expect the infant welfare work now carried on with such energy, together with the raised standard of life of the working classes, to have a very rapid effect on the standard of health of infant entrants into elementary schools, which will affect the health statistics of the whole school period. The new Education Act also strengthens the weapons of the school doctor by giving local authorities optional powers to provide or to assist in the provision of school baths, holiday or school camps, playing fields, and facilities for social and physical training—these to be available for pupils from five to sixteen, and later from five to eighteen. It also further limits the legal employment in wage-earning occupations of children of school age, both during school terms and in holiday time. But much more important than all this is the change which *obliges* education authorities to do what, since 1907, they have been *permitted* to do. They must now, either by arrangements with hospitals or the provision of school clinics, themselves provide for the cure of the defect or sickness revealed by the inspections of their medical officers.

In 1908 there were only seven school clinics, in 1914 there were 350, and now nearly 600 exist. But many of these provide for the treatment of some only of the so-called "school diseases"; indeed, only forty-four authorities have arranged for all forms of treatment. Dental treatment is now recognised as extremely important in its effect upon general health, but little more than half the education authorities have tackled the problem of its provision. Minor ailments, defective vision, the provision of spectacles, the treatment of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and the treatment of ringworm by X-rays must, with dental treatment, now be provided for the whole elementary school population. It is, as Sir George Newman tells us, "a new and heavy responsibility." The pioneer work has been done in the past ten years, and the foundation is now laid of a vast system of preventive medicine which, in the course of the next twenty years should give us something approaching an A 1 population of young men and women in their teens, and should have materially raised the standard for all ages under thirty.

Soon after that we shall begin to meet the child who has been watched over during his whole life by skilled medical men and women, and whose father and mother have had the same advantage. The Report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education will be worth reading in the decade 1940 to 1950. It will not, like the report before us show that special schools for blind, deaf, crippled, or mentally defective children are not adequate for half the number of afflicted. It will not disclose 19 per cent. of entrant infants with severe dental disease, or find 5,137 entrants in a Nottingham area who have among them 1,826 defects requiring immediate treatment, and 1,132 to be noted for future supervision. Preventive school medicine will not prevent all that could be prevented, but it will give a new meaning to what we call "normal" childhood, in the light of which the Report for 1918 will look like hospital rather than school statistics.

The parents of secondary school children now to be examined by school medical officers are hardly likely to share the prejudice against routine examinations which was shown in the early days of inspection by the parents of elementary scholars. They will rather welcome the information to be gleaned by classifying their children, by a common standard, with those differently brought up, and they will find, as do those whose children attend boarding schools which insist on inspection of entrants, that even the most attentive family doctor may overlook possibilities which are obvious to one constantly preoccupied with problems of a few years of growth or development. More especially will those mothers of girls who are usually under the care of a medical man appreciate the observation and advice of a woman doctor during the difficult years of adolescence. The possibility of free medical treatment will be a boon to the "new poor," and especially to widows with sons and daughters to educate, who, in present conditions, have to make the choice between medical treatment and an adequate education, because they cannot afford both. Nineteen hundred and twenty is a landmark; a height from which a land of promise may be discerned.

Review.

A Woman Doctor: Mary Murdoch of Hull. By Hope Malleison. (Sidgwick & Jackson, 7s. 6d. net.)

Vitality; a refusal to count the cost of continuous effort towards the desired goal; the will to persevere along an uphill narrow way, together with the recognition that the world is wide and that the fulness of it should be free for the enjoyment of women not self-devoted to the service of humanity—this is the impression that is made by this memoir of Mary Murdoch on one who never saw her in life. Dr. Murdoch seems to have taken her medical work as a mission setting her apart from the world, much as did some mediæval abbess who cared for women, the sick, and the children, from her convent, recognising every claim that could be made upon her mind and body, and claiming in return absolute self-determination. She preached, though she did not practice, the necessity of adequate rest, food, and relaxation for medical women, but for herself a working day of seventeen or eighteen hours was the rule rather than the exception, relaxation was snatched not from the allotted hours of work but from those of sleep, and the lady became the bond-slave rather than the partner of an imperious will, bent upon fulfilling the tale of work proper to a long life in the half span which she knew by instinct to be her portion. Liberty was the breath of life to Mary Murdoch, she claimed this birthright with passionate insistence, and used it to rivet herself to a wheel of toil. Such a life must be an inspiration rather than an example to the ordinary man or woman. She was a pioneer, a crusader, an opener of doors.

Mary Murdoch's war-work, to which she sacrificed her life, was done in her own town of Hull. She had offered her services to the Government in 1914, had been refused, like other medical women, and when the opportunity came of going to Serbia with a unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, the German raiders were already taking a heavy toll of life in Hull. Dr. Murdoch's visit to an air-raid ambulance station in obedience to a right-summons which entailed wading knee-deep in snow to her post was the beginning of a fatal illness. She was already worn out by incessant work done in defiance of acute pain; the indomitable spirit which had once before dragged her painfully back from death to complete an unfinished task, had given up the battle.

Born at Elgin, of Highland Scots parentage, trained in London, and furnished with an Edinburgh medical degree, Dr. Murdoch followed up several small appointments in London by a two-years' tenure of the post of House Surgeon at the Victoria Hospital for Children in Hull. Here she returned after a year's interval to begin her twenty years of successful practice in Hull, where she lived up to her admonition, "Never to refuse a piece of work." At that time no woman had practiced in the town, and a certain amount of prejudice existed, but Dr. Murdoch's personality quickly overcame this. "Ever since I spent my last penny on my medical education," she writes, "my purse has been like the widow's cruse; I have had plenty of work."

We are told of her brilliant power of diagnosis, her sympathy with her patients, the stimulating quality of her personality on the patient's will to live, her "controlled patience and judgment . . . complete unselfishness and a kindness that went all lengths." It was not merely in her professional life that Dr. Murdoch showed these qualities. "The strong protective love that she felt for women as women" led her to devote herself to Suffrage work, to the National Union of Women Workers, to Canteens for Nursing and Expectant Mothers, to a Common Lodging House for Women. "Nothing that affected the welfare of women and children could be indifferent to her," says her friend, Mrs. Kempthorn. Her work for Suffrage was energetic and self-sacrificing. "I feel I would throw up everything and go and speak only about the Suffrage all over the country," she writes to a friend. And again, "I should like to go on working in this great cause, the Freedom of Women, till I die, and to die in harness."

This wish was granted her.

Miss Malleison does not leave unnoticed other sides of Mary Murdoch's character—her delight in nature, her genius for friendship, her intolerance of shams, her deeply religious spirit, which yet until the closing years of her life rebelled against the limitations of churches and creeds, a strain of recklessness which showed itself in rapid driving and motoring, too regardless of obstacles, a counter balancing insistence on order and punctuality in her profession. We can well believe that Dr. Murdoch deserved Mrs. Fawcett's application to her of the words, "she was of all sorts enchantingly beloved." Her visit to Toronto as delegate to the International Council of Women

and subsequently to Stockholm and The Hague, where she represented Mrs. Fawcett, made her known to a wider circle of women, among whom she made life-long friends. Tributes from these are included with appreciations from those among whom she worked, and with Mrs. Malleison's narrative, extracts from letters, reprints of some lectures and addresses, and a few glimpses from early friends of her childhood, make up a picture, vivid though rapidly sketched, of a steel-true, spear-straight daughter of the morning, just touched with little flecks of self-will and intolerance, but irradiated with hope, courage, and sympathy.

Correspondence.

(Letters intended for publication must reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

RATIONED FOODS.

MADAM,—In your last issue I note that your correspondent, Mr. D'Arcy Denny, says he has never taken any rationed foods. As fats were rationed it would be interesting to know how it would be possible to live without them. Also, would Mr. D'Arcy Denny give children sweets, as I see he avoids sugar?

With reference to your next paragraph, under "Queen's Hospital for Children," and the "father who had had a few drinks." I wonder if Mr. Denny is one of those enthusiasts who would say that had the man been fed on raw, ripe fruits and raw vegetables he would not have wanted the drink! As there appears to be no authority on diet for humans as all the books differ it would be interesting to hear the opinions of some of your readers. Regarding domesticated animals there are, I believe, recognised methods of feeding. (See "Journal of Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.")


AN ESQUIRE.

BUYERS AND SELLERS.

MADAM,—I find that in my letter *re* Buyers and Sellers, which you have kindly inserted in this week's issue of THE COMMON CAUSE, there is an omission which just makes all the difference in it being clearly understood. Lines twelve-thirteen should read: "in 1906 I had to pay for one is. share the sum of £2 1.5s."

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Reports, Notices, etc.

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Secretary:

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MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.

MRS. HUBBARD.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Volceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarters Notes.

Annual Council Meeting, 1920.

Secretaries of Societies are reminded that Saturday, January 24th is the last day for sending in:

(a) Resolutions for the Preliminary Agenda.

(b) Names of those nominated for election as Honorary Officers of the Union or as members of the Executive Committee.

HOSPITALITY.

Owing to the very great difficulty of finding accommodation in London at the present time every effort will be made to find hospitality for delegates. In order to facilitate this, delegates desiring hospitality are asked to apply at the earliest possible date to the Secretary.

WOMEN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Following upon the issue of the women's manifesto in support of the League of Nations, a mass meeting of women, under the auspices of the League of Nations Union, will take place at the Albert Hall on February 6th. The speakers will be Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Maude Royden, Miss Mary Macarthur, and Lord Robert Cecil. Mrs. Randall Davidson, wife of the Primate, will take the chair. Tickets, which are free, may be obtained from the League of Nations Union, 22, Buckingham Gate.

CHESTER W.C.A.

(AFFILIATED TO N.U.S.E.C.)

On January 12th, meetings were held at the Town Hall, at which Councillor Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, was the chief speaker. In the afternoon she instructed about fifty members of the newly organised W.C.A., on the value, methods and difficulties of Police Court Rota Work, while in the evening a public meeting on Citizenship, with the Mayor (Councillor H. F. Brown) presiding, was well attended by both men and women.

The following resolution, supported by Councillors Noel Humphreys, Harold Rogers and Walter Welsby, passed:—"That as a result of the extended power of the people in local and parliamentary government, this meeting urges the provision of definite teaching in Social Economics and in Citizenship; and of adequate facilities for recreation to meet the increased leisure of all workers."

NEWPORT (MON.) W.C.A.

Members of the Executive Committee are taking keen interest in the long-delayed Plumage Bill and have forwarded the following Resolution to the President of the Board of Trade and to their local M.P.:—"We call upon the Government speedily to introduce a Bill, making it illegal to import, sell, buy, or wear any wild birds' skins (with the exception of ostriches and eider ducks and poultry) for millinery purposes, and to see that this Bill goes through without damaging amendment."

An interesting development of the activities of the Newport W.C.A. is taking place. A rota of members has been arranged who attend the Police Court when young women and children are tried, and afterwards get in touch with these offenders. On Monday last two English girls, charged with being on board a Norwegian boat as stowaways, were handed over by the Magistrates to the members of the local W.C.A. who attended the Court, on the promise of these members to look after the girls and see them off by train to their homes.

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.

President: MRS. M. A. SPIELMAN.

1. The Union of Jewish Women provides an organisation ready and able to assist Jewesses throughout the United Kingdom and the Empire with information and advice.
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Coming Events.

WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE.

JANUARY 26.

Conference Hall, Central Buildings, Westminster.
A public meeting to organise women domestic servants.
Speakers: Miss Monicom (Organiser, Workers' Union), Miss Eleanor Cock (Women's Industrial League).
Mistresses are invited to attend.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

JANUARY 28.

Minerva Cafe, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Speaker: Miss Raleigh.
Subject: "The Rights of Animals in Ancient and Modern Times." 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB

JANUARY 28.

9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly.
Subject: "The Middle Classes Union."
Speaker: Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P. 8.15 p.m.

THE EFFICIENCY CLUB (For Business and Professional Women).

JANUARY 27.

Conference Hall, Central Hall, Westminster.
Lecturer: Mr. Ernest Hunt.
Subject: "Thought, Health, and Personal Efficiency."
To be followed by discussion and short speeches.
For admission cards, apply The Secretary, The Efficiency Club, Triangle Secretarial Offices, 60, S. Molton Street, W. 1.

Forthcoming Meetings.

JANUARY 25.

Birmingham—Four Oaks Brotherhood. Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 29.

Olton League of Women Citizens. Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 27.

Doncaster—Meeting of Doncaster S.E.C. Speaker: Miss Hartop. Subject: "A Woman's Politics."

JANUARY 28.

Lincoln—Meeting of Lincoln W.C.A. Speaker: Miss Hartop. Subject: "Women and Citizenship."

JANUARY 29.

Goole—Drawing-room meeting by kind invitation of Mrs. Erskine, at Dr. Erskine's, Boothferry Road. Speaker: Miss Hartop. Subject: "A Wider Vision of Women's Work." 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 1.

Leeds—P.S.A. Meeting, Hanover Place Chapel. Speaker: Miss Hartop. Subject: "Equal Citizenship." 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 4.

Hanover Place Chapel. Speaker: Miss Hartop. Subject: "A Woman Looks at the World." 7.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 17.

Cardiff—17, Quay Street. Speaker: Miss Dixon (Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND
AND NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR
EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

A MASS MEETING
ON THE
**NEED FOR WOMEN IN
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IN THE
Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W.
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ON
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SPEAKERS:

The Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, M.P.
(Public engagements permitting)

The Vicountess Astor, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E., M.P.

and other Speakers to be announced later.

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