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EDITORIAL.

SERVICE.

Ask God to give thee skill in comfort's art;
That thou may'st consecrated be, and set apart
Unto a life of sympathy.
For heavy lies the weight of woe in every heart,
And comforters are needed much,
Of Christ-like touch.

As we pointed out in our last issue, we are *all* in the grip and throes of war. We ourselves are relatively fortunate because our country is not the storm centre. It requires no great fertility of imagination, however, to conceive the sufferings and the agonies, and the high death roll of our brothers on the battle-field, not very far away—brothers on both sides—but we are at least spared the painful sight and sound of death-dealing machines. News of victories and losses we eagerly read in many editions of the daily papers. Indomitable courage on both sides is the redeeming feature in this great and grim struggle.

All men and women are filled with a great resolve, namely to *serve*, to be on active service in some capacity. Everywhere, among private individuals and societies, one desire, one spirit is evinced: to serve all who stand to lose and to suffer. An energy and a self-forgetfulness—perhaps equalled, but never surpassed—animates England to-day "for the poor souls for whom this hungry war opens his vasty jaws." All stand to lose in some measure over the war, but this calamity of Nations leaves no room for self-pity; rather it opens hearts and purses for the relief of those upon whom the brunt of the disaster will fall:—the weakest and poorest.

It makes us proud to learn of the splendid solidarity among women in this crisis, more especially among Suffrage Societies. Soreness and bitterness have been put aside,

replaced by admiration and unstinted praise for the wisdom, foresight and loyalty displayed by our rulers at the time of national emergency. Women are everywhere co-operating and organizing themselves into corps for the purpose of serving their country in any and every way. Many no doubt are glad of the opportunity of proving what they *can* do, for it is a regrettable fact that many talents remain hidden because of the lack of opportunity to use them. There are openings and opportunities for everyone now, and women endowed with all varieties of talents have placed them at the service of their country, cheerfully and willingly. Trained nurses for the combatants, women with every other kind of training for the non-combatants. We learn that the offices at the Head Quarters of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have been transformed into a Labour Exchange Bureau. The Women's Freedom League are organizing a Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. The Women's Emergency Corps inaugurated by the Actresses Franchise League, has sprung into being with the swiftness of thought, within the last few days. The Church League for Women's Suffrage has made the following proclamation: "At this crisis in the history of our Empire, the Church League for Women's Suffrage feels that it must abandon in a great measure suffrage work, and place its organization at the disposal of its Country." In short women have given ample proof of their powers and their patriotism in the time of their Nation's trial.

We rejoice to learn that the National Relief Fund has—at the time of writing—reached the sum of £1,250,000. It has often been said, that war—terrible as it is, brings out some of the finest qualities in mankind; nothing is needed to justify this assertion at the present time.

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