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EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

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## EDITORIAL.

### PERFECTLY SPLENDID.

Six months of the war have now passed. What say the women of the Empire? We know what the world is saying of British women, and that is that they are perfectly splendid.

On the women has fallen the sorrow of seeing their men go forth to face danger, hardship, and may be death. With courage they have bidden them God speed, and, as women of old buckled on the armour of their chosen knights, the women of to-day have supported the men at the front in their difficult task; and in the words of a soldier in the trenches "love and comfort flow out from you to us, and keep up the morale without which an army is more useless than without its food."

Again, putting their private anxieties aside, the women of the Empire have freely placed their services at its disposal, and have found scope for a great diversity of talents. Through the Queen's Needlework Guild, and other channels, clothing and comforts have been abundantly supplied to sailors and soldiers on active duty, and in hospital, thus saving them an infinity of suffering.

Also realizing, from their own anxiety and loneliness, the troubles of the wives of the rank and file on active service, and the few distractions they have as a relief, many women have done all in their power to alleviate these conditions. Social clubs have been established where lonely wives may meet for rest, refreshment, and keeping up of spirits.

Further, the women members of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England have shown the same devotion which has inspired their predecessors throughout the 800 years of its beneficent work for humanity.

The Special Committee of Ladies of the Order, of which her Majesty the Queen is

President, has been formed to provide hospital, medical, and other comforts for the sick and wounded; and the Nurses' Department, under the Joint War Committee composed of representatives of the Order, and of the British Red Cross Society, which has been entirely organized since the outbreak of War, offers to nurses a means of volunteering for home or foreign service. Through the British Red Cross Society numbers of women have found an outlet for their activities, and many are undertaking daily the dull routine business of the Headquarters Office.

It is certain that numbers of women are so inspired with the spirit of patriotism that if permitted, it would take them right into the firing line. To these the Women's Volunteer Reserve, formed by the Women's Emergency Corps, offers a congenial and healthy outlet.

Medical women are proving their value in the hospitals of the Women's Hospital Corps, and the masseuses, in no way behind the doctors and nurses are doing good service through the Almeric Paget Massage Corps.

Space only permits brief reference to the patriotic work done under the auspices of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the American Women's War Relief Fund, the French Flag Nursing Corps, the Women's Patriotic League, the Serbian Relief Fund, and many other societies. Nor must we omit to mention that the help of nurses from Canada, from Australia and America, and far Japan has been freely given to the sick and wounded of our Army and those of our Allies.

Mention must also be made of the work of women for the dear, brave, patient animals, indispensable, more's the pity, in the conduct of war. Indeed, no one will deny that the spirit animating women throughout the world is perfectly splendid.

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