

as are allowed to filter through, whilst, as to the slaughter, the combatants have long set their teeth, and the warring nations watch their bravest and best march to the great struggle with veritable Spartan determination.

Wherever a hero has fallen
Another must take his place.

There have been few wars in which the sitting, and waiting and weeping amongst women have been more conspicuous by their absence.

"For men must work and women must weep" has gone out of fashion. The present is the supreme moment for men to prove their manhood, and for women their womanhood, that they are neither dolls nor puppets.

There is a certain lightheartedness in the air. War is terrible, but it somehow awakens our pride and belief in humanity. You cannot do more than die for your convictions, and when whole nations stake their very existence for their pride and honour, pettiness dies, and you stand in with your country. And women, too. There is only one question for women to-day. That is, What can I do to help? What is my proper place in this emergency?

The first thing to be done is to strip the question of all exaggeration, all that leads to panic legislation. For those women who have a "job"—useful work to do in the world—I strongly feel they should stick to it. The much-quoted "business as usual" saying is a good one. Women's work, the ordinary daily routine, may well be called the cement that binds together the great structure of our own stability and prosperity, and he would be a bold man who would undervalue it. But the fact remains, and it is undeniable, that the drain on our working manhood is, and must be, very great, until this tyranny be overpast, and where we can, those of us who are free, must help to fill in the gaps, and help to make "business as usual" a fact, and not a mere saying.

The following are a few of those callings about which I invite your opinion.

1. The scope and extent to which women might replace men, temporarily or permanently, in labour connected more or less directly with the land. That is to say, gardening, farming, and the care of animals.
2. Clerical and banking work. Accountant's work, &c.
3. Industrial work in factories and shops.
4. Driving and conducting, locomotive guards, motor driving, conductors of omnibuses.
5. Professional work.

Miss Mollett then described the organization of the Nursing Department at Highfield Hall

Red Cross Hospital, Southampton, where she has been acting as Matron, and which was recently described in this JOURNAL, and expressed the opinion that with a trained Matron, and an adequate proportion of trained nurses, untrained workers had a useful sphere as probationers, pantry maids, cooks, hall porters, &c. She took exception to the system adopted in some institutions, in which members of Voluntary Aid Detachments were on duty for half the day, but said that in all hospitals the arrangements were based on the probationer system, and women V.A.D.'s made better probationers than untrained male orderlies.

She spoke in praise of the keenness of many of the Red Cross workers, who got up at all hours to get to their work in time. Miss Mollett thought, further, that a large number so employed would ultimately enter hospitals for training.

An interesting discussion ensued, on which we shall touch next week.

REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

Mr. Asquith announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday the decision of the Government to take the whole time of the House for Government business for the time being, and providing that the House should not sit on Fridays. This will naturally lessen the chance of a second reading for the Nurses' Registration Bill, which will be introduced by Dr. Chapple. The members will presumably have more time to listen to our appeal in the Lobby, and those working for the Bill should miss no opportunity of instructing them in the national importance of the movement.

At the annual conference of the South Wales Nursing Association at Cardiff, Major Ewan Maclean emphasised the importance of nurses, and suggested that nurses should be granted "study leave," so as to enable them to get into touch with all the later medical and surgical developments. He maintained that the State registration of nurses must come. For the time being nursing must be carried on by voluntary bodies, but it was of immense importance that these voluntary bodies should get into touch with public bodies, and he hoped to see the day when the State would take on these voluntary agencies as "going concerns." It was all very well to regard nurses as ministering angels—and so they really were—but the nurses would have to be cared for in order that they might do their work for the community.

Three cheers for the Major!

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