

Royal British Nurses' Association.

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Royal Charter.)

THIS SUPPLEMENT BEING THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CORPORATION.

CIVICS.

Webster's New International Dictionary says this is that department of political science which deals with the rights and duties of citizenship. Then it concerns us *all*, for we are all citizens—actual or potential.

All people of thoughtful minds, in studying reform and progress, like to get down to the very source or roots of any evil to be abolished, in order to know how best to set about the reformation on a sound basis. In other words, it is essential to begin at the beginning, and not in the middle, as perhaps we often do. Knowledge then, and spiritual understanding is the needed *basis*. The word—which in former times we seldom heard—is becoming a common and popular term, simply because a more enlightened world seems to have more need for all the great things it stands for. What I should like to point out in the best way I can, is that citizenship, which implies also responsibility, means patriotism in the *best sense*. Women have become actual citizens through the symbol of the vote, women must therefore exercise the responsibility which they have taken upon themselves towards their fellow-citizens and those who have no vote at present. We are told by a writer on this subject that: "The true touchstone for initiatory participation in the government of a country in any capacity, whether as a voter, administrator, or legislator, is *interest*—individual, keen, and public-spirited. If interest is sufficiently strong it will bring knowledge; without interest, the so-called citizens are a fluid mass, drawn hither and thither by any tide of chance feeling, if they are moved at all. *Indeed, the right to vote should be dependent on the elementary qualification of having some personal care for public affairs.*"

The italics are mine, to draw attention to the spirit at least of the writer's intention. Work

for the common weal, social work, social service, national service—call it what you will—is citizenship; and the sphere of action is so wide that there is room for all within it, provided of course that they are equipped with education and character. One of the essential purposes of education is the making of good and reasonable men and women. Professor James Ward, in his "Personality the Final Aim of Social Eugenics," gives utterance to the following classical pronouncement, which ought to burn itself into the hearts and minds of every aspiring man and woman:—

"The value of a single man or woman of open mind, independent judgment and moral courage, who requires to be convinced and refuses to be cajoled, is only concerned to be right, and is not afraid to be singular, deferring to reason and not to rank, true to self and therefore not false to any man; the value of such a man or woman, I say, is priceless; a nation of such would leaven and regenerate the world. That is the true national education at which England should aim."

With such a noble standard of moral education, combined with faith in every good purpose, we could remove mountains. This is the ideal education needed for a due appreciation of, and knowledge of, Civics. This, then, is what the reorganisation of the Country should be made to mean fundamentally. To re-adjust our moral forces, and so well and truly to lay the foundation of a better, purer, and more sincere England. Let us for a moment survey the wide field which is ripe already to harvest. All reforms centre round the child and the home; so we have claiming our attention, and calling for our assistance, such things as maternity, pre-natal care, infant welfare, child welfare, family welfare (housing), labour problems, hygiene and preventable disease, community problems, recreation; penology, social psychology, management and finance,

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