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## EDITORIAL.

### WOMAN POWER AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

A professional Nursing Journal must be non-political and non-sectarian, but should be warmly humanitarian.

Thus it is little that we can add to the wide publicity presented by the world's press of the war scare, or of the personal explanations advanced by leading politicians who have for the moment galvanised the peoples of five continents into vital interest in peace and war.

We have been brought up with a round turn. Murderous weapons have obstructed sun, moon and stars, the silver silence has shivered into monstrous tumult—Death face to face—the continent of Europe in terror. Then a respite and searching of heart and conscience.

*Make no mistake, we are all equally guilty*, in that we have done little or nothing to prevent the Terror. Almost it would appear that Justice, sword in hand, had a right to put the fear of God in us.

Abyssinia, China, Spain, Palestine! What horrors have the people of these lands not suffered? Years of terror, pain, horrible mutilation, death—the living bowed down with grief. Let each one of us question his own soul. Has the anguish of millions of our fellow men disturbed our slumbers, or our pleasures, or lightened our purses? Have we visualised men, women and children sprawled on the earth in ghastly and obscene masses, the sufferers from bomb and poison gas?

Before us are pictures of the mutilated corpses after the bombardment of Granollers and just such horrors are to sight in Abyssinia, China, Spain and Palestine.

The question of the hour is: How are we women going to organise ourselves to prevent further sacrilege? We can and must prevent it—or descend into the pit with blood-stained tyrants. And that brings us to a ray of light emanating from "The Greater Humanity Foundation," and an amazingly powerful appeal to "Womanhood Power," signed by L. Lind-af-Hageby, which found its way into *The Times* newspaper as an advertisement, a priceless document worth many ducats.

### WOMAN POWER AND INTERNATIONAL APPEASEMENT.

To quote:—

"World war has been averted for the time being. But what of the future? It has always been understood that women have a particular burden, a particular responsibility in war. They bear the children, who are sent into battle. They are the mothers of men. They are the immediate sufferers under the frustrated hopes of humanity. If war is to be eliminated as an instrument of policy, of natural aggrandisement and strength,

women must make their point of view, their position clear. In democratic countries it is now commonly acknowledged that war settles nothing, that it creates the mentality and the conditions for new wars. It is held in abhorrence by those who know its horrors, its cruelties, its insane destruction of life and Nature. But what is being done to uproot the cause of war, to create a new mind in humanity? . . . The future is now. We have been brought close to the abyss of a war—more destructive, more horrible than any conflict of the past. Millions have realised that something must be added to the work for peace if civilisation is to be saved. . . . The immense sacrifice of human life during 1914-1918 will be followed by incomparably greater slaughter unless we learn to eradicate the root-causes of war. We know that civilisation has reached a point of inventiveness, of mechanical perfection, of discovery, which has not been accompanied by spiritual enlightenment. There are no adequate moral-fortifications against the delusions of war. We drift where we should lead. Some point to the obvious picture of the decline of religion before the triumphant progress of materialism and the cynical contempt of the sanctity of treaties and international conventions. The question here asked is: Cannot women, will not women—of all countries, all nations—assert the view of women that war makes the birth of children a mockery, that war is destructive of all human values, that motherhood—in the wider sense—is outraged by tolerant and passive acceptance of war as an instrument of policy. . . . Civilisation is built on sympathy, on the capacity to feel for others, on the desire to preserve through a sense of unity. When we contemplate the many forms of civilisation which have held sway and disappeared, we find sympathy to be the quality that is indestructible, inalienable from spiritual evolution. . . .

Every woman can become a soldier of peace in the world. Women who vote can call for a constructive peace policy, in which grievances of nations and injustices are removed by sympathetic investigation, negotiation and real treaties based on understanding and not on threats of further bloodshed. . . . Women can demand that the children they bear, be not destined to be merely meat for the monster of war, and that the preparation for it shall no longer darken the minds of children."

Where, we ask, are the women of spiritual vigour who can organise this great movement and direct the thoughts of a new generation towards the realisation of a greater humanity?

We hope they will be forthcoming.

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