

so many planning committees were at work would be affected.

Miss Caroline Haslett, recently returned from America, said that the American women could not understand how such an injustice as the differentiation in the rates for civilian compensation could persist in a country where the women were being conscripted for service.

We Welcome Energy.

A reference to the courageous conduct of Mrs. Yvonne Roberts appears in the Echoes; much more might be written about her. We welcome her to England, where we can utilise every atom of energy possible.

No Half-Measures for M. Stalin.

Sir Stafford Cripps, formerly British Ambassador in Moscow, states that the Russians hope to defeat Germany next autumn or winter; they intend to make the conquest of Germany complete.

Let us hope we shall see them passing through the *Brandenburger Tor* and marching down *Unter den Linden*. The keynote to the Russian success has been the whole-hearted loyalty and determination of every individual. When the unexpected attack came every single Russian man, woman and child determined to defend their country at all costs.

They are fortunate that M. Stalin is not only a great leader but a great strategist. Moreover, he has no sentimental delusions. He is implacable.

Those of us who realise that appeasement has cost us thousands of young and lovely lives, honour this strong man, who is saving Russia once and for all.

Hope and Despair.

Pictures in the Press of prisoners are in bold contrast. We note two Italians grinning from ear to ear, reminding us of our youth, when organ-grinders from Italy rasped our nerves in many streets and extracted pence for departing in peace. These prisoners are evidently looking forward to good food and comfort, and have no further desire for stress, storm and starvation.

On the next page a group of German prisoners face us—standing in Russian snows—no overcoats, ragged trousers, squelching, broken shoes, their drawn and fleshless faces expressing the mental agony of the doomed. Whatever their fate, let us hope it will include a respite from starvation, frost bite and despair.

A Splendid Record.

The Lord Mayor's National Air Raid Distress Fund has received a further £5,000 from readers of the *Toronto Evening Telegram*, who have now subscribed £306,521 to the fund.

This is indeed a splendid record. It is impossible to

estimate the wonderful relief homeless and injured people are receiving from such generous aid. Nurses whose homes and belongings are damaged should appeal to the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund: they will, we feel sure, receive ungrudging assistance.

A Sinister Spectre.

The daily Press instructs the public very efficiently on health and scientific medicine, often in a popular way which it can understand. Thus "Typhus stalks across Europe—a Sinister Spectre," an article by Anthony Weymouth in the *Daily Sketch*, sounds a very useful warning note. He states:—

"The announcement that five London boroughs have combined in their precautions for combating typhus must have brought home to many people a realisation of the sinister spectre of disease that stalks across Europe. "If you want to understand the real nature of this disease, you should think of it by its old name—gaol fever. For this name tells you plainly enough that typhus appears where overcrowding, dirt, and insanitary conditions exist.

"It also suggests the way typhus was and is spread; because in those places where human beings in a dirty state are closely packed together you also find vermin.

"In a word, the louse is the cause of this horrible plague.

"When, in the bad old days, unhygienic conditions existed in both civilian and military institutions, when gaols and the poor quarters of towns were grossly overcrowded, when men lived huddled together to keep warm, but had no means of keeping clean, typhus swept through whole communities, killing thousands of people.

"It was the cause of a heavy death roll in most wars: it may yet claim a large number of victims in this.

* * *

"War is thus the ideal medium

for the spread of typhus, especially when it is fought in a cold climate.

"In the Crimean war there was an enormous mortality among the troops, and, more recently, in the Serbian campaign of 1914-15 epidemic typhus killed nearly one-tenth of the entire population.

"Now, this is exactly what has already happened in Western Russia. The Nazi hordes have become the hosts of lice; they have swarmed across typhus-infected areas, and there seems little doubt that thousands of them have contracted the disease, to pass it on, in turn, to others.

"One way to prevent the spread of typhus is to make sure that the louse is not allowed to carry the infection—in other words, to exact scrupulous cleanliness and to destroy all lice on the person or in the clothes."



Photo:]

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MRS. YVONNE ROBERTS, FRIEND OF BRITISH SOLDIERS.

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