

NEWS LETTER
OF THE
Woman's Committee Council of National Defense.

HEADQUARTERS:
1814 N STREET N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.



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MAY 15, 1918.

NUMBER TWENTY-ONE.

THE PRESIDENT COMMENDS THE DEVOTION OF WOMEN.

The work which has been undertaken by the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense has my warm approval and support. Already what the Committee has been able to accomplish has been most encouraging and has exceeded the first expectations of those who were instrumental in constituting it. Many barriers have been broken down, many new ties of sympathy and cooperation established, and a new spirit of cooperation and of devotion to a common cause aroused—circumstances which are not only of the greatest immediate service to the nation but which promise many fine things for the future. I hope that the conference to be held on May thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth will be fruitful of the finest results.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

(Signed)

A GREETING FROM DR. SHAW.

The Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense extends to all delegates a cordial welcome to this, the first conference of the officers of the National and State Divisions of the Woman's Committee.

The object of the Conference is to look over the field of our first year of organized effort for war work and to plan to make efficient in more active service the results of the organization of the past year.

The spectacle of a nation of women mobilizing for war service is inspiring, and should fill each woman who has been honored by the call of her country to leadership in this world crisis with the dignity and

responsibility of the trust which it has reposed in her.

To the larger service and renewed consecration which the times demand, the Woman's Committee welcomes you. We need your inspiration, your enthusiasm and your wisdom in order to aid you in your efforts to translate the splendid organization of the past year into tangible results in efficient and helpful benefits to our nation and to our allies.

If we gather in the spirit of service, and each feels her personal responsibility to give of her best in counsel, the influence of our conference will not end here, but will extend over and permeate all our year's activities.

In this hope, and to this end, we welcome you to your national headquarters.

FIGURES TELL THE STORY.

The Woman's Committee was appointed April 21st, 1917. April 21st, 1918, finds every state and the territorial possessions of Porto Rico, Philippines, Hawaii, Alaska, and Panama organized; 11,626 local units are recorded at headquarters and the number is increasing rapidly. Every day brings a closer union of the state divisions of the committee to the State Councils of Defense.

In 29 states the chairman of the Woman's Committee is a member of the State Council of Defense.

In 31 states women are members of the State Council.

In 5 states women are on the executive committee of the State Council.

In 27 states women are on sub-committees of the State Council.

In 12 states the Woman's Committee is an auxiliary of the State Council.

In 17 states the Woman's Committee is part of the State Council.

From 48 states and territories we have reports of state chairmen appointed for one or more of the several departments. The varied activities they carry on are suggested by our regular department, "What the States are Doing."

The record of state department chairmen is as follows:

- Health and Recreation—47
- Food Production and Home Economics—42
- Food Administration—40
- Maintenance of Existing Social Agencies—39
- Home and Allied Relief—40
- Red Cross—34
- Child Welfare—43
- Women in Industry—34
- News (Publicity)—42
- Educational—46
- Liberty Loan—47

Many states report intensive development in several or all departments. This is usually indicated by the appointment of local department heads. There are, for instance, over forty local publicity chairmen in California alone.

"The purpose of the Woman's Committee is to coordinate the activities and the resources of the organized and unorganized women of the country, that their power may be immediately utilized in time of need, and to supply a new and direct channel of communication and cooperation between women and governmental departments."

"The wisdom and foresight of the women composing the Woman's Committee has been demonstrated in no more striking way than in the promulgation of their general plan of organization for women's war work. With no precedent to guide them, and with little time to work out and develop ideas, these women, at their first

meeting, decided upon a program which has stood the test of time and in the working out of which no radical changes have been necessary—only expansion and development."

Ida Clyde Clark, in *American Women and the Great War*.

CALLING OUT THE RETIRED TEACHERS.

The war is making alarming inroads on the ranks of teachers. The Commissioner of Education, Dr. Claxton, placed where he can accurately measure the depletion of educational forces, made an eloquent appeal in March to persons who had left the service to return and fill up the ranks. Dr. Claxton wrote:

"From every part of the country come reports of large numbers of teachers leaving the schools of country and city to enter some primary or secondary military service of the country, or to engage in clerical, commercial, or industrial occupations at salaries or wages much larger than they received as teachers. Reports from the normal schools indicate that the number of students graduating from them this spring will be less than last year. Unless something can be done to relieve the situation, the places of many trained and experienced teachers will be taken by young teachers without experience or professional preparation. There are, however, in the country scores of thousands of persons, mostly women, of good scholarship and professional training, who have had successful experience as teachers but who have retired from active service. Many of these might render valuable service again in the school. As a means of relief in the present crisis, I recommend that they be called into active service and that laws, ordinances, and regulations of school boards prohibiting married women from teaching in the public schools be suspended or repealed."

Dr. Claxton now wishes to enlist the Woman's Committee in the work of rallying retired teachers. In a letter to the chairman, Dr. Shaw, he says:—

"Some policy must be adopted to protect the schools against a dangerous lowering of efficiency. Since the registration cards of the Woman's Committee enable this Committee to know of the retired teachers in each locality, may I suggest that much good might be accomplished if your local registration committees were asked to give their special attention to this matter."

Here is a chance for our Registration Committees to render a splendid service.

THE LATEST.

The department of educational propaganda (Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, chairman) considers that there is no better way to make every one in the country understand the war than through neighborhood meetings and discussions. It is urging, therefore, that even the smallest communities hold patriotic war service meetings. The executive chairman of the department (Mrs. Martin), has available a set of suggestions for such a meeting, which is constantly being sent out in response to requests. It consists of a short program, some outlines for short speeches, several pamphlets, two poems that may be used for recitation if desired, and the words of our national songs. The outline is intended not as a program but as a set of suggestions, any or all of which may prove useful to a community meeting. Its use is likely to make it easier for anyone arranging a program to confine it to what is important and essential in discussion of the war.

The list of opportunities for women offered by the information department of the Committee, of which Miss Elizabeth Green is chief, is now available in printed form.

"Women in War Work," another pamphlet, is now in the hands of the printer.

Miss Rott and Miss Fells have been speaking most successfully to units of the Woman's Committee in eastern divisions about the work carried on under the auspices of the fund for the fatherless children of France.

Mrs. May Lamberton Becker, chief of the foreign news bureau of the news department, is contributing monthly articles to the *New France*. This new magazine is published with the idea that information about France will strengthen the bonds between France and the United States. The editors feel that Mrs. Becker has a particularly fine perception of what American women want to know about their French sisters. The first article will appear in the June issue.

Orders for the Woman's Committee button have begun to come in.

"Work in and through existing agencies, uniting them with the Women's Committee," the chairman of the Nebraska division advises her lieutenants.

CIRCULARS SINCE THE LAST NEWS LETTER.

Circular 133, from the department of women in industry transmits a full statement of the activities reported by state chairmen at the conference on March 26.

No. 137, sent out by the department of women in industry and the food production department together, explains a plan to increase farm labor for the summer, by having women substitute for men of farm experience who are now at work in cities or towns.

No. 142 is a questionnaire to be filled out by the state chairmen of the department of food production and home economics.

No. 135 encloses a statement, published in the General Federation Magazine, of the aims of the department of educational propaganda. It re-states the necessity of making the entire country conversant with the fundamental facts about the war, as the best means of winning it.

No. 136 suggests that all graduation essays be about the war this year, and encloses a list of possible subjects for use in schools and colleges

No. 140 requests cooperation with the Bureau of Naturalization in a number of ways, all of which should promote Americanization.

No. 141 urges the creation of a War Information Service for immigrants in all states and counties. Both the last two circulars enclose similar requests from the State Councils Section to the State Councils.

No. 138, from the health and recreation department, encloses for its state chairmen a pamphlet of suggestions for the increasingly necessary protective work for girls.

No. 139 explains the relation of War camp Community Service Committees to Community Councils.

No. 144 is a request from the news department for literature, posters and pictures.

No. 146 is a circular from the food administration department, in which Miss Tarbell draws attention to the great importance of milk as food.

"From the point of view of organizations, the greatest of war service is the service of subordinating one's self, of becoming part of the whole, and that whole the National Defense."

Dr. Peixotto, speaking at the Biennial of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, Hot Springs, Ark.

WHAT THE STATES ARE DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR.

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR.

Yes, but Whose Food—Germany's or Ours?

This challenge to America is the leading statement in a circular from the War Information Department of the Illinois Division. Lloyd George is quoted as follows:

"I fear the disciplined German people behind the German Army, the rationed family and the determination of wife and sister, and daughter and mother to stand and starve so that their fighting men may be fed—I fear it more than the Imperial Army itself."

New the Food Administration is Urging the Potato Campaign.

What are you doing about it? Do you know:

That there is a big surplus of potatoes?

That the Southern crop will soon add to the surplus?

That farmers were asked last summer to plant and they did?

That potatoes will take the place of wheat?

That unless our wheat goes to the armies abroad the boys in the fighting line must try to win the war on empty stomachs?

Back up your Home Economics Director in her efforts to carry out the potato campaign inaugurated by the Food Administration.

Practical Assistance.

Visiting housekeepers are supplementing the work of community kitchens and cookery schools in St. Louis under the supervision of the superlatively well organized food department of their division. The present high prices and shortage of foodstuffs were seriously affecting the health of the community in the poorer districts of the city. "Underfeeding, wrong feeding, and disease, were found in their usual relationship," says the report. Therefore not only were schools and kitchens established to reach those already sufficiently informed to adjust their households to the needs of the situation, but a corps of six visiting housekeepers was formed, which works in connection with the associated charities, and municipal nurses, to help those who can not help themselves.

Various cooperating societies report to these visiting housekeepers the homes which lack good management, especially in regard to feeding. Assistance is given by the housekeeper-corps in the selection, purchase, and preparation of food. This assistance often makes possible the maintenance of a home whose members would otherwise have become public charges. Another branch of visiting housekeepers works in connection with the free clinic. They take charge of all cases for which doctors prescribe a special diet, and make sure that the patient understands the orders and is able to carry them out.

Over the Top on Wheat.

The Iowa division has started a series of patriotic meetings at which there will be earnest discussion of wheat saving. The state has ambition to save more than its quota of wheat.

Kitchens.

The chairman of the food production and home economics department in the Arkansas division is establishing community kitchens all over the state.

The Food Brigade.

Kentucky now reports 160 chairmen pledged to food conservation work during the war. These women ordered about 40,000 pledges, 30,000 window and 40,000 kitchen cards for use during the spring campaign. Pro-Germanism, Selfishness, and Ignorance are the three enemies they are fighting in Kentucky. Four hundred thousand articles, including posters, folders and leaflets, on food conservation and substitution have been distributed to county chairmen.

An effort to inform the negro as to food conservation was begun in the middle of February. Mrs. Semple, of Louisville, gave a round of talks to negroes in their clubs, churches, and schools, in their two branch libraries, and on one occasion, in the large music room of a public spirited woman. Requests for more talks come almost daily and an entire change of attitude is reported. The domestics are now ready to accept the present regulations in using recipes for war dishes. The influence of the meetings has spread

to many more than those who have attended. Mrs. Semple now has engagements to speak to negro women throughout the state.

THE WOMEN WORKERS.

Women Are Making Airplanes.

In a western airplane factory, investigated by a state department of women in industry, a great deal of the work is being done by girls. They pack parts, stuff bags with excelsior, work on wire parts, cut copper pieces, bind wires with tape and solder joints of wire. They put the "dope" (a waterproofing mixture) on wings and body of the plane, and paint the U. S. emblem on the bodies. They do light carpentering and metal work, and sew linen on the wings.

Standards Reprinted.

The standards for women in industry have been reprinted by the Labor Department of Minnesota for circulation throughout the state. The chairman of women in industry there, who is in charge of the Woman and Children's Bureau of the State Labor Department, is distributing them "where they will do the most good."

When the legislature meets in Ohio, the department will try to get a law passed prohibiting the employment of elevator women on night shifts. The committee has been investigating this type of work throughout the state and finds it, on the whole, reasonably suitable for women.

HELPING OVER HERE.

War and Charity.

Many women do not see that civil work is war work, but the Chicago unit has intelligently convinced its women that it is tremendously important to keep up relief at home and to maintain social institutions at par. Between the first and second Liberty Loan Drives, the social service department in the Illinois division made a "psychological drive" for volunteers to work on various tasks in connection with charities. Eight hundred volunteers responded and the department has done wonderful work. They undertook the inventory of crippled children in Chicago, with the intention of finding out whether the children were getting the kind of education which would fit them to earn their living in later life. This department also furnished workers for the draft boards and assistance to the employment bureau, which supplements the federal and city bureaus in their work. The employment bureau of the Illinois division placed over one thousand women last month.

The School of Civics and Philanthropy in Chicago was induced to offer a six weeks' course to social service volunteers. The third series of these is now in progress.

Horseback Messengers.

Women in twenty counties in Kentucky which are almost without railroad facilities are being reached by "critter back." According to the report of the department of maintenance of existing social service agencies, this is the task of enthusiastic teachers and of social workers interested in various settlements. These women are almost invariably college bred.

THE CHILDREN'S YEAR.

Washington Takes Inventory.

"Have you a child under six?"

"If so, Uncle Sam wants his weight and height."

"This is just as much your duty as buying Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps," says a dodger that is being left at the front door of every house in Washington, D. C.

Misdirected Patriotism.

The Minnesota division states that there is a strong tendency to keep children out of school this year, on the ground that it is the patriotic duty of parents to raise more food. That the child is in need of protection from such misdirected patriotism is shown by reports from other states.

The Committee on Children in Agriculture of the Illinois division reports that violations of the child labor law are being watched, since last season children from seven to twelve years of age left their homes at three o'clock in the morning in order to get to the truck gardens at five. These children were worked from nine to twelve hours, sometimes without lunch.

Help From a University.

In connection with the Children's Year in Utah, the division finds most useful the splendid series of leaflets dealing with the care of the child from prenatal period to school age, prepared by the medical department of the university.

"Beg Your Pardon."

In the NEWS LETTER of April 15, Mrs. Halleck, chairman of women in industry in Kentucky, was quoted as saying that her committee was successful "in defeating in the state legislature all four of the amendments to the child labor law introduced there last year, which threatened practically to do away with all standards for child labor." We wish to correct the statement. Two bills affecting child labor were defeated, but they touched only on street trading. A third bill, bringing the Kentucky law into entire conformity with the federal child labor law, was passed. The Kentucky manufacturers greatly assisted the passage of this bill, and have at no time made an effort to lower labor standards.

Enlisting the Stores.

Department stores have been persuaded by the Phoenix, Arizona, unit to display cards and charts and allow daily talks to be given to mothers on the care of children.

WE REGISTER.

They Call It an Honor Roll.

Priests, editors, reporters, teachers, ministers, superintendents of schools and the mayor, all took a hand in the registration for patriotic service which the Dunkirk, New York, unit recently held. Special rooms were set aside in the schools and public library in which to hold the registration. The mayor issued a proclamation calling upon patriotic women to register. A thousand women responded and another day for registration has been set in May.

"No undertaking of any kind since the United States' entry into the war, has had in Dunkirk the effect of bringing together into actual service women of all kinds, creeds and nationalities, as this registration has," writes the chairman of the unit. "Foreign born women and native women committed themselves to a definite expression of patriotism and just as soon as they all realized what the registration meant, even if they could only say they could and would knit for soldiers, they willingly and gladly added their names to the honor roll."

The chairman made a point of going to all the grade schools and talking to the children and offering prizes of victrola records to the child or room bringing the largest number of mothers or grown up sisters to be registered. One little Italian girl brought 10 women to be registered, securing the largest prize given to an individual. Her name is Mamie Petz.

Using Billboard and Show Window.

From ten thousand show windows and five hundred and fifty billboards all over the state of Michigan, women are urged to register during the week of April 27th. "The Spirit of Woman Power" is the name of the handsome poster which won the prize at the Detroit registration poster exhibit in February, and which was distributed through the state for window display. A billboard poster in red and black, plainly lettered, urges women to register for service and for these a large advertising firm in Detroit gave free use of all their boards in Michigan. The children in practically all the public schools in the state made posters themselves, for use in their own localities.

Will Do It Again.

The Florida division is putting its registration lists to use in the two big cities of the state, Jacksonville and Tampa. The department plans a revival of registration for the summer, for women now understand much better than they did when it first took place, both how to do it, and why it should be done.

Now Ready.

From every side we hear of the educational value of registration. In one county in Indiana the food pledge cards acted as a forerunner. Hundreds of women who were not ready to sign the food pledge card were entirely ready to volunteer for other forms of war service when they were again called upon.

Illinois: Manuals For Sale.

Registration in Illinois has reached 615,805, or about one-third of the entire woman population in the state. Six hundred and twenty women have entered classes for registrars.

Registration manuals can be bought from Illinois in large or small quantities at one cent each, plus cost of delivery.

Where There Is Choice.

"Women should register for certain greatly needed lines of service," is the text of a dodger issued from the state headquarters of the Michigan division. It gives convincing reasons why women should register to teach, to grow and conserve food, to nurse at home and abroad, for work in the factories, to serve as H. H. V's or in the social service or Red Cross fields. It ends with a forceful explanation why busy housewives and mothers should also register.

MATTERS EDUCATIONAL.

She Serves Best Who Trains Best.

Pennsylvania is making practical use of its registration and has thereby greatly increased the interest in it. In two months ending April 8th, the total of placements in positions was 1,481. The registration department also wrote to 785 women asking whether they would take training in different subjects. As a result there are now 285 women in classes which include the following types of training; massage, stenography, telephone, nurses' aid, filing, motor mechanics, telegraphy, Red Cross work, war cookery, wireless, teaching the blind, drafting, farm traction and agriculture.

The Arkansas division realizes that "this is no war for amateurs," and special courses in almost every branch of women's war work are to be had in that state. The University has special courses in cooking, chemistry, physics, agriculture, and French. The Y. W. C. A. has organized classes in motor repairing and driving, and the State Agricultural College has special courses in cooking, food production, and conservation for women. Women are studying engineering at the University.

If there are ten women in the New Jersey division who want to learn the management of traction machinery, Rutgers College promises to give a short course of training in the use of tractors for residents of the state.

Victory Conferences.

Victory Conferences are in progress in fourteen different zones in Connecticut. Since women living on farms will not leave their homes except for some-

thing unusual the committee has written to the town chairmen in these fourteen zones to reach their women either by telephone or personal note. They are trying to interest especially the mothers of sons in service, visiting nurses, librarians, teachers, wives of members of the State Council, heads of committees and Red Cross workers, in 320 townships. A roll call of villages, and exhibits representing the work of each department, particularly as applied to rural communities, are part of the program. England's war ration will be shown. What thrift stamps will buy in trench tools, socks, tent pins, etc., is a portion of the exhibit. After an informal luncheon, which each woman is expected to bring with her, a member of the executive board addresses the gathering.

Prize Essays.

"Why the U. S. is at War" was the subject of an essay contest for which the Missouri division offered prizes. The awards were made by the Committee on Historical Service, and the two first prize essays were sent to Washington to be entered in the national contest.

Encouraging Patriotism.

Four-minute speeches on the activity of each department of the Nebraska division are sent in quantities to any active group of women who are speaking on the new patriotism in local schools, lodges, and societies.

A small list of trained speakers, ready to go wherever needed, is part of the equipment of the department of educational propaganda in the Kentucky division.

Propaganda in the Factories.

In order to bring women in stores and factories in touch with the Woman's Committee, the Connecticut division has secured permission from the heads of stores and factories employing large numbers of girls, to speak to them for fifteen minutes. The speakers will be provided by the Speakers' Bureau in Connecticut, and two new pamphlets, "Women in War Work" and "What the Woman's Committee is Doing," will be distributed after the talk.

List the Foreigners.

All the foreign born women in every county chairman's district are being listed in Nebraska by the Americanization Committee. The educational department in Nebraska is planning to hold a patriotic meeting in each school house in the state.

No Nationality Left Out.

A society of Icelandic women is working under the Lyon county chairman in Minnesota. Of the forty-five members, every one was either born in Iceland or is of Icelandic parents. The following is an account of a recent meeting held there:

"Because some of the older members cannot speak English, the program was mainly in Icelandic. You would not have understood much of what was said, but you would have understood and appreciated the music of the knitting needles. Almost every woman had her knitting and how the needles did fly! The war is uppermost in the hearts of most of these women for they have twelve boys in the service. The music of the knitting needles will follow those dear boys across the ocean and help them fight the good fight for their beloved America and humanity."

TO FILL THE DINNER PAIL.

The Garden Game is Officially On.

A band concert and a big public meeting attended the official opening of the summer's food production in Indianapolis. A patriotic appeal made to owners of vacant lots met with splendid response. Almost all available land is now under cultivation. Frequent lectures have been given at department stores on seed selection, planting, poultry raising and the necessity of increasing our food production. A number of firms are offering prizes to those who raise poultry on city lots. Mothers of boys have been appealed to by the state chairmen to enlist their sons in the Boys Working Reserve, and rural women are being reached by county chairmen through meetings and lectures.

Pick a Peck.

Missouri has called for one thousand volunteers to pick her big strawberry crop, and through the Arkansas newspapers the state division of the Committee calls the attention of women to the need for this same work.

Teachers in the Missouri Division are being asked to devote their summers to starting community markets and war gardens.

In Wisconsin camps are to be established this summer where women and girls are to be housed under chaperonage, in order to pick and can the great crop of wild raspberries in northern Wisconsin.

Patriotic Blisters and Backache.

Overalls will be the style for women this season if the land army continues to spread. From east to west our divisions report groups organizing. At Summit, New Jersey, a dozen young women from Newark started their work with what is described as a "curtain raiser," making a garden on the grounds of the Fresh Air Home. May 1st they begin their full work on farms.

"Sow the land for the cause."

Call for farm workers sent out by the Illinois division.

NEWS OF MANY MOVEMENTS.

"Called by the Government."

Registration is proving its value in unforeseen ways. For example, the draft boards in many states have been directly benefited. Wisconsin's women in industry department months ago set the fashion of providing women for the necessary clerical work of transcribing occupational cards, a task which must be completed before the U. S. Army can secure vitally needed skilled workmen.

Provost Marshal General Crowder recently called upon the State Councils to complete the task and said

that it was a "critical test" of their ability. Many of them met the emergency by calling upon the Woman's Committee. Fifteen local draft boards in Illinois needed help, and the registration cards showed where the workers could be had. Women were actually "called by the government."

Governor Cox in Ohio found the units in eighty-three out of eighty-eight counties were ready to serve in this way. Within ten days the work was finished in all save three or four of the larger places. Cleveland, Columbus, and Canton each supplied fifty workers. One of the Ohio workers writes:

"This definite, concrete piece of work proved very stimulating to the Woman's Committee and did more than anything else to make the state registration officials realize the effectiveness of a well-built organization."

A pledge to heed the government's call for this work has been sent out by Illinois, as follows:

VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT AND FILING DEPARTMENT,
WOMAN'S COMMITTEE,

Council of National Defense, Illinois Division, 120 West Adams Street, Chicago.

I will give every: (name days)

..... from..... to.....

..... from..... to.....

to assist the Exemption Boards in this emergency in order that the United States Army need not wait longer for vitally needed skilled workmen.

(Signed).....

(Address).....

(Telephone).....

(Ward).....

Insignia of Service.

An official armband has been adopted by the Wisconsin division. All the women of the state doing war work in connection with the Woman's Committee, whether state, county or local, will be urged to wear it while on duty. The band will be of khaki-colored cotton cloth, with the Wisconsin coat-of-arms and the words "Council of Defense" embroidered in colors. It will be sold at cost.

The khaki armband is the first recommendation of a special committee on dress.

For the New Freedom.

On April 21st, the Sunday nearest the anniversary of the first American battle for freedom, the Missouri division had meetings in all the counties under the auspices of the department of education. Special honor was paid to the families of men now in the service.

"Education as usual or more than usual" was emphasized. Teachers are being urged to stay on their jobs, as no untrained workers can take their places and no service can be more patriotic than the training of our children.

Shore Liberty.

A small clubhouse, which will be called "Shore Leave" or "Liberty," will be opened by a group of women doing health and recreation work in the Chicago unit. This is due to the activity of the Hostess Committee, which plans entertainments for the many soldiers and sailors in the city.

The Hostess Committee is learning new games which necessitate quick mingling of guests in order more competently to amuse the boys. They enter with great enthusiasm into games which require substituting ridiculous motions for words, singing rounds, or changing seats, or blowing feathers.

"Three months ago," says our field representative, Miss Hinman, "all this would have been impossible, but our women have lost all thought of self and are perfectly absorbed in the bigger subject of service." Plans are under way for summer amusements.

Spreading Information.

Gathering together the publicity chairmen of the state for shop talk is a useful way of promoting the work, according to Mrs. Ernest Thompson-Seton, publicity chairman of the Connecticut division. The plan of campaign and duties in connection with it may be made definite in a few minutes talk. How to get articles into local papers, and the need of collecting news items and photographs for headquarters were two of the chief topics at a conference held at Hartford on April 10.

Pick Your Pound.

Admission to the Idaho War Service League, a part of the Woman's Committee is gained by picking a pound of wool from sage brush and wire fences. Wool men know that hundreds of pounds of wool are wasted yearly in every locality where sheep are grown and the need of wool being imperative, men, women and children in the wool growing section have been asked to gather wool which otherwise would be wasted. All wool over the pound initiation fee will be paid for at the regular market price in thrift stamps and the profits above the wholesale price are to be invested in war savings stamps. The headquarters are at Mt. Home, Idaho.

Utilizing Materials.

A dear old lady of seventy in Missouri has worked out a scheme for making from seemingly worthless garments, caps and hoods for destitute children. She collected from all the women of the county old woolen shawls and scarfs, so moth eaten that they were held to be useless, but preserved because they were heirlooms or of historic value. She unravelled the knitting or crocheting, as the case might be, spliced the yarn, and knitted charming caps and hoods from them.

Pasadena women are collecting waste rubber from dentists and from other sources. The receipts from the sale of this rubber will go to the Red Cross.

Deliveries.

The New Jersey division discussed the reduction of deliveries at a recent meeting of the Hudson County unit. A member of the State Chamber of Commerce and various members of the Merchants' Association contributed information.

War Garments.

A dress conservation committee appointed in the Minnesota division made a study of the textile situation, the dye situation, and the industrial situation as related to women's dress. It was decided that it was time to simplify and standardize dress—to work for less rapid changes of style. At one meeting, managed by the state committee on dress, various phases of the situation were taken up by different experts. Suits, coats, dresses and hats of different prices were loaned by stores, to illustrate the principles discussed. Members of the Minneapolis Junior Council acted as models. Certain clothes which violated the principles advocated were also shown on models. A member of a well known commercial firm and women who looked at dress both from the artistic and practical standpoint, spoke at the meeting.

The Committee is centering its interest on the woman who makes her own clothes, that she may secure durability and a style that will last. A pamphlet on textiles has been sent out through the state.

Clothing has become so much a matter of art that we forget all about the fact that the stuffs of which it is made must now be considered as never before. In the Montgomery County unit in Pennsylvania lectures have been held in every community on the conservation of clothing.

Girls! Come Out.

The enthusiasm and energy of youth is a good deal like a magnificent waterfall; it could accomplish a great deal but it requires good engineering to build the dam which conserves the power. It is so picturesque in its wild state that most of it is allowed to run its course quite useless. "The Girl Slacker" is to be the target of a concerted attack by the Speakers' Bureau in Wisconsin. "The idle girl, the girl with no definite plans for the future, the girl who is not now preparing herself for useful work," is to be made to feel the obligation that rests on her, no less than on her brother, of adding her power to the war. Girls are to be urged to fit themselves either as nurses, teachers, or stenographers.

Another Liberty Loan Job.

A goodly force of women have volunteered for the task of going over the assessment records at the courthouse in the Fond du Lac unit in Wisconsin. The department of women in industry, having completed its work of preparing industrial index cards for the local draft board, volunteered its services to the Liberty Loan Committee and was assigned to this particular work at the courthouse.

Military Census of Nurses.

The military census of the nursing resources of Connecticut shows that nearly three thousand nurses are available for emergencies arising from the war. Half the graduate nurses will respond to a call for service anywhere, 326 are willing to respond in the state only; half a hundred will serve outside the state only. Of the total number of pupil nurses in training, approximately three-fourths indicate their willingness to respond to calls for service upon graduation. Twelve hundred "practical" nurses were enrolled, approximately five hundred of whom will soon be available as a supplementary corps in service hospitals and public health organizations.

The Nebraska division is actively engaged in securing candidates for nurses' training in the hospitals.

Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Girls Are Marching.

The gleam of banners in the sun or by torchlight, marching troops and martial music, rouse the enthusiasm of even the phlegmatic, and in every state in the Union to-day the Woman's Committee is helping to stimulate patriotic enthusiasm.

From the Rhode Island division comes a stirring account of Liberty Loan and Child Welfare floats in a Providence parade. One of the interesting bits of work done by the Woman's Committee in connection with this was to mobilize the relatives of the men in service. The fine war organization of Providence was used so effectively that thousands of relatives participated.

As a result of high enthusiasm in the Indiana division, Hammond was so aroused that the town built a "Liberty Hall" in one day. Union labor contributed its services and all expenses were met by public subscription. On the first day of the loan drive, \$750,000 was raised, more than \$100,000 above the quota. On "woman's night," in spite of a raw north wind, between three and four thousand women marched a mile and a half in a torch-light procession to demonstrate how Hammond stood in regard to the war. Most of the inhabitants are foreigners and many of them Germans. A large number put out the American flag for the first time. Afterwards at the meeting the women raised \$35,000 for bonds. Emotion was high at the end of this meeting.

"Parades sometimes stir the apathetic women to action," writes one energetic member of the Indiana division, "I felt much more patriotic after I had marched, for the sight was really stirring."

A FRENCH SISTER TO HER BROTHER.

From what French Women have done.

MOYEN, Sept. 4, 1914.

MY DEAR EDWARD: The news has come that Charles and Lucien were killed on the 28th of August. Eugene is dangerously wounded. Louis and Jean both are dead. Rose cannot be found. Mother weeps, but she says that you are strong and she desires that you avenge the others. I hope your chief will not refuse to let you go. Jean had the Legion of Honor; you will win it. They have taken all. Of eleven who went to war, eight are dead. My dear brother do your duty; we only ask that. God who gave you your life, has the right to take it again, mama says. We wish to see you before you go. The Prussians are here. The Jawdon boy is dead. They have pillaged everywhere. The cowards. Go, my dear brother, make your sacrifice. We cherish the hope of seeing you again; something bids us hope. We embrace you with all our hearts. Adieu and au revoir, if God wills.

YOUR SISTER.

It is for us and for France. Remember your brothers and our Grandfather in '70.

FROM OUR FOREIGN NEWS BUREAU.

MAY LAMBERTON BECKER, Chief.

The Belgravia Supply Department.

While English women's hands have been busy making surgical dressings and other hospital supplies for their soldiers, their minds have been equally busy, in devising new and better ways of doing what they had to do. Their sympathy with the sick and wounded has been translated into a thousand practical appliances to make things a little easier for the men and spare them every extra strain.

Certain branches of the "War Hospital Supply Depots" have been given over entirely to the specialized work which has grown out of women's inventions. The one at Belgravia has for its particular work carpentry and boot making. Twenty-five women form its staff of carpenters.

A "roller crutch" invented by one of these women, leaves the old crutch of commerce far behind. Instead of ending in a point it ends in a boat-shaped bar, which reduces the strain on the shoulders and secures greater rapidity of movement. Other articles produced by the carpenters are invalid chairs, which they sell at half the commercial cost, bed tables, rests, cradles, and twenty-five kinds of wood splints. They supply over a hundred hospitals with these wares, and have been self-supporting from the very first.

A papier-mâché splint that is turned out at Belgravia, makes the old splints seem, in comparison, instruments of torture. It is made, like the hand and finger slings, of padded papier-mâché, shaped and dried on lasts until it is as hard as wood, and light as aluminum.

The entire papier-mâché system was invented by the young woman who started the depot. When a call came for boots with leather soles and heels, the women sent for professional shoe maker to give them lessons.

Requisitions reach the Belgravia depot from all parts of the world. Last year six hospitals were supplied with six thousand articles from the carpentry and splint departments alone. Many branches have been opened where similar work is done. In one recently started in Stonehouse, where most of the workers are mill hands, classes are held after working hours to teach volunteers.