

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on February 20th, 1930. Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, G.B.E., presided.

We have received many parcels of clothing during the past months, and yet at the moment our cupboard is very empty. Boots and clothing for children of all ages are badly needed.

We have to thank the following for very useful parcels received: Per Miss Andrews (six parcels from various members—names not given), Miss J. Strang, one from Ashford, Kent (no name), the Exeter Branch, Miss Greaves, Mrs. L. M. Gibbons, Miss Bott and Mrs. Wray.

THE EX-SERVICE WOMEN'S CLUB, SYDNEY, N.S.W. Annual Dinner.

As usual, our Dinner was held on our regular Club night, for the second Thursday is always the nearest to Armistice Day. Once again the "Allora" was the chosen spot, for "Allora" has become our Club's "Better 'Ole." We "go to it!" Why? Not only because we can't do better in the matter of the actual dinner served, but because, as the result of our long sojourn there, using it as our headquarters and meeting there weekly in days gone by, we feel a sort of homely welcome awaits us there as nowhere else. The same Mrs. Speer and the same cheery waitresses, year after year, appear to be as pleased to have us as we to gravitate there. But this year Miss Norris (who must spend sleepless nights turning over Club affairs in her mind) devised an innovation by departing from our previous rule of "Strictly members only." Members were asked if possible to bring one guest or more, provided that all such guests were ex-Service men or women. We hoped that a number of the ex-Service husbands would come, and that also potential members might make their bow on an occasion when the atmosphere of the "comradeship of the Great War," which is our "raison d'être," would be more evident than at any other gathering during the year. If the response of the soldier relatives was disappointing—Mr. William Moore, Mr. Peachey, and Mrs. Jackson's son being the only representatives—the number of ex-Service women guests was decidedly heartening. These numbered about a dozen, almost all of whom intend joining us. The Rev. E. J. Davidson (Padre, Toc H.), Capt. Edwin Penfold (Royal Horse Artillery), and Mr. Hersee all attended at Miss Norris' invitation, and Mrs. Kingsley-Newell very kindly came to sing for us. Mrs. Simmons was also with us once again and was the holder of the prize-winning lucky menu card. Guests were welcomed and apologies by wire or letter were read by Miss Norris from Dr. Marjory Little (travelling in Europe), Miss Macdonald (Wellington, N.Z.), Miss N. Cavanagh (Stockington, N.S.W.), Mrs. Jackson (nee Dean, Melbourne), Mrs. Monk, Miss Brough, Miss Dawes, Mrs. Mills, and Miss Pace.

After the loyal toast was honoured, Capt. Penfold proposed the toast, "The Ex-Service Women's Club." The speaker had carefully prepared a written speech, but from the outset it was punctuated with so many caustic comments (interruptions of the speaker by himself) that it became an amusing sort of puzzle sorting out the original text from the interpolations, and his audience became quite hilarious in the attempt, which put things on a very friendly and informal footing. In the course of his speech Capt. Penfold quoted extensively from a book by the American author, Owen Wister, in which he gives many very interesting statistics regarding British women's work during the Great War.

Mrs. Kyle responded on behalf of the Club.

Padre Davidson's earnest championing of the much-criticised post-war generation of young people—who, he said, are tackling the knotty problems of rational comradeship, bringing a sense of humour to the task of finding a way out of gloom and distress, and disdaining to indulge in a "bath of mush"—was the main gist of a delightfully informal speech much easier to listen to than to report. He greeted his hearers as "Fellow Great-hearts," and finished by telling them they were all jolly good fellows, an assertion which they lost no time in setting to suitable music.

Mrs. William Moore, with her true poet's intuition for balance, made a charming speech which seemed to suggest an excursion with a definite lofty peak as objective, and a number of amusing and intriguing incidents on the way. These incidents took the form of anecdotes of service days, while the peak eventually reached was the famous profession of faith of Edith Cavell—"Patriotism is not enough; we must extend it to take in all humanity."

So welcome was the reappearance of our old friend and one-time Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Elsie Smith, that she was constrained by Miss Norris to let herself be heard as well as seen. In proposing the toast of "The Guests," she opened with characteristic directness. "I am a member of an organisation whose motto is 'Be Prepared.' Well, this time I am caught napping." A few sentences, short, sharp and to the point, proved conclusively that you can't catch that guide napping!

Mr. Hersee replied on behalf of the guests.

Among the old members seldom seen at Club functions of late, but reappearing on this occasion, we welcomed Mrs. Lyster Ormsby, but many of the faces we had counted on seeing were conspicuous by their absence; in fact, we must sadly admit that the roll-up of members on the active list was disappointingly small. If some of these people would stop a moment to think how much thought, how much work, how much anxiety, on the part of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary go into the organising of this chief Club function of the year, perhaps they

would realise that by absenting themselves without an insurmountable excuse, without even an apology, they are paying a very poor compliment to these three steadfast and unselfish workers, as well as showing that they have forgotten the chief objects of the celebration: Comradeship with the living and Remembrance of the Service friends who have passed on. Only those of us who were present can know that the stay-aways missed a very delightful friendly evening.

After the speeches, Mrs. Kingsley-Newell gave great pleasure by her charming singing of two songs by Tschaiakowsky and two by Liza Lehmann, while, with Padre Davidson as conductor and Mrs. Graham at the piano, most of the remainder of the evening was spent in very jolly community singing. All the old camp favourites, the real die-hards, went with a great swing. "Tipperary" and "Pack up your troubles," sung as a simultaneous double chorus, was a great hit, while a novel version of "Three Blind Mice" with actions was most amusing. "Auld Jang Syne" and "God Save the King" brought the lusty programme to a close.

The members present were: Miss Addison, Mesdames Briggs, Bardsley, Cooper, Carter, Cranston, Misses Davis, Elliot, Mesdames Foley, Ford, Graham, Misses G. and D. Horne, Hazeldine, Harnett, Hirst, Mesdames Jackson, Kyle, Livingstone, McCracken, Morrissey, Moore, Miss Norris, Mesdames Ormsby, Peachey, Pound, Misses Rogers, Skells, Mrs. Swainson, Miss E. Smith.

Our visitors were: Misses Armstrong, Bazett, Mrs. Bird, Rev. E. J. Davidson, Mrs. Dick, Miss Coulthard, Mr. Hersee, Miss Hewitt, Mr. Jackson, Mesdames Lawrence, Middlemiss, Mr. William Moore, Mrs. Kingsley-Newell, Capt. E. Penfold, Mr. Peachey, Mesdames Spencer, Simons and Wheat. A few other members and visitors dropped in after dinner, whose names unfortunately are not on record.

On December 12th our annual Picnic Tea in the Domain attracted, as usual, a fair proportion of married members and their children, and a few others, though the attendance was considerably smaller than last year. Though the weather was threatening in the morning, the afternoon turned out fine and just sufficiently overcast for cool comfort. After one or two uncomfortably tropical days this was most fortunate, and the children thoroughly enjoyed races and skipping competitions. Besides prizes for these events, every child present, including small Miss Williams with but a few weeks to her credit, received a festive-looking Christmas parcel, all specially selected to suit their ages. A mothers' race was included in the programme, in which Mrs. Briggs and Mrs. Cranston ran first and second respectively.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS FOR MARCH.

Liverpool.

A whist drive was held on Friday, February 14th, at the British Legion Rooms, Lime Street, and was attended by a large gathering of members and friends. A large array of prizes were won by members and visitors. A vote of appreciation was given to the undermentioned for the splendid way they organised the success of the evening: Mr. J. Rowe, M.C.: Miss E. Howard and Miss F. M. Bragg for the catering department, and the general help of the Committee.

Liverpool Branch was honoured by a great surprise in the visit of our beloved President, Dame Florence. Unfortunately we only had a few days' notice of her forthcoming visit, so had no time to arrange a special evening to commemorate the event. However, Dame Florence arrived at the Club-rooms while we were in the midst of a card game, but our secretary, Mrs. Riley, rose to the occasion and gave the following speech of welcome to Dame Florence: "Old Comrades, on your behalf I have the privilege of extending a very cordial and hearty welcome to our President, Dame Florence, who has for the first time honoured our Branch with a visit. It is with great regret that Mrs. Kenow, our Branch President, is unable to be present to-night.

"Dame Florence has come to Liverpool to attend a conference on Saturday and Sunday in the Lecture Room, Blue Coat School, Church Street. I know it is the wish

of Dame Florence for as many of our members to attend one of these meetings.

"Although we regret that our Branch is not very active considering the size of our city, we are always doing our best to create ideas to stimulate the interests of our members. However, we are hoping that in the near future, we shall be able to report that we are making some progress to increase our membership.

"It is unfortunate that Dame Florence does not reside near Liverpool; if we were only honoured by her presence more often I feel sure that this would help us a great deal."

The Club members all seconded this vote of welcome in one body, and then Dame Florence felt quite at home. During tea all reminiscences of the good and jolly old days were told freely, both by Dame Florence and our members. One can hardly realise the passing of time, although with the presence of Dame Florence with us it seemed just only a year ago.

At the conclusion of her visit Mrs. Rowe struck up on the piano "For she's a jolly good fellow."

I was pleased to note that our President looked so well in the time lapsing since my last seeing her, considering all the cares and worries she had during the period of Controller-in-Chief, and now the special work she has undertaken for the benefit of mankind, "Curative Education, etc."

Some of us attended the meetings and were quite pleased that Dame Florence spoke in the convincing way she has, to the interest of the audience, of the vital importance that the Conference held in Liverpool was to the benefit of the country in general. "The Cause" is lucky in having Dame Florence as one of their leaders, and on behalf of the members I wish her great success in the enterprise she has taken up.

Dame Florence informed me she hopes to visit Liverpool and Manchester next May, and we intend to hold her to her promise if unavoidable circumstances will not prevent such a visit taking place.

I am confident that should the O.C.A. Council suggest that our President pay annual visits to each Branch, it would greatly stimulate the interests of ex-Service, and would perhaps bring together new members to swell the ranks of the O.C.A.

Please note, Old Comrades, should you at any time pass through Liverpool, notify the Branch secretary, Mrs. Riley, who will always accord you a jolly welcome on our Club night.

Dame Florence was greatly impressed by the United Services Club flag which was presented to our Branch by Madame La Baronne de la Grange, on the occasion of her visit to Liverpool two years ago. We formed a guard of honour, and as Madame La Baronne was so impressed she forwarded this unique flag. All the Services are represented—O.M.A.A.C., W.R.A.F., and the "Senior Service," the Wren.

B. SORSKI.

Manchester.

We are feeling very thrilled, first a visit from Mrs. Garrard, and then, last month, on the 22nd, six of us went to Liverpool to meet Dame Florence Simpson. We heard a wonderful lecture on "Curative Education," and then had the great pleasure of having tea with Dame Florence. Our time was much too short and we were disappointed not to be able to stay to the evening lecture and to meet some of the Liverpool Waacs (but husbands must not be kept waiting). Now we are to look forward to having Dame Florence in Manchester early in April. Further particulars can be had from the secretary later on. Mrs. Mavor is giving the prizes for the whist drive this month. On March 7th we are having a concert at the Kingston Cafe, arranged by Miss Savage, to benefit a charity. A ball has been arranged for April 11th in aid of the Benevolent Fund. We have a new member, Mrs. Fraser (nee Hutchinson) who, with five other Waacs, worked at St. James's Palace at the time of Queen Mary's silver wedding. The Queen gave these six Waacs a small pendant and bar, on the bar is O.M.N.C. We were delighted to handle this treasure. I wonder if any of the other five will read this. Hutchinson would like to hear from any of them.

I was at a hospital whist drive one evening, and a woman said, "Excuse me, but were you in the Women's Legion?" I said, "Yes," and she said, "I thought I had not mistaken the badge; I noticed it as soon as you came in the room." Naturally I asked her her name, which I got, and so I am hoping now to get her to the Club. The savings club is going strong. There is talk of our picnic and visits to the Hut. Mrs. Barnes, 6 Florence Street, Droylsden, Manchester, will be pleased to book dates. We are glad to have a few lines now and again from members who live too far away to visit us. V. STEAR.

Bristol.

Things have been very lively in Bath this week. All the Old Comrades have been very much before the public eye. The manager of the Beau Nash Picture House invited all ex-Waacs to the cinema on Thursday night to see the woman's war film "She Goes to War." There were six of us, and we enjoyed ourselves immensely. Reporters have been besieging us. Mrs. Cheeseman had a graphic account of her war services recorded in the local paper; in fact, we are again being acclaimed as Bath's war heroines.

We made a new member, Miss Smith, of Widcombe, Bath, and hope through the publicity to find more.

A meeting of Old Comrades will be held at the Prince's Restaurant, Bristol, on Saturday, March 29th, from six o'clock until ten. Each Old Comrade is specially asked to bring any ex-Waac she knows as her guest. The secretary is relying on them to bring at least one. She has had letters from ex-Waacs in Bristol who have never heard of a Branch, and is bringing along eight or nine new members, and wants them to have a real welcome. Everyone please help and show what the Bristol Branch can do. D. PEARCE.

North Staffs.

A delightful evening at Miss Smallwood's Dance Hall was spent on February 11th. Our hostess, Mrs. Barritt, to give her correct name, gave instructions in dancing. It was real good to see the dances such as the Boston two-step, fox-trots, and so on, that we did in those days that seem so long ago by date, and yet we do not realise that they were so long ago.

I think we shall have to organise a concert soon, for our re-unions seem to bring out talent, and our laughter must be heard by many who wonder what we do or say to merit such mirth. I must thank Mrs. Barritt for the use of her hall and for being so kind to us.

On March 11th friendly whist (bring a friend, ladies only). On April 8th a ping-pong tourney, which should be better than last year's now our numbers are greater.

There are still many local Waacs who have never even heard of the O.C.A. and who are delighted if we dig them up. It is very difficult, though, to get our Branch known. The dinner report was seen by several new members, but the adverts. have always failed. Who says more dinners and more dinner reports? M. STRETTON.

Bournemouth.

It is many months since we have sent in a report of our doings, but we have done nothing of special interest; we just keep going on with our monthly work and gossip parties at Cavendish House. However, if we are not heard of often, we are nevertheless very much alive. In the latter part of January the Countess Haig came down to open the new buildings for our local disabled soldiers' and sailors' workshops, and Mrs. Eaton and I were invited to the reception given in her honour by the Mayor. We don't quite know why we two out of our numbers were invited, but we were very glad we were and that we went, for it was a most interesting afternoon, and we found Lady Haig just as charming a personality and interesting a speaker as we had hoped and expected.

EDITH E. H. JONES.

Brighton.

A very successful whist drive for members and their friends was held at Jay's Cafe, St. James's Street, on February 26th. It is surprising that more members do not make a point of attending these functions regularly, because the place is nice and comfortable, and we have

good fun. If we were sure of a good number it would be worth while to book this room regularly, as it is central and cosy, but we feel it is scarcely worth while to have it for a faithful few to meet and chat, unless there is the hope of others being able to make use of it, and formal parties are not always wanted. We cannot hope to get a room again so cheaply, so whatever room we decide on we must make use of. Views from members would be welcome.

Wednesday, March 26th.—7.30 to 10 p.m. A social evening with games, competitions and music (gramophone) will be held at 31 Wellington Road, Brighton. Please all come, and see if we can't fix something about a Club-room. H. A. BARON.

Leeds.

A general meeting of the Leeds Branch will be held on Sunday, March 16th, at 3.30 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a tea and social. We hope all members will turn up to decide the future programme of the party.

Annual subscriptions should be sent direct to Miss E. E. Mair. Gazette subscriptions to headquarters.

Will members please note that our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday in the month in the room belonging to the Women's Section, British Legion, 7 Greek Street, Leeds. New members are cordially invited.

A. ANNICKIN.

London.

Through the courtesy of the members of the W.R.A.F. O.C.A., we had the rare treat of being able to attend the lecture given by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan on "The Development of Flying" one evening in January. To say the lecture was interesting and that we enjoyed it does not adequately express our appreciation, but to say it was "moreish" expresses thoroughly how we enjoyed it, and so well did the audience express this sentiment that Dame Helen will continue the lecture one evening in May. We hope to have the privilege of hearing "The Development of Flying, Part II."

We have evidently not got into our usual stride with regard to the weekly re-union meetings yet. With the exception of the special events these have been rather sparsely attended so far, but it is hoped now the many social functions which the beginning of the year always brings with it are falling off, the attendance at the re-union meetings will improve.

The members' Social and Dance had an attendance of about ninety people who all enjoyed the combined entertainment of competitions, games, dancing, and of course, beaucoup chat. Many new members came along and a few old ones—old in membership, I mean—turned up by special invitation and re-joined; although they wander further afield for a year or so they are always glad to renew their membership when an opportunity occurs such as this. Altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent and when eleven o'clock struck Old Comrades were still chatting and they carried on their chatting all the way to their 'buses and trains. It is quite usual to hear someone sing out good-night from various corners on the way from the club to the station, and you usually sing back "cheerio, good-night," and feel all's well with the world.

A small party visited the Time and Talents Settlement in Bermondsey on Saturday, February 15th. The party, which was split up into three smaller parties, was conducted through the settlement by Miss Harford, the Secretary, and her lady helpers. It was a most interesting and entertaining visit, and one we hope we shall be able to repeat some time later on. Our first halt was outside a small shop door which I am told was once a public-house and now one of the condemned buildings marked for demolition used as a temporary play-room for the tiny children of the settlement. Here we found about twenty small girls ranging from the age of six to ten years, all practising a fairy dance for their play they are performing in April to help raise funds for a permanent club-room. A romp with the child and an inspection of their work, which they had laid out for our benefit, and then on to the house set aside for the grown-up members. There we saw little one-roomed flatlets which the girls rented for the small sum of from four to five shillings a week, and very

happy they seemed with their treasure, for treasure it must be to have one whole room to yourself after being crowded up with the rest of the family into two or three rooms at the most. They had all managed to give their rooms that homely touch which everyone craves for no matter how high up or how low in the social scale one happens to be placed. After a thorough look round we walked back to the lady helpers' hostel and gathered round the fire in Miss Harford's room and talked and drank tea. Needless to say W.A.A.C. days were included in the talk, each one bringing up the name of someone with whom she had served. We have promised to go down and help to make the flower dresses for the flower fairies one evening soon. Eighty little fairies have all to be dressed somehow or other as buttercups, daisies and other flowers, and so these kind folks need all the help they can get. If any member who reads this account of our visit is interested enough to send along any old light silk stockings I shall be so glad to have them. With a little alteration these can be made into tights and dyed green for stems; they will look quite nice I am told.

There was no theatre party on the 22nd of February as there were no seats at any theatre available. I have tried this month, but so far have not met with success, so if anyone is thinking of a theatre on the 29th of March please send a stamped addressed envelope nearer the time for particulars.

Coming Events.

The Roamers will give a concert with their new programme in the Queen Victoria Rifles Hall, Davies Street, W.1, on Wednesday, 2nd April. Tickets are now on sale at 1s. 2d. and 2s. 6d., and these may be had from the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, or on Thursday evenings at the re-union meetings. Please send a stamped addressed envelope when applying by letter. Don't forget you may bring along as many friends as you like; members have told me after a concert that they did not know if they could bring friends, in fact one member actually told me last year that she could have brought quite a party had she known, and a mental calculation of a party of perhaps ten little one and tuppences absolutely lost through the want of information laid me prostrate for weeks, and I hope my member, being better informed, will bring along a large party this year. One word more: Miss Taylor, having a lively recollection of the cold, cold night last year, has arranged this concert purposely later this year so that the audience shall enjoy the show in comfort by feeling much warmer than they did at the last one. Such thoughtfulness deserves its just reward by a full house, but I know she will get it because London Branch always rolls up to support its activities.

On Saturday, 29th March, a party will visit the Zoo. Members wishing to join the party should meet either at the club at 2 p.m., or outside the main entrance of the Zoo at 3 o'clock. Please write for particulars regarding the theatre party in the evening.

Visit to Oxford.

Arrangements are being made for a visit to Oxford on Sunday, April 6th. Mrs. Grundy, Hon. Secretary of the Oxford Branch, is kindly arranging a gathering of the clans in and around Oxford in our honour, so I hope that London Branch will see to it that we make her work worth while. We may go by charabanc, but members wishing to take advantage of the outing should let me know at least six days' beforehand. If a cheap ticket is issued the expenses should not be more than 10s. for the day's outing, but please write for all particulars in plenty of time as arrangements must be made early.

Aldershot Tattoo.

Just imagine staying out all night in this cold weather! That's what you are sure to say when you read this notice, but June is the month I am writing about, so don't shiver and say "not for me." The Tattoo this year will include the historic game of bowls played by Drake and other great sailor men of their day on Plymouth Hoe as the Spanish Armada was approaching, and how

they disdained the approach until the famous game ended, the Battle of Dettingen, a Highland Episode, and many other interesting items. The officers who are arranging the Tattoo on their pamphlet quote the Boy Scouts' motto "Be Prepared," as a warning to those who tarry in booking their seats. Already at the beginning of December, seats to the value of £6,000 have been booked.

London Branch is again planning to travel down to Aldershot on the Friday night, 20th June. The coach will leave the club at 6.30, and there are several seats available at 10s. each. When applying, please send either full amount or 2s. 6d. deposit to book your seat. If all the seats are booked by the end of March then another coach and more seats will be booked if possible, but I would advise those who do not want to be disappointed to book now.

I have received many most interesting letters from members as they enclose their subscriptions, and thank them most sincerely for them. I should like to write to each one, but, alas! it is not possible as time won't permit. All the same I love to receive those letters.

R. S. ANDREWS.

THE ROAMERS.

Please do not forget to come to the Concert on Wednesday, 2nd April, 1930, at the Q.V.R. Drill Hall, Davies Street, W.1. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Andrews, Hon. Secretary, London Branch, or from any member of the Concert Party, or at the door. Reserved, 2/6; Unreserved, 1/2. D. A. TAYLOR.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELL-EDUCATED WOMEN IN CANADA.

By A. C. Franklin, Secretary of the S.O.S.B.W.

Much has been written about assisted settlement in the Dominions, but little of the problem of those who wish to take up professions overseas and to pay their own way.

The S.O.S.B.W. sent me to Canada to find out how far it would be wise to encourage young women from universities or from public and secondary schools in this country to go to that Dominion. In making my recommendations I am not so much guided by the advice given me in Canada as by the fact that I found in every Province and in every city numbers of women from this country who had gone out without any assistance, had good posts and were making a success of life. I give a few examples:

I met a Norland nurse who had an attractive dress shop; a shorthand-typist who was head accountant in a stockbroker's office; a hospital nurse now proprietor of an arts and crafts shop in a holiday resort; two Scotch sisters running a large restaurant; women in the Civil Service who had gone out as home-helps; and a children's nurse, now a Y.W.C.A. worker. In fact, in every professional found British women holding good posts.

There seems no reason why other young women and girls from this country should not do equally well in a rapidly developing country.

There are, however, one or two points which must be considered before the S.O.S.B.W. can give the necessary advice and introductions to enable women of higher education to go to Canada. Intending settlers must be young, proficient in the occupation they propose to take up in the Dominion, and should have an alternative means of earning a living in case they have difficulty in finding work in their own line at the start. Moreover, they should always be prepared to begin at the bottom.

Before going to Canada women should equip themselves so that they can, when tired of hostel life, go into rooms and fend for themselves. I found that many English women were at a disadvantage in this respect as compared with the Canadians because either they lived on the "bun diet" and undermined their health, or else spent more in restaurants than they could afford. It is therefore desirable that those going out intending to take up professional work should know how to cook and that they should study food values.

It should also be borne in mind that a much larger proportion of women graduate from the Universities in Canada than is usual in this country and that great store is therefore set by the employers on the educational qualifications of those applying for posts.

Those who intend to go out to Canada independently and to make their own way, must be able to pay their own expenses, pass the Canadian medical examination, and prove to the satisfaction of the Canadian Immigration authorities that they are not likely to become a public charge. A woman should therefore have £10 for her ocean fare, in addition to the rail fares and incidental expenses necessary in this country and in Canada, and should have at least an additional £20, in case she is not able to find a post immediately on arrival.

It must be made quite clear that no actual posts can be guaranteed from this side. The S.O.S.B.W. merely proposes to tell suitable girls where there is an opportunity and when they should go, giving them a list of the hostels (which I inspected) and letters of introduction to those who can give them the most effective help.

The S.O.S.B.W. are quite prepared to encourage the settlement in Canada of a few shorthand-typists who are really proficient and who can do book-keeping; also of a limited number of girls who are prepared to take up work in shops, or stores as they are called in Canada. In the latter case experience is not needed, but a girl should have some other qualification, such as shorthand-typing, to fall back on if necessary. A few well-qualified nurses with the C.M.B. and Health Visitors' Certificate could be absorbed by the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Home helps can be sent to Winnipeg and Victoria, where they are guaranteed work by the Society's representatives, and, after a year, they would be free to take up other work should they so wish. Women who can cook, preferably those who have been members of a V.A.D., could train under the Red Cross and become "visiting house-keepers," undertaking the care of the patient and the housework in homes where the skilled help of a hospital nurse is not necessary.

There is also a very considerable demand for social workers, and a six months' course in practical work at the Toronto University, under Professor Urwick, can be arranged in the autumn for women who have graduated in social science in this country, after which they will be assisted to find posts in different parts of Canada. A hundred pounds should cover the cost of fares, fees and living expenses during the six months' training. It is also suggested that two girls from public or secondary schools should go to Toronto University for an Honours course, living at St. Hilda's College, and so be able to take up any profession they wish in Canada after they have graduated.

There are also twenty-four vacancies a year for a free course of training for nursery nurses at the School for Mothercraft in Toronto. On completion of the course, a position is assured at the standard salary plus board and lodging.

It is important to choose the right time of year for arrival in Canada. Those going to a University should go out in the autumn; those going to stores should be there before the Christmas rush; secretaries, on the other hand, should go in May or June. This is the time when the Canadian stenographer takes her holiday, and there are plenty of temporary posts for the newcomer.

The S.O.S.B.W. is prepared to help by advice and introductions all suitable women who apply; but experience has shown that if, in the opinion of the Committee of Selection, a woman is not likely to make a success of her life in the new country, no assistance of this kind should be given. Although I found many successful women I found others who had not done well, and this, in most cases, was due to the fact that the migrant was either too old, was not proficient in any profession, or was definitely not of the type who would make good in any Dominion.

It must be borne in mind that the Canadian young woman is efficient and attractive, and if the woman from Great Britain wants to take up professional work in Canada she must at least be as good as the Canadian in

every direction and more skilled than is actually necessary for her first post overseas.

The S.O.S.B.W. will be very glad to receive applications from those who would like advice and help in the directions indicated above at its offices at Caxton House, Tothill Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The success or otherwise of the women encouraged to go to Canada this year will guide the S.O.S.B.W. in its decision to continue the experiment.

LIEUT.-COLONEL P. N. NISSON, D.S.O.

The death occurred on the night of Saturday, March 1st, at the age of 57, of Lieut.-Colonel Peter Norman Nisson, late Royal Engineers. He had been ill with pneumonia for several days at his home in Westerham, Kent. Born in Canada, Colonel Nisson came to this country a few years before the war. Possibly Q.M.A.A.C. will remember him best as the inventor of the Nisson hut, in which so many of us were housed most of our Army days, and of which more than 100,000 were used during the war. He was also the inventor of the Nisson stamp for crushing gold ore. Colonel Nisson was awarded the D.S.O. and mentioned in despatches.

The War Memorial to the Tunnelling Companies of the Royal Engineers was designed by him.

AUGMENTATION FUND.

We would remind Old Comrades that the Augmentation Fund is still in existence and can do with support. Subscriptions, large and small, should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Billington, at Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, London, S.W.3.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

The sympathy of all her Old Comrades will go out to **Mrs. Maude Steenkamp (nee Wood)**, who lost her husband in December last. He was killed in a motor accident in the Belgian Congo. Mrs. Steenkamp is leaving Katanga and going to live at Vryburg, Bechuanaland, South Africa.

Mrs. Gertrude A. Parsons (Dutson), writing from 39 Foster Avenue, Rosedale, Long Island, N.Y., U.S.A., says that she has been ill during the past year, and we hope she is quite recovered now. Dutson served at Regent's Park and also at Tours and Bourges with the A.E.F.

Mrs. A. J. Reader (36942 Worker A. J. Bramley), Unit 3, A.P.O. 3, B.E.F., read an account of the Annual Dinner in the "Sunday Chronicle," and has written to join the O.C.A.

Mrs. Sheldon (S. M. Slater) is now living in Canada and likes the life very much. She has a daughter, born last Easter.

Miss A. Roberts, 23 Lime Grove, Bideford, North Devon, writes to say that in the "Daily Sketch" the following Waacs have been asked for by Old Comrades: **Alice Field, Alice Gale, Gladys Verncombe, Tilly Quantrell**, sought by **Peggy Bateman**, and **Mrs. G. Jupp (Wood)** seeks **L. Manning**.

Miss Rosamund M. Baker is living in Tunbridge Wells and is starting her eighth year on the Borough Council there. She wishes us to remember their old U.A. to **Miss Crockford** and **Miss Mainland**.

Miss Hilda Pink is now running a hostel for business girls at 89 Belgrave Road, Victoria. We hope this new venture of Pink's will be a great success.

Mrs. F. Elliott (nee Battersby), late of Vendroux and now living in Leeds, sends greetings to all her Old Comrades.

REMINISCENCES OF VENDROUX

It seemed in the middle of the night when I was awakened with cries of "Ma'am, Ma'am, a chink is trying to get into the hut." The hut in question was a barrack hut, one of many joined by a long corridor, with the cook-house at the far end looking on to the camp ground.

Hastily putting on a dressing gown, I followed the

frightened girls to their hut which was alive with the buzzing of voices. When I could get a clear version of what had happened, I gathered that a brush and comb which was on a shelf near the window had been thrown down, and a girl, on going to the door which led to the grounds, said she saw a Chink crouching down outside. I immediately had that door locked and all windows closed, telling the girls to get back into their beds and that I would go outside and investigate. Someone immediately offered to go with me, for which I was truly thankful, not knowing what I should do if I met a Chink or Chinks, and my pidgen English would surely fail me. I must mention that there was a Chinese Labour Camp on the other side of the railway, otherwise I should have scoffed at the idea. On going through the cook house I found the outer door open and thought this looks suspicious. Wishing to appear brave, I peeped out. Plonk fell something at my feet, giving me the fright I had anticipated. It was the cat! So this was the intruder. Whether it was so or not, I never knew, but was glad to be able to suggest this to the girls. For myself I felt none too comfortable alone in my cubicle in an empty hut the other end of the corridor.

Writing of Vendroux reminds me of something rather amusing. Some time after the war a paper man at the station, of whom I often got my morning paper, asked me if I was at Vendroux. He said he remembered me there, saying that one of my girls had helped him out of a ditch near the W.A.A.C. camp. I asked him what he was doing in the ditch; he smiled. Silence was golden.

MARCH, 1918: ETAPLES.

We were carrying on as usual, when, towards the end of March, 1918, rumours came down the line—rumours almost incredible. We had all more or less pinned our faith on the "Spring Offensive." It had begun, but somehow the great push seemed to be in the wrong direction. According to all accounts the Germans were coming at the double on Calais. We had visions of footing it to Boulogne and taking any old thing that would keep afloat to Blighty. We were not long in doubt as to whether or not the incredible had happened. One evening Tipperary Road was thronged with men of every regiment under the sun. Little parties of stragglers arrived at our depots—their excuse for their presence being that they had lost their division. This sort of thing went on for several days until our depots were packed to the hilt. At the writer's depot battalions of wearers of the kilt turned up, and J. and E. being Scotch were absolutely in their element, and typed nominal rolls of these stragglers with great relish. E. and J. were still further excited when Scotch officers took up their residence with us. The writer being just English and utterly incapable of fathoming the Scottish tongue, had to take a back seat. And now things were looking busy, the powers that be had not only to dispose of the men who had dumped themselves on the depots, but they had to deal with reinforcements galore. These reinforcements—for some reason the writer has not the foggiest what reason—were all transferred to different regiments. This meant typing countless transfers and rolling off hundreds of copies on that fiend of a duplicator. Also altering in red ink each man's conduct sheet. It was no uncommon thing to be at work on the latter delightful job (your hands and clothes looking as if you had taken a leading part in a recent murder) whilst the draft was on the square ready to proceed to the station. It was a thrilling moment when the men behind, with a husky sort of roar, took up the chorus of a popular song. Of course, we did not hesitate to join in, too, and cheered, with the best of cator rolling off copies until we were dazed. We altered conduct sheets until we saw red. Telephone messages came in at the double. It was impossible to get within a mile of Q.M. Stores; all day and far into the night, there was a long queue. Men emerged carrying boots, stockings, rifles, etc. Our orderlies were rushed off their feet. We crept into bed towards the hour of midnight to the boom of guns, not so very distant! For three weeks Pip-pip knew us not! For three weeks our hair had not its customary shampoo. Our budget home took the form of a field post-card. We had not time to worry how near to Calais the Germans might be. We just worked.

A WOMAN POLICE CHIEF.

With the increase from 50 to 100 in the number of women police attached to the Metropolitan Force, a complete reorganisation of the women's branch of the service is to take place early in June.

The final details of the reorganisation have not yet been settled, but numerous proposals have been considered at conferences between Home Office officials and the heads of the Metropolitan Police.

At each conference the need for a woman head of the Force was urged. As a result, it was decided to appoint Miss D. Peto, who has charge of Liverpool's women police, to a temporary position as adviser to the Commissioner. She takes up the position early in April, and will be provided with a room at Scotland Yard.

It will be remembered that Miss Peto trained the Q.M.A.A.C. Patrols at Bristol.

One of her first duties will be to consider the numerous proposals for the reorganisation of the Women's Force which have been before the conferences, and draw up a report for the Commissioner on the questions of training, terms of service, uniform, and the particular classes of work on which women should be employed.

Under present conditions women enter the police force in London very much on the same footing as men. On being enlisted, they are sent to Peel House to receive training under men superintendents and inspectors.

One of the strongest points made at the recent conferences was the need for separate and special training quarters for the women. Whether the women police should be organised as a separate unit and be under the control of a woman officer is another point for the consideration of Miss Peto.

In some quarters it is considered that were the women serving directly under women officers their sphere of usefulness could be greatly extended. It is not suggested, however, that the women's service should be kept entirely distinct from the ordinary police so far as orders and the working arrangements of divisions are concerned.

The proposal is that Miss Peto should devise a scheme which will serve as a link between the two bodies, to ensure efficient working and co-operation. There appears little doubt that in the re-organisation scheme far greater use will be made of women police by the C.I.D. at Scotland Yard and in the various divisions.

It is considered that properly trained women detectives would be able to obtain certain classes of information, which is essential if a successful war against crime is to be waged, than the ordinary officers of the C.I.D.—"London Evening News."

According to the Press, the London police-women will wear "a smart uniform somewhat like that of the war-time W.A.A.C."

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss Nora E. Mitchell (No. 400, Signals, Etaples), 15 Melbourne Court, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

I see in the current Gazette that enquiry is made as to the whereabouts of Miss Giles, late Commandant of Woodside Convalescent Home, Le Touquet, and as many who have cause to be grateful to her may like to have it I am sending news.

She owns a charming old house in a beautiful garden at Shaftesbury, Dorset, where I recently visited her. She still leads a busy life although, of course, a more quiet one than in war days. She is very interested in ex-Service women and has a marvellous faculty of remembering the personalities attached to the records, which she still has, of all her "convalescents." I believe she is in touch with several other ex-members of Q.M.A.A.C.

From Mrs. Muriel Groves, I.A.O.C. Fort, Allahabad, India,

My husband and I hope to be on leave in a year's time and we are looking forward to our visit home.

Allahabad is not a bad place, but it gets very hot in the summer. We are living in the Fort, which is a very old place built by Atcher the Great. At present there is a big Meb going on, thousands of pilgrims (natives) come from all over India to bathe in the river Ganges and visit the temple in the Fort. It is a busy time for the troops, police and boy scouts. Our quarters open on to the river Jumna, which joins the Ganges. I don't think we shall

be here much longer, as our four years will be up in March, and we usually get a move every four years. There are about nine Ordnance Stations, and we have been to three. We started in Rawalpindi.

From Mrs. E. Chubbock, P.O., Box 583, Bulawayo, Rhodesia, S.A.

Herewith please find P.O. for 3s. 6d. in payment of Gazette subscription for one year. I meant to have sent this on the 6th of December, but now that we have a baby in the house it's one long case of "the best laid schemes," etc. She is now over three months, as she was born on October 1st. Her name is Viville Joy. Both baby and I may be going to Scotland in April for a year. I was home last in 1925/26, when I went to Canada and the States to see my folks, but I am only going as far as Scotland this time. When in Montreal I stayed with **Nixon** and **Boulton**, both of Glasgow, and the C.C.'s office in France. I also saw "Old Johnny" (**Mrs. Johnman**) in London. She was the C.C.'s grand cook, and I am looking forward to see "Old Johnny" once more.

Meanwhile, I wish all members of the O.C.A. a very prosperous New Year.

From Mrs. F. Collingwood (Eaton, 671, Wimereux), 15 Nelson Road, Durban, South Africa.

As usual, I am late with my Gazette and sub. money, but hope I can have the back numbers in Gazettes. How much is a life membership, and can one get a life membership for the magazine also?

I thought of the O.C.A. and Old Comrades very much on the 14th December, and was wishing I could be sitting in the Wimereux section. Hope it went off famously as per usual.

My mother and my daughter are on the high seas just at present and they have been having very much "high" sea, too, from all accounts. They are travelling on the "Kenilworth," and the Prince is on their boat!

My little daughter, who is just six, has had 12 months in England—five months in hospital at Oxford and seven months in Witney, having special massage, etc. We are hoping it has all benefited her a great deal—just a crooked leg case. My other kid, David, aged five, is very bonny and happy. All good wishes to any who remember me, and the best of luck to the O.C.A. and all members.

Weatherley, of Unit I., who resides in Rhodesia, was recently on a visit to Durban, when I had the pleasure of seeing her several times.

From Miss Catharine Buchan (2503), c/o The Victoria League, 60 Market Street, Melbourne.

Although I was a shorthand typist in the Waacs and after "demob," I came out here last year under the Victoria League Domestic Scheme as one of their 45 "selected nominees." Just now I am acting as nurse to four children in the country, and am enjoying the new experience. The country is lovely hilly in our immediate vicinity, and with snow-capped mountains in the distance. They have been white ever since I came here in April. Instead of getting a half-holiday I decided to have a week's holiday every three months which suits me better as all my friends are in Melbourne and I can visit them. During my last visit to Melbourne I attended a small afternoon tea party along with a few other "nominees" of the League. I was pleased to find that one of them was an ex-typist Waac, also overseas, and that, although her year's domestic work had been completed long ago, she was still engaged as a governess in the country and was, like myself, down in town on holiday, with no intention of returning to clerical work.

I always enjoy reading the Gazette and send my best wishes for its continued prosperity.

From Miss G. Blanchard, 47 West 84th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

I have only met one Ex-Waac since I came to New York, and I am sure there must be quite a number about somewhere. I am now trying to get in touch with Miss Jarvis, and hope to meet her soon.

I still like New York very much, and did not find the heat very trying in the summer; the steam heat in the houses in the winter is much more trying, I am simply melting as I am typing this.

In August I had a very nice week-end at Atlantic City, and stayed at a perfectly huge Y.W.C.A., but only

slept there, as in the daytime I was with Dr. Seton and Miss Forrest, and had a perfectly lovely time. Atlantic City is called the "Playground of the World," and certainly there were crowds of people there, most of them spending all the day in their bathing costumes. I did see some sights!

BIRTH.

Chubbock.—At Bulawayo, Rhodesia, to Eva (Cook, Wkr 1501), wife of James E. Chubbock, a daughter.

ADVERTISEMENTS

89 Belgrave Road, London, S.W.1—Hostel for business girls. Terms very moderate. Miss H. Pink. (Telephone Victoria 3911).

Eileen Yorke, Ladies' Hairdresser, 9 Seaham Avenue, Southampton Row, W.C. (late Connaught Club). Phone: Hol 1281. First-class attention at moderate prices. Marcel Wave, 1s. 6d.; Shampoo, 1s. 6d.; Permanent Wave, whole head, 25s. Try an Old Comrade and receive satisfaction. Two minutes' walk from Holborn Restaurant.

Le Touquet, Paris Plage—Scotch House, 44 Rue de la Paix. Re-opening April. All rooms fitted hot and cold running water. Excellent cuisine; comfortable and central; near sea, tennis, Casinos. Moderate terms. Alice B. Anderson, proprietress (ex-Wimereux and Le Touquet).

Stormont House, 43 and 45 Longridge Road, Earls Court, S.W.5. Misses A. Crockford and O. Mainland having extended their premises, will be able to offer additional accommodation from January 1st, 1930. Bed, bath and breakfast from 5/6 single rooms; from 5/- each double rooms. Lunch, tea and dinner optional; 6d. per night extra for bookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone, Frobisher, 0986.

Cannes.—"Scotch House—Pension," Avenue de Madrid; central, near sea and tennis; large sunny garden. Home comforts, good food. Excursions and tours arranged all over the Riviera, Italy, etc. Apply to Alice B. Anderson (ex-Service, Wimereux, Le Touquet, etc.). Terms moderate.

Pure Home-made Chocolates. Bon-Bons, Toffees, Caramels, etc. Fancy boxes of Chocolates and Sweets, suitable for Presents, from 2s. 6d. to £2 2s. 0d. Price list on application.—Miss E. Cocksedge, 2 Bracken Road, West, Brighouse, Yorkshire.

Board-Residence or Apartments. Every convenience. Terms moderate. Apply Miss F. H. Smith, "Kinver," Chesham Road, Weston-Super-Mare. (Opposite Ashcombe Park).

Bon Accord Private Hotel, Marmion Road, North Berwick. convenient for station, golf and tennis—Misses Turnbull and Finlay, Telephone North Berwick 77.

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Full reading 5s.. Character only 2s. 6d. Old readings brought up to date 2s. 6d.. U.S.A. and Canada \$1.—Send full names (maiden name if married) and date of birth to Blanche, 47 W. 84th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

Any garments "hand knitted," light weight hand embroidered knitted frocks 40/- and 45/-, all shades. Embroidered sleeveless Cardigans 35/- and 40/-—M. Cowens, 16 Fisherton Street, Salisbury.

George IV Hotel, Gt. Amwell, Ware, Herts. Telephone: Stanstead Abbots 39. A beautiful spot for a quiet country holiday. Saturday to Monday, 15s. Other terms on application. Teas, luncheons. Parties catered for by arrangement. Combine a ramble with your general meeting and come here for tea. Club room accommodates 50.—A. G. Brown and A. Edwards (Camp 1, Etaples).

Self-contained Furnished Flat to let, Hastings, sea-front, close to Pier: gas, electric light; every convenience. Apply Mrs. E., Curzon Villa, 25 White Rock, Hastings.

Branch.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Address of Club or Meeting place.	Day and Time of Meeting
Birmingham.	Miss E. C. Brinsford, 167 Birchfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.	38 John Bright Street, Room 19.	Wednesdays. 7 to 10 p.m.
Bournemouth.	Miss E. Jones, Kirkley, Westhill Road.	Cavendish House, 8 Christ Church Road.	Last Monday in each month 8 to 10 p.m.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.	Y.P.C., 17 Compton Avenue, Brighton.	On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15—10.15.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss Pearce, 1 Pierrepoint Place, Bath.	No permanent room fixed.	Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, 84a High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucester.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Exeter.	Miss J. Rose, 164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	First Wednesday of the month at 3 o'clock.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Miss M. Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, Edinburgh. Benevolent Sec.: Miss F. M. Lush, 11a Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.	1st Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.	109 Douglas Street, Blythwood Square.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. 85 Chester Square, S.W.1.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Ireland.	Miss E. C. Finny, Erith Lodge, Sandymount, Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 29 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Rd., Leeds, Yorks Benevolent Sec.: Miss A. Annikin, 2 Hollin Park View, Roundhay. Leeds, Yorks.	British Legion Club Rooms, Greek Street, Leeds.	First Wednesday in the month, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	(Temp.) Mrs. Ryley, 199 Picton Road, Wavertree.	79 Lime Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1; 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays. Mess. Central Canteen, Duke of York's Hdq., King's Rd., Chelsea. Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest 'bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925. 122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10.		First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
London Sub-Branch Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Mrs. Stear, 8 Gainsborough Street, Higher Broughton, Salford.	The Kingston Cafe, Spring Gardens, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7—10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec., Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell. Gateshead-on-Tyne	The British Legion Club, 6 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle. Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	First Monday and Third Wednesday, 7—10 p.m.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	No permanent room fixed.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.		
Oxford.	Mrs. M. Grundy, M.B.E., West Wood House, Hinksey Hill, Oxford	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
Notts.	Miss Burder, 65 Harcourt Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham.	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7-9.30
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte Street, Plymouth.		
S. Wales. and Cardiff.	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Sunderland.	Miss M. M. Low, 15 Featherstone Street, Roker, Sunderland	Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Burdon Road.	Second Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.

All Old Comrades are cordially invited to any of the above re-unions. If no definite meetings are fixed, application should be made to the Branch Secretary concerned, who will give the necessary particulars