

LETTERS FROM MISS AGNES SLACK.

Cardiff, November 8th, 1915.

My Dear Friends,—

I have received many letters from our comrades in South Africa, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, asking that British White Ribboners should show kindness to husbands, sons, brothers, and friends of our members in those distant lands. A large number of these men are at the Front, many are in training here, some are in hospitals, or are convalescent or on leave. The men whose home circles are in distant lands most particularly value the warmth of an English home welcome, and such kindness often means more to them than we dream of.

May I pass on to you the suggestion of Mrs Nuttall (of Accrington) and others, that British women should invite these men and our own soldiers to their homes, at least for a friendly cup of tea.

By one consent we all open our hearts and hold out the hand of fellowship to as many people as we can at Christmas. Can we not specially then remember the soldiers, and give them a share in the cheer of a home circle? It will consecrate the sacred association of Christmas to have a lonely, wounded or convalescent soldier. Such a guest may in many cases help to lessen the sadness of a vacant place in the home circle, which cannot be filled.

No one knows better than British women do how "all worldly joys go less to the one joy of doing kindness."

The widespread practical help so generously given by our members is in evidence in every part of our country. The military authorities have frequently expressed their gratitude. To-day I have been hearing of the wonderfully successful efforts of Cardiff White Ribboners. One branch in six weeks took over £150 in half-pennies for refreshments they supplied to the men. When I said to one of our members, "How good of you to be serving out refreshments to munition workers at one o'clock in the morning," she replied, "I cannot do less." Our comrades in other towns are not behind Cardiff. In the best sense British women are **at the Front**.—Affectionately yours,

AGNES E. SLACK.

I shall be glad to receive names and the military designation of all soldier sons and friends of White Ribboners at the Front or now in England, and hope to arrange for hospitality to be shown them by British White Ribboners. — AGNES E. SLACK.

Caxton Buildings, Ripley, Derbyshire,
October 26th, 1915.

Dear Mrs Harrison,—

How very generous of the Tuatapere W.C.T.U. to send £5 5s for sandbags for the New Zealanders at the Front. I am writing at once to the army authorities, and I am sure I shall be acting in accordance with your wishes if I use the money as they recommend for the New Zealand men in case they have a sufficient supply of sandbags. I shall write you again as soon as I have used the money on your behalf. Do please tell the schoolmistress who has secured every child in her school as a total abstainer how much I admire her splendid work. If all teachers did that we should soon have a new world, free from much crime and sorrow and misery, so give the lady my love and warm appreciation of her good work.

I shall often think of you all in your far-distant corner of the world, and I shall pray for you. Let me know how I can in any way help you. With my love to your members and my thanks.—I am, cordially yours,

AGNES SLACK.

I said, "Let us walk in the fields,"
He said, "No, walk in the town";
I said, "There are no flowers there";
He said, "No flowers, but a crown."

I said, "But the skies are black;
There is nothing but noise and din."
And he wept as he sent me back.
"There is more," he said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,
And fogs are veiling the sun";
He answered, "And souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light,
And friends will miss me, they say";
He answered, "Choose to-night
If I am to miss you or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.
He said, "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem hard in heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."

HINTS ON HOW TO SPOIL A CHILD.

NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL.

1. In the child's presence, tell friends of its cleverness, and let it show off.
2. In the child's presence, hold it up as a pattern for another child.
3. Tell it how pretty it looks.
4. Help it to admire its new clothes, and call friends' attention to same.
5. Never say "No" to a request, but give it whatever it asks for, more especially if it cries and persists in asking.
6. Let a child hear you say he is too much for you; you can do nothing with him. (He is thus encouraged to keep it up.)
7. Let a child hear and know father and mother disagree as to how to punish and how to train him.
8. Let him be told "I'll tell father when he comes home, and he will whip you." (A monstrous injustice to father, and robbing the child of the loving confidence in his father.)
9. If a child is disobedient, say, "Never mind, when it is older it will be better."
10. If you have told a child to do something, don't insist if the child delays and is unwilling.
11. If a healthy child gets tired over some task, make excuses for it, but don't insist the task must be completed.
12. Slap it for being tiresome, and naughty, and then kiss it if it cries.
13. Don't punish quietly and deliberately, but irritate a child by "nagging," by crossing it, by slapping and hitting it.
14. Give it money to spend, and do not ask questions as to how, when, or where it is spent.
15. Don't keep an eye on its companions or concern yourself about its playtime.
16. Let him read whatever he likes.
17. Whip well for a trifle; show amusement and laugh at a vice.
18. Neglect the advice, "Train up a child in the way he should go."
19. Do yourself what you tell your child not to do.
20. Devote yourself to making money, to pleasure, to fashion, and let your child grow as it will.
21. Laugh and sneer at religion, teetotalism, joke about young men sowing "Wild Oats."