

to men. And most splendidly did the women rise to meet the need for their help. Societies for relief were rapidly organised, hospitals were established, and, as doctors and nurses, as orderlies and clerks, as motor drivers and teamsters, in towns and on the land, in munition factories, and even on the field of battle, they wrought side by side with their obdurate brother man. And he—well, I suppose he scratched his head and began to think!

It was difficult to continue to dogmatise about "women's sphere" while a woman bound up his wounds, and washed him and fed him, and her sisters were doing the work that he and his brothers used to do. And so the idea that as women were capable of all this, they might be also trusted to mark a name on a ballot paper! An indication of the growth of this idea is found in the facts that six millions of British women over thirty years of age have been enfranchised and made eligible for Parliament, and that the House of Commons passed a Bill giving the franchise to all women over twenty-one years of age. That the House of Lords refused to pass this Bill is but an indication that the most privileged class is most opposed to progress. One of the happiest auguries for the woman's outlook in Britain is found in a manifesto issued by Mr Lloyd George and Mr Bonar Law on November 22nd, which outlines the programme of the coalition. In this they say: "It will be the duty of the Government to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women." When Radical and Conservative send forth a whole-souled statement of duty such as this, it is, indeed, a happy augury.

"But," you may say, "how has the war helped the liberation of women in other countries?" Let me give a brief outline of the position in other countries. But I wish first to call attention to the fact that the Peace Conference at Paris, in defining the Articles of the League of Nations, agreed to Clause 3, Article VII., which reads thus: "All positions under, or in connection with, the League, including the secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women." The passage of this Clause gives the final evidence not only of the coming world-wide change in the status of women, but also of the strong desire among the representatives of the world's most powerful

nations to deal even-handed justice. Whether the League succeeds or fails, it will always remain a glorious attempt.

In the United States of America the defeat of the Federal Suffrage Amendment Bill was disappointing to women workers. There are, however, good prospects of a renewal of that vote in the near future. In any case, more than half of the States in the Union possess womanhood suffrage, and the women in those States will be voting at the next Presidential Election, while one woman, Jeannette Rankin, from the State of Montana, has been elected to Congress. As you are aware, women in Denmark, Norway, and Finland have enjoyed the vote and eligibility for Parliament for years past, and recently Canada, Austria, Germany, and Poland have granted these rights to women. In Holland, strangely enough, women were eligible for Parliament, but did not possess the franchise. This curious anomaly has now been rectified, and women may now vote and sit in Parliament. The French Senate, like our English House of Lords, does not reflect public opinion as closely as the Lower House, for it rejected a motion to give women the vote and eligibility by eight votes to five. On the contrary, the Chamber of Deputies voted in favour of women's franchise with eligibility for all elected bodies by 344 to 97. Australia granted Womanhood Suffrage in all her States years ago, and eligibility for the Commonwealth Parliament, and at least four of her States now possess Parliamentary eligibility. Swedish women have gained suffrage and eligibility, Switzerland and Italy are working hard for voting powers, and we are informed by cable that the Union Parliament of South Africa has passed a motion for womanhood suffrage by 44 votes to 42.

(To be Continued.)

THE FOE OF THE NATION.

"What is going on? Why, at the present moment we are engaged in a European war of huge proportions, and what are we allowing? We are actually allowing another army to hang on our flanks, to snipe our soldiers, destroy our strength, to take our food, and to rob us of our resources. We are allowing the Army of Brewers and Distillers to do this all the time."—Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S.

MRS LEE-COWIE'S THANKS.

Dear Comrades,—

Most warm and loving thanks for all your sympathy in my recent experience. It has led to unexpected developments. The doctor says that I will not be able to live in Dunedin. So we will "flit" to warmer regions. In February we purpose leaving for England for the World's W.C.T.U. in April. Then we will help Scotland in her first Local Option contest, which takes place in November. We will probably leave to attend the great Sunday School Convention in Japan in October, 1920, and then return to New Zealand for the summer months, and decide where next to pitch our "moving tent."

I should love to go to India to live among the poor souls, who need our love and help so sorely. It seems as though thousands of Christian people who retire from active business in these favoured lands ought to go and live among the poor heathen, and by their lives and love help to bring light and gladness to them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

While we are on this side the golden gates of glory we are "on duty," even if we live to be a hundred, and where can we put our lives out to highest interest is the one absorbing question for us all.

And so I do not dare to pray
For winds to waft me on my way,
But leave it to a Higher Will
To stay or speed me, trusting still
That all is well, and sure that He
Who launched my barque will sail
with me
Through storm and calm, and will not
fail,
Whatever breezes may prevail,
To land me every peril past
Within His sheltering heaven at last.
Then whatsoever wind doth blow,
My heart is glad to leave it so,
And blow it east or blow it west,
The wind that blows, that wind is
best.

Ever in the glorious service of our
King, your loving comrade,

BESSIE LEE-COWIE,

World's Missionary W.C.T.U.

October 4, 1919.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.