

The Wolverhampton Worker

The Organ of the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council.

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IS A MAN TOO OLD AT FORTY?

By A. G. WALKDEN.

Writing under the above heading in a recent issue of *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, Mr. A. G. Walkden, the prospective Labour candidate for West Wolverhampton, makes the following interesting remarks:—

Upon reflection, the question now raised, though familiar enough, appears strange, weird, and horribly unnatural. To me it seems as abnormal as murder. Indeed, it means murder if it means anything—murder more cruel and cold-blooded than the black deed in "Macbeth."

Think. It takes over twenty years to rear a human being. If he has been properly reared and trained (a matter for which his parents and the community are responsible), he is then potentially capable of rendering at least two score years of useful service to the nation that has produced him. Under proper conditions he will do that willingly and well. And yet there are other human beings who make the murderous proposition that has given rise to our editor's question.

The age of forty is scarcely mid-way in the great game or battle of life, and any suggestion that the well-trained and experienced player or fighter should be thrown out at "half-time" is (to put it mildly) both unfair and uneconomical. It could only be made by blindly greedy and unpatriotic employers in a mean and materialistic epoch such as the one from which we are now, I hope, emerging.

Necessary Conditions.

I have said that "under proper conditions" a man will earn his living willingly and well for more than forty years after he reaches maturity. Those conditions include clean and healthy offices or workplaces, reasonable hours of duty, an interest in the work itself, and sufficient remuneration to enable a man to maintain a home, rear a family, and participate in social life and recreation.

Given these conditions as the general standard of life, there would be no public question as to a decline in the efficiency of men of forty. But these essential conditions are withheld or broken down by the very men who raise the "half-time" cry and who act upon it by "firing out" their senior employees and replacing them by ill-paid youngsters who ought to be completing their school-work. The older workers are thus ruined by unemployment (almost the worst misfortune in life), and the youngsters in their turn get "blind-alleyed." The community has to bear the consequences, and the hustling profit-maker retires from business.

Trade Unionism Defended.

In a recent issue of the *Saturday Journal* Sir Robert Anderson sought to throw all blame for social problems and difficulties upon what he called "the false and baneful influences and

principles which characterise the new 'gospel of labour.'" He added that Trade Unions are run "mainly to prevent any man from doing his best," and that "employers in City offices will naturally prefer younger men not because they are better, either physically or mentally, but because they have not as yet so fully imbibed the false principles, or so definitely formed the evil habits that are now in vogue."

It so happens that City clerks, past and present, have had less to do with Trade Unionism than any other large class of workers. They have scorned the "gospel of labour" almost as hotly as Sir Robert Anderson has. But they would tell anyone that the only reason why City employers prefer young clerks is that they are cheaper.

It also happens that, far from Trade Unions preventing a man from "doing his best," the highest degree of efficiency is attained where the workers are most strongly organised by Trade Unions. The great cotton industry is a notable example. Engineering is another. One of the first principles of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers is "to make the man a better engineer and the engineer a better man." The work of these British Trade Unionists holds its own throughout the world. Again, the men on the North-Eastern Railway are the keenest and most highly organised Trade Unionists in the railway world; and their accident records are the lowest.

Mental Development.

Besides establishing and maintaining conditions of employment approximating to those I have stipulated as "essential"—and it is the only effective agency which undertakes that task—Trade Unionism helps to broaden and strengthen a man's mind. It brings home to him his responsibilities as a citizen and trains him to take an active interest in local and national government. Convincing testimony to its power of developing the intelligence of men was given by Lord Claud Hamilton, who, when submitting evidence to the Royal Commission on Railway Conciliation Boards in 1911, said that Trade Unionists and Socialists were "more brainy" than the men who kept outside such organisations.

The good work carried on for years past by such organisations as the Food Reform, Temperance, Physical Culture and Athletic Associations, coupled with better sanitation and social legislation, is having the effect of increasing the average length of life. The Railway Clerks' Association has had that cheerful fact brought home to it by the actuaries' reports on certain railway superannuation funds, which revealed deficiencies arising from an appreciable increase in the longevity of the annuitants. This goes against certain pessimistic theories about the decline of the race, and I venture to believe that the time will soon have passed away when anyone dare argue that men are "too old at forty."

THE CHRISTMAS IDEAL.

By "GILBERT."

In the midst of this great national crisis the festival of Christmas once more comes upon us with all its old traditions—traditions which, in this country at least, resolve themselves into a continuous round of merriment, good cheer, fellowship, and fraternity—and though at the present time those traditions may appear to be somewhat obscured by the momentous happenings on the Continent, it is nevertheless the duty of those of us who sincerely believe in the spirit of Christmas to realise this Yuletide, above all others, the message which the season proclaims. How can we carry out the precepts imparted to us by the occurrence of Christmas-time; how can we help to further the ideals connected with it?

The approach of Christmas every year is marked by the organisation of charitable funds for the alleviation of distress, poverty, etc., and this year these funds have, as a result of the war, been augmented by innumerable schemes having for their object the sending of comforts to our soldiers and sailors, gifts for their children, and so on. It must be admitted that these efforts will result in a ray of sunshine being brought into many a home that has felt the terrible effects of the war, and which otherwise would be under a heavy cloud owing to the absence of the breadwinner.

Christmas, however, would be a very useless institution if the principles associated with it were put into operation only during what is known as the Christmas season, and, excellent as many of the charitable schemes are, well-meaning and sincere as are many of their subscribers, it must not be overlooked that, by themselves, they are of very little value.

Undoubtedly the giving of doles once every twelve months for the purpose of mitigating in only a slight degree the distress of those who are in want constitutes a practice which falls very short of the true ideal conveyed to us by Christmastide. Charitable schemes alone will not do; we as workers must realise that, if the

message of Christmas is to be fully realised, its precepts must be carried out at all times and in such a manner as is calculated to do the greatest amount of good to the community as a whole. By supporting such schemes as that inaugurated by *The Daily Citizen*, which has for its object the securing of £1 per week payment for our soldiers and sailors, and by giving our help to any movement that will result in a lasting benefit to those who are most in need of it, we shall be doing something not only in the direction of abolishing that state of things which renders it necessary that a certain section of the community shall receive charity at the hands of another section, but also towards laying the foundations of a better state of society than exists at the present time.

Let us try, this Christmastide especially, to seriously consider how much is meant by the spirit of fraternity and fellowship which should characterise the good old festival. Many of us, especially since the outbreak of the present terrible conflict, have perhaps been assailed with doubts and apprehensions as to what the future has in store, but let us bear in mind the words of Walt Whitman: "Turn your face to the sunshine, and the shadow will fall behind." Let us try this Christmastide to look at the bright side of matters; I myself have little doubt as to the hopeful future which is before us.

Every small effort made to advance the great democratic movement, every endeavour to persuade a fellow workman to join up in the great army of Labour, are achievements which are synonymous with the true Christmas ideals. Above all, let us hope that when the din of battle has subsided the great movement of which we are a part, and which for years has been growing in strength, will sweep along with irresistible force, progressing slowly but surely, until that system of society is realised in which that most beautiful Christmastide message, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men," will be fulfilled in the highest sense of the word.

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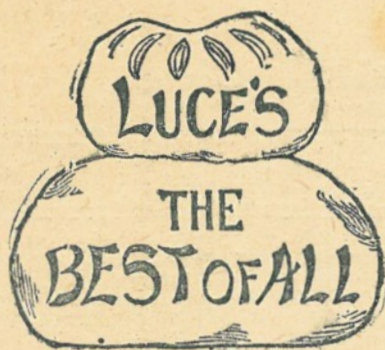
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THE
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DECEMBER, 1914.

FEEDING THE CHILDREN.

After years of strenuous agitation the advocates of the feeding of necessitous school children in Wolverhampton have at length been rewarded by the adoption by the Education Committee of a scheme having that object in view. Previously the task of feeding necessitous school children was under-

really succeeded in covering the whole of the ground in this direction. Along with others, we have pointed out time after time that the only remedy was to take advantage of the Act of Parliament dealing with the question, but for various reasons the Education Committee refused to adopt the suggestion. Some of those reasons were voiced by members of the Education Committee at their last meeting. "The primary duty of parents is to look after their children." Admitted; but is the child to starve while we set to work to regenerate an unnatural parent? In our opinion the best method is to feed the child and recover the cost from the parent. "Taking the responsibility off the parent" was another gem. Has the State, then, no responsibility to its future citizens? Does it not realise that if weaklings are allowed to grow up, in order to save the rates now, the probabilities are that they may cost the rates considerably more in the future?

However, we are told that in view of the many calls on charity at the present time an appeal for funds for this work could not be made, and therefore the feeding of school children in Wolverhampton by the municipality will soon be an accomplished fact. We realise that the main factor which induced the Education Committee to take the step was the fact that private charity had failed, as it was inevitably bound to fail, but we believe that the Committee will never regret the step they have taken. It gives bright hope for the future. It ensures that no longer should there be any danger of allowing a child to grow up half starved. It is a link in that chain of truly Imperial legislation which began with the medical inspection of school children. Treatment will soon follow inspection. Now we are to have feeding. The next step for Wolverhampton to take in this great work is the foundation and equipment of a baby clinic and school for mothers. There the child could be watched and tended in the first period of existence, and many of the deaths which occur in the first twelve months prevented. This should be our aim for the next year. We owe it to our children that we should do our best for them.

THE NEW SPIRIT.

Speaking recently in Wolverhampton, the Bishop of Lichfield delivered a striking indictment against our civilisation. His lordship was speaking on the war, and was dealing with the point as to whether or not the Christian faith or civilisation had broken down. After denying the former charge, the Bishop said:

The great forces on which our civilisation had been relying for progress were science, commerce, and education. These ought to be great powers for good. We had seen that as a result of science it had made war the unspeakably terrible thing it was to-day; and with regard to commerce, if it were based on a limited competition and simply on the desire for wealth, it would not be a blessing to the community; nor would an education which was simply founded on the doctrine of getting on in the world and "shoving" yourself in front of others. He hoped most fervently that one result of the war would be that we should learn that selfishness, the mere claiming and insisting upon rights, would never help a nation forward in its interior life any more than it helped nations in their international relationships.

These words deserve the earnest consideration of every thinking man. They are an indictment against the selfish spirit which has permeated every phase of our national life. International jealousy has resulted in the prostitution of the whole realm of science and

humanity?" but "How can it be made to serve the purposes of war?" And the Government which has been prepared to pay the highest price has secured the discovery, regardless of the rationality of the discoverer. In the desire to "get on" the tremendous possibilities of such discoveries as progressive factors in our civilisation have become a secondary consideration as compared with their effectiveness as an aid to the maintenance of military power. Our educational system has been such that education has been a slave to the master passion of "making one's way in the world," and it is only natural that in commerce we should find after a few decades that the one principle should be "the race to the strong," or that the weaker should go to the wall. Whether all this implies the failure of the message of Christ we leave to others to debate. But the intensity of the selfish struggle for existence has been such as to make all but the most advanced thinkers despair of the attainment of the ideals of the brotherhood of man.

Effect of "New Spirit."

Amidst all the clashing of interests and the din of party strife the ideal has often been obscured, and exactly how much people really depended on each other was not realised until it was seen to what an awful crisis the folly of human beings had brought us. Then arose that most remarkable feature of our own national life—a feature, we believe, which will be noted as an historical milestone—which the Bishop of Lichfield aptly described as the "New Spirit." In the hour of common danger, on the eve of the gravest period in the world's history, men looked each other in the eyes for the first time and admitted that they were dependent on each other for existence. The spirit of unity has hushed the party strife, and has called forth the sympathy of people in a manner unknown before. And the most remarkable expression of this unity has been the admission of all parties that, no matter what individualist opinions they had held before, the whole community were entirely dependent on the State, and on the well-being of the State depended the existence of the great family known as the British nation. Everything else became subsidiary. In the interests of that family it was necessary to take the control of the main arteries of distribution—the railways—out of the hands of private owners. That step has been amply justified, and, for the period of the war at least, railway nationalisation is an accomplished fact. The vast system of credit on which commerce depended would have utterly collapsed had it not been for the interference of the State, and much misery would have ensued. We do not altogether agree with the methods adopted by the Treasury, but the fact is proved that by State action alone can we adequately safeguard the interests of the people. The food supply, too, has been regulated, and to-day we see the greatest "corner" in sugar the world has ever seen—not by financiers for personal gain, but by the State in the interests of the whole of the community.

The Future.

What is the lesson to be derived? After the war are we going to allow things to go back to the old system? Are we going to lose the benefits of the New Spirit, or are we going to admit that the best way to look after the interests of all is to leave the elected governing body to take charge of all the nation's affairs? If it is essential that the railways should be owned by the people in the time of national danger, how much greater would the benefits of State ownership be in time of peace? If we can unite to fight an outside enemy, is it not possible to unite in the cause of progress? How utterly futile is it that men should fight among themselves, only to cease in order that they may combine to fight others. This war has helped us to realise that individualism is a dying force, and that if we are to progress as we ought the New Spirit must be kept alive after the close of the war. We look forward to the day when not only the British nation, but all the nations of the world, will come under the influence of the New Spirit, and that the words of John Addington Symonds will be fully realised:

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

G.

THROUGH WAR TO PEACE.

Above the chaos of impending ills,
Through all the clamour of insistent strife,
Now while the noise of arming nations fills
Each throbbing hour with menaces to life,
I hear the voice of Progress! Strange indeed
The shadowed pathways that lead up to light.

But as a runner sometimes will recede
That he may so accumulate his might,
Then with a will that needs must be obeyed
Rushes resistless to the goal with ease,
So the whole world seems now to retrograde,
Slips back to war, that it may speed to peace;

JOTTINGS.

Mrs. Walkden, wife of Mr. A. G. Walkden, the prospective Labour candidate for West Wolverhampton, gave birth to a daughter in London on Sunday, November 29.

I am glad to say both Mrs. Walkden and the infant are progressing favourably.

It is interesting to note, according to the Church calendar, this interesting event took place on Advent Sunday!

I hear, too, that the young Misses Dorothy and Mary Walkden are delighted with their new sister.

The photograph published in this column is that of Joseph Ewart Lynn (28), whose home was at 30, Lewis-street, Wolverhampton. He fought in many battles during his short career, which has ended so abruptly.

"Joe," as he was familiarly known among his numerous friends, had occupied the position of President of the local Branch of the Workers' Union, doing valiant work for the "bottom dog." He was also a delegate to the Wolverhampton Trades and Labour Council, and a member of the Independent Labour Party; and he constantly raised his voice on behalf of the underpaid and oppressed.

These bodies have placed on record a high appreciation of his valuable services.

Comrade Lynn's last great battle was upon a distant ocean for King and country, being numbered with the gallant crew of H.M.S. Good Hope, which perished so gallantly in action in the Pacific.



In his last letter to his wife, who with their only child is so sorely bereaved, Comrade Lynn intimated that his ship,

the Good Hope, was at that time going up the West Coast of America to Chili and Peru, and was afterwards to undertake practically a tour of the world. Mentioning, incidentally, that he was kept at the gun all night, but got "a little sleep in snatches," he hoped for a safe return, little dreaming of the fate which was so soon to overtake him and his brave mates.

I commend to the notice of the Chief Constable of Wolverhampton and the Watch Committee, a suggestion which has been made urging the Chief Constables of the counties and boroughs to offer special inducements to young policemen to join the colours.

They are men thoroughly fit for service; and seeing that their ex-Service comrades (the older "Bobbies") have rejoined their regiments, it should act as an inspiration to them.

As the special constable idea in limited operation in the town shows, there are many men who are unfit to become soldiers or sailors who are able to act as temporary policemen in a fairly adequate manner in a town which is so law-abiding as ours.

My readers will be glad to hear that efforts are being made to get Florence Gertrude Davis (age 11), one of the nine children, whose ages range from three months to 17 years, left by the late Mr. George Davis (secretary of the Brassworkers' Union), who died recently at the age of 42, elected into the Wolverhampton Royal Orphanage.

The Trades Council, through their secretary, Mr. H. Bagley, has been exerting itself in this direction, and much influential support has been promised on behalf of the nominee.

At last there appears to be a prospect of the defective lighting of the slum areas of our town receiving the attention so long needed.

Councillor Gibson should, however, understand that it is the business of the Lighting Committee to see that the defect is remedied, and not expect any individual member of the Council to prepare a list of the courts and alleys needing illumination, as he suggests.

As the gospel of cleanliness is pretty generally accepted as being next to godliness, the Streets Department should also give as much notice to these dark places as, for instance, is given to the sweeping and cleansing of Tettenhall-road.

The public authorities, in particular, should set a good example all round.

Judge Howard Smith has stated that he should not feel inclined to accept the office of Mayor unless he could afford to spend £1,000 a year.

If this is a necessary asset, it is small wonder a Labour member so seldom attains to the Mayoralty.

To those who regard with disfavour the letting of pews in the churches, a practice still largely prevalent, the view held by the Emperor Napoleon may be of interest.

Bonaparte, whose attendance at Mass was accompanied with considerable ceremonial, would, nevertheless, not allow any special passes of admission to be issued for his chapel, declaring that public worship should be free for the people. Any charge for seats in a building devoted to religious purposes seemed to be odious to him.

"One ought not to deprive the poor," said he,

OUR WOMEN'S CORNER.

(By "Laurel.")

THE WAR OFFICE AND SOLDIERS' WIVES.

It is to be hoped that women are taking careful note of their position in the community at the present time, and that they are determined to have a day of reckoning when the war is over. Although women are not responsible for the awful war now waging between the nations of Europe, it is, nevertheless, the women who suffer more than any other section of the community. We give our husbands, sons, brothers, and lovers, those whom we hold most dear; we endure the anxiety and the weary waiting; ours the sorrow and tears. We pay for war in a way that men never can. Yet, it would appear that the "powers that be" are absolutely incapable of realising that women are playing a part, yes, and playing it nobly in the present crisis.

Hesitancy in the Home.

The wives and dependents of the gallant defenders of the richest nation in the world have to subsist on an allowance which is quite inadequate to provide the ordinary necessities of life, and although a strong agitation has been conducted by the Labour movement for more generous treatment, the Government is slow to move. This continuous uncertainty, week after week, month after month, is bound to tell upon the wife in control of the household; who then can deny that she does not deserve more consideration to assist in facing the everyday trials?

Insulting Circular.

Now the order has gone forth from the War Office that the wives of soldiers are to be placed under "police surveillance." Army paymasters in the various districts have been instructed to furnish the nearest chief-constable with full particulars regarding the dependents of soldiers. I would ask the pertinent question, if the wives of officers are to be placed under the same supervision? Every self-respecting woman will take this as a personal insult, and that feeling will be shared by every right-minded individual. Have these women not enough strain and anxiety without adding this humiliating terror of police inquisition? But it is alleged that this order is necessary to deal with excessive drinking on the part of women, especially amongst soldiers' wives, but so far no evidence has been submitted to prove this contention.

Saner Proposals.

I believe that the vast majority of the women are doing their very best under the circumstances, but if we admit that a small minority are giving way under the strain, surely a more humane arrangement could be made to deal with these cases. The police force is certainly the last organisation which should attempt to act in the capacity of reformation. What these women require is sympathy, kindness, wise counsel, and a counter attraction to the public house. Could not the Government have urged the local authorities to open up recreation clubs for their use, and possibly invited the co-operation of the women's organisations in their conduct and control?

Protest by Women's Guild.

As soon as this tyrannical order was issued the Women's Co-operative Guild sent the following resolution of protest:

The Central Committee of the Women's Co-operative Guild, representing 32,000 co-operative women, protests against the new War Office order providing for the withholding of separation allowances to the "unworthy" and giving the police power to investigate cases and "try to check misconduct before it reaches a point at which it may become subject to official notice."

We consider such differentiation between sexes and classes as is entailed in such an order utterly out of place in a democratic country, and that to place such power in the hands of the police is an intolerable interference with the freedom of individual action.

We ask that this tyrannical order may be withdrawn immediately; that any measures taken to ensure proper behaviour should be of general application (such as the early closing of public-houses), or should be in the nature of counter-attractions; and we affirm that a woman's right to her separation allowance should be no more connected with what the police may consider "worthy" conduct than a man's right to his wages.

I hope that all Trade Unions, women's organisations, etc., will protest emphatically against this insulting order, and demand its immediate withdrawal, and urge the authorities to reject the infamous proposal, as Birmingham has done. I understand that a deputation representing the working women's national organisations is being arranged to wait on the Home Secretary on the matter. If the women of the country were enfranchised such a course would not be necessary, the Government would not dare issue such instructions.

THE LATE MR. H. TASKER.

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Herbert Tasker, of Clarence Street, who passed away after a short illness on November 23. By his death the local I.L.P. have lost an energetic worker and a staunch comrade. Mr. Tasker was a member of the Executive Committee for a considerable time, and his unassuming manner and devotion to duty secured to him a wide circle of friends in the movement.

The funeral took place at the Wolverhampton General Cemetery on Thursday, November 26, and was attended by members of the Independent Labour Party. After the burial service the well-known Labour hymn, "The Red Flag," was sung.

We feel sure that in extending deepest sympathy to the widow of the late Mr. Tasker we shall be voicing the feelings of the whole of the local Labour movement, by whom the deceased gentleman was so well respected.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "THE CHIEL."

A chiel's amang ye takin' notes,
An', faith, he'll prent 'em.

—BURNS.

Christmas time is approaching and a world-wide war is being waged. At the outbreak of the war everyone, and particularly working people, were advised to economise as the price of food was bound to go up. The remarkable effect of this was that prices did go up, and the increases were by no means insignificant. Whether the advice to economise was "inspired" by people whose interest it was to create "panic" rushes, history will show, perhaps. For a few weeks, however, economy was rigidly practised by many, and the attempts at self-denial were in many cases highly diverting. But, thank goodness, this unaccustomed asceticism has worn off, and it is now "business as usual" in all directions.

Subdue Your Appetites.

Still, there do exist people who believe that the working classes can easily economise on food. Wherever they get their extraordinary notion from I cannot conceive. To-day there are hosts of society dames going round lecturing our women folk on the wickedness of waste, and informing people whose existence is nothing but life-long self denial, that they must practice self-denial. Those who have read Dickens' novel, "Nicholas Nickleby," will remember that memorable passage wherein Mr. Squeers, of Dotheboys Hall, tenders this immortal advice: "Subdue your appetites, my dears, and you have conquered human nature." It will be remembered that Mr. Squeers was of that type of individual who was always perfectly willing to offer advice, but somehow always seems to discriminate when applying it to himself. I do not remember that Mr. Squeers ever endeavoured to practice this remarkable precept; indeed, the evidence is overwhelmingly to the contrary. The Squeers type is very much in evidence during these troublesome times.

Tea-Pot Refuse.

I should say that the worthy gentleman who recently wrote to *The Times* suggesting that the readers of that journal should save their tea leaves and give them to the poor is one of them. For my own part I am content to throw away my tea leaves after the first brew of tea, and therefore I cannot say what the liquid would be like at the second time of asking. I do know this, however, that I would not think of committing such a despicable action as to ask anyone in need of food to accept that which I generally throw away. Those who may be tempted to follow this advice would do a greater service if they used their tea leaves themselves and gave the poor the money thus saved. It would be much more appreciated. Anyhow, I do not think there will be a great demand for tea-pot refuse.

Tea-Leaf Tobacco.

This tea-leaf idea, apparently, is fairly widespread, and appears to take various forms. For instance, it recently came to my notice that an applicant for relief in Wolverhampton was taken to task by a certain gentleman for spending money on tobacco, and was advised in all seriousness to smoke dried tea leaves. I am afraid my education has been very sadly neglected. An inveterate smoker, I have tried some weird and wonderful "smokes" in my time. But I must confess that, with all my experience, I have never smoked dried tea leaves. I wonder whether the advocates of this extraordinary smoke are sending their tea leaves to the front as an exceptional treat for our soldiers who are asking for tobacco. Possibly, now we have to pay more for our tea, they will smoke their own tea leaves.

Beer v. Lime Juice and Second-hand Tea.

"Subdue your appetites!" To the well-fed it may seem excellent advice. And we all know that the half-starved man is the least capable of bettering his own conditions. With subdued appetites there might have been no Trade Unions, no wages movements, no strikes—an excellent prospect. But to get back to the subject of Christmas and the war. It is a custom with Boards of Guardians, at this time of the year, to have lively debates on the Christmas beer of their guests, but now there is a great war to contemplate, it should be more exciting than usual. There should be interesting debates as to the respective merits of beer and lime juice, and probably, second-hand tea. What is beer? I have heard it said that there is good beer, and beer not so good—but there is no bad beer. Lime juice, lemonade, and other gaseous concoctions do not seem to be so highly favoured in the matter of opinion regarding them. The poet, enraptured, has been known to go into ecstasies over "glorious beer," and his sentiments are certainly warm, even though his English is not perfect. A glass of beer seems to be regarded with affection, but, tell me, who is there who would go into raptures over a bottle of lime juice and soda—a liquid which filleth men with wind and self-righteousness? However, there is another aspect of Christmas diet for the guardians of our poor to contemplate.

The Christmas Egg.

Having satisfactorily disposed of the question of the Christmas beer, Boards of Guardians may possibly find something to interest them in the following news paragraph:

The Lambeth Guardians received from the Poor Law school a suggestion that, in order that the children may have an opportunity of appreciating the position of national affairs, the usual practice of allowing each child an egg on Christmas morning be suspended for this year. This was agreed to, and the comment was made that it was better for the children to go without eggs than to give them cheap shop eggs.

One can imagine the approving nods with which such a proposal would be received at a Board meeting. Quite right. How can a working man appreciate anything unless his appetite is subdued? How would it be possible for our

Oliver Twists to realise that we are engaged in a struggle for national existence if they are confronted with the overwhelming task of digesting an incipient chicken? However, I agree with Mr. Robert Blatchford, that in stopping the children's Christmas eggs "these London patriots have compelled themselves, as a point of honour, to forego their own roast beef and Christmas pudding, their own wines and cigars, just to bring home to their more thoughtless fellow-citizens the grim fact that we are at war!" I don't suppose for one moment that they will inconvenience themselves in this way.

In Conclusion

I am glad to see that *The Daily Citizen* has guaranteed that the children of the Lambeth Union shall have their eggs as usual. It is a sad commentary that even a shop egg at Christmas should be considered an epoch-marking event; but it is sadder still that there should be people whose hearts are so hard that they would deprive the children of them. On the whole I much prefer the idea of an extra treat for children at Christmas time. It is the festival of the Child, and one knows the pleasure with which the kiddies look forward to Christmas. I am very glad to note that an effort is being made by a local evening paper to provide a few luxuries for the children of soldiers and sailors whose fathers are at the front. It is certainly a more humane project than to deprive children of anything, and one more likely to be remembered. I leave my readers to place their own construction on these remarks. To those who advocate tea-leaves and no shop-eggs, I respectfully suggest they should try it themselves instead of the customary Yuletide banquet. It would be interesting for them, no doubt, to smoke tea-leaf cigarettes and drink second-hand tea, and they might then probably realise what the war means to poor people, and they might be induced to stop their ignorant meddling with the affairs of people who, poor though they may be, are still endeavouring to preserve their self-respect, and are quite as sensitive as the "ladies" who endeavour to patronise them.

Recruiting.

I hear that the Wolverhampton Recruiting Committee are making steady progress in the matter of drawing up a scheme for recruiting. In Wolverhampton there has been a slump in the response to the Call to Arms, and I am told that the recruiting authorities are inclined to be despondent about the young men of Wolverhampton. For my own part I do not think it is because they are unwilling, but that the gravity of the position is not sufficiently realised by them. The more hopeful reports received from both Western and Eastern battle fronts have probably imbued them with the idea that their assistance is not necessary, and that the war will be over before they can become proficient. This is borne out by events. After the retreat from Mons and during the German advance on Paris there was a great rush of recruits eager to help to resist the tide of German invasion, but since things have been going on more satisfactorily our young men have once more turned their attention to common-place things. They do not realise that the danger is not yet past, and that strenuous efforts have still to be put forth before the enemy is driven over the Rhine. The greater the number of men who can be placed under the command of Sir John French the quicker this can be accomplished, and the quicker this war will be brought to an end. On the other hand a long drawn-out struggle is likely to cost more, both in lives and money, in addition to the ever-present danger that the tide may turn in favour of Germany and undo all the efforts put forward by the brave men who have fought up to now, many of whom have laid down their lives in the cause of international liberty.

St. Patrick's Re-union.

The St. Patrick's Annual Re-union is always an event worth noting. I take this opportunity of reminding my readers that this year's interesting gathering is to take place at the Grand Theatre on Friday, December 18. It consists of a children's entertainment and is described as the "best treat of the year." I have always enjoyed myself when I have attended these re-unions, and I know I am justified in looking forward to doing so again.

GARDENING NOTES.

TIMELY HINTS FOR LOVERS OF THE SOIL

Continue to plant, transplant, and propagate by division of the root. So long as open weather permits get forward with the work you would have to do in the early spring. Complete the pruning of all the hardier trees and those likely to be affected by the frost may be left. Plants are never entirely at rest or stationary. Hence those removed in November or December will have almost made themselves at home by March or April, whereas if transplanted in March they would have more root-work still to do, besides the spring and summer functions required of them. If severe frost comes protect your plants with loose litter. Well manure and protect your beds of rhubarb. Towards end of the month plant shallots and potato-onions.

THE FLOWER GARDEN.—Procure and plant rose-stocks for budding. See that they have well-ripened wood, of whatever species they may be. Dress well, and dig deep beds that have been cropped with flowers during the current year; the beds must have manure and rotation of crops. Divide and transplant stools of herbaceous perennials which have flowered finely; they will not, as a rule, do so in the same place twice.

C.W.H.

THE...
Christmas Spirit.

AN APPEAL.

MANY are the appeals issued at Christmas time in "Sweet Charity's" name, but this Christmas the number has been considerably augmented on account of the war.

It is not our intention to add to them, but, in accordance with the spirit of unity prevailing at the present time, we take this opportunity of drawing the attention of our readers to two local funds worthy of their support.

WHAT happier thought could have occurred to anyone than that, at the time we are celebrating the Festival of the Child, an effort should be made to bring a little sunshine into the existence of those children whose fathers are risking their lives for us on the field of battle or on the seas? There are over 3,000 of these little ones in Wolverhampton and the district, and because their fathers are absent there is a strong probability that they will have to go without the little Christmas pleasures they usually get when their fathers are at home. The public are asked to see that these children shall not lose anything because their fathers have gone to fight our battles. Is it too much to ask that the children of men who have given up home and comfort for us shall be provided with a few toys? We appeal to the people of Wolverhampton to send along a donation—if only a copper or two—to the

FATHER CHRISTMAS FUND

which is being organised by

"THE MIDLAND EVENING NEWS"

—303—

CHRISTMAS Day in the trenches will not be nearly so comfortable as Christmas Day at home, with the best of dinners, the pudding, the sweets, wines, and cigars. That goes without saying. Now, we want to know whether there is a man in Wolverhampton who will dare to provide himself with Christmas "smokes" while the man who is in the trenches making it possible for those at home to be comfortable is going without? *The Express and Star* are making a praiseworthy effort to send our soldiers and sailors

A CHRISTMAS BOX

in the shape of a pipe, tobacco pouch, tobacco, cigarettes, and matches. The entire cost of providing one soldier or sailor with this outfit is 1s. 6d. For this sum Tommy can be made content with the soothing influence of his "baecy" on Christmas Day. Don't you think this is a deserving effort? Well, then, send your contributions, marked "Christmas," to the

"EXPRESS & STAR."

—303—

THE Christmas spirit is one of the most beautiful things known to us. Everyone unbends a little at Christmas time; everyone likes to hold out the hand of fellowship. There is greater need for this on this occasion. Those parents who are just now being told by their little ones what they want Father Christmas to bring them are asked to give a thought to the mites who will be without fathers this Christmas-time. Help to bring a little joy into their hearts and you will feel well repaid by the knowledge that you have done something to repay Tommy for his efforts.

AND when you think of the children let your thoughts wander to the fathers out in France, or on the storm-swept seas, who, maybe, are thinking of the good times they might have had this Christmas had they been at home. Help to see that he has at least a smoke, and if he can meditate over his pipe that you are looking after his children as well, the burden will not be so hard to bear. Let the Christmas spirit reach your hearts and your pockets. After all it is so little to give in return to those who are giving us so much.

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

By "QUI VIVE."

How long will the war last? It is the all-absorbing question. It is the question that has occurred to the anxious mother's mind a thousand times, as she thinks of her soldier lad away yonder in the firing line. How long will the war last? How long can it last? Some of our brave men writing home from the front a few days ago ventured to think that the war would be over by Christmas. Christmas! I thought, if we only dare hope so. Yet perhaps these chaps know something. Just think of it. Christmas, the season of goodwill; when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace. If we could but think that this awful war, hanging over the world like a hideous nightmare, could be ended by Christmas, and that in very truth we could say, "Peace on earth, goodwill to all men!" But why buoy one's self up with a false hope?

One writer is inclined to the belief "that France and Belgium will be free from the invader before February 1, 1915. Then the Allies' most difficult task will commence." Christmas, indeed! In the *Clarion* of November 13, Mr. Alex. M. Thompson writes: "When I was in France a fortnight ago the British officer . . . predicted that the Germans would be cleared out of French territory by Christmas. Since then my young relative has been constantly in the thick of the severest fighting of the war, and he now writes that 'we shall not clear the Germans out of France as early as I expected, and we shall be lucky if we reach the Rhine by spring.'" How long will it last?

What German Militarism Stands For.

It may last for months, it may drag on into the year of grace 1916, but it must not end until the yoke of Prussian militarism has been broken, and the Prussian War Lords humbled and humiliated. For until the Berlin bullies have been brought to their knees it is useless to dream of international brotherhood, or to hope for universal peace. It is well that every Britisher should understand clearly what Prussian militarism stands for; should understand that behind the violation of Belgium's neutrality and the invasion of France was Germany's lust for world-power, and her ill-concealed hatred of British aims and interests, and her desire once and for all to settle accounts with England. The following is part of an extract from *Kreuz Zeitung*, given in the *Clarion* of October 16:

No hour has been more ardently desired by us than that of a reckoning with England. . . . We must have satisfaction, and if ever a war should be regarded as a judgment of God, it is this one. We know and feel more every day that England is not unconquerable.

And the same journal, in another issue, says, among other things:

The nations of the world, too long cowed by the old-womanish screechings of the British Press, by the serpent-like bite of the British lying diplomacy, will right soon acknowledge the nobility of our great Emperor and the solid worth of an unshakable, iron-willed Germanism.

German Duplicity.

Many members of the adult morning schools will contrast the tone and spirit of the above with the spirit of comradeship exhibited between members of these institutions belonging to both countries, during an interchange of visits a year or two ago. One recalls, too, the fraternal spirit existing from time to time between British and German trade unionists. Yet all the time the Potsdam swashbucklers were planning and preparing for a campaign of pillage and slaughter "with the utmost violence."

One thing is very certain: that it is necessary not only to crush and subdue the brutal power of Prussian militarism, and render even more remote the possibility of an invasion of these shores, but to force the unwelcome truth upon the German Junkers, eaten up with their own conceit though they appear to be, that Britain is to-day what she has always been—a trusty friend, but a terrible foe. And how shall this be brought about? It can best be brought about by responding quickly to Lord Kitchener's appeal for "more men, and still more men." But let there be no mistake. The Government require men. It is estimated, I believe, that another million men will be required. Men who are ready and willing, if needs be, to risk everything—home and friends, and life and limb.

Adequate Recompense Necessary.

If the young men of this, the wealthiest country in the world, are prepared to risk their all—even their life's blood—in their country's defence, then those who have wealth ought to be prepared to sacrifice that wealth in order that these young men and those dependent upon them may be adequately recompensed for the service they render or the losses they may sustain.

For some weeks *The Daily Citizen* has been carrying on a £1-a-week campaign. One pound a week is not a copper too much for the man who is willing to leave his job in order to serve his country. One pound a week is not a ha'penny too much for the wife and kiddies he leaves behind.

And surely, surely, with all our wealth, one pound a week is not too much to offer the man, whether he be married or single, who is totally disabled whilst fighting for his country. It is for every trade unionist to see to it that the Government is compelled to make adequate, if not generous, provision for sailors and soldiers and for their dependents.

SCHOOL CHILDREN TO BE FED.

SCHEME ADOPTED BY WOLVERHAMPTON EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

At the last meeting of the Wolverhampton Education Committee the Canteen Sub-Committee submitted a scheme for the putting into operation of the Education (Provision of Meals) Acts, 1906 and 1914.

Although it was explained that on account of the war, and the consequent calls on the private purse, the voluntary system of feeding the children had broken down, there were still five members of the Committee in opposition, but eventually the scheme was adopted.

Miss Pearson moved the adoption of the report, and Councillor Clark seconded.

Father Darmony said the fact that such a scheme was necessary at all was, in his opinion, not much credit to this country. It was the wrong method to give supplies to the father and mother for the purpose of bringing up their children. They should be assisted in another way, and, to put it plainly, if the scale of wages in this country was so low that it had to be subsidised by the State in the manner indicated, then it was a deplorable thing. He would say distinctly that they must have a poor idea of the majority of the poor people of this country if they looked upon them as rogues, for his work among the poorer classes had revealed to him quite a different state of things.

Councillor Deanesly said he believed that the primary duty of parents was to look after their own children. He would certainly vote against the scheme.

The Mayor (Alderman Bantock) said it was a far wiser and better thing for the State to feed the children than to allow the children to go hungry. They were not going to rear children in slums when they ought to be in decent houses. The first duty of a parent, he said, was to look after his children, and where the sub-committee could find a case of a person who was not properly looking after his children, he hoped they would be hard with them. He had no sympathy with the person who spent his money in gambling and drinking when he ought to be putting it down the throats of his children. He admitted they were running risks, but they had got to run risks for the sake of the children, and the only solution of the difficulty was to come upon the rates.

After further discussion the scheme was adopted, as stated, five members voting against. The following is a summary of the main points of the scheme:

Summary of the Scheme.

The main factors in deciding whether or not meals shall be regularly provided shall be that the children by reason of lack of food cannot take full advantage of the education provided; that the total average income of the household for four previous weeks (after deducting the amount of the rent and one shilling for insurance) does not exceed an amount represented by 3s. per head. Where the income is less than this amount, and (a) the School Medical Officer certifies that the child is underfed, or (b) the parent makes written application for the children to be fed. Meals shall be provided free, subject to the discretion of the Care Committee, in the case of (b).

Where the income is above the scale, or the weekly income (irrespective of the size of the family) is 24s. after deducting rent and insurance, meals shall not be provided unless the School Medical Officer certifies that the child is underfed. In the case of children who are underfed, meals shall be provided and the parent charged with the cost. In the event of the amount not being paid, it shall be recovered by proceedings in accordance with the Act. No child shall be provided with dinner unless the School Medical Officer certifies that it is underfed and two meals are necessary.

On receipt of an application the Head Teacher will immediately supply breakfasts if there is any indication that the case is genuine, and notify the parents of the intention to feed the child, afterwards filling up the Record Card and sending it to the office, in order that the statements as to income may be verified if possible, and medical examination made. The cases will be reviewed periodically by the Care Committee, who shall have the assistance of the Attendance Officers and Nurses when required.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

BREAKFASTS.—To be prepared at each school by the caretakers under the supervision of the Care Committee, and to consist of porridge, with bread and margarine, or bread and jam, and milk and water or cocoa to drink. In the event of the number of children to be fed increasing to such an extent that it is inconvenient to prepare the breakfasts at the school, a Cookery Centre will be established and meals delivered ready to be served.

DINNERS.—The number of dinners required will, in all probability, be much less than the breakfasts, but by reason of the extra preparation and cooking a Centre will be necessary. Dinners will, for the present, be provided at the Day Industrial School, and the dietary at present in use there accepted for this purpose. The meals will be served in the dining room, under the supervision of teachers from the Elementary Schools.

SERVING OF BREAKFASTS.—Breakfasts should be served at 8-30 each school day (or every day if this is later on found necessary) under the supervision of the teachers in turn.

Some adult person will apportion the food, and elder boys and girls, acting as monitors, will assist and make themselves generally useful. These will be drawn from the children receiving meals, or be approved volunteers from the upper standards.

THE SEA OF LIFE.

My boat is launched upon the ocean tide,
No placid lake, nor murky stream for me,
'Gainst adverse winds and whirling waves I'll guide
My little craft, out to the open sea.
Away from treach'rous sands and shallow slime,
I'll meet the storm out where the water's deep;
With nothing 'twixt me and the Great Sublime.
To labour, and to laugh, and then—to sleep.
So; as I ride the storm, and laugh at fear,
I hear a sound that comes across the wave,
And I am not alone, for there is near
Another soul, who scorns to be a slave.
B. E. T. RAYNER, in *The Clarion*.

VIVISECTION.

By H. C. J.

This article is by way of killing two birds with one stone

Following upon the Editor's request that I would "write something" for the *WORKER*, came another call—to "do something" in the cause of Anti-Vivisection.

A busy man, with many calls upon my time and thought, how better can I comply with my friend's request than by giving just a few of the reasons why I support the movement for the abolition of Vivisection?

"Oh!" did I hear you say? "that's just a hobby for a few sweet old ladies and gentlemen with nothing else to do!" My friend, don't you believe it! When I tell you that men as ardently devoted to the people's movement as George Lansbury, Bernard Shaw, and the late Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace have all found time and energy to fight in this cause, you need not hesitate. When I tell you, further, that Vivisection intimately concerns you, closely affects the health of you and your child, I am sure you will not hesitate.

Vivisection for Profit.

Well, firstly, I oppose Vivisection experiments on living animals, because I am a rebel, an enemy to orthodoxy.

At present Vivisection is just one of those fads of the orthodox, short-sighted pseudo-scientist, which do as much as anything to hinder progress in hygiene, and to stifle free thought. Moreover, it pays certain capitalists, notably the wholesale druggists and instrument makers, who do a nice little trade with the vivisectionists, and who influence public opinion through the Press, etc., "in the good old-fashioned way," greatly to their profit!

Secondly, because it is unscientific and misleading. In order to find out how to combat ills and diseases most of which are results of our unscientific system of society, the vivisectionists indulge in an unscientific method of investigation. How can any true knowledge accrue? In order to find out the result of shock upon a man's system they dash a dog down from an upper-storey window on to iron railings far below! Logic? Besides, are not the hospitals full of human victims of shock, the spoils of our shocking industrial conditions? Of what use—of what need—is the poor dog?

And that suggests my third objection: That Vivisection is outrageously unjust and abominably cruel. The victims of this black art suffer unspeakably, either during or after the experiments, and they have no choice, no freedom, in the matter. Further, they cannot even voice their protest. Unlike their human kindred, they cannot rebel against injustice and cruelty. Will not you speak up for them?

But I said just now that this matter closely concerns you and your child.

Children Inoculated with Filthy Disease.

Do you know that not only have several vivisectionists suggested using criminals for the purposes of experimentation (living victims, mind you!); but more than one scientist(?) has confessed to having used children and hospital patients for their vile purposes! A Japanese doctor in America has, on his own admission, inoculated nearly 200 children with that beastly disease—Syphilis—and acknowledges "the courtesy and collaboration" of the various physicians in charge of the institutions which supplied the unwilling, unsuspecting human victims. These children, of course, are always of the poor class; often "charity children." Does this concern you? Are you willing to let these devils pursue their hellish trade any longer?

As Dr. Perks says: "The root causes of disease are found in Social laws and customs which are unjust and cruel." So the vivisectionist sets out to cure disease by means of more injustice and more cruelty. They say we anti-vivisectionists are "suffering from delusions." We are, in company with the rest of Society. But they are the delusions of those who think they can cure mankind by poisoning it, and who think that the way to peace and health is through hideous crime and misleading superstition!

And when you consider that all this cruelty, this injustice, this false science, this diabolical, cold-blooded tampering with helpless sentient creatures, human and sub-human, is fruitless and barren of any good, you must feel a thrill of horror at the waste and the folly of it all.

Eve Claude Bernard, perhaps the "greatest" vivisectionist of them all, confessed with a shrug of weariness, that "his hands were empty of all but—promises!" We know what "promises" are worth!

No let us get back to the simpler, kindlier spirit of an earlier day, seeking our highest good through true education and unselfish search for Truth.

Man! be human! in thy pleasures,
Shun the cost of others pain;
Count amongst thy own best treasures
All the joy that others gain. . . .
. . . Bound by pity, kindness, beauty,
Serve thy race—in Liberty.

FREE MEDICAL ATTENDANCE

FOR DEPENDENTS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Sacrifices are demanded to-day from all sections of the community, and the response has indeed been gratifying, but we doubt whether any section has made greater sacrifices than the medical profession. Large numbers of doctors are serving with the colours, in the noblest of all causes, the cause of humanity, of whatever nationality. While so many of their profession have gone abroad those left at home are looking after their practices in their absence. In addition to this we are glad to be able to record the generosity of the profession in Wolverhampton in agreeing to give free medical assistance to the dependents of soldiers and sailors. This is undoubtedly as fine an example of patriotism as could be brought forward, and we take the opportunity of publishing a list of doctors giving free medical assistance. Subjoined is also a list of chemists who have been equally ready to offer their services.

All persons requiring free medical assistance should apply to the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association, Molineux Hall, where they will be provided with a medical book and instructions. It should be noted that the patient must go to his or her usual doctor (if on their list) or the doctor on the list whose surgery is nearest the patients' house. It is pointed out that the medical attendance available under these arrangements does not include attendance at confinement.

List of Doctors.

- BANKIER, A.M., M.D., 152, Waterloo-rd.
- BATES, Wm., Esq., Wednesfield and Heath Town.
- BRUNTON, G. M., Esq., Knox-rd.
- BROWN, A. E., M.B., Queen-st.
- BROWN, W. M., M.B., St. Paul's-ter.
- BULGER, A. J., Esq., Ettingshall Lodge.
- CARTER, A. H., M.D., Waterloo-rd.
- CHAMBERS, W. R., Esq., Goldthorn-hill and Dudley-rd.
- CLARK, H. R. S., Esq., Goldthorn-hill and Dudley-rd.
- COLEMAN, E. H., M.D., Slade-hill.
- COOKE, F. A., M.D., Tetterhall.
- COWARD, F. A., Esq., Bushbury-lane.
- CRAIG, T. C., M.B., Tetterhall-rd. and Newhampton-rd.
- DAVIDSON, J. W., Esq., Snow-hill.
- GALBRAITH, T. H., M.B., George-st.
- GROUT, Jno., Esq., Bath-rd.
- HAMP, J. W., J.P., Penn-rd. and Poole-st.
- HANCOCK, H. R., Esq., Rectory-ter.
- HUNT, A. H. W., Esq., Tetterhall-rd. and Tetterhall.
- JOHNSON, W. M.B., Newhampton-rd.
- JOYNS, F. W., Esq., Victoria-rd., Fallings-park.
- LYCETT, J. A., M.D., Tetterhall.
- MCGRENAHAN, W. P., Esq., Cleveland-rd.
- MCGILL, Miss I. L., M.B., Tetterhall-rd.
- MCTURK, J. N., M.D., Tetterhall and Tetterhall-rd.
- MANN, D., M.B., Tetterhall-rd.
- MUNRO, S. A., M.B., King-st.
- MUSPRATT, E. L. C., Esq., Penn-rd.
- MURPHY, W. S., Esq., Lea-rd.
- O'BRIEN, J. J., M.D., Heath Town.
- O'MEARA, JOSEPH, Esq., Oaklands-rd. and Dudley-rd.
- QUINN, F. R., Esq., Stafford-st.
- RHODES, J. H., B.M., Dudley-rd.
- SOMERSET, W. R., M.B., Waterloo-rd.
- SPACKMAN, H. R., Esq., Penn Fields.
- STOCKWELL, J. F., Esq., Heath Town.
- SPAIN, C. M., Esq., Penn-rd.
- TURTON, F. R., M.B., Waterloo-rd.
- WINTER, W. H. T., Esq., Compton-rd.
- WOLVERSON, J. A., Esq., Tetterhall-rd.

List of Chemists.

- BOWDLER, E. H., 164, Stafford-st.
- BOOTS, LIMITED, 7 and 8, Queen-st.
- BOOTS, LIMITED, Chapel Ash.
- COLEMAN, J. H., 7, Worcester-st.
- FELLOWS, H., 47, Worcester-st.
- GIBSON, F. J., 93, Darlington-st.
- HALL, E. E., 295, Tetterhall-rd.
- LOWE, LIMITED, 2, Bilston-rd.
- MARLOW'S STORES, all local branches.
- MARLOW, A. E., 172, Owen-rd.
- NEEDHAM'S, LIMITED, 365, Newhampton-rd.
- PHILLIPS, S., 8, Lichfield-st.
- READ, L. J., 71, Lichfield-st.
- READ BROTHERS LIMITED, 62, Victoria-st.
- WILLCOCK, F. A., 71, Victoria-st.
- WARNER, M. R., Chapel Ash.
- WARNER, C., 106, Stafford-rd.

THE CALL.

Magnificent Response by Trade Unionists.
There can be no question as to the manner in which the organised workers have rallied to the national call, thousands having thrown up their jobs to serve their country. Four thousand members of one Union alone have enlisted. The much-maligned Trade Unionists have demonstrated once again that when it comes to courage and sacrifice they are the men. In peace times they do the work, in war times they do the fighting. Such is their lot. But we must see to it that all this sacrifice and bloodshed is not in vain. Our brothers who have gone to the front—many, alas, never to return!—are giving of their best in the fond belief that out of all the misery good will come. Let us see to it that they are not mistaken. We must be jealous of our liberties and our faith in the final triumph of the democracy. The position won by the Trade Unions must be well maintained. Otherwise the sacrifice will have been made to no purpose. Those who return from the war to take their place in the ranks of the industrial army must come back to a position equally as good, if not better, as regards rates of pay and hours of labour as the one which they left.

PATRIOTISM AND TEN PER CENT.

The art of patriotic zeal
Includes uncharted factors,
It finds the current cost of steel
Expanded by contractors.
If sacrifice be good for men,
A loyal occupation
Is theirs who add to hardship. Then
Let's up and bleed the nation!
A.W. in the *Daily Chronicle*.

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Noted for PURITY, BRILLIANCY, EDANK MVAATT'S ALES On DRAUGHT