

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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by

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Resolutions of condolence, card of thanks, obituary poetry, notices of entertainments or other affairs where an admittance charge will be made or a collection taken, will be charged for at regular advertising rates.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1917

Woman's Work.

This week has seen the departure of the first contingent of the new National army to training camps in preparation for the work which America has undertaken to do on the battlefields of Europe.

Ever since the war began, there has been absolute frankness concerning conditions in the trenches and the manner of life which the men who fill them must adopt. Our men are going into war with no illusions as to what war means. Their eyes are opened to the danger, the discomfort, all possible results of their participation in the fray. And yet they are going, and going cheerfully, to do what they recognize as their obvious duty to do. We expect nothing else from our fine American manhood, and take rather as a matter of course the general disposition to do manfully a work which must be done.

But all the duty of service does not rest with the men in uniform, nor all the responsibility for effective service, with victory in the end. Much must be done by those who remain comfortably at home, both the women and the men. The industries of the nation must be carried on. The country must be defended against disaster while the troops are abroad. The dependents of the soldiers must be cared for. The money must be supplied to maintain the army, to finance our allies, to feed the nations whose man power has been so depleted by war that the production of crops has fallen far below the normal. These things must be left in the hands of the men who are not qualified to enter into the great national army for service over seas.

Another sort of duty rests upon the women of the land, the work which is typically woman's work, furnishing the supplies to make the men as comfortable as is possible for them to be as they discharge the nation's debt to humanity and to equip the hospitals for efficient service to the torn and shattered bodies which will be brought to them after the battle has taken its toll of those engaged. The work of the Red Cross and of the Navy League is the work of the American woman of today, which must be done, and thoroughly done, if American womanhood is going to hold up her head with the other nations of the world after the war.

There are in the rooms of the Red Cross of Winnetka empty places which stand a reproach to the womanhood of the village, telling a story of lack of interest in the great

est duty which is being placed upon the women of the world today. These places remain empty day after day, week after week, because all our women have not been brought to the point of realization of their part in the war. It is much to be desired that the awakening come soon, that our boys need not go away from their homes thinking that the women who are being left in comfort and security are too much wrapped up in their own private interests to do their part towards making the sacrifice of the men effective and no more hazardous than it must be.

Economy in the Midst of Plenty.

Bountiful harvests and material increase in the live produce of the farms have been given America in this, the first year of our participation in the war. Everywhere, even in cities, one sees food stuff growing in profusion, and the sense naturally results, that there can be no want here in the season between harvests. But America, this year as never before, must be considered not as a nation apart, but as a part of the world, and her increase in foods and live stock must be counted with the decrease in the other countries, which the depleted man power and the destruction incident to the war have effected.

Economy is necessary here in the midst of plenty, that the world may be fed, and, particularly, our allies in the war. Two factors to effect the desired result are present, and both must be accepted by the American people,—the reduction of our consumption of food materials and the elimination of waste.

The American nation has always been a lavish people. Things have come to us so easily that we have not appreciated their value. Prodigality is the natural result, and it is our prodigality which we are under moral obligation to correct that the world may have to eat of our abundance.

That most of us eat too much is evident from the national tendency to excessive avoiddupois. Less food and more exercise would be the making of most men and women who have passed the thirtieth milestone, and that is what is asked of us by the government, that we eliminate the unnecessary food from our tables and from our household economy the waste which accompanies lavishness.



War Benefits.

Significant of the times is the tendency of all entertainments to take the form of benefits for some war activity. Lectures, card parties, dancing parties, whatever people like to do and can be persuaded to give their money for are utilized for the purpose of raising money to forward the many kinds of useful activities which must be financed by individuals or organizations voluntarily formed. It is only the destructive side of war which makes no appeal to the public and must be provided for by legal means through bond issues and taxation.

An ice cream social, or lawn fete as is the present nomenclature, a card party, an amateur theatrical performance, bears no relation to the grim work which must be undone, so far as possible, by the efforts of the relief organizations of the countries at war, but they are a very valuable part of the lives of the people at home. It is hard to keep up one's courage under depressing conditions if there is nothing to draw one into social activities. The gay round of the normal season cannot be followed by the women whose hearts are heavy with the absence of those dear to them and the fear of permanent loss. The same sort of activi-

ties, given as benefits for war relief work, will draw and divert those whose need would not otherwise be met.

War Activities

By Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Jr.

IN spite of the fact that a great many of our workers have been off on vacations, the following work has been accomplished during August alone:

One hundred fourteen pillows, largely made by children; 185 children's dresses and underwear, 18 complete baby outfits, including even bonnets and comforters, went with Dr. Alice Barlow-Brown into the devastated region of France for the new babies, and \$650 in cash for further supplies for the women and children who have been living in cellars for two years.

Besides these, 125 comfort kits have been filled for Christmas, and 60 more comfort kits, answering a week's emergency call for our boys of the draft army who leave for Camp Grant, Rockford, during September.

In recognition of the above supplies, the following note was received by Mrs. Taylor from the Chicago committee of the A. F. for F. W.:

"My dear Mrs. Taylor: 'Winnetka' has added further honors to her already splendid record in making thirty-two garments (one shipment) for the devastated regions of France. It would be superfluous for us to tell you how much we appreciate your continued help, or how badly needed these garments are. We can only thank you again for your ready and generous co-operation.

"Very truly yours,
American Fund for French Wounded.
"Sarah B. Tyson,
"Per M. H."

To show how much these comfort bags are appreciated, the following description is appended:

"On Christmas Day we were told we might take fifty bags to a hospital, and we chose a small one on the Bois de Bolongse, with fifty beds. We got there in the morning and were allowed to visit all the wards. I wish all those who filled the bags could have been with us as we went from bed to bed; I wish they could have seen the happy faces of these mutilated men. One poor fellow, lying on his bed, had no legs, but he found a tin whistle in his bag. 'Now I shall learn music,' he cried, and immediately began to practice. Another very young soldier, who had lost an arm, begged me to spread out the contents of his bag on his bed so that he might see them all at once. We had to help many of them to open their bags, for they were too weak to do it, but their eyes shone with gratitude and pleasure. One little soldier, whose bag was made of a very gay cretonne, looked up wistfully as I handed it to him. 'Oh, madame,' he said, 'this is too beautiful for me; how I would like my little girl to have it.' 'Where is she?' I asked. His eyes filled with tears and I knew what it was—his wife and child were in the invaded country; he could only hope that some day he might have them restored to him.

"In the evening, we had a party for our soldiers of the Canteen in the Latin Quarter. All the guests were men from the invaded parts of France, and all returning within a few hours to the trenches. We had made the room gay with flags and evergreens, and added some fruit and candy to the regular dinner. The boys of the American ambulance came and sang and played on their mandolins and guitars. The soldiers were seated at the tables in long rows down the room. They sang many of their trench songs for us, and then asked us to sing their favorite American song—'Tipperaree.' Many of them believe it is our National Anthem. They spread out the contents on the tables, delighting in them like children, begging us to write in French the names and addresses of the donors. Many of the names in the bags were not written very clearly, and we did our best to print them so that they could read the unfamiliar names. We explained the use of the foot-powder and tooth paste, vaseline, chewing gum, etc., there being some doubt as to which parts of the body the various articles were to be applied. One poor fellow was so happy over his bag that I begged him to tell me why he liked it so much. 'Madame, I have a pair of socks in my bag,' he said. 'Have you no socks?' I asked him. 'Oh, no madame,' he said, 'I have only had three pairs of socks since the war began; I have none just now and tomorrow I go to Salonique, and it is

not very warm in the mountains of Macedonia."

Will you send a Christmas comfort bag to a French soldier? If you cannot make and fill a bag, you can buy them ready made at 60 East Washington street for \$1.10, \$1.25 and \$1.50, or from Mrs. Thomas Taylor, Jr., Hubbard Woods, Ill.

Surgical supplies sent as follows: Two shipments a week, averaging 600 dressings.

An emergency call for 300 muslin bandages, which were supplied four days after the call.

Five hundred ninety-three garments, viz.: bathrobes, convalescents' capes, surgical shirts.

Comforts for fighting men: Two hundred comfort kits, 50 "housewives," 8 sweaters, 4 scarfs.

The knitted supplies will be very materially increased next month, as experienced knitters are on the job almost night and day.

Don't forget we always need funds. Send your checks to the treasurer, Mrs. John Montgomery, Hubbard Woods, Ill.

Knitters Wanted for Red Cross.

Every Thursday and Friday morning the wool department of the Winnetka Red Cross auxiliary will be open from 10 to 12 o'clock to give out free wool to be made into sweaters, scarfs, wristlets and socks. It is hoped that every one who can knit will come and get the wool and speed up the work for soldiers and sailors. The winter is coming too fast, and we cannot as patriotic American women let our men suffer from icy cold at sea and from frost bite in the trenches, or at the training camps and on the training ships.

Let us forget for awhile that this is any other color than khaki or grey.

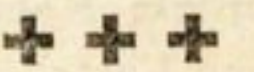
Two women have kindly offered to knit by machine the tops of socks, and it is hoped that many will volunteer to put on the feet. The socks will be ready at any time on Tuesday and Friday before noon. Free wool will be issued, and any woman who will volunteer to knit is "doing a bit" to help the war.

COME AND HELP! It means much to our brave soldiers and sailors going away so cheerfully and giving up so much.

The wool is issued from Church Parish house, corner of Linden and Linden streets.

Red Cross Com., Auxiliary No. 1. We wish to thank Mr. Lindner for his generosity in lending a car net for the wool.

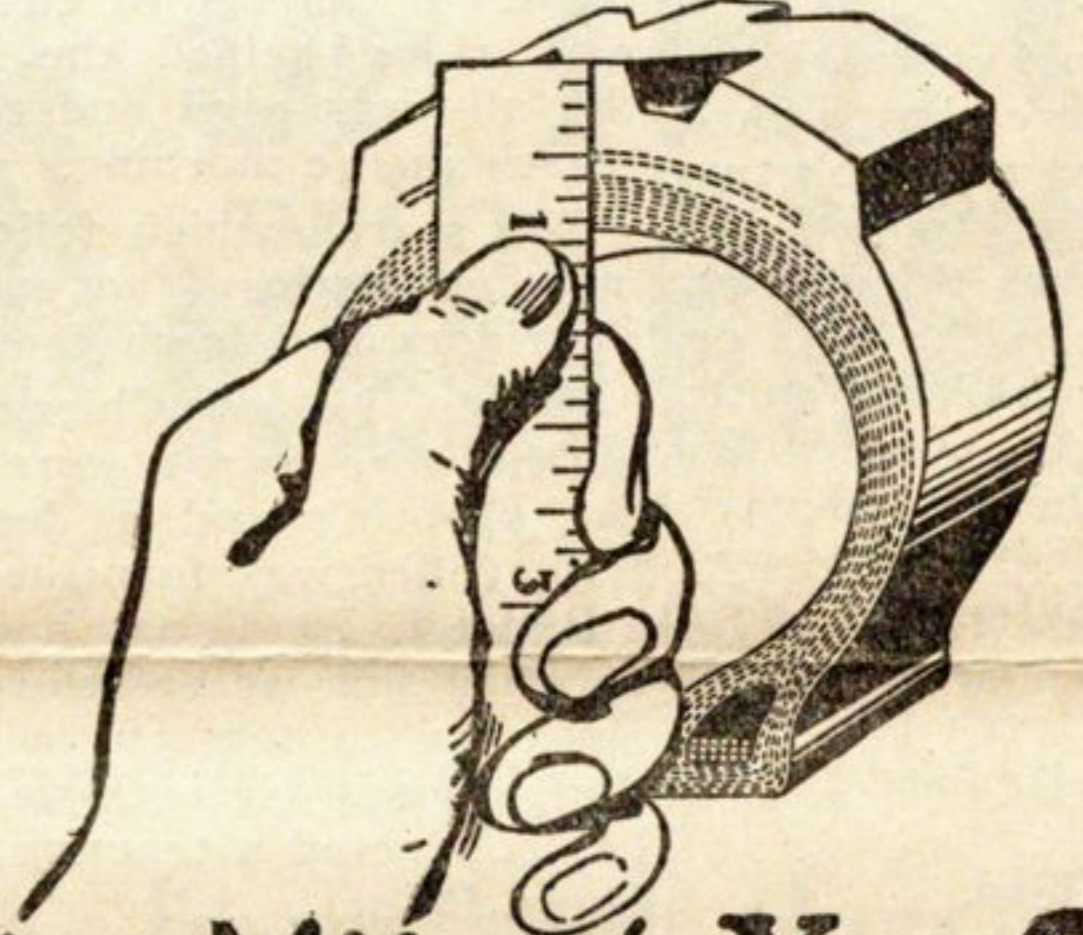
Red Cross Committee



However intense society gets its efforts to comfort and cheer the army and navy and relieve the distressed in Europe, it is not forgetting that always we have with us the poor and needy.

Last night four one-act plays were produced by the Players' Workshop in the Moraine Hotel, Highland Park, before an audience from Winnetka, Glencoe, Lake Forest and Kenilworth. The show won \$300 for the treasury of Arden Shore Camp. The sum is a nucleus for another Summer fund to keep open house for mothers and their children.

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