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WOMEN AND THE WAR



By MRS. HENRY P. DAVISON

Treasurer War Work Council
National Board Y. W. C. A.

In an Illinois prairie town lives a widow who launders seventeen baskets of wash a week and every night thanks God for having put pity into the hearts of women.



To her came one day a letter from her only son. He was then at Camp Funston, Kansas, learning to be a soldier. The letter begged her to come and see him before he was sent to France.

The mother opened the tin bank in which she had been hoarding her dimes and quarters against this day. The money was scarcely enough. Nevertheless she started. She walked the first eighteen miles. Then her strength gave out, and she took a train.

She did not know that visitors to Camp Funston stay in Junction City, eleven miles away. So she got off the train at Fort Riley. An officer set her right and she reached Junction City after dark. Somehow she found a rooming-house. Some one there stole five dollars from her—five of the precious dollars she had earned over the wash tub and saved by walking. Terror-stricken, she crept out of the house when no one was looking.

Later in the night a soldier found her trembling in the street, and took her to the rooms of the Young Women's Christian Association, rooms which the War Work Council had opened as a clearing-house for troubles. The poor frightened woman was put to bed, but she was too miserable to sleep. The matron got up at daybreak, built a fire, and comforted her. The son's commanding officer was reached by telephone early in the morning, and the boy came to his mother on the first trolley-car he could catch.

The two spent long, low-voiced hours together, perhaps the last hours they will have this side of heaven. Every moment was as precious as a month had been last year. The old lady had still one present worry. The boy's bad cold might turn into pneumonia if she left him. But she had not money enough to stay another night and buy a ticket home.

When the matron told her that her bed was free, she broke down and cried and cried.

"I did not know there was so much pity left in the world," she sobbed. She stayed till her boy's cold was better. Then she went back to her seventeen washings and her memories.

Because of the certainty of just such cases as this was Governmental sanction given to the activities of the War Work Council of the Y. W. C. A. From the Pacific to the Atlantic its field extends. Every state in the Union has its members. Urgent appeals for help are its cause and its

inspiration. Women of every race and creed are its wards. The task of the War Work Council is tremendous.

When the United States entered the great war the Young Women's Christian Association was, as always, working among women. With the call to new duties its members did not abandon their old responsibilities. The War Work Council was formed as an emergency measure to take care of the women who were caught in some of the mazes of war, just as the parent organization has taken care of them through many years of peace. The varied activities decided upon by the War Work Council follow closely the needs of the different communities of the country. Secretaries trained in the methods of the organization were sent out broadcast. They were instructed to report to the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association in New York the lines of work which could be best followed in the various localities. These secretaries work in close cooperation with ministers, women's clubs, chambers of commerce, churches, military officials, and charitable societies. The record of a day's doings of a secretary reads like a novel, an economic treatise, and a psychological essay all compressed into a line-a-day entry.

A secretary sent out by the War Work Council must be equal to any emergency. Miss Lillian Hull at Chillicothe, close by Camp Sherman, hurrying along the street at nightfall came upon a forlorn couple. A Finnish soldier had found a job for his wife, so that she might come on from Cleveland. When she arrived she was refused the place because she spoke no English. Their money had been all spent on the railroad fare, and the soldier was due back at Camp. The situation was bad.

Thanks to Miss Hull a Chillicothe housewife now has an industrious and grateful domestic, a soldier is happy, and a soldier's wife is safe.

Army folks often benefit even more directly from the secretaries' work. In Bremerton, Washington, a secretary was accosted on the street by a sailor. She was a slender woman, and he had mistaken her for a girl. "May I walk along with you?" he asked.

"Surely," she replied with mature understanding and intuition. "What is the matter? Are you homesick?"

The lad's story came out with a rush. Yes, he was homesick, so hopelessly, despairingly heartsick that he was on the verge of deserting. But this woman gave him genuine sympathy and encouragement. She saved him to his country.

From north, south, east and west these pioneer secretaries sent in their reports. The appalling size of the undertaking was revealed to the War Work Council. Systematization of the work was the first step. Out of the multitudinous phases certain lines of work were revealed.

(Continued.....)

RIGHT CARE FOR CABBAGE FIELDS

Plant Sanitation Will Prevent Many of Injurious Diseases of This Plant.

CROP ROTATION IS FAVORED

Seed Bed is Often Source of Infection and Greatest Pains Should Be Taken to Insure Healthy Plants—Use Lime Freely.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Cabbage diseases which have been known to destroy practically entire crops are preventable in the main by simple methods of plant sanitation. Crop rotation is one of the chief foes of these diseases. Rotations should be practiced, avoiding crops which belong to the cabbage family, such as cauliflower, turnips, Brussels sprouts, and kale. Keep down mustard and weeds which harbor cabbage pests. Drainage water and refuse from diseased cabbage fields may carry infection, as will stable manure with which diseased material has been mingled. The seed bed is often a source of infection, and the greatest pains, therefore, should be taken to insure healthy plants. Locate the seed bed on new ground if possible, or sterilize by steam the soil that is used. Disinfect all cabbage seed before planting to prevent black-rot and black-leg. Clubroot is avoided by the free use of lime and by setting healthy plants.

How Diseases Are Spread.

Fungous and bacterial diseases are carried from one place to another by various means, such as insects, infected seed, transplanting from an infected seed bed to the field, drainage water, cabbage refuse and stable manure, farm animals and tools, and wind. In view of these facts the chief aim of the farmer should be to pre-

vent, if possible, the introduction and distribution of destructive diseases on his farm. In order to accomplish this, several precautions should be observed, of which the more important are the disinfection of seed, the location and care of the seed bed, and crop rotation.

To disinfect seed, use one ounce of formaldehyde (40 per cent) to two gallons of water, or one teaspoonful to a teacupful of water. Soak the seed for 20 minutes in this solution, dip in clear water to wash off the formaldehyde, and then spread in thin layers to dry, stirring if needed.

To Disinfect Soil.

To avoid danger of spreading the disease to noninfected fields by means

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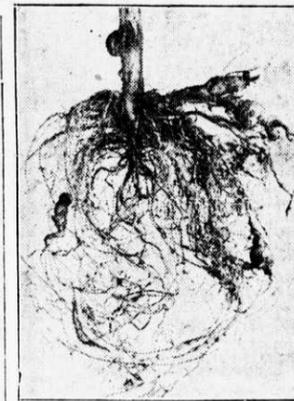
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of the plants from the seed bed, the following recommendations are made for disinfecting the soil in which the plants are grown: Sterilization by means of drain tile laid in the bottom



Roots of Cabbage Plant Infected With Root-Knot.

of the beds, through which steam is passed; by means of an inverted pan under which steam is admitted; or by drenching the soil with a formalin solution consisting of 1 to 100, or 1 to 200 solution of formaldehyde.

Crop rotation is an essential practice whether or not it is necessary in the control of any plant maladies. There are numerous fungous diseases which appear year after year on the same field. Some of them, such as clubroot of cabbage, are strictly soil parasites and cannot be controlled by any fungicide. About the only method left to get rid of the organisms is to starve

them out, and this can be done only by a well-planned system of crop rotation. For ordinary practice, a rotation of four or five years is sufficient to reduce greatly the loss from most parasites. Deep and frequent cultivation by means of which the organisms are exposed to air and sunshine assists in exterminating them.

Catarrhal Deafness Cannot Be Cured

by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure catarrhal deafness, and that is by a constitutional remedy. Catarrhal Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result. Unless the inflammation can be reduced and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever. Many cases of deafness are caused by catarrh, which is an inflamed condition of the mucous surface. Hall's Catarrh Cure acts thru the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system.

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