

WORK FOR WOMEN—REAL AND FANCY

“REAL Work for Women” is the title of an article in an English newspaper which aroused great indignation, for real work, according to “Martha,” is done on the farm, in munition factories—it is, in short, the manual labour formerly sacred to the uneducated male.

“Real work, indeed!” says the mother of six, bristling with indignation. “I like to see ‘Martha’ run my house for a while!”

“Real work!” says the principal of a university for women. “Surely education is the chief thing in life, and never have such important positions been open to girls with a college education!”

WHICH is most needful, the work of the hands or the work of the head, the work of women in the home, or the labour they are performing for the absent men? Pondering these thoughts we approached the Women’s Building at the Canadian National Exhibition. Here we would see all that is typical of the activities of the Canadian woman and sacred to her sphere. How different after two years of war this building will be, since knitting has replaced embroidery and hospital dressings monopolized the time devoted to patch-work and lace.

BUT, to our surprise, the long avenue of cases filled as in former years with bed-spreads of elaborate linen crochet, with patch-work quilts of silk and cotton—even of cigarette trophies. There were also drawn-work doilies, be-ribboned tea cosys, poetical pillow-shams—this in war time! Useful handicrafts such as plain knitting were not in evidence, but there seemed to be no scarcity of hand-painted ornaments decorated with roses and bunches of grapes. We felt that we had seen those very articles last year and the year before last, and go on back to the dim days when, grasping our mother’s skirt, we gazed at them in admiration. Possibly in those days we might have appreciated the case of silk-embroidered cushions, especially one which received a first prize; but then nearly every entry in this class won a prize! A cupid floating on a background of black satin, his body solidly embroidered in shaded grey silk, his face in pink, and a tray which he carried aloft, in approximately natural shades. Roses figured prominently in this case, sometimes padded into high relief that they might effectively leave their imprint on any soft cheek that rashly rested upon them. Nor was there lacking a certain spirit—is it patriotism which spends itself embroidering crossed flags on a square of khaki?

THE school children’s artistic efforts, shown in the same building, cannot be too highly commended, but amateur painting should have no place in an exhibition. There were, however, some good examples of handicrafts, interesting bits of pottery decorated in original designs, and odd pieces of wood-carving and inlay. The best collection of handicrafts was contributed by the Women’s Art Association, and included a mixture of everything from homespun to jewelry. But there was only one exhibit that suggested even remotely that the country is at war, and that was Lady Eaton’s case of soldiers’ comforts, a timely reminder of the acceptable gifts to send our boys—mufflers and housewives, fruit cake and jams, socks knit by hand and by machine, the latter made by the Duchess of Connaught herself, who has set the example of devoting much of her time to war work, for in spite of this plethora of fancy-work, we believe that there are few women who have not devoted much of their time to war work. It seems invidious to praise a few where all have done so nobly, yet there has come to our notice this week a story of the sympathetic service of a lady who will re-our affections, the beloved Princess Patricia; the tale of what another lady who bears a famous name has done for our brave soldiers overseas.

A Model Military Chapter
NONE but soldiers’ wives, mothers and sisters may belong to the Military Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire in Calgary, and this has ensured unusual devotion, for their Red Cross department is busy, not one, but six days every week, even during the holiday season, and five sewing machines are kept constantly busy by

the 150 members, who, divided into working units of 12 to 15, have furnished over nine thousand articles, paying for all the materials. Much of the investigating for the Patriotic Fund of that district through deep snow and over rough roads was done by these courageous women, and the sum of \$1,776 was paid out to soldiers’ families before the inception of the Patriotic Fund, thereby relieving great distress.

SINCE September, 1914, this Chapter has raised \$8,903.50 by means of Military Tournaments, Tag Days, Band Concerts, Bridges, Teas and personal donations, which have been applied chiefly to the Red Cross Society, Returned Veterans’ Home, and Servian Fund. They also furnished magazines and papers to the C. E. F. and presented the colours to the 137th Battalion of Calgary. The officers of the Chapter who have held office continually since its organization are: Mrs. Ernest Cruikshank, wife of Brigadier-General Cruikshank, G. O. C. of M. D. No. 13, Alberta; 1st Vice-Regent, Mrs. Geo. MacDonald, wife of Lieut.-Col. MacDonald, O. C. 12th O. M. R.; 2nd Vice-Regent, Mrs. A. T. Linton, wife of Major A. T. Linton, 103rd Calgary Rifles; Secretary, Miss Ethel Egbert, daughter of Dr. W. Egbert, Hon. Paymaster, 103rd Calgary Rifles; Treasurer, Mrs. H. J. Robie, wife of Major H. J. Robie, 137th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F., Calgary. Two of the members are overseas—Mrs. Bell, wife of Colonel Bell, of the 31st Overseas Battalion, and Mrs. Stanley Jones, wife of the late Major Stanley Jones, Princess Pats., but whether at home or abroad every member of this energetic Chapter is “doing her bit” and setting an example of consecrated industry.

Lady Byron

IN the earliest days of the war a great scarcity of matches was evident, and, knowing the dire disaster this would prove to Tommy, Lady Byron immediately procured and sent 10,000 boxes, with—“A match for a matchless soldier, from Lady Byron,” printed on each box.



Lady Byron, whose husband is a descendant of the great poet. She is one of the most interesting war workers in England, and has carried out original plans.

Lady Maud Cavendish, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, bringing a light meal to one of her patients at Blakewell Red Cross Hospital. Lady Maud cycles from Chatsworth every morning, bringing with her many delicacies, and her kindness is much appreciated by the Tommies. She will probably accompany her parents to Canada.



Officers of the Military Chapter, I.O.D.E., Calgary.

Mrs. H. J. Robie, treasurer (left).



Mrs. Ernest Cruikshank, regent (left).

Mrs. A. T. Linton, 2nd vice-president (right).

