

address was along the same line as that given by Mrs. Muldrew of the Food Controller's office to the Women's Institute in London and already published (Nov. 22nd issue) in the "Advocate" we need not repeat it.

THE DISCUSSION ON FOOD PLEDGE CARDS.

THIS discussion was led by Mrs. Brodie of New Market, who remarked first that she had a great deal of faith in Mr. Hanna and thought him big enough for his job. He had done more for rural Ontario than anyone realized in exposing the middleman.

It had been said that the country people had turned down the food pledge cards, but in Newmarket, out of three thousand five hundred, only fifty had refused to sign.

The situation had been acute, and they had hoped to work through the Institute, but instead of the personal touch had sent literature. One reply came that the President and Secretary had decided they could not do anything with it, forgetting that on a subject of this kind only a meeting of the Branch could decide. Mrs. Brodie remarked that they were glad to conserve resources, but there were some people she would be glad to see go hungry. Not one person is doing all possible and, although it means labor, the boys must have what they need. One thing we stick at, feeding those in town instead of the boys in the trenches. We are glad of the privilege of standing behind them. In Mrs. Brodie's own home, no cake was baked, no white bread, shredded wheat or bacon used, no food that the boys need.

One lady remarked that she was glad to hear Mrs. Brodie speak as she did on the cake question; she was using a flour substitute for hers. The women of Canada are all willing to do their best but want assurance that it will go to the boys. She was directed to Dr. McMurrich, Mrs. Gurnet and Mrs. Muldrew who were there to give information on the food question. Someone asked "why use veal and pork, when veal becomes beef and pork bacon?" and Mr. Putnam explained that a great many calves were not worth wasting the milk on to bring them up but were good as veal.

One woman said the men were to blame for the use of meat, saying "Go and see what a man has for dinner."

Mrs. Scripture of Newmarket had to come to the convention to learn that food cards were a failure. Out of 1,500 she had only 35 refusals. "They are the only weapon given us, let us use them."

Mrs. Buchanan then made a short speech in her usual happy way, saying that if the boys were conscripted the women would have to work in the fields. She had helped with the harvest, pitching hay with the men. She remarked that it was the women who stayed in who grew weak; those who work outside get stronger. The speaker said women were selfish who would not let their boys go.

The reports from St. George, Tillsonburg, Stroud, Price's Corners, Fenwick and Haliburton were then read, showing that all were doing wonderful work in the way of Red Cross, Belgian Relief, the knitting of socks, sending of monthly parcels and special Christmas parcels to our boys at the front. Also many ways of raising money for these purposes were explained. One Branch had been the means of having electric lights put in their village. Notwithstanding the heavy work demanded by the war, they had not lost sight of Home and Farm needs and work was progressing along these lines.

At the close of this session the members went to the rest room of the school to view an exhibit of Red Cross and Belgian Relief work, also one of Women's Institute canning work, where some excellent and tempting specimens of fruits, vegetables, chicken, fish and meat in glistening glass jars were shown. Here also implements for use in canning and drying were displayed, one specially good one being the invention of Mrs. Wocland, lecturer for Women's Institutes. It is being patented and will be on sale at a reasonable rate in the near future.

Evening Session.

ADDRESS BY DR. CREELMAN.

THE evening session opened with Dr. Geo. C. Creelman, Commissioner of Agriculture, in the chair. Dr. Creelman spoke principally on the value of co-operation, instancing the collection and grading of wool and butter. He also spoke of the potato situation as it was in 1916. Although the Department was glad to see the farmers getting the good prices they did in that year, yet he had begged them to hold and conserve them for seed. They, the farmers, had responded nobly and over two hundred kinds of potatoes had been raised in Ontario in the present year. He wanted it to be borne in mind that it was better to take a reasonable price per bag for potatoes put on the market gradually than to hold for higher prices later on when the market might be rushed.

With so many varieties it was hard for a buyer to satisfy his customers; when they had bought one variety and liked it they wanted it repeated, but buyers found this hard to do, so the Department had decided to select those most satisfactory and had chosen the "Cobbler" for early type, the "Green Mountain" for later, and the "Carman" as good in Thunder Bay District.

The Department has already bought one thousand bags free from disease from Northern Ontario District. He had had a note from Mr. Hanna saying that the meat situation was serious, and as cattle production could not be speeded, he had called a meeting of farmers to discuss the question. Many had come prepared to fight and went home prepared to raise pigs. Dr. Creelman asked the women to talk to the children when they went home and encourage them to help in the raising of pigs. Many could take one, two, or three pigs to raise and gain an interest in their country's struggle for the common good of all.

The Department of Agriculture hoped to work out among farmers co-operation for a new rural Ontario.

After the close of Dr. Creelman's speech a musical selection "Long Live the King", was given by Sgt.-Major Holmes, a returned soldier. His rendition of the song was much enjoyed by the audience who gave him a hearty encore to which he responded.

The report from the Thunder Bay district was then read, the reader remarking that before she went there to live she had thought it noted chiefly for its thunder, but had found it noted for many other things, one of them potatoes, as mentioned by Dr. Creelman. This district in which were many names hitherto unknown to most of the audience, had also done wonders in war work, and had held a Fall Fair of its own. It was also getting to be well known as a resort for hay-fever patients, that disease being practically unknown there.

Sgt.-Major Holmes again delighted the audience with a song, giving "The Road to Mandalay" and an encore, Sgt. Sutherland, another returned soldier, playing his accompaniment.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart then gave an address on her War Work in Serbia. She said in the beginning that there were only two classes in the world at present, "Pro Allies" or "Pro German"; there was no such thing as a neutral—you were either one or the other, either helping the Allies by doing all you could in the way of war work or helping the Germans by talking peace or stopping your sons from enlisting. Peace at this moment meant German peace and militarism. She had been in Brussels with a Red Cross unit when the Germans arrived there. She, her husband, who is a judge, and the clergyman of the unit, had been arrested as spies, although they had Red Cross passports, had been compelled to spend a night in a filthy cell and brought before a German commandant, who accused them of holding forged passports. They had been condemned to death as spies, but through her "cheek" and knowledge of German, they got away, she could not tell us how. From there she went to Antwerp only to have to fly.

Afterwards the Red Cross sent her with a unit to Serbia where she went all through that awful retreat of the Serbians through their mountainous

country, when thousands of men, women and little children perished by the way-side, from disease and exhaustion.

Twenty-two thousand sick and wounded passed through the hands of the unit which she commanded. Mrs. Stobart spoke of the Serbians as being a kindly, home-loving people, cultured and artistic, with the poetical spirit, who were only fighting for their independence. Professor Rice in his report to the Swiss said that all children under two years perished. "Serbia has been the rampart between Mohammedanism and civilization, and has sacrificed life and country", shall we not help Serbia win hers back again?

The chairman after the close of this address said it was good to be told facts and asked that a collection be taken up for the Serbian Red Cross. Every dollar given would help to revive Serbia's faith in civilization.

The leader of the "Khaki Follies" who had charge of the musical part of the programme and who had given his time free, wished the audience to keep in mind that the boys will go and give a programme for pay; they are all returned soldiers. Pte. Hill then sang, "An Old-Fashioned Ballad", and afterwards gave an exhibition of yodelling which was excellent.

Mr. Putnam here announced that Mrs. Stobart had published a book called "The Flaming Sword", telling all about her experiences, and well worth reading.

The report of West Northumberland was then read and made a very creditable showing.

Thursday Morning Session.

MRS. A. W. Walker, Bartonville, presided. She spoke of the constant reinforcement the Institute was getting from the best women in the land and said that at the present time the motto, "For Home and Country", was certainly being carried out. She also said that the best way to help our country was by increasing production and buying "Victory Bonds".

The speaker also wished to thank the Department of Agriculture for demonstrations of canning and hoped we would soon have medical school inspection universal; the need for it had been proven by one speaker who had said that one hundred thousand men had been rejected as medically unfit.

How much cheaper and better for the state if defects had been removed and children made fit in their youth.

Miss McIntyre then spoke on the "Responsibilities of Officers" saying that one of the first points of a good secretary was to see that the motions were put in a clear and definite form, allowing plenty of time for discussion; if motions were passed quickly it was often a cause of trouble afterwards. She also thought it a wise plan to place at the head of committees a woman of good executive ability and where entertainments were given for returned soldiers to use the younger members of the Institute with a good woman in charge.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

MAJOR J. G. Fitzgerald of the University of Toronto, gave an excellent address on this subject, dwelling only on venereal diseases.

His address was the same in substance as that given by Dr. Hill, Medical Health Officer for London, Ont., and already published in the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine". Major Fitzgerald dwelt especially on the military side of the subject and assured his hearers that the proportion of venereal diseases among the soldiers was not as great as among civilians and was invariably contracted through the civilian. The diseases were being adequately dealt with in military camps. Dr. McPhail had reported thirty thousand sick returns among the soldiers without one venereal case, although our boys were exposed to more temptations through loneliness than they would be at home.

Dr. Macdonald of the Globe, in an editorial said he had received a letter from a physician that these diseases were not limited to large centres, but also existed in rural districts.

Major Fitzgerald emphasized the fact that the most important factors to combat the disease, were education, diagnosis and proper measures of treatment, free if possible.

The Women's Institute can form sub-committees for combating disease, and the local committees in Toronto would be glad to co-operate in supplying literature or lectures. In addition some legislation would be required and amendment of the legislation, as it was impossible at present to isolate patients. We should have machinery to act and we want all to realize and furnish necessary support.

The chairman, in thanking the speaker said "we fully realize the seriousness of the subject and will do all in our power to combat it. She also said that mothers must be glad to know that their boys were being so well looked after in the army.

Major Fitzgerald will be glad to furnish information as to how women can help socially to overcome the loneliness of soldiers while in camp. Address "The University of Toronto."

Dr. Helen McMurrich was then introduced and said how glad she was to hear one speaker ask them to save and invest in "Victory Bonds", an investment which would bring unparalleled interest and victory against militarism. The people in the United States had invested in their loan to the extent of one in every seven, Great Britain one in every five, while Toronto so far had only one in every ten. The medical inspection of schools was one thing the women could help to gain. Now that the majority of them had votes, she wanted them to forget politics and party and say "Our Government".

She also said it was an unusual privilege to hear Major Fitzgerald, the man who had inspired, developed and provided protection against infectious diseases for the whole C. E. F.

The new laboratories could only be carried on by the aid of the farm for making serum; the diphtheria serum was made there and provided at cost.

Even one year ago Mr. Putnam would never have dreamed of putting this subject of venereal diseases on the programme and now we are talking freely of it. The doctor told his audience that Dr. Osler claimed that more families were affected by hereditary syphilis than by tuberculosis and it was the only disease carried on to the third generation. She would rather choose smallpox if she had to choose between the two.

The speaker asked her hearers not to be too hard on the guilty, who were often carried away in a weak moment by a great temptation. As she saw her hearers looking serious she told them to "cheer up, things were no worse than when they came into the room." When mental defectives are cared for there will be less of this dreadful disease. What we must do is help Medical Health Officers to interest legislators. Where two thousand dollars had been granted for investigation, ten thousand would not be too much. Home happiness was the greatest defence against this disease.

Dr. Margaret Patterson now addressed the audience and in speaking of literature in regard to teaching children said that people did not realize the great facts of life and there was a lack of reverence due to the fact that the questions of children were ignored or they were told lies. Tell them sex hygiene and give them reverence for self; there is plenty of literature available. One little leaflet, "An Open Letter to Parents," by Winfield L. Hall, was free to all. If the child started out right he was almost sure to stay right. The speaker thought the boy more sinned against than the girl, as we usually told the girl some necessary facts.

It seemed strange to the speaker that we have not raised our children as well as our hens. How many really made endeavor to get literature on preventable diseases?—literature offered freely by the Government. All that was necessary was a card to the Provincial Department of Health, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

She was asked if she approved of sex hygiene being taught in school, and said she did, but not set apart and taught as a subject by itself, but as other physiological subjects are taught.

"We have got to speak unreservedly, but chiefly in the home."

The next question was "Do you think men and women should have certificates of health before marriage?"

Her reply was "That is coming in time there is no use of legislating ahead of public opinion."