

# Women in Welfare Service

## SERVICE WITH FIGHTING MEN—Article Four



They Bestow Measureless Good Wherever Groups of Men Are Gathered Away from Home Influence

LEGEND and history furnish endless stories of the active assistance of women to fighting men in time of war. But history turns her face away and hesitates to record the acts of women camp followers of other days. Let us pass them by with the conviction that they were as grave a danger to any fighting force as were the soldiers under the enemy's banner.

It was not until the Crimean war that Florence Nightingale, in spite of the officers, instituted in the British army a relief and welfare work for soldiers which resulted in a permanent organization. The medical service had broken down. The death rate in certain barracks in England was twice that in the surrounding civil population. The "Angel of the Crimea" landed in Scutari in November, 1854, with a corps of 38 nurses and in spite of opposition cleared house. We think of her as a nurse but she did other things. She opened reading and writing rooms, arranged for soldiers remittances home, overcame the influence of camp followers. The title of her report, "Notes Affecting the Health, Efficiency and Hospital Administration of the British Army," shows her to have been not only the forerunner of the Red Cross nurse but of the woman welfare worker as well.

### WOMEN NEEDED IN WELFARE WORK

Long before the United States entered France and England of the world the war leaders had recognized the need for women to assist the impressed by the reports coming from the front.



not only acted as volunteer nurses and ambulance drivers but women of high and low degree went into ordnance factories, thus freeing men for the combat forces and for lack of the lines; they baked bread, worked in quartermaster's stores, acted as couriers, electrical operators and clerical workers, and took part in all forms of activities except the actual fighting.

When in the United States the men began to move toward the cantonments it at once became evident that American women, who could serve otherwise would not be content with war time activities at home, with handing out good cheer to men on troop trains or with nursing, important as these were. They were not going to permit their men to go from home to camp, and thence to a foreign land without taking with them every possible home environment.

Any attempt to extend home influences and home comforts to soldiers in camp and field not only must be supported by the women at home but necessitated her co-operation in the planning and directing of the undertaking.



American women at home and abroad contributed incalculably to welfare work. Beginning with activities at home very soon they were in Europe and then at the front. Mrs. Vincent Astor was in charge of the first canteen for soldiers, in Brest, as early as July, 1917. Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., opened the first canteen in Paris that month. At left is one of the home activities—"Y" workers aiding the departing soldiers; Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., above is Mrs. Vincent Astor, standing in center, with back to canteen wall. At right, a woman motion picture operator.

participation in its actual execution. When individual women began to seek admission into these undertakings the new problems of welfare work with the American army, there was some hesitance but the ultimate result was proof that a complete welfare program required women, not as substitutes for men, but as active participants.

Mrs. Vincent Astor offered her services to the Y. M. C. A. and, arriving in France in July, 1917, was put in charge of the first canteen for sailors at Brest. Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., opened the first canteen in Paris in July.

Conferences between British and American leaders who knew of the work of women in the hospitals in England resulted in a cable to New York, recommending that qualified women for canteen work are necessary. These women had to be strong, sensible, with a knowledge of life, good "mixers," loyal to military and Association rule, in thorough sympathy with the Association's social and religious aims and having an interest in spiritual things.

The general plan was that the women should work at the ports, with the Service of Supply, and in the training areas. What did the women do in France? The first recruits were incensed as canteen workers, but canteen service came to cover the multitude of activities, which any woman of mature judgment would undertake for any group of young men away from home. First of all they brought to homesick men in a foreign land, domestic cooking, aromatic work, a touch of real home atmosphere.

They sang, sewed on buttons, danced with the men, read aloud, played the piano, led religious services, but in all things they represented to the soldiers the women at home.

But it must be recognized that the work of the women was often most laborious and exhausting. With many a division, the serving of hot drinks and sandwiches to troops en-training or detraining, was largely performed by them. Forty-eight hours without intermission, on a railroad station platform, in heavy rain, preparing and passing out hot chocolate, was an experience many women knew.

Hospitals and dressing stations, when the wounded were pouring in, found women working at top speed for hours at a stretch, assisting sur-

geons, bathing and cleaning patients, preparing food and drinks, ministering to every need within their power. Even the chauffeur's job was theirs at times.

In the advance zone the women workers experienced the hardships of the troops, serving in towns where nightly bombing or shelling made it necessary for all hands to go out into the fields to sleep. They were billeted in unheated rooms, and at times had to forage for their food.

The women from America were ably supported in England, France and Italy by the women of the American colonies in all these countries. A most significant development of the war was the proof that the right kind of woman may live in military camps not only without harm to herself but with measureless benefit to the men. The soldiers gave the uttermost respect and perfect loyalty and comradeship. It was a new thing in welfare work and the result was good. Now and then, the old time hard-boiled professional soldier may attempt a sneer at coddling recruits, but if war must be the women of America will see to it that their soldiers are given every incentive toward decent living.

This experience has been gained for future service with soldiers and sailors. Its application to civil and industrial life is obvious. The right kind of woman can render a service of measureless good wherever groups of men are gathered away from home influence.



geons, bathing and cleaning patients, preparing food and drinks, ministering to every need within their power. Even the chauffeur's job was theirs at times.

## COMMENCEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

### University of Oregon List of Events for Graduating Week Announced.

EUGENE, June 6.—The program for Commencement Week, at the University of Oregon, June 20 to 25, was announced by faculty and student committees today. The week's Commencement activities will be featured this year by the installation of an Oregon Chapter of Sigma Xi, national honorary science society, and special reunions of the classes of 1876-1890, 1881, 1893, 1913 and 1918.

The largest class in the history of the University will be graduated June 25. Approximately 226 bachelor's degrees will be conferred. With the addition of the degrees of doctor of medicine and master of arts and master of science, the total of degrees granted will be approximately 375.

The baccalaureate sermon will be delivered by Dean Edward Ellery, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., national secretary of Sigma Xi society. Dr. Henry Baldwin Ward, professor of zoology at the University of Illinois and national president of Sigma Xi, will deliver the Commencement address.

The program for Commencement week follows:

- Wednesday, June 20.
  - 10:00 a. m.—Special reunion of all classes for 1876 to 1890, inclusive, Alumni Hall, Woman's building.
  - Thursday, June 21.
    - 8:30 p. m.—Falling and Peckman Oratorical Contest, Villard hall.
    - Friday, June 22.
      - 7:30 p. m.—Flower and Fern procession, campus.
      - 8:00 p. m.—Program of dancing by advanced students in the Department of Physical Education for Women, campus.
      - 8:30 p. m.—Twilight Concert, Combined Glee clubs. (Audience will be seated on lawn).
      - Saturday, June 23.
        - 9:00 a. m.—Annual meeting and breakfast of the State Alumnae Association, The Anchorage.
        - 9:30 a. m.—Meeting of the Alumni Council, president's office, Johnson hall.
        - 10:30 a. m.—Annual meeting of the Alumni Association, election of officers, Guild Theatre, Johnson hall.
        - 12:00 noon.—University luncheon to Alumni, seniors, and invited guests, men's gymnasium.
        - Special reunions, classes of 1881, 1890, 1913 and 1918.
          - 3:00 to 5:00.—President's reception, Alumni hall, Woman's building.
          - 5:00 p. m.—Commencement play, "Julius Caesar," by William Shakespeare, given by University company, Hayward Field.
          - Sunday, June 24.
            - 11:00 a. m.—Baccalaureate services, sermon by Dean Edward Ellery, Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., national secretary of the society

of the Sigma Xi, "The Spiritual Evolution of Man," First Methodist church.

4:00 p. m.—Special concert, under the direction of the School of Music, First Methodist church.

Monday, June 25. 9:45 a. m.—Commencement address by Dr. Henry Baldwin, University of Illinois, national president of the society of Sigma Xi, Woman's building.

Conferring of Degrees on graduating class.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Administrator of the estate of Margaret Frazer, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Union County. All persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present them to the undersigned, with the proper vouchers within six months after the date of this notice, and to so present the same to the undersigned at the office of H. E. Dixon, Foley Bldg., La Grande, Oregon.  
Dated this 9th day of May, 1923.  
JOHN L. CLASS,  
Administrator of the estate of Margaret Frazer, deceased.  
H. E. Dixon, attorney for Administrator.  
May 9-16-23-30-June 6

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