

would be his reply at just receiving a mere peep at the advancements and accomplishments growing out of his efforts these last few decades. Surely he would be amazed into speechlessness.

So we may pay homage to the toilers of alchemy of the "dark ages."

Praise them for their persistency and their desires, hopes and failures, for in a manner we may perceive how the mighty oak of our present laboratory has sprung up out of an acorn of ignorance and superstition.

And yet less than half has been accomplished.

HOW PHARMACISTS' WIVES MAY BE OF SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY.*

BY MRS. D. F. JONES.

We all love our country and how gladly have we responded to its call to do our bit, even if there are over twenty patriotic organizations for us to join, each one with an appeal we find hard to resist, we can only live one day at a time to produce the work required, and we must not become discouraged because we cannot accomplish everything.

The Red Cross work should come first in interesting pharmacists' wives, not only because of its close relation to the work of the pharmacist but for the alleviation of suffering at large. Money is most needed for this work, for the work must go on and we must aid in this labor of mercy, not only with money but time and effort as well. The article by Ex-President Taft in the June (1917) number of the *Ladies Home Journal* describes the object and work of the Red Cross so well that it is not necessary for me to repeat it, as everyone should be familiar with the work by this time.

I know of no other class of women more helpful than pharmacists' wives in times of peace, so I feel sure they are responding quickly to the rigid requirements of war. This World's War has made it both fashionable and patriotic to practice thrift which means making the best possible use of all we have in time, money, energy and material, and not trying to spend more of anything than we have. The slice of bread stares us in the face like an ogre and to see it wasted is a kitchen calamity. It would be a greater calamity if we served this same slice of bread once too often, for whatever we do in keeping war away from our borders, we must never let it creep over the threshold of our homes.

Because of our great excess of food we have become extravagant so we are admonished before throwing anything away to stop and ask ourselves the question: "Can it be used in my home or some other home?"

We, as women, are not in a position to play a large part in the actual fighting, but we can play a most consequential part in caring for those who fight for us and for their women and children. This we can do in our own homes and by encouraging and helping others to do so. We must aid the poorer classes in learning conservation, and I am glad we have societies organized to help the people of all classes to aid themselves. It is wonderful how quickly women have responded to this great call to service, and how efficient they have become in all phases of

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work formerly done by men. Think of 25,000 women in France working on the railroads cleaning coaches and clambering over engines; and their bosses say their work is done quicker, better, and in a more cheerful manner than the men ever did it.

The Government of France has opened the technical schools for their women and has been an encouragement in every way, while the women of England have been discouraged by that Government and have only received help through private firms. Nothing daunted, they have compelled recognition, for England is a world of women in uniform, an army of nurses, messengers, porters, elevator hands, bank clerks, every place that men formerly occupied.

The women of Germany, so patient and stoical, starving in many communities, demand our praise and admiration. We can profit by their wonderful example and learn from their perfect system of handling these serious questions that are confronting them. They realize what war means and Red Cross work to them is serious business because they are constant witnesses of suffering.

One especially sad thing about the war is the Child Question. Crime amongst children has increased by a large percentage on account of neglect. And right here just a word about the children of our own country—our most vital resource. While the motherhood has been appealed to in women as never before by the pitiful tales of war orphans abroad, it is appalling to see and read of the neglect of children, not orphans, in cases right here at home. Mothers prompted by patriotic impulse cannot afford to spend their time away from home even for a patriotic reason when they cannot account for the doings of their own children. A timely suggestion has come from the Department of Education, that our Kindergartens, Elementary, and High Schools should run to their fullest capacity throughout the entire year. As the fathers are withdrawn from the home and the mothers enter the industrial field, home-life must inevitably be disturbed and home-care dangerously relaxed. To keep the schools open the entire year would be one of the most effective means of unavoidable domestic neglect.

Of course we, as pharmacists' wives, have always been in training, so we can adapt ourselves to unexpected calls on our time and energy. We have always been ready to take the place of the clerks, do the collecting, etc., in addition to home management and child raising, without the aid of servants; so if the call does come for loved ones to join the Pharmaceutical Corps we are ready to step nimbly into the harness and "pull for all we're worth." Meantime we are going to make home-life even more pleasant. We will look after the children, and if Sarah Tyson Rohrer does say it, we will serve something besides the "unsalted dish of rice" she advocates and prepare the appetizing meals our husbands always have liked and through it all use common sense with economy.

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