

The War Union

DURING the winter of 1917-18 Simmons was not behind with her bit toward the winning of the War. We had Liberty Loan Drives and a Red Cross membership drive, and a branch of the Surgical Dressings Committee was formed which flourished both at the dormitories and during several hours a week at the College Building. But on the day of Student Government Party, when Dean Arnold came back from Washington to visit us, she told us of a new organization which had been formed to consolidate all our war activities under one head. This was to be known as the Simmons College Union for War Service.

The Union was proposed and organized in the early spring at a meeting of the Executive Board of the Alumnae Association and some of the College Faculty. Its prime object was to keep a record of the work of all the Alumnae, Faculty, and students who were engaged in any kind of war activity. Later its function was expanded to giving financial help to the organizations and individual workers connected with Simmons. Mrs. Kent and Miss Noyes of the Corporation, and Mrs. Lefavour of the Council were appointed to the Committee in charge, which also included representatives from the various College groups. The organization has been financed by membership pledges and donations.

The first project that the Union carried out was the Simmons Farm Unit, at Center Harbor, New Hampshire, which was organized by Miss Gilbert. A number of girls spent most of the summer on the farm, and made the Union's first constructive effort a genuine and practical success.

When College began in the fall a new department was begun with the aid of Dr. Babcock. This was the Volunteer Service Bureau. All the girls were asked to submit programmes showing at what hours they would be free for emergency war work. We maintain a regular branch of the main Volunteer Service Bureau of the Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the Red Cross, and when called upon can send girls out to do typewriting, clerical work, or any other service of that kind. In connection with this, the Red Cross refugee sewing during week-days has been divided up among the girls who have registered with the Bureau.

The Simmons Auxiliary of the Red Cross has been brought under the Union, which has promised financial support.

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It has also been possible for the Union to send money to Dr. Underwood in Italy for his work in the Y.M.C.A. among the refugees.

Although with the end of the war the necessity for such an organization might no longer be apparent, yet it continues to flourish, for war work is by no means at an end. Our responsibility here at Simmons is only just beginning. It is to be hoped that the Union may be able to "carry on" with reconstruction work, and perhaps become a permanent center for community service at College.



Our Farm Unit



Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How does your garden grow?
With cabbages and dainty beets,
And turnips and beans, in a row!

Which means that Simmons, not to be outdone by her sister colleges, reverted to the simple life and tried her hand at the spade and hoe.

Our college Farm Unit, which was organized in June, 1918, was made up of twelve girls and two chaperons, who dedicated themselves for two long summer months to the patriotic, if somewhat blistering, art of tilling the soil. They lived in an old-fashioned farmhouse, about a half mile from Lake Winnepesaukee. The simplicity of farm life was a decided change of routine for some of the girls, but they soon became accustomed to living on a "farm" schedule, and liked it, even the "early to bed and early to rise" part of it. After scrambling out of bed in the cool New Hampshire mornings, and jolting along over the country roads in the spring-and-cushionless Ford truck for many miles, they soon found that they could get used to anything. Trucks and "reveille" and all, they spent a memorable summer up there in New Hampshire, and the thought that they were doing their bit for their country and their college, was balm enough for any blisters!

The girls who were the Simmons "farmerettes" were

Gertrude Barish, '19	Winifred Pearl, '21
Edith Swift, '19	Marion Kidder, '21
Florence Weinberg, '19	Lillian Markell, '21
Marion Symmes, '20	Isabelle Graves, '21
Margaret Nellis, '20	Jessie Dodge, I. M.
Fanny Hamburg, '21	Gertrude Dana, Special student

Miss Agnes Fenton and Miss Bertha Ernst, Chaperons.

The Red Cross Auxiliary



A. GILMAN
M. FITCH

M. KAAN
H. BAKER
Chairman

E. LEAVITT
A. MASON

"Who can make buttonholes?" That was our battle-cry in the Fall. Scarcely had the Red Cross got started when the "flusies" appeared in our midst and we were bundled off home,—and then the War ended, and the joyful order, "No more surgical dressings" was issued from Washington. So we turned our skill upon the manufacture of pajamas! For some of us, no imaginable form of sewing machine can ever hold any fears after what we have been through. Nobody could have believed that the simple pajama was such a riddle. But the girls worked nobly (although some of the coats *would* button from right to left—as they ought to!—instead of in the extraordinary military way), and it was fine training for our later consignments of refugee garments, which were simple by comparison.

The Red Cross drafted the day girls for work in the College Building during certain hours a week, using the catalogue of the War Service Bureau, and had three meetings a week in the evening at North Hall.

We feel that the Red Cross has accomplished a good deal, not only because of the actual work we have done, but because it has given us a greater sense of world citizenship, and of our present obligation as Americans toward Europe.