

# What Can We Do?



There are some matter-of-fact, highly practical ways in which women can manifest their patriotism. They are not at all spectacular—just plain, everyday, commonplace services—but they leave no room for doubt as to the sincerity that prompts them. First of these is the conservation of food for future use. It appears that an abundance of vegetables and fruits will be grown this year and it is up to the housewives to see to it that much greater quantities are canned, dried and otherwise preserved, than in normal times. Then, in case of shortage in any quarter, there will be a reserve to call on in other localities.

About the next most useful thing to do is to gather up all old materials that can be used to make surgical dressings, and have them thoroughly washed. These materials may be shipped to the National Surgical Dressings Committee, at 299 Fifth avenue, New York city. In old materials the committee asks for linen and cotton, blankets and spreads, sheets and pillow cases, tablecloths and napkins, towels and underclothing. This committee is thoroughly organized for war relief and is engaged in making a variety of surgical dressings out of old and new materials. Many cities and towns have sub-committees who gather and forward donations to headquarters. Over 1,000 hospitals are served on the continent and over 8,000,000 dressings have been shipped to them.

Women who have the leisure, may organize a sub-committee in communities that have none. The national committee welcomes the names of people who might be interested in forming sub-committees. Volunteer workers make up old and new materials into surgical dressings and all other work is donated, so that the real spir-

it of service is maintained throughout the organization.

A great work is to be done for the American Red Cross. Its membership must be brought up to the strength required by the war and that is the first business in hand. Individual memberships for one year, cost only one dollar and two dollars will pay for a year's membership and subscription to the Red Cross magazine, which is issued monthly. Nearly all communities have a chapter or other representation of the Red Cross, but where there is none, anyone may send in an application for membership addressed to the American Red Cross, Washington, D. C. We must look to the Red Cross to save the lives of wounded soldiers and every American woman will want to help in this matter.

There are many activities in the work of the Red Cross that are in the hands of women. The making of hospital supplies, comfort kits and many other things for the soldiers will keep a big army of women busy for some time. This part of the work is done under the supervision committee on hospital supplies and workers in each community must be trained in order to make and pack these supplies up to the standards required by the U. S. army. Hospitals, churches, schools, clubs and organizations of all kinds are assisting in this work. Classes for instruction are being formed everywhere. Pupils in these classes are being taught how to make bandages, hospital garments and everything needed, how to pack them in the right way, and fitted to teach others to do this work. Unemployed and especially unmarried women, can give much of their time to this work and every woman will want to have some part in it.

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