

1st September, 1943.

The Editor,
"Sydney Morning Herald".

Dear Sir,

We hear of constant shortages of women workers for various types of vital work, and apparently we have arrived at no satisfactory way to obtain these workers. There is one obvious way to attract workers to any occupation - namely, to raise the pay earned in that occupation.

Facts and figures show that nursing, domestic work, restaurant work, and work in textile and other low-paid factory employment, are definitely occupations which are not attractive to women. The way to make them so is to offer wages and conditions in line with other work which is performed, and which is often of less value to the community.

Women workers have been under-paid and exploited in the past. They have shown their capacity and efficiency for the Services, in defence works, and in replacing men workers in various occupations. The time has arrived when women's work must be valued at the same ratio as men's work. For instance, it is absurd that the pay of a nurse, with all her skill and responsibility, should be less than the man's basic wage.

Make the payment fit the qualifications and nature of the work, and there will be no shortage of women workers.

Yours faithfully,

Jessie M. G. Street