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**SANDBAGS.**

Sir: Recent letters in your paper have shown that the making of sandbags has been carried on vigorously in Crawley, and the work has been commended as excellently done by Miss Tyler, to whom the bags were sent. We hope soon to have completed 2,000, but our funds are exhausted, and it is evident that if we are to carry on the work as long as the need exists, which will be until the war is over, we must have constant and regular support. We have been making bags at the rate of about 500 per month. Can we keep this up? I believe we can; but it can only be done if free gifts are offered month by month. I suggest that every one who can do so should determine to put aside a regular sum for this purpose in the first week of each month; 6d., 1s. or more, according to their means.

To be merely a signpost is not good, i.e. to point the way, but not to go; so I will start the list of contributors by promising 2s. 6d. per month for 12 months, if the war lasts that time, my sister (Mrs. Colles) and Mr. A. D. Colles have each promised the same sum. If 100 promises of 1s. monthly can be obtained more than 200 sandbags can be provided, but we hope for at least twice that number of 6d. promises, and also for a few more promises of 2s. and 2s. 6d. If we can secure these the work can go on steadily and even increase, for occasional gifts may be given which will enable us sometimes to make a larger output in a month. A statement of receipts and expenditure (without names of donors) will be made in your paper in the last week of each month.

The first thing necessary is to know what support we can count upon; I therefore urgently ask those who wish to help our work to send their names, mentioning the amount they can promise to give monthly, to me or to Mrs. Nightingale, Hazeldene, or to leave this statement in the shop in the Brighton-road, where the notices about sandbags had been posted up for the last fortnight. I will ask also that the monthly donation may be left at Mr. Nightingale's shop in the first week of each month or sent by post to Mrs. Nightingale or to me.

Perhaps there are some who still wonder whether the work is urgently needed. Miss Tyler, who has received the thanks of the Army through the Headquarter Staff in France, quotes, in a leaflet dated July 12th, this from a letter received from the Front, in which the writer says, "Three sandbags piled in front of a man make him practically safe from rifle fire." And an artillery officer had just written to her, "Send me 10,000 sandbags." The next day he wrote again asking for 2,000 more, and adding, "I wonder how soon I can get them?"

How much is implied in that last remark! The sense of urgent need, whilst his men were being shot down for lack of this small protection that a child can make, and the knowledge that, if enough had not been completed, the delay must cost many lives. The mothers and the wives of Empire have given their nearest and dearest for the country and our just cause, but it is terrible to think that any man should fall, any home be made desolate, because some one did not give 6d., and because the inhabitants of Crawley did not provide the willing workers with the material necessary for carrying on the work.

Asking for money is a task few people enjoy, but to ask to urgently press for money for this object is a duty and a privilege. Generous gifts have been made by several persons, but what is needed is a persistent influx of small sums at regular intervals. We ask for them in order that we may continue doing this trench work. Probably people have thought such small gifts not worth offering, but we hope they will now realise that 6d., 1s., 2s., 2s. 6d. punctually paid once a month may save the lives of many men, and who can say that among them may not be your own brother, or husband, or friend?

Miss Tyler has sent out half a million sandbags as the result of voluntary efforts. What are we going to do to double that number?

H. A. DALLAS.

Innisfail, Crawley,  
 August 4th, 1915.

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**SANDBAGS.**—On December 14th a further consignment of 638 sandbags were sent to Miss Tyler for the soldiers at the Front, making the total 4,897 sent from Crawley and district. The donations and subscriptions to the fund amounted to £72. 1s. 8d., and there is a balance due to the Treasurer of £9. 15s. 5d.; the expenditure being 3,773 yards of Hessian and string or making, £79. 15s. 10d., and rail carriage and bags for despatching sandbags in to Miss Tyler, £2. 1s. 3d. In addition to the above, 225 made sandbags and 592 yards of Hessian have been given. Contributions towards the deficit of £9. 15s. 5d. will be gratefully received by Mrs. Martin, Miss Dallas or Mrs. Nightingale, Hazeldene, Crawley. Miss Tyler writes as under to Mrs. Nightingale: "Will you please thank not only yourself, but all your workers, for the magnificent consignment of sandbags for the Front? I believe they went off again yesterday, when we sent off 12,000 (three tons) or a few more in answer to very urgent appeals from the firing line; some to France and some to Gallipoli. An officer told me recently: 'I calculate that every sandbag means a life.' So it is worth doing. Every soldier saved is a soldier given; and we are told by officers we must have saved thousands of lives." Message after message has been received from officers. After the Loos fighting one wrote, "We would have given our souls for them;" another wrote, "But for the bags their casualties in men and guns would have been quadrupled;" another officer wrote, "I calculate every six bags you send means a life, and we need them more and more."