

When, a year ago, the Council of Defense was appointed for the State, at the request of the Federal authorities in Washington, it was felt that in view of the experience of England and other attacked countries, there was a definite field for the cooperation of our women. No one, however, at that time appreciated thoroughly the vast scope of activities that the emergency would open up to our women. It is noteworthy, however, that the women have met, and even anticipated, the developments in splendid fashion.

Thanks to the screen, to the newspapers, and to the many correspondents who have given us vivid pictures of life in England and other embattled countries, all of us have a clear picture of what modern war means to the civilian population of a country. Therefore, when the Commander-in-Chief of our Army and Navy, our President, called the Country to "battle stations," as he did Monday in his Navy Day address, that call affects not merely the members of our sea and land forces, but every able-bodied individual throughout the length and breadth of the Country. No longer is warfare only for the Army and Navy and their auxiliary units. Today, warfare is brought home to each individual in the cities, on the farms, and in factories, and each one must be made fully cognizant of his or her duties in case of emergency, and must be trained to carry out these duties effectively.

Unlike the women of past generations, our women of today are just as important cogs in the machinery of warfare as their sons and husbands and fathers on the firing line and on the assembly line. In time of attack, they will have their designated functions and will be expected to carry them out just as definitely as if they were members of the armed forces.

In this period of Defense Preparedness in which we now are engaged, there is not only room, but there is definite need, for every woman who possesses any of the many qualifications that must be utilized in the multitudinous phases of industrial and economical preparedness that now are necessary.

As no doubt all of you have been informed through your county chairmen, and at your various meetings, there is plenty for every woman in our State to do in the 15-point program that has been prepared by the Women's Division of the Maryland Council of Defense.

Under Point 2 of this program, Registration, the Women's Division has undertaken to register all women who are willing to give their leisure time for volunteer service, and also those who will serve in case of an emergency. As you know, many of our women already have been under training as air raid spotters, and have participated in the maneuvers throughout a great part of our State several weeks ago. This is only one of the many emergency duties, however, which women will be expected to perform. Other duties in case of greater emergency or attack will include service as auxiliary police, as fire watchers, messengers, members of driver's corps, of emergency food and housing corps, and in nursing and as aids to nurses.

In addition to these duties, the training features of the program are important. If an all-out emergency should arise, there will be great need for women to replace our men on the farms, in industrial concerns, and even in the servicing of the many airplanes that will then be in service. Even now, in the