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SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

We publish this month in the French Section of the paper Resolutions bearing on the question of Protective Legislation, which were passed at recent meetings of the Inter-parliamentary Union and of Women Workers' Associations, international and national. We feel, as we indicated last month, that every piece of information on this subject, every organised expression of opinion, is, and ought to be, of vital interest to all serious feminists. It is from this point of view that we have pleasure in bringing to the notice of our readers the recently published Report of the Open Door International which was held in Berlin last summer. The Open Door International, a creation of the Open Door Council, a British Committee, has as its object:—"To secure that a woman shall be free to work and protected as a worker on the same terms as a man, and that legislation and regulations dealing with conditions and hours and payment, entry and training, shall be based upon the nature of the work, and not upon the sex of the worker; and to secure for a woman, irrespective of marriage or child-birth, the right at all times to decide whether or not she shall engage in paid work, and to ensure that no legislation or regulation shall deprive her of this work." The Report is printed in English, French and German.

We have also received from the Equal Rights Committee of Great Britain information about a Deputation which waited on the Home Secretary last month, supported by representatives of various feminist and professional women's societies and including women working in industry. The Deputation, in view of the Government's double promise to ratify the Washington Hours Convention and to introduce a Consolidating Amending Factory Bill, urged that the proposed Bill be drafted "in line with modern thought, and to secure in it that women be given the status of adult human beings and the same personal industrial rights as men," and that it "should lay down that all Regulations, Orders or Special Orders must be based upon the work alone, and in no case upon sex."

* * *

The International Industrial Relationships Association (for the study and promotion of satisfactory human relations and conditions in Industry) has published an interesting two volume work, based on the proceedings of the 1928 Cambridge Congress, on the subject of "Fundamental Relationships between all sections of the Industrial Community." Volume I, contains short reports from nineteen different countries, and Volume II, has specially contributed essays which range over a wide field. Women are taking an active part in the work of the Association. Miss Kirstin Hesselgren, Inspector of Factories in Stockholm and a member of the Swedish Parliament, a well-known friend of the Alliance, writes on Public Opinion and Industrial Relations.

* * *

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has reprinted from "The Shield," in pamphlet form, two useful essays: "Present-Day Opinion on the Regulation of Prostitution" and "The Case against the Report of the Street Offences Committee." The latter is particularly valuable. It sets out clearly the events preceding the appointment of the Committee, gives the recommendations of the Committee and then proceeds to a detailed criticism, and concludes with the words of Josephine Butler, which, although they bear the date 1895, have not yet become, by reason of improved conditions, less important than they were when they were first uttered:—"I earnestly invite the members of all purity societies who may hear this appeal to consider this. . . . If for want of instruction or experience in the matter they feel they cannot join our aggressive abolitionist work, I beseech them at least to be careful that they do not even inadvertently strengthen States and Governments in their fatal designs anywhere by joining in demands for increased police powers over women, or assenting to any form of compulsion affecting the personal dignity of womanhood, even 'fallen womanhood,' or by permitting anywhere or in any way that the principle of the equality of the sexes in moral matters shall be lost sight of."

WOMEN UNDER THE RED FLAG.

It was an interesting experience to travel for some weeks in Russia, under the Red Flag, and to be allowed to see the actual conditions of life in towns as widely separated as Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev.

One is soon aware that one has entered into a new world of women, for in Russia to-day women are in very truth the equals of men, and socially and industrially there is no difference between the sexes. This enviable position, which women of other countries have fought long to attain, and have not even yet gained in the same degree, has come to the Russian woman by other than her own efforts.

During the last 12 years, the grim forces of war, Revolution and famine, followed by the elimination of the aristocratic and moneyed classes, and the levelling of all to a common standard of life, i.e., the working class, and above all the necessity for all women to be educated, and also to work in some manner for the State, are the main causes which have brought about the complete emancipation of women.

In the matter of work, labour conditions are the same for both sexes, and everywhere men and women work side by side, in the factories, on the railroads, in the streets, doing exactly the same kind of work, for the same number of hours and for the same pay; there were even women soldiers, dressed in khaki, with little to distinguish them from their brothers-in-arms! Women, too, can enter any of the professions for which they qualify, and in a Sanatorium which we visited, one of the three resident doctors was a woman. We could not resist asking how men viewed the new status of women, and were told that they encouraged it, and that only in backward villages was opposition met with. Did not Lenin—the idol of the Russian people, whom one meets at every turn in the form of poster, statue, bust or writing on the walls—say: "The old law which made a slave of woman is over, the aim of the Soviet is to attract women to social and political work" and also: "Even a woman cook must be of such a high level of culture, that she can take part in the Government of her country?"

These two remarks embody the whole attitude of Russia to-day towards women, and everything is being done to lift the age-old burden of drudgery and domestic work, in order to free her for public service: hence the public feeding in Co-operative restaurants, the crèches, public laundries, etc., all designed to give her leisure for self-improvement.

A woman's life seems to centre round her place of work. If it is a factory or institution, a crèche will be attached, where her baby will be well cared for during her working hours by trained nurses. In Moscow alone there are 710 of these crèches, accommodating some 72,300 children. We visited a large number of them in different towns and found them well managed by intelligent women, who took a great interest in their work.

After working hours there is the Club, usually also attached to the factory, where lectures and classes are arranged and where any special subject can be cultivated. A great feature of Russian life also is the "Culture House" and in summer the "Culture Park." The one we visited, which was outside Moscow, extended for many acres, and in it we found crèches, nurseries, playgrounds, workshops for crafts, "halls" for the study of history, geography, literature, music, medicine, etc., so that while the parents studied, the little ones were taken care of, and the boys and girls either learned a craft or went in for sport together.

In social life, marriage and divorce seem to be more lightly considered than in other countries. As regards divorce, the law of equality holds good, and all property the parties may possess must be divided equally between

them, but there is no question of alimony for the woman, who continues to support herself by her own work, and is therefore independent of it, but both parents are responsible to the State for the upkeep of the children.

There are many privileges for the mother before and after childbirth. She has four months' holiday (two before and two after confinement) with full pay, and in the nine months which follow confinement she receives one-fifth of her salary extra for special feeding. She is also allowed two hours off work daily to feed her child. This applies to all mothers, for no child is illegitimate in Russia.

In spite of all these advantages, however, life, on the surface, seemed somewhat sombre and colourless. This was owing, no doubt, to the present stringent economic conditions. There seemed to be no "fashions," no silk stockings and no jewellery—for even a married woman does not wear a ring. This absence of so many things that the ordinary woman regards as necessary to the joy of life, was made up for in the Russian woman by her alert and confident attitude, her well-groomed appearance and graceful carriage and above all by her intelligence and grasp of social matters and the assured hold she has on the position she occupies in the new scheme of things.

MARY E. MAXWELL.

YOUTH AND WORK.

(Speech delivered at the General Annual Meeting of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging voor Staatsburgeressen, October 6th, by Miss Clara Meyers, Director of the only Woman's Bank in Holland (Branch for Woman Clients of the Rotterdam Bank, Amsterdam), Treasurer of the National Auxiliary and Financial Adviser of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship).

When I was asked to give an address to our younger members, I chose the subject of "Youth and Work" as being most in my line. If one has practised a profession since one's twentieth year, as I have, and therefore has come in contact with many women who work, one has the opportunity of studying all the problems connected with women's work, and is therefore in a position to form an opinion on these questions. Many of you, and I quite specially think of the younger ones, will perhaps ask: "But are there so many problems with regard to women's work? It is obvious that women work as well as men and there cannot arise many difficulties out of that fact. Look round! We find women in almost every profession, but there is nothing to be seen of the so-called fight. It may have existed in former times but now-a-days . . . everything runs smoothly and without disturbance."

Those who speak like this see nothing but the outside of things. It may be true that a good many women can find paid work without much difficulty, and, seen superficially, the chances may be the same for men and women, but in reality the position of the woman—this is not only the case in our country but unfortunately in all the countries of the world, progressive America included—is much less favourable than for men and it must be stated that the present time does not show an improvement in this matter; on the contrary, things are going back. The market for most professions is glutted, a hard struggle for life is the natural consequence, and if it occurs that a woman has to compete with a man for a somewhat higher position, it is generally she who is the loser. As soon as a woman enters into direct competition with a man, she will meet with a reverse. She will find out that there still exist limits for her that she cannot exceed, and that it is impossible for her to

attain to the highest rank. And we can speak of really equal terms for men and women only if a woman has the same opportunity of realising her full activity and talents as a man; if not only all professions are open to her but if she can also occupy all the functions, even the highest ones, therein. Therefore not only "equal pay for equal work" must be our motto, but also equal possibilities and equal chances.

On this subject I should like to address quite specially the younger ones among my hearers. We have to fight for equal possibilities. But let us, we who aim at equal possibilities, be careful to give equal work as well. Let us, before thinking of our rights be conscious of our duties. Let us do everything that lies in our power so that our work will speak for itself and will be respected. We must even try to do more than men, as we are more sharply criticized. A woman in a somewhat higher position must do better work than a man, because—and do believe me—every smallest mistake or neglect will be twice as much criticized in her as in a man. Most of you have only started your careers and will not have experienced any of these difficulties so far, but nevertheless the beginning very often gives its imprint to your whole future life. A very great number of girls consider their situation as a temporary one and hope that they will marry some day, and we, the older ones, hope it for them, as we also believe that marriage is the most natural fulfilment of a woman's vocation. But it is not given to all of us, and also marriage does not always mean happiness and a secure harbour for life. Therefore it is a mistake for marriage to be the only end a girl keeps in view. It is a wrong point of view for girls in general but especially for those who occupy a situation. How can a girl do good and useful work if she is not really interested in it and regards it only as a temporary necessity? It is the complaint of many employers that girls work without brains and that they consider the office as a house of transit to marriage. They may be all right for mechanical work, but their absolute lack of interest and energy prevents them from getting on in life. The result of this is that many girls find situations in private or public offices but only for inferior and less paid work. The better situations are reserved for men who see in their daily work a way of getting on in life and a possibility of creating a home and a family.

It is true that it is very difficult sometimes for a girl to devote herself entirely to her work, as very often at that age she undergoes a period of mental and physical strain and also does not always find work which is in her line. Especially when a girl grows older and her chances of marriage grow less, and when she has to real-

ise that her task in life will not be to become a wife and mother, work that does not fill her whole personality will be felt as a heavy burden. Therefore we find many dissatisfied girls, especially in offices, who consider their work only as a very disagreeable necessity for earning their daily bread. The employers will say of these women: "They do their work, but without ambition. They will not be taken into consideration for a higher position; they are not up to it."

It is again the vicious circle: slackening of interest, mechanical work, no chance of getting on, lack of capacity to fill a higher position.

And now I should like to say to the younger ones: "Do all you can in order not to be caught in this vicious circle. Don't think your work uninteresting and don't forget that the work you may believe to be uninteresting and useless makes part of the whole that represents human labour. Every bit of work, as far as it is not immoral and does not harm your fellow creatures, is useful. If you try to see your work in this light it will give you satisfaction and pleasure, and work done with pleasure is well done."

Therefore, younger ones, devote yourselves entirely to your work and then only will you have the chance to succeed. Then you will be proud of being able to call yourselves "equal citizens" who can occupy their place in human society by their own virtue and by their own work.

Let me finish with a poem by Privat, known perhaps to some of you, which, though not specially written for women, can be so well applied to them.

Si tu veux être libre et fort
travaille.
Si tu veux gagner sans effort
Le repos final de la mort
travaille.
Si tu veux être respecté
travaille.
Si tu veux garder ta fierté
Ta belle humeur et ta santé
travaille.
Si tu veux soutenir tes droits
travaille.
Si tu veux que ta grande voix
Aie plus de force qu'autrefois
travaille.
Si tu veux forcer ton destin
travaille.
Si tu veux que sur ton déclin
Ton frère te tende la main
travaille. . . .



A Portrait of Miss Meyers in her Bank.

(Miss Meyers is seated on the right.)

WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

The United States has just been through a painful adventure. It has learned from the case of Mr. William B. Shearer, who was employed by manufacturers of armaments to influence international reduction of armaments at the Geneva Conference in 1927, what Dr. Johnson meant when he said "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." It has been obliged through various attacks and counter-attacks on the whole question of reduction of armaments to consider the question: "What is patriotism?" It has examined the commonplace formula of public opinion which asserts that the greatest preparedness for war indicates the greatest patriotism.

Not so many centuries ago, a man who refused to fight for his religious beliefs or to put his chosen aspirant on a throne was considered the worst kind of weakling. Now, men no longer feel called upon to die for their soul's conviction or for a political idea, but they have come to believe that if their country becomes involved in a dispute, then duty calls them to fight for their country without question or any examination of the dispute itself. This creed which makes willingness to defend national rights by violence the supreme test of the worth of an individual as a patriot is very recent.

I am prepared to assert in the name of some American women that great war-preparedness is not synonymous with love of country; that the advocates of great military forces prior to 1914 proved to be the effective enemies of their own countries, and that those who emulate those advocates now may also prove to be the enemies of their own countries. I would go further and question whether this would not continue to be the case if international decisions were still to be made in the future by war conflicts as they have been in the past.

The strength of armaments is strictly relative. In the present world, no nation could permit itself to be unprotected and alone for this reason. Nations cannot disarm by national action without regard to the rest of the world as did Rameses the Pharaoh. If they do, they will pay the price, as did Egypt. But have we ever considered what was the *relative* war strength of European countries before the era of conscription? What was the general size and strength of the Spanish Armada? What was the comparative strength of the Spanish and American navies in 1898? All military strength is relative. Logically, nations may continue to organise every resource and every man, woman and child for war as they are now doing, if there is to be a complete trial of national strength. But if the international competitive race in armaments is stopped and nations make their preparations upon an agreed basis of limitation, my country and yours are relatively safer, even under the war system, than they would be if the armaments race continued.

When the nations of the world build the machinery of arbitration and legal decision so strongly that differences of opinion which were occasions for war in the past will be referred to international tribunals for settlement, then the nations will be spared the necessity of organizing immense groups in each country which are committed by conviction and by interest to the continuance of settlements by force.

There is to-day in America a growing conviction that patriotism can be placed upon a higher basis than that of simply backing the war system. It induces United States citizens to be willing to make real sacrifices, even of national prestige, for the cause of peace. It convinces them that peace has risks for which wisdom and foresight are needed. But, above all, it backs the peace President of the United States in his earnest endeavour to do away with an old rivalry upon the seas between the great Powers of the modern world.

RUTH MORGAN.

THE BERLIN CONGRESS.

The delegates to a Congress pass a number of Resolutions; do they feel that in doing so they have done their work, or do they wonder what happens next? Some of our Resolutions are only a statement of policy, laying down what is to be the programme on which the Executive is to work for the next three years. But many require a great deal of work from the secretariat. Our societies have some idea of what is involved, because they receive all sorts of requests to approach their Governments, stir up their members, etc. But apart from action to be taken by the Auxiliaries in their own countries, there is a whole international field to be covered in the different organs of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office, as well as other private international bodies. Literally hundreds of letters are sent out, and Mlle. Gourd and the Headquarters Office as they spend laborious days drafting letters, making lists of names and addresses, typing, stamping and posting, wonder a little ruefully whether the work is appreciated or has much effect. Well, sometimes a word of acknowledgment comes which proves that the effort is not wasted. It would take far too long to enumerate all the people to whom the various resolutions have been sent, but we may take as an example those on marriage, on the unmarried mother, on women police, on opium and on peace which were sent to all the members of the appropriate League Committees as well as to other organisations, and in respect of which we have received many letters of polite appreciation. We may mention a very kind letter from the Marquis Paulucci di Calboli, the Under Secretary General of the League, who expressed his appreciation of the way in which women's organisations and the Alliance in particular follow the work of the League. Among acknowledgments of the Resolutions on Peace we may mention those from Lord Cecil and M. Colban, Director of the Disarmament Section, while we cannot refrain from quoting in full the following translation of a letter from Count Bernstorff:

Berlin, 7. II. 29.

Dear Mlle. Gourd,

Many thanks for so kindly sending me the Resolutions adopted by the Alliance Congress in Berlin in favour of arbitration and disarmament, which I have read with pleasure and interest.

I need hardly say that I cordially agree with these Resolutions, which are in accord with the aims and policy of the Political and Disarmament Commission of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies of which I was Chairman last year; they also afford valuable support to my work on the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Disarmament.

We men cannot solve this problem alone: the women of all nations must help to bring about the solution proposed by a brave pioneer—"Lay down your Arms," (Die Waffen nieder!) There is perhaps something really significant in the fact that this year, for the first time, a woman was a member of the Disarmament Committee of the League Assembly.

I remember with admiration the magnificent demonstration organised by your Committee for Peace and the League of Nations during the Berlin Congress, when I had the opportunity of speaking and showing the common aims which animate our two international organisations.

Yours, etc.,

J. BERNSTORFF.

This will serve to show that we do not simply file the resolutions from a Congress "among the archives," but put them to active use in every direction open to us. If in many cases we can do little more than call attention to the views of the very large number of women in whose name we can speak, we may hope that we are sowing a seed which it is largely in the hands of our national

societies to bring to fruition by the more direct action they can take with their Governments, or by influencing the public opinion of their fellow citizens.

CORRECTIONS TO THE REPORT.

We have been asked to make the following corrections to the Report, and also to publish the Report from our Danish Auxiliary which, although it was sent to Headquarters three times, by an extraordinary series of accidents was mislaid, and so did not reach the printer in time for inclusion in the volume. The Headquarters Secretary apologises for this omission, as also for the two little inaccuracies noted below.

Page 11. The President of the Swedish Committee for International Suffrage Work is wrongly given as Fru Brisman. Fru Brisman writes that she is the international correspondent, but the President is Miss Anna Whitlock, Eriksbergsgatan 8 a. Stockholm.

Page 145. In the list of pledges, the donations of Mrs. van der Heim and of the Irish Delegation were wrongly given as £5 and £2, whereas they should be: Mrs. v.d. Heim £3, and the Irish Delegation £5.

Denmark.

In reply to your questionnaire, I hereby inform you that:

The name of the Society is Dansk Kvindesamfund.

Address: Absolonsgade 3.3., Copenhagen V.

President: Fru Elisa Petersen, M.P. Birkerød.

Secretary and Treasurer: Fru Marie Illum, Vedbaek.

The organisation comprehends 117 associations with about 9000 members spread over the whole country.

Membership is open to any adult man or woman.

Women in Denmark have by law obtained equal rights with men in nearly all domains and the essential task of Dansk Kvindesamfund is to give women social and political information. Also as a matter of great importance, Dansk Kvindesamfund watches to see that the administration acts in accordance with the laws. A number of resolutions and petitions have been submitted to the government and in various cases favourable results have been secured. During this year, Dansk Kvindesamfund has been very busy in preparation for the municipal elections, and, during the early summer, with the lower house (Folketing) elections.

ELISA PETERSEN, President.

Minutes or Proceedings of Congress.

Two corrections to inaccuracies in reporting the proceedings have been received. These have been submitted to Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Chairman of the Congress and, in the first case, also to Frau von Velsen, Chairman of the session concerned, and have been accepted by them as correct statements.

1. Afternoon session, June 18th, last paragraph.

German Text, page 1: Anstatt "Frau Meller hält für den besten Weg, zuerst sich national zusammenzuschliessen" müsste der Absatz heissen: "Frau Meller, Ungarn, gibt zu bedenken, dass gemeinsame ad hoc-Veranstaltungen zu einer bestimmten Frage sich leichter organisieren lassen als eine eigentliche Fusion, und dass die Bildung nationaler Ausschüsse auf solcher Grundlage als erste Schritte betrachtet werden könnten, um eine Zusammenarbeit zu erreichen."

English Text, page 28. Instead of Frau Meller, Hungary, suggested national fusion . . . put: "Frau Meller, Hungary, suggested that joint ad hoc action on a given point was easier to organise than actual fusion, and that the formation of national committees on such lines might be taken as the first step in promoting co-operation."

French Text, page 37. Au lieu de "Mme Meller

exprima l'opinion . . .", Mme Meller suggéra qu'une action ad hoc sur un point déterminé était plus facile à organiser qu'une fusion dans l'état actuel des choses, et que la formation de commissions nationales sur ces bases pourrait être la première démarche à accomplir en matière de coopération."

2. Afternoon Session, June 19th, third paragraph in German and French, second paragraph in English.

German Text, page 19. Anstatt "Der Teil des Berichtes . . .": "Es wird beschlossen, dass die einleitenden Worte zu den vom Ausschuss für Gleiche Arbeitsbedingungen veröffentlichten Berichten der angeschlossenen Verbände über den Fragebogen Frauen in den Gewerkschaften als persönliche Stellungnahme der Verfasserin (Frau Abbott) angesehen und somit von ihr selbst als Ausschussmitglied gezeichnet werden soll."

English text, page 30. Instead of "An enquiry into Trade Union conditions . . .", put: "It was agreed that the prefatory note to the summary of Reports made by Auxiliaries in response to the Questionnaire on women in Trade Unions issued by the Like Conditions of Work Committee should be taken as being the personal opinion of its writer—Mrs. Abbott—and should therefore be signed by her as a member of the Committee."

French Text, page 38. Au lieu de: "On discute ensuite le rapport de Mme Abbott . . .": "Il fut décidé que la note introductive au résumé des rapports faits par les Sociétés affiliées, en réponse au questionnaire sur la situation des femmes dans les syndicats (Commission pour l'Egalité des Conditions du Travail) serait publié à titre d'opinion personnelle de l'auteur (Mrs. Abbott), et serait par conséquent signée par elle, comme membre de la Commission."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

(With acknowledgments to the *Korrespondenz Frauenpresse*).

Denmark. Fröken Anna Westergaard has been appointed a member of the General Directorate of the State Railways. She is the first woman to hold such a position. She has been for years in the service of the Railways and owes her promotion to her ability and energy. While she was editing, among other things, the journal of her organisation, she took the Traffic Examination and passed it brilliantly.

Belgium. Mlle. Louise van den Plas has been appointed a member of the Committee for combating Alcoholism set up by the Ministries of the Interior and Public Health.

Latvia. The women of Latvia have possessed full equal political rights for ten years. In the two first Parliaments there were several women members, one of whom held the post of Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Public Instruction. Later on a new electoral law was passed which re-acted very unfavourably on the women candidates' chances, and no woman was elected among the hundred members. The same thing happened in the municipal elections. After many failures, a small success has crowned the women's efforts. The President of the National Council of Women, Berta Pipin, has been elected to the City Council of the capital, and two other women have been elected in provincial towns. The civil status of women is closely bound up with their political status. The Civil Code is out of date and extremely unjust to women. Recently two Bills have been drafted by the Ministry of Justice: one gives back to the man uncontrolled administration of his wife's property, and the other permits a woman to adopt the régime of separate property on marriage.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRIA.

Solemn handing over of a distinction.

It was reported some time ago that Marianne Hainisch, the founder of the Austrian Women's Movement, and Rosa Mayreder, the distinguished author, were honoured by the city of Vienna in being nominated Freeman. On October the 30th the diploma of this distinction were handed over to these women. The Bürgermeister Kark Seitz gave an address and then the diplomas were presented. In spite of her ninety years Frau Hainisch replied to the Bürgermeister in a very lively manner.

A monument for a housemaid.

It is now three years since a young girl, being in the service of a family, saved the lives of the two little children of her masters, who were in danger of being run over by a car. She sacrificed her own life in saving the children. This event made a great impression especially among the working class and the consequence was a collection with the object of erecting a monument to the heroine. Some weeks ago this monument was set up in a public garden of Vienna. It bears the following inscription: Margarete Manhardt sacrificed her life in saving two children.

Distinction of a woman painter.

Louise Fraenkel-Hahn, the president of the Association of Women Artists of Austria, an organisation affiliated to the National Council of Austrian Women, was honoured by the city of Vienna, which awarded to her a prize in recognition of an excellent self-portrait which was to be seen in the last exhibition of the Artists' exhibition.

A professional teacher—doctor of Law.

The leading teacher of the "Bundeslehranstalt für gewerbliche und wirtschaftliche Frauenberufe" in Graz, Dorothea Clausen, was promoted as a doctor of law and state science some weeks ago. In spite of being much occupied with professional work, the young woman carried on her studies in her leisure hours, as she was striving with her whole heart to acquire scientific knowledge.

GISELA URBAN.

BULGARIA.

Congress of the Bulgarian Council of Women, Schumen, September, 22—25.

After an interval of some years, we have again held our Congress, in the old town of Schumen, well known as the birthplace of many famous Bulgarians before and after the Liberation, though also with a large Turkish population. We have again proved what a powerful propaganda weapon a Congress is. Our public meetings were really a treat to the town and were crowded, and on all sides we received evidence of a new understanding of our work. The excellent organisation, the careful choice of delegates, all animated by real interest and competence in the questions discussed, and the interesting programme, all contributed to this success.

After a warm welcome from representatives of the Church, the various cultural, State and political institutions, our work began with a declaration that while we fight for the emancipation of women, we are working for the welfare of the whole nation and for all humanity. In the afternoon of the opening day, our delegate to the Berlin Congress, Frau Iwanowa, gave a comprehensive account of the work of the Congress to a large audience. The important questions on the programme were: (1) The need for women on Town and School Councils; (2) The education of girls (with reference to the proposal of the Ministry of Education to reform the education of girls by closing some of the gymnasia and replacing them by Lycées, which give no right to Uni-

versity Education or entry into the public service); (3) Work as the meaning of life. After full discussion of these questions, the following resolutions were adopted:

(1) That as the work of Town and School Councils closely concerns the daily life of women, and as their education and work both inside and outside the home prepares them in some respects even better than men to take part in that work, they should be called upon to give their services to the community through full franchise for the municipal and school councils, and the Council shall do its utmost to secure that such franchise shall be granted as soon as possible.

(2) That girls need exactly the same educational facilities as boys for the full development of their talents and for the attainment of economic security. That therefore the existing schools for girls and boys alike should not be superseded, but in addition technical schools for different trades should be instituted for girls as well as boys. The existing trade schools for girls, almost entirely founded and supported by the voluntary work of women's organisations, should be taken over by the State, which should train and pay the necessary teaching staff.

(3) In the present widespread economic crisis, the whole energy of the people should be devoted to the work of reconstruction. This is especially urgent in Bulgaria which has suffered unspeakably from the war and its aftermath. To this end it is necessary to awaken a realisation of the fact that all work, intellectual or manual, is necessary and worth-while; that the State should no longer reject the help which women can give; that women should turn their attention to their own handicrafts, bringing them up-to-date and perfecting them so that while securing their own economic independence, they may contribute to the reconstruction of the country by increasing production.

Further, some of the resolutions adopted by former Congresses were again brought forward or somewhat extended as being particularly appropriate at this moment. Such as: (1) An equally high moral standard for both sexes; (2) the need for special social welfare legislation; (3) on the law requiring married women teachers to resign after 25 years' service, and on the wholesale dismissal of women officials; (4) the right of women to become barristers; (5) the position of parents, widows and orphans of those killed in the war; (6) on alcoholism; (7) on Peace—these latter being also sent the League of Nations.

The newly-elected Committee of the Council is as follows:—

President: Frau Dimitrana Iwanowa.
Vice-President: Frau Rada Petrowa.
Secretary for national correspondence: Frau Dr. Wera Plotschewa.
Secretary for foreign correspondence: Fr. Ljuba Wladowa.
Treasurer: Frau Zvelana Raschewa.
Librarian: Frau Sanka Kjutschukowa.
Councillors: Frau Helene Tschakalowa, Frau Mara Ratschewa, Frau Marie Pentschewa.

The Chairmen of the Standing Committees are:—

I.—Fr. Iwanowa: (1) Woman Suffrage, (2) Nationality of the Married Woman; (3) Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women; (4) Family Allowances; (5) the Unmarried Mother and her Child; (6) the Civil Status of Women.
II.—Fr. Petrowa: (1) Equal Moral Standard; (2) Women Police.
III.—Fr. Pentschewa: Peace and the League of Nations.
IV.—Fr. Zwetana Raschewa: Finance.
D. IWANOWA, President.
L. WLADOWA, Secretary.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We have just held a two days' Green, White and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, which was opened on the first day by Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P., and on the second by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P.

The Women's Freedom League has been represented on two deputations to the Home Secretary on the subject of the Government's proposed Factories Bill—the first organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship when we were represented by Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence and Miss Marian Reeves, and the second organised by the Equal Rights Committee when we were represented by Miss Reeves. On both deputations our representatives dealt with weight-lifting and with work in lead processes, and in each case they urged that no restriction should be placed on the work of women which were not also imposed on the work of man. Mrs. Lawrence and Miss Reeves stressed the importance of securing for all workers—men and women alike—the best possible conditions but urged that no differentiations in conditions should be made for men and women.

We continue to urge upon the Home Secretary the necessity for appointing a much greater number of women police throughout the country; women on the Prison Commission, women governors of all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, and women inspectors of prisons. We have again agitated for the abolition of the mui tsai system in Hong Kong, and have supported the Nationality of Married Women Bill which provides that a woman shall not lose her own nationality on marriage with an alien.

We have weekly Tea and Politics-up-to-date meetings at the Minerva Club, London, and on December 5th Miss Nina Boyle will speak on "The Slavery Convention of the League of Nations," and will deal particularly with the slavery of women in marriage among some of the backward races. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will take the chair.

At the beginning of the new year our President, Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, is going to South Africa, and hopes to address meetings on the enfranchisement of women in that country.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The end of the year is a lean time and, apart from co-operating with other feminist societies in planning campaigns in support of the Equal Rights Treaty and the demand for Women Police, the energies of the Alliance have been directed to stabilising its Budget. This month two dances have been held, a stall taken at the Green, White and Gold Fair and a Bridge Drive will follow in a fortnight's time.

The Alliance has withdrawn from affiliation to the National Council of Women, at whose Annual Conference a resolution was carried in favour of Birth Control, as they believe this proposal to be "contrary to Catholic principles, also to true feminism."

HOLLAND.

The Dutch League of Nations Union is organizing a large and very interesting exhibition on Peace and the League of Nations, which will be held in the Hague from December 21st till January 31st. National and international co-operation is being organised to make this exhibition as attractive and complete as possible. Among the organisations which have promised to help, we may mention the Secretariat of the League of Nations, the Library of the Palace of Peace, several European universities, the custodians of Dutch national collections of pictures, coins, pottery, etc., the keepers

of municipal archives and many national and international organisations interested in the cause of Peace.

There will be an historical and economical section, a section on war in general and on the world-war of 1914-1918 in particular. There will be also a section on the League of Nations and its activities, with photographs, maps and documents.

Among other organisations the Committee of the Alliance for Peace and the League of Nations will have its exhibit. The 2nd Vice-President of the Alliance, and the Secretary of the Committee, Miss Rosa Manus and Mrs. C. C. Bakker van Bosse, Vice-President of the Committee are doing everything they can to make an attractive exhibit. For this purpose the international banner and the beautiful little flags, the present of the Leslie Committee to the Alliance at the last Congress should be very useful in showing all the countries where the Alliance has its auxiliaries. A little pamphlet is being printed with a short history of the Committee which will serve as propaganda for the Alliance. Photographs of our leaders will be shown.

All members who are in Holland this winter are invited to attend this exhibition at the Knight's Hall at the Hague.

HUNGARY.

This last summer was a strenuous one with no holidays whatever for some of us in our Feminist Society. There were several Congresses to attend, lectures and courses to arrange, with all the preliminary work and correspondence and the winding up of business. The Hungarian delegation was the largest that ever went from the Hungarian Auxiliary to the Berlin Congress of our Alliance.

In Berlin we were glad to learn that Mrs. Naidu would visit Budapest and we were very happy to be able to offer our members the rare enjoyment of one of her lectures. The Press was most interested and eager, and it was quite remarkable that in the dead season we achieved an audience which filled the lecture-hall. Mrs. Naidu lectured on "The Women of India," and the evening was most successful.

At the end of July there was an Esperanto course which was arranged by the Institut Jean Jacques Rousseau and the International Office of the International Esperanto Association in Geneva, preliminary to the International Esperanto Congress in Budapest. The admirable instructor, Reverend Cseh, International Secretary of the Esperanto Alliance Headquarters in Geneva, gave to an international attendance of teachers a course of Esperanto, and in 12 days taught his grateful pupils to understand and speak the rudiments of the language. One result of this course may interest the readers of *Jus*. Your correspondent, who attended the course, was bold enough to read a little paper at a special Feminist meeting of the Esperanto Congress convened by Mrs. Kozma. At this meeting a special Feminist Branch of the Esperanto Association was formed of which Mme. Tiard, Algeria, was elected President, Mrs. Kozma, Hungary, first Secretary, and Mrs. Yelland, England, Secretary, and it is a great joy to see with what enthusiasm and energy this little group has started work.

On the 17th of August a group of women from the U.S.A. arrived at Budapest. It was the second Good-Will Tour of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. These women in their endeavour to become well informed on the conditions of the countries they are visiting arrange to get in touch with leading women in the country. Mrs. Melanie Vámbéry, our Secretary, gave a report on the conditions of women in Hungary, and on the possibility of their education and work, which was greatly appreciated.

Having summed up our busy time in the summer our

attention must turn to our future work. Preparatory to the local elections for country and town governments, our board, in order to be informed of women's participation in political activities, charged our Secretary, Mrs. Vámbéry as well as Dr. Elisabeth Döhmel and your correspondent to make an investigation into the present state of affairs in some of the provincial towns. Mrs. Vámbéry went to Debreczen, Dr. Döhmel to Pécs and myself to Sopron and Győr. We met leading women, journalists and men belonging to the various political parties, and found, alas, that although women are conscientious enough in the fulfilment of their duty to vote at the elections they do not claim their right to eligibility. This is due principally to our law, which asks for a comparatively high education from women before they are eligible, and this circumstance is simply prohibitive for labour women. Women should have equal rights in Hungary and need to be roused to realize their duty to demand full rights. This educational task, like so many others, is made almost impossible by the economic depression of the whole country. The people in Hungary, who have such a bitter and hard struggle for life are unable to spend money for public purposes. No wonder that we are grieved when we see the tasks awaiting for us, and can find no way to solve this embarrassing problem.

In our headquarters the criticism of the Civil Code Bill from a feminist standpoint will be undertaken by our expert members in a course of lectures. This month a Reform Bill for the Elections and Administration of Budapest will probably be presented by the Government to Parliament and we shall seize this opportunity to struggle for equal suffrage for women.

Last but not least, in the middle of December we shall celebrate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of our Feministák Egyesülete, to which all Comrades from abroad are cordially invited. E. M. MELLER.

IRELAND.

"Exposure to the Weather."

At a recent meeting of the Irish branch of the Surveyor's Institution in Dublin, it was announced that among approved applications from candidates for the 1930 examinations was one from a young lady who has followed the vocation for several years in the city and county and has decided to sit for the Intermediate, and later the Final or qualifying examination. The Press notices of this phenomenon were decidedly friendly, though one writer seemed to deplore the fact that the young lady "must expose herself to the ravages of the weather, and must not entertain fear of black depths or dizzy heights. Take the case of the erection of the latest cinema. If she were on it, she would have to go up among the girders and take measurements just the same as any other engineer."

One is reminded of a talk with a district nurse in lonely "mountain" country, who had just returned from a visit at eleven one night when a message arrived that she was required at once for another case. There was a four miles cycle ride and then a two mile climb up a mountain, in heavy rain. That nurse would probably have found a change to surveying rather a rest than otherwise, as at least, there, hours of work are fixed. But the writer was friendly and the fact that one more barrier has yielded to peaceful penetration is all to the good.

"The Bright Young Girls."

In those days, already far off, when the young woman under thirty was commonly described by some such term as "flapper," workers for equal franchise frequently brought up the case of the young woman teacher, considered incompetent to vote. That is all over, and now we have that whole section of the population whose activities fill the correspondence columns of the daily

papers moved by deep concern for the welfare of the "bright young girls" who leave the Training College yearly to wait in the cold shades of unemployment, while the married women monopolise the jobs.

So far, Northern Ireland has had an honourable reputation in this matter, as under the Education Act women teachers are not liable to dismissal on marriage. But now, if local Education Committees get their way, this is to be changed. The Belfast Education Committee carried a resolution to this effect last June, and had to drop the matter, after a motion to refer back the resolution was carried in the full Council meeting. Now North Antrim, an entirely rural area, is taking a hand in harrying the married woman, and the Committee has carried a resolution definitely enforcing resignation on marriage. The bright young girl has figured largely in the speeches on both occasions. As the authorities apparently do not intend to adopt the obvious remedy: raising the school-leaving age, and so bringing every teacher, married or otherwise, into employment at once, as well as withdrawing a number of boys and girls from the casual labour market, it is to be supposed that the policy of dismissal will be successful for the moment. It is unfortunately backed by the many mothers whose daughters are among the bright young girls.

Did any mother ever admit her daughter was anything else? One such lady put the case clearly: "There was a lady teacher, and she was married, and she lifted a good salary, and her husband was teaching and he lifted a good salary too. And she worked on while the baby was coming, and she went home on the Friday and the baby came on the Saturday and it was twins!" Could the will of Providence be more clearly indicated?

The National Council of Women of Ireland.

This Council held its annual meeting in Belfast on Oct. 10th. Delegates were present from Dublin and elsewhere. The business for the greater part consisted of reports of the Berlin Congress, and of the Executive Committee meeting of the International Council of Women in May last. On both occasions the Irish National Council was well represented. Resolutions were carried at the annual meeting appointing a sub-committee to investigate the question of Like Conditions of Work in Ireland, with special reference to the effect of such protective measures as exist at present on the employment of women. Ireland being, however, mainly agricultural, the matter is not one in which much can be tabulated. Agricultural work, for the most part a family matter, and quite unpaid, is not an employment in which it is considered that women require protection, such measures being generally found most necessary in well-paid occupations. The linen towns of the North, suffering from terrible unemployment, do not afford useful data, except that the rising figures of maternal and infant mortality record the effect of the mother's underfeeding on mother and child.

The question of the nationality of married women also came before the Council. Examples were given of women left Stateless by the operation of the present nationality laws. The Northern Ireland representatives were especially interested in the British Age of Marriage Act, a measure which does not apply to Northern Ireland; and the usual outlook looms ahead, of letters, deputations, etc., to secure that the oft quoted "Step by Step with England" shall apply in this respect. A pertinent comment on the present position was made by a delegate at the Council meeting. When the present position as to age of marriage was explained, she exclaimed: "Do you mean that is the law? It's ridiculous." Another remarked "that in view of the present economic persecution of married women, it might be as well to secure early marriage, since if there were delay till the age of discretion be reached, the wedding bells might never ring at all."

Since the National Council meeting, the Northern

Government announced in the speech at the opening of Parliament that the Adoption Bill, promised two years ago, will be put through all its stages this Session. In The Irish Free State, a more important legislative step has at last been taken. The Government has introduced an Illegitimacy Bill, providing for the responsibility of both parents of children born out of wedlock. The Bill is satisfactory, being the fulfilment of a four-year-old pledge, but it is greatly to be regretted that no provision is made for legitimation by marriage, and that no effort is made to carry a measure raising the age of consent.

"A slowly moving onward, never wholly retrograde," is perhaps the best description of the legislative outlook in Ireland, North and South.

DORA MELLONE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

National League of Women Voters.

President Hoover to-day received representatives of the National League of Women Voters, who expressed pride and satisfaction in recent events which provide a new basis for international reduction of armament, and urged speedy renewal of federal co-operation in a programme for the welfare of the children of the nation. Through Miss Belle Sherwin of Cleveland, the president of the League, they expressed their appreciation and congratulated him on his leadership in a programme of efforts towards peace, and promised the support of a steadily widening, informed, and sympathetic public opinion on the lines now laid down. They also told him that members of the League are deeply concerned about the crippling of the maternity and infancy programme in many States through the lapse of the Sheppard-Towner Act last July, and expressed the belief that the interest in the country would support a prompt passage of the Bill now before the Congress providing for renewed federal appropriations. Interest in the Conference on Child Health and Protection proposed by the President and high hopes of the results to be expected from such a meeting were expressed.

The members of the delegation, representing ten States, were introduced to the President by Miss Sherwin. Each spoke briefly for the women in their respective states on peace and child welfare.

THE ALLIANCE.

Associate or Individual Membership.

One of the Resolutions adopted at the Berlin Congress embodied a scheme for giving certain facilities to the Associate Members of the Alliance. These individual members are one of our sources of income and we need more people to join us, but we also desire to give a larger return to those who already give this sign of their practical interest in the Alliance.

In the belief that those who join the Alliance in this way are people with international minds and therefore those who probably travel as far as opportunity permits, the Congress adopted a scheme for giving them the benefit of ready-made international relationships through the Alliance Societies. Each member is to be supplied with an International Introduction Card, valid for her annual membership period, which she can present in any country to a special Correspondent, appointed through the Auxiliary of the country concerned, who will stand ready to assist her in seeing the people and gathering the information connected with the woman's movement which she may desire.

The scheme is not yet in working order, because before we can inform existing and intending Associate Mem-

bers that these facilities are available, we must be able to issue, with the Introduction Card, a list of correspondents covering a sufficient number of countries to make it of value. So far only five of our affiliated countries have notified us of the appointment of Correspondents, but names are coming in every week and we hope shortly to be in a position to have such an attractive list ready that we can start to issue our Cards. In the meantime, Headquarters is ready to give any further information both on this and other privileges of Membership to all those who will write or fill up the application form to be found on the back page. By the Spring, when travelling begins to be tempting, there is no doubt that old and new members will have at hand this means of making their travels so much more interesting and informing than if they start out with no more than the average tourist's equipment of personal relationships.

Alliance Block Service.

Headquarters would be very grateful if all those who have borrowed blocks would be so kind as to return them. We cannot trace the following four blocks:

Mme. Plaminkova
Mme. Charaoui
Frau Schreiber
Frau von Velsen.

In the press of work after the Congress they were sent out marked to Mlle. Gourd who, however, states that she did not ask for them and did not receive them. It is feared that a wrong entry was made in the despatch book, and we should be grateful if anyone who borrowed blocks at any time would look through their collection and see if they have these among them.

HAWAII.

There will be a new item of activity on the federal legislative programme of the National League of Women Voters in the regular session. This calls for amending the Organic Act of Hawaii to eliminate the word "male" in the section prescribing the qualifications of jurors.

This is not an academic gesture. An alarming increase in the number of sex crimes and attendant difficulty in securing convictions has aroused public opinion in the Islands to the absurdity of trials from which all women are debarred as jurors. The legislature of the Territory has twice memorialized the Congress to do away with this discrimination, and the League of Women Voters of Hawaii is conducting an able campaign of correspondence and publicity.

A picturesque background for this agitation is recalled by a glimpse into Hawaiian history to the days of native rule under which women occupied places of responsibility and public trust. Not only did women reign as queens, as is well known, but there were women ministers of state, and women were admitted to membership in the upper house—a right which Canadian women have only just now secured and which is still refused in Great Britain. It was only after the middle of the Victorian century, when Caucasian civilization became dominant in Hawaii, that words excluding women from participation in public affairs began to be written into law.

The bill which the National League of Women Voters will support is H.R. 4656, introduced by Delegate Houston of Hawaii. Women in States which are still struggling to remove discriminations which are a legacy of Anglo-Saxon common law will welcome an opportunity of helping the women of Hawaii restore a more generous and enlightened tradition.

G.H.

Bulletin of the National League of Women Voters.

SECTION FRANÇAISE. TRAVAIL DES FEMMES.

Nous devons à Mlle. Gourd les résolutions et propositions de l'Union Interparlementaire et des Organisations ouvrières qui suivent, détachées par elle des "Informations Sociales du Bureau International de Travail." Il nous paraît vraiment utile de savoir ainsi ce que pensent les organisations féminines ouvrières des problèmes que beaucoup de membres de l'Alliance, bien qu'elles s'y soient vivement intéressées, sont obligées d'envisager surtout théoriquement. Bien entendu, cette publication se fait seulement à titre d'information et documentaire, sans que JUS prenne parti.

LES ORGANISATIONS OUVRIÈRES ET LE TRAVAIL DES FEMMES.

Comité syndical international des travailleuses.

Le Comité syndical international des travailleuses de la Fédération syndicale internationale s'est réuni à Amsterdam, les 1er et 2 octobre 1929. A l'ordre du jour de cette session étaient inscrites notamment la question du travail de la femme mariée et celle du salaire des femmes.

Après avoir entendu les rapports de Mlle Gertrud Hanna (Allemagne) et de Mlle Hélène Burniaux (Belgique), le Comité a adopté les résolutions suivantes, qui seront soumises comme déclarations de principe au Comité de la Fédération syndicale internationale.

Travail de la femme mariée.

"Le mouvement syndical s'efforce d'obtenir des conditions de travail et d'existence qui permettent aux membres de la classe ouvrière de fonder et d'entretenir une famille sans que la femme mariée soit obligée par les nécessités économiques d'apporter un salaire d'appoint. Les syndicats estiment que de telles conditions de travail et d'existence sont nécessaires à l'heureux développement personnel des membres de la famille, ainsi qu'à la vie de famille en général et au bonheur familial.

"Les syndicats doivent cependant s'abstenir de mener un combat de principe contre le travail industriel de la femme mariée, ce travail demeurant souvent une nécessité absolue pour la famille elle-même.

"Les syndicats reconnaissent le droit à tout être humain—à l'intérieur des limites tenues pour nécessaires par les organisations syndicales pour tous les travailleurs—de se suffire à soi-même par son propre travail, selon ses capacités et ses forces. Un combat de principe contre le travail industriel de la femme mariée frappant une partie déterminée de la classe ouvrière serait une contradiction aux principes fondamentaux de solidarité qui doivent prévaloir chez les travailleurs organisés.

"Cette déclaration de principe ne touche en rien aux mesures qui peuvent être estimées opportunes par certains syndicats, en cas de crise de chômage, pour que, dans l'engagement de la main-d'œuvre, la préférence soit donnée aux personnes dont les ressources économiques sont plus faibles sur les personnes disposant de ressources économiques plus élevées. Les mesures prises à cette fin ne doivent cependant pas atteindre uniquement les travailleurs du sexe féminin, et toute femme mariée ne doit pas être rangée systématiquement dans la catégorie des personnes disposant de ressources économiques plus élevées.

Salaire des femmes.

"Des informations recueillies dans différents pays et dans un grand nombre d'industries, il appert que, dans l'industrie comme dans le commerce, le salaire des femmes est généralement d'un niveau bien inférieur à celui des hommes. Dans la plupart des cas, le principe

du salaire égal pour un travail de valeur égale, officiellement reconnu, est bien loin d'être observé.

"Cette situation, qui constitue pour la femme un sérieux danger, aussi bien moral que matériel, compromet gravement aussi le relèvement des salaires de la main-d'œuvre masculine et le succès de l'action entreprise par les syndicats dans ce domaine.

"C'est pourquoi il importe d'attirer l'attention des femmes sur leur situation particulièrement mauvaise à cet égard, et de leur montrer l'étroite relation qui existe entre le niveau des salaires et la force des syndicats professionnels, afin que, en conséquence, elles adhèrent aux organisations syndicales, tant dans leur propre intérêt que dans un sentiment de solidarité.

"En même temps, nous demandons instamment aux ouvriers du sexe masculin de travailler eux aussi à l'organisation des ouvrières, dans l'intérêt commun des hommes et des femmes.

"Nous prions, en outre, les centrales syndicales de chaque pays de mener, par les moyens les plus propres à cette fin, une propagande énergique et suivie pour gagner les ouvrières lorsque l'organisation d'une journée spéciale de propagande ou d'une semaine de propagande pourra être envisagée."

Internationale chrétienne des ouvriers du textile.

Au cours de son dixième congrès, qui a eu lieu à Vienne du 28 au 30 août 1929, la Fédération internationale des syndicats chrétiens des ouvriers du textile s'est occupée, notamment, du travail des femmes.

Après avoir pris connaissance des rapports de Mlles Woitasky (Allemagne) et Hutten (Pays-Bas) sur ce sujet, le congrès a adopté des résolutions dans lesquelles rappelant les résolutions votées par lui à Anvers en 1926, il demande à nouveau l'institution d'une protection efficace des femmes et des adolescents travaillant dans l'industrie textile. Cette résolution insiste surtout sur le principe du "salaire égal à travail égal." Elle demande que la formation professionnelle des jeunes ouvriers soit garantie et que l'éducation ménagère des jeunes filles fasse l'objet d'une réglementation légale. Le congrès a, en outre, émis le vœu que la femme mariée et surtout la femme enceinte et la mère allaitant son enfant soient mieux protégées. Il a demandé que cette protection comprenne une réduction de la durée du travail et fait observer que la création de caisses d'assurance pour familles nombreuses permettrait souvent à la mère de rester au foyer.

Allemagne.

Congrès des syndicats chrétiens.

Le douzième congrès des syndicats chrétiens d'Allemagne, qui s'est tenu à Francfort du 15 au 17 septembre 1929, a adopté les propositions suivantes relatives à la protection des ouvrières et de la maternité:

Protection des ouvrières.—La durée du travail n'excèdera pas 48 heures par semaine. La durée normale du travail quotidien ne pourra être prolongée qu'en cas de force majeure, avec l'agrément de la représentation ouvrière légalement constituée. Cette prolongation ne dépassera pas une heure par jour et 120 heures par an. Les ouvrières qui ont la charge d'un ménage ne pourront pas être astreintes à faire des heures supplémentaires. Les ouvrières ne seront pas occupées les samedis et veilles de fêtes après 1 heure de l'après-midi ou, dans les entreprises où le travail est exécuté par plusieurs équipes, après 5 heures du soir. L'emploi des femmes sera interdit avant 6 heures du matin et après 10 heures du soir, ainsi que le dimanche. Il sera accordé aux ouvrières des pauses d'une durée convenable au cours du travail. Les ouvrières qui ont la charge d'un ménage bénéficieront, sur leur demande, d'une prolongation d'une demi-heure du repos de midi.

Protection de la maternité.—Les ouvrières enceintes pourront, sur leur demande, ne travailler qu'à la demi-

journée. Elles seront autorisées à quitter leur travail en fournissant un certificat médical déclarant que leur accouchement se produira vraisemblablement dans les trois mois. Leur réemploi après l'accouchement ne pourra avoir lieu que sur déclaration affirmant que dix semaines au moins se sont écoulées depuis l'accouchement.

Il sera illégal pour un patron de congédier une ouvrière pendant sa grossesse et les dix semaines qui suivent son accouchement, ainsi que pendant toute la période de son incapacité lorsqu'il est prouvé par certificat médical que l'ouvrière est empêchée de reprendre son travail par une maladie qui peut être tenue pour être la suite de sa grossesse ou de son accouchement. Les femmes enceintes et les nourrices ne pourront pas être astreintes à faire des heures supplémentaires. La loi concernant l'emploi avant et après l'accouchement sera amendée conformément à cette proposition; les allocations d'accouchement seront augmentées.

France.

Confédération générale du travail.

Le congrès de la Confédération générale du travail, qui s'est tenu à Paris, du 17 au 20 septembre 1929, a adopté la résolution suivante, proposée par Mme. Jeanne Chevenard:

"Considérant que la femme prend de jour en jour une place plus importante dans tous les domaines de la vie économique et sociale; que le progrès de la technique facilite son entrée dans toutes les branches de l'industrie; que, malgré ce progrès, le travail à domicile subsiste et prend même de l'extension par suite de la diffusion de la force électrique dans bon nombre de petites communes environnant les grands centres industriels; que, malgré les services importants que rend la main-d'œuvre féminine, ses salaires restent d'une infériorité lamentable; que, pour une grande partie d'entre elles, les ouvrières supportent le surmenage intensif et anormal d'une triple vie maternelle, domestique et industrielle,

"Le congrès déclare que le progrès ne consiste pas simplement dans le perfectionnement du machinisme et de l'outillage permettant de jeter hommes, femmes et enfants dans une lutte de concurrence redoutable à l'usine; le progrès, pour être réel, doit apporter aussi une transformation efficace et analogue dans les conditions sociales des travailleurs et travailleuses;

"Le congrès estime en outre que l'importance numérique prise par la femme dans la vie économique pose des problèmes et des améliorations urgents à résoudre.

"(1) Le salaire, en atelier et à domicile, salaire vital, c'est-à-dire en rapport avec la production de chacun et donnant satisfaction aux nécessités et à tous les besoins normaux de la vie. Application effective de notre principe: "A travail égal, salaire égal," le travail ayant sa valeur en lui-même et non pas suivant la main-d'œuvre qui l'exécute.

"(2) Un contrôle plus sévère sur toutes les lois de protection ouvrière, de l'hygiène, des heures de travail, de la sécurité dans les usines.

"(3) Pour parer au surmenage, que soit obtenue par la réalisation d'un large programme de construction une nouvelle installation des logements ouvriers comprenant: la chaufferie central, buanderie, ainsi que tout le confort moderne, facilitant la mère de famille dans sa vie domestique.

"(4) Que soit étudiée, afin d'y apporter des améliorations, la situation faite à l'enfant par l'obligation pour les parents de désertir le foyer pour l'usine.

"(5) Que le nécessaire soit fait pour la mise en application des conventions de Washington, principalement celle concernant le repos de la femme en couches et le travail de nuit des femmes.

"Le congrès estime que la maternité doit être reconnue comme fonction sociale et rétribuée comme telle.

"La C.G.T. rappelle au congrès que les comités de

salaires doivent fonctionner régulièrement dans chaque département avec le concours des unions et des syndicats.

"Le congrès demande que les inspecteurs du travail soient désignés spécialement au contrôle du travail à domicile.

"La commission préconise l'étude du travail à mi-temps dans l'industrie, c'est-à-dire le matin disponible pour la vie domestique, l'après-midi pour la vie industrielle.

"La commission demande également que, tenant compte de la convention et de la recommandation de la Conférence internationale du Travail (Genève, 1928) sur l'institution de méthodes de fixation de salaires minima, une étude soit faite pour la constitution d'une commission dont une partie des membres serait prise parmi les comités de salaires départementaux, commission qui ferait une étude de la situation actuelle et un travail de cohésion, afin d'apporter au plus vite une amélioration du travail à domicile pour la fixation des salaires minima.

"La commission demande au congrès de décider sa participation à la Semaine de Propagande internationale pour le recrutement de la main-d'œuvre féminine."

L'Union Interparlementaire et le Travail des Femmes.

Lors de la session de l'Union interparlementaire qui a eu lieu à Genève, du 23 au 31 août 1929, la commission pour l'étude des questions sociales et humanitaires de l'Union a examiné les propositions de la sous-commission pour la protection de la mère et de l'enfant. Elle a décidé de proposer à la commission permanente de porter son attention sur les trois questions ci-après, sur lesquelles Mme. Schroeder (Allemagne), Mlle. Kosmowska (Pologne) et Mme Rudel-Zeynek (Autriche) ont été chargées respectivement de préparer des rapports.

(1) Efforts en faveur de la ratification de la convention de Washington (1919) relative à l'emploi des femmes dans l'industrie avant et après l'accouchement et de l'adoption du principe de l'extension des stipulations de cette convention aux femmes employées dans l'agriculture et dans les travaux domestiques, et aussi en faveur de la création de maisons maternelles et familiales et d'autres institutions sociales protectrices de la mère et de l'enfant.

(2) Extension des mesures de protection sociale aux femmes qui ne sont pas originaires du pays où elles sont employées.

(3) Situation et protection, dans les différents pays, des enfants illégitimes et des enfants abandonnés.

LA COMMISSION DE L'OPIMUM DE LA S.d.N.

La session de la Commission consultative de l'Opium a été, cette année, particulièrement intéressante. On sentait qu'on voulait aboutir à quelque chose. L'opinion publique s'était éveillée à ce sujet et les membres de la Commission s'en rendaient compte, d'autant plus que toutes les places réservées au public étaient prises.

C'est toujours l'Italie qui joue le beau rôle dans la Commission de l'Opium: dans ce pays on ne fabrique pas de narcotiques et l'on y défend aux gens de se droguer. Aussi, lui est-il facile d'être vertueuse et elle s'acquitte de son rôle à la satisfaction de tous. C'est la Chine qui est la "pauvre victime." Les scélérats du drame sont la France, l'Allemagne, la Grande-Bretagne, la Hollande et la Suisse. Ces pays jouent souvent le rôle de l'innocence persécutée et sont très contrits s'il arrive qu'on découvre des ballots de drogues illégales et dangereuses en provenance de leur territoire. Les autres nations jouent de rôle du chœur approuvant tantôt le héros, tantôt le scélérat, suivant leur intérêt. Il y a, naturellement, d'autres pays victimes aussi, outre la Chine, car la manie des

toxiques se répand à travers le monde d'une manière alarmante.

M. Parra-Perez (Venezuela), au cours de son discours, s'exprima ainsi: "Une question se pose avant toutes les autres: l'intervention de la S.D.N. a-t-elle mis fin au trafic clandestin international des drogues dangereuses ou ce trafic a-t-il augmenté? La réponse à cette question, telle que l'ont prouvée les déclarations faites à la Commission consultative et les documents relatifs aux saisies effectuées est malheureusement que, bien que la S.D.N. existe depuis dix ans, ce trafic a augmenté dans une telle proportion qu'il ne s'agit plus de grammes ou de kilos passés en contrebande, mais de tonnes de cocaïne, de morphine ou d'héroïne."

Après cette déclaration, qui a été confirmée par d'autres membres de la Commission, il n'y avait pas à éluder une décision, il fallait faire quelque chose.

Les pays qui fabriquent les drogues se rendirent compte que tous les yeux étaient fixés sur eux. Il fallait agir. La France a d'abord commencé en proposant de passer l'éponge et de limiter la fabrication des narcotiques en France. La Grande-Bretagne n'a pas voulu être en reste. Le fait qu'il y a un gouvernement travailliste en Angleterre et qu'un de ses représentants siègeait à la Commission a été un grand atout.

En 1924, le précédent gouvernement travailliste avait proposé une réduction internationale, mais cette proposition avait été rejetée par la Commission, et depuis rien n'avait été fait, mais M. Noel Baker (Grande-Bretagne) fit une nouvelle proposition, à savoir que "la Grande-Bretagne demande que le Conseil invite les Gouvernements des pays où l'on fabrique la morphine, la cocaïne ou l'héroïne, à conférer ensemble au sujet de la possibilité de conclure un accord sur la totalité annuelle de chacune de ces drogues qui pourraient être produites et sur la portion de ce total qui serait attribuée à chaque pays producteur."

Un frémissement d'intérêt et de satisfaction parmi les membres de la Commission et le public, en entendant cette proposition prouva qu'on se rendait compte que quelque chose d'effectif serait enfin tenté. Mais après un certain temps, le doute commençait à s'insinuer de nouveau parmi nous. Que signifiait cette proposition? Qu'il fallait réunir les pays producteurs pour limiter la production. N'était-ce pas comme demander à des militaires de tenir une conférence pour discuter le désarmement? Les peuples dont l'intérêt est de fabriquer les drogues pouvaient-ils être assez vertueux pour renoncer à leur intérêt? Rapidement, le sentiment grandissait que c'étaient les nations qui souffrent du trafic des drogues qui étaient les plus désignées pour trouver les moyens d'en limiter la production. Il s'ensuivit une discussion animée parmi les membres de la Commission. L'Angleterre s'en tenait à sa proposition initiale, mais à la fin, le contre-courant était trop fort et il fallut l'amender.

Ce fut M. Chao Chu Wu (Chine) qui, dans un discours humoristique et convaincant, indiqua pourquoi les pays qui souffrent du trafic des drogues devaient être représentés à la conférence. Il dit qu'il était de l'intérêt même des pays producteurs que les victimes de leur production soient présentes, et à cet effet, il cita quelques vieux proverbes chinois, disant que si un homme se tient le chapeau en main dans un verger de pruniers, il ne peut éviter d'être soupçonné.

Ce discours enleva l'assentiment de la Commission et la résolution fut amendée comme suit: les principaux pays consommateurs (les victimes) seront représentés à la Conférence, de façon que leur nombre n'excède pas celui des représentants des pays producteurs.

Enfin, on avait trouvé un moyen pour réduire la production des drogues. Mais deux questions se posent:

- (1) Quand se réunira cette conférence?
- (2) Lorsqu'elle se réunira, quelles mesures prendra la conférence pour limiter effectivement la production aux besoins médicaux?

MADELEINE Z. DOTY
—Pax International.

DECLARATION DES DROITS INTERNATIONAUX DE L'HOMME.

ADOPTÉE PAR L'INSTITUTE DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL, DANS SA SESSION DE NEW YORK LE 12 OCTOBRE 1929.

L'Institut de Droit International:

Considérant: que la conscience juridique du monde civilisé exige la reconnaissance à l'individu de droits soustraits à toute atteinte de la part de l'État,

que les déclarations des droits, inscrites dans un grand nombre de constitutions et notamment dans les constitutions américaines et françaises de la fin du XVIIIe siècle, n'ont pas seulement statué pour le citoyen, mais pour l'homme,

que le XIVe amendement de la constitution des États-Unis dispose que "aucun État ne privera quelque personne que ce soit de sa vie, sa liberté et sa propriété sans due procédure de droit, et ne dénierà à quelque personne que ce soit dans sa juridiction l'égalité de protection des lois,"

que la Cour Suprême des États-Unis a décidé, à l'unanimité, que des termes de cet amendement, il résulte qu'il s'applique dans la juridiction des États-Unis "à toute personne sans distinction de race, de couleur ou de nationalité, et que l'égalité de protection des lois est une garantie de la protection des lois égales."

que, d'autre part, un certain nombre de traités stipulent la reconnaissance des droits de l'homme, qu'il importe d'étendre au monde entier la reconnaissance internationale des droits de l'homme,

PROCLAME: **Article premier.**

Il est du devoir de tout État de reconnaître à tout individu le droit égal à la vie, à la liberté, et à la propriété, et d'accorder à tous sur son territoire, pleine et entière protection de ce droit, sans distinction de nationalité, de sexe, de race, de langue ou de religion.

Article 2.

Il est du devoir de tout État de reconnaître à tout individu le droit au libre exercice, tant public que privé, de tout foi, religion ou croyance, dont la pratique ne sera pas incompatible avec l'ordre public et les bonnes mœurs.

Article 3.

Il est du devoir de tout État de reconnaître à tout individu le droit au libre usage de la langue de son choix et de l'enseignement de celle-ci.

Article 4.

Aucun motif tiré, directement ou indirectement de la différence de sexe, de race, de langue ou de religion n'autorise les États à refuser à aucun de leurs nationaux les droits privés et les droits publics, notamment l'admission aux établissements d'enseignement public, et l'exercice des différentes activités économiques, professions et industries.

Article 5.

L'égalité prévue ne devra pas être nominale mais effective. Elle exclut toute discrimination directe ou indirecte.

Article 6.

Aucun État n'aura le droit de retirer, sauf pour de motifs tirés de sa législation générale, sa nationalité à ceux que, pour des raisons de sexe, de race, de langue ou de religion, il voudrait priver des garanties prévues aux articles précédents.

TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE.

Le travail de nuit et les femmes en Tchécoslovaquie.

La loi relative à la journée de huit heures exclut les femmes du travail de nuit, c'est à dire entre 10 heures du soir et 5 heures du matin. Mais la vie pratique exige qu'on déroge à cette loi et des exceptions ont été faites dans son application dès l'origine.

En laissant de côté la question à savoir si les femmes sont vraiment protégées par l'interdiction du travail de nuit, le Conseil National des femmes vient de s'adresser au Ministère de la Prévoyance sociale pour lui exposer que cette interdiction priverait un grand nombre de femmes de leur emploi régulier. Il s'agit particulièrement des restaurants dits "automates," très répandus à l'étranger, qui commencent à être créés à Prah, parce qu'ils offrent aux classes moins aisées de la population le moyen de se nourrir à peu de frais. Ces restaurants occupent des femmes sans leur imposer un travail épuisant. Elles y sont plus ménagées et moins exposées au point de vue de la morale que dans les hôtels et les cuisines des restaurants pour lesquels l'interdiction du travail de nuit a été levée. Il est bien sûr qu'elle l'aurait été également pour le service des automates, si ceux-ci avaient existé à Prah au moment de la publication du règlement d'administration publique touchant l'application de la loi sur la journée de huit heures.

Depuis quelque temps on commence à sévir contre les propriétaires des automates sous prétexte qu'ils occupent des femmes jusqu'à 2 heures de nuit. Toutes ces femmes ont la journée suivante libre. Les employeurs, frappés d'amende, commencent toutefois à les congédier pour les remplacer par des hommes. Environ cinquante femmes, menacées de perdre leur gagne-pain de cette façon, se sont adressées au Conseil National des femmes qui demande en leur nom au Ministère de la Prévoyance sociale de publier, dans

l'esprit de la loi sur la journée de huit heures, un décret autorisant les automates à occuper les femmes après 10 heures du soir.

La bourse tchécoslovaque pour une étudiante roumaine.

La section tchécoslovaque de la Petite Entente féminine, désireuse de répondre à l'attention de la section roumaine qui a accordé à une ressortissante tchécoslovaque une bourse pour lui permettre d'étudier pendant deux ans à l'École supérieure de commerce de Bucarest, a fait des démarches auprès du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique afin d'obtenir la bourse tchécoslovaque pour une ressortissante roumaine. A la suite de l'intervention personnelle de la présidente du Conseil National des Femmes, le Ministère de l'Instruction Publique a créé la dite bourse qui a été accordée à Mlle Xenia Sova, recommandée par le Conseil National des femmes roumaines. La boursière est déjà arrivée à Prah où le Conseil National des femmes cherchera à lui faire obtenir toutes les informations dont elle pourrait avoir besoin et à rendre son séjour en Tchécoslovaquie aussi agréable qu'utile.

La première architecte en Tchécoslovaquie.

Mlle Marie Smrzová, qui a achevé ses études à l'École industrielle de Prah et passé les examens prescrits, est la première femme autorisée à exercer la profession d'architecte en Tchécoslovaquie.

Une nouvelle femme universitaire.

Mlle Flora Kleinschnitz, docteur ès lettres, vient d'être chargée, par décision du corps enseignant de la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université Charles de Prah, des cours à cette Faculté. Mlle Kleinschnitz, bibliothécaire de la Bibliothèque de l'Université, ouvrira, à la Faculté des Lettres, un cours d'histoire tchécoslovaque moderne.

LES ÉLECTIONS.

Le 27 octobre avaient lieu les élections pour le Parlement et le Sénat. Presque tous les partis politiques y ont posé candidatures des femmes sauf le parti clérical. Le nombre de femmes élues ne diffère pas beaucoup de celui qu'avaient présenté les élections en 1925.

La liste ci dessous indique le nombre de députés et de sénateurs en général, de même que le nombre et les noms des femmes élues.

LES FEMMES DÉPUTÉS ET SÉNATEURS ÉLUES LE 27. OCTOBRE 1929.

Les partis tchèques	Nombre de députés.	Nombre de sénateurs.	En somme	Nombre de femmes élues.	en %	Noms.
Agraire	46	24	70	1	1.42%	*Sénateur Anna Chlebounová
Social-démocrate	39	20	59	2	3.38%	Député Marie Jurnecková *Sénateur B. Karpísková.
* Social-national	32	16	48	4	8.33%	*Député L. Pechmannová Député M. Smejčová. *Député Fr. Zemínová. *Sénateur F. F. Plamínková
Communiste	30	15	45	4	8.88%	Député M. Cizimská. Député A. Hodimová. Député E. Kuhnová. Sénateur M. Stejskalová.
Clérical	25	13	38			
Clérical-slovaque	19	9	28			
National-démocrate	15	8	23	1	4.347%	Député prof. A. Vetterová-Becvárová.
Industriel	12	6	18			
Ligue de Strábrny	3	1	4			
D'autre nationalité:	21	11	32	2	6.25%	*Député Fanni Blatny. *Député Irean Kirpalová.
Social démocrate allemand						
D'autres partis	58	27	85			
En somme	300	150	450	14	3.11%	*signifie les femmes réélues.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Congrès de Berlin.

Corrections au Rapport.

P. 11.—La Présidente du Comité suédois pour l'œuvre du Suffrage international est Miss Anna Whitlock, Eriksbergsgatan 8 à Stockholm, et non Fru Brisman, comme on l'a imprimé par erreur.

P. 145.—Dans la liste des promesses de donations, celle de Mme. van der Helm et de la délégation irlandaise sont 3 Livres et 5 Livres, au lieu de 5 Livres et 2 Livres mises par erreur.

Danemark—Informations parvenues en retard.

Le nom de la Société est Dansk Kvindesamfund. Adresse: Abslomsgade 3.3., Copenhagen V. Présidente: Fru Elisa Petersen, M.P., Birkerød. Secrétaire et Trésorière: Fru Marie Illum, Vedbaek.

La Société comprend 117 associations, en tout, 9,000 membres, hommes et femmes, répandus dans tout le pays.

Les Danoises ont, de par la loi, les mêmes droits que les hommes dans tous les domaines et la tâche de la D.K. est de donner aux femmes tous les renseignements politiques. Elle veille aussi à ce que l'administration agisse conformément aux lois.

Belgique.

Mlle. Louise van der Plas a été nommée membre de la Commission pour combattre l'alcoolisme, organisée par les Ministères de l'Intérieur et de l'Hygiène publique.

Grande-Bretagne.

Deux délégations féministes, représentant un certain nombre de sociétés et organisées, l'une par l'Union nationale pour l'égalité civique, l'autre par le comité sur l'Égalité des Droits, ont été reçues par le Ministre de l'Intérieur. Elles ont discuté avec lui sur le nouveau projet de loi qui doit être présenté par le Gouvernement sur le travail dans les usines. Elles ont demandé que toute restriction sur le travail s'applique aux deux sexes. Au sujet de la Police, elles ont émis le vœu qu'un plus grand nombre de femmes en fassent partie, et cela dans tout le pays; que des femmes soient nommées dans les Commissions sur les prisons, Inspectrices des prisons, Gouverneurs de toutes les prisons pour femmes ou de toutes les sections féminines des prisons. Elles ont réclamé l'abolition du système mui tsai à Hong Kong. Elles ont appuyé le projet de loi sur la Nationalité des femmes mariées qui laisse à celles-ci leur nationalité, en cas de mariage avec un étranger.

Au nouvel an, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Présidente de la Ligue de la Liberté des Femmes, ira faire des conférences dans l'Afrique du Sud sur l'affranchissement des femmes. A cette même Ligue, le 5 décembre, Miss Nina Boyle, sous la présidence de Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, doit parler au meeting hebdomadaire du Minerva Club sur "La Convention sur l'esclavage à la Ligue des Nations," et insister particulièrement sur l'esclavage des femmes dans le mariage chez les peuples arriérés.

L'Association Sainte-Jeanne vient de se séparer de l'Union Nationale pour l'égalité civique, parce que celle-ci, à son Assemblée annuelle, a passé une résolution en faveur du Malthusianisme. Elle considère que cette résolution est "contraire aux principes catholiques et aussi au vrai féminisme."

Bulgarie.

Congrès du Conseil National des femmes bulgares.—Le Congrès s'est tenu à Schumen, ville bulgare, mais avec une large population turque. On put voir quelle est l'influence d'un congrès sur une ville indifférente ou hostile au féminisme. Un grand nombre de personnes, hommes et femmes assistèrent aux réunions publiques. Ils déclarèrent que ces réunions leur faisaient mieux comprendre le but de l'activité féministe. L'excellente

organisation, le choix des Déléguées, toutes compétentes et le programme intéressant, tout contribua au succès.—Après une bienvenue chaleureuse des représentants de l'Eglise et des diverses institutions officielles et politiques, les réunions commencèrent par cette déclaration que le Conseil, en travaillant à l'émancipation des femmes, travaille au bien-être de toute la Nation et de toute l'Humanité. Le jour de l'inauguration, Frau Iwanowa, déléguée du Congrès de Berlin, fit un compte-rendu des travaux du Congrès devant un grand public.

Les questions importantes du programme étaient: 1° Le besoin de femmes dans les Municipalités et les Conseils d'administration des Ecoles. 2° L'Enseignement des jeunes filles, (avec une allusion à la proposition du Ministre de l'Instruction publique de réformer l'Enseignement des jeunes Filles en fermant quelques gymnases et en les remplaçant par des lycées où l'enseignement ne donne pas droit à l'entrée dans les Universités ou dans le Service public)—3° Nécessité du travail et en particulier du travail des femmes pour la reconstruction du Pays si éprouvé par la guerre. Au renouvellement du Comité et du Bureau, la nouvelle Présidente élue fut Frau Dimitrana Iwanowa.

(d'après D. Iwanowa et L. Wladowa).

Danemark.

Froken Anna Westergaard a été nommée membre de la Direction générale des chemins de fer de l'Etat. C'est la première femme qui occupe une situation de ce genre. Elle a été pendant des années au service des Chemins de Fer et doit sa position à ses capacités et à son énergie. Pendant qu'elle dirigeait le Bulletin de sa Société, elle passa brillamment l'examen des Chemins de Fer.

Grèce.

Un projet de loi voté par la Chambre Basse au sujet du Laboratoire d'Etat, a été renvoyé par le Sénat pour être soumis à quelques modifications, le Sénat demande, en particulier, la suppression de la Clause excluant les femmes des situations de pharmaciennes diplômées. Le projet de loi va être de nouveau discuté ce mois-ci à la Chambre Basse.

(d'après La Lutte de la Femme).

Hongrie.

Mme. Naidu a fait à l'Union suffragiste de Buda-Pesth, une conférence sur "La Femme hindoue" qui a attiré un grand public et dont la presse a beaucoup parlé.

L'Institut J. J. Rousseau et le Bureau de l'Association internationale de l'espéranto ont organisé un cours d'espéranto en vue du Congrès espérantiste de Buda-Pesth. La correspondante de Jus Suffragii qui a suivi le cours a pu lire un discours au meeting féministe du Congrès formé par Mme. Kozma. A ce meeting, une branche féministe de l'Association espérantiste a été formée, sous la présidence de Mme. Tiard, Algérie.

Le 17 août, un groupe de femmes des Etats-Unis, visita Buda-Pesth. C'est le second "Tour de bonne volonté" de la Fédération nationale des Clubs de femmes dans les affaires et les professions libérales. Afin d'être renseignées sur la situation des pays qu'elles visitent, elles se mettent en rapport avec les femmes influentes du pays. Mme. M. Vambéry, secrétaire de l'Union suffragiste, fit un rapport sur la situation des femmes en Hongrie; sur les possibilités de l'Enseignement et du Travail féminins. En ce qui concerne l'avenir, le bureau a chargé sa secrétaire, Mme. Vambéry, Dr. Elisabeth Döhmel et E. M. Meller de faire une enquête sur l'état présent des affaires dans les villes provinciales, afin de connaître la participation des femmes dans les affaires politiques, en vue des élections locales pour le Parlement et pour les municipalités. Ces déléguées, après s'être informées auprès des femmes influentes et des hommes politiques, ont constaté que les femmes ont partout conscience de leurs devoirs

d'électrices, mais qu'elles ne réclament pas leurs droits à l'éligibilité. Cela tient à la loi hongroise qui exige des femmes une éducation supérieure, avant de leur accorder ces droits, ce qui est prohibitif pour les femmes qui travaillent. Le peuple hongrois, si appauvri par la guerre, ne peut pas faire de sacrifices pour les établissements publics d'enseignement.

(d'après E. M. Meller).

Irlande.

Géodésiennes.—A un meeting récent de la section irlandaise de l'institution des Géodésiens, à Dublin, on a annoncé que, parmi les candidats admis aux examens de 1930, se trouvait une jeune femme qui a déjà pratiqué la profession plusieurs années dans la ville et dans le pays. La presse lui est favorable, tout en déplorant qu'une "faible femme" ait à "s'exposer aux intempéries."

Fonctionnaires mariées.—Dans l'Irlande du nord, les femmes dans l'Enseignement ne perdent pas leur poste en se mariant. Mais les comités locaux d'enseignement regrettent que les femmes mariées prennent la place des jeunes filles qui sortent des écoles normales. Le comité de Belfast a présenté une motion en juin dernier, demandant que les femmes mariées cessent leurs fonctions. Antrim a fait de même. Comme les autorités ne songent pas à prolonger la scolarité, ce qui donnerait un emploi à toutes les femmes dans l'Enseignement, il est probable que la motion sera votée.

Conseil National des femmes irlandaises.—L'Assemblée annuelle a eu lieu, à Belfast le 10 Octobre. Les déléguées de Dublin étaient présentes. L'ordre du jour porta spécialement sur les rapports du Congrès de Berlin et de la réunion du Comité exécutif du Conseil International, en Mai. (Dans ces deux réunions le Conseil National d'Irlande fut bien représenté). A cette Assemblée annuelle, il fut décidé de nommer un sous-comité d'enquête sur l'égalité des conditions de travail en Irlande, et sur les mesures de "protection" appliquées aux femmes. Mais l'Irlande étant un pays agricole, où les travailleurs sont mal payés, la "protection" ne s'exerce pas comme pour les travaux bien payés. Les villes de tissages du Nord ne peuvent pas donner de renseignements utiles, parce que le chômage y est terrible, sinon que la mortalité infantile, due à la famine est de plus en plus élevée. La question de la nationalité de la femme mariée a aussi été discutée; on a cité des cas où la présente loi enlève toute nationalité à la femme. Les déléguées de l'Irlande du Nord se sont spécialement intéressées à la nouvelle loi sur l'âge minimum du mariage, qui ne s'applique pas à leur pays. Depuis l'Assemblée du Conseil National, il a été annoncé à l'ouverture du Parlement du Nord, que le projet de loi sur l'adoption, promis il y a deux ans, serait discuté cette session. Dans l'Etat libre du Sud, le gouvernement a présenté un projet de loi sur les enfants illégitimes. Cette loi rend le père et la mère responsables, mais le projet de loi est muet sur la légitimation de l'enfant par le mariage. Le gouvernement n'a pas, non plus, pris de mesure pour élever l'âge du consentement.

Lettonie.

Les femmes de Lettonie possèdent l'égalité des droits politiques depuis dix ans. Dans les deux premiers Parlements, il y avait plusieurs femmes, et l'une d'elles tint même le poste de vice-ministre dans le Ministère de l'Instruction publique. Plus tard, une nouvelle loi électorale fut votée, qui réagit défavorablement sur les chances des candidates et aucune femme ne fut élue parmi les cent membres. La même chose eut lieu pour les élections municipales. Après plusieurs échecs, on peut enregistrer un nouveau succès: la présidente du Conseil National des Femmes, Bertha Pipin, a été élue au Conseil municipal de la capitale et deux autres

femmes ont été élues en province. Le statut civil des femmes est malheureusement lié au statut politique. Le code civil est périmé et très injuste pour les femmes. Dernièrement, deux projets de lois ont été présentés par le Ministre de la Justice: l'un donne au mari l'administration des biens de sa femme, l'autre permet le régime de la séparation de biens.

Russie.

Les femmes sous le Drapeau Rouge.—Si l'on voyage à travers la Russie pendant quelques semaines, en comparant les conditions actuelles dans des villes aussi éloignées que Léningrad, Moscou et Kiew, on s'aperçoit vite que l'on est entré dans un nouveau monde féminin. Là, les femmes sont réellement les égales des hommes. Les conditions du travail sont les mêmes pour les deux sexes, et, partout, les hommes et les femmes travaillent côte à côte pendant le même nombre d'heures et pour le même salaire; il y a même des femmes soldats en khaki, peu discernables des hommes. L'égalité est la même dans les professions libérales. Partout, les hommes sont favorables à cet état de choses, sauf dans les villages très arriérés.

C'est Lénine qui posa une fois pour toutes ce principe: "La loi ancienne qui a fait de la femme une esclave n'existe plus; le but des Soviets est d'intéresser les femmes aux œuvres sociales et politiques." Aussi, le travail domestique a-t-il été simplifié de manière à leur laisser plus de temps pour le service public et pour leur instruction personnelle: restaurants coopératifs, crèches, blanchisseries publiques, etc.

La vie d'une femme semble rayonner autour de son centre de travail. Si c'est une usine ou une institution quelconque, une crèche y est attachée, et les bébés y sont soignés par des nourrices compétentes. A Moscou, il y a 710 crèches recevant 72,300 enfants, et la proportion est la même dans toutes les villes. Après le travail il y a le club, attaché aussi à l'usine, où des conférences et des cours sont organisés. Dans la vie sociale, le mariage et le divorce sont pris plus légèrement que dans les autres pays. En cas de divorce, tout ce que possède le ménage est divisé en deux parties, il n'est pas question de pension alimentaire pour la femme qui continue à travailler pour vivre. Le père et la mère sont également responsables de l'enfant.

Lorsqu'une femme accouche, elle a droit à 4 mois de vacances payées: 2 avant l'accouchement, 2 après; et pendant 9 mois depuis la naissance de l'enfant, elle reçoit un supplément de 1/5 de son salaire et le droit de sortir deux heures par jour pour allaiter son enfant. Cela s'applique à toutes les mères, car aucun enfant en Russie n'est considéré comme illégitime. Malgré tous ces avantages, cependant, la vie en Russie paraît sombre et insipide. Peut-être à cause de la pauvreté générale. Mais les femmes russes paraissent alertes et confiantes, ont de la tenue et le sentiment de la situation plus digne qu'elles occupent dans la nouvelle Société.

(d'après Mary E. Maxwell).

Etats-Unis.

Ligue Nationale des Electrices.—Le Président Hoover a reçu les déléguées de la L. N. des E. qui lui ont exprimé leur satisfaction pour les mesures prises en vue de la réduction des armements et qui lui ont demandé de renouveler la coopération fédérale dans un programme pour le bien-être de l'Enfance. Elles lui dirent aussi que les membres de la L.N. des E. sont attristées de voir s'affaiblir le programme sur la Maternité et l'Enfance par le retard du projet de loi Sheppard-Towner présenté en Juillet au Congrès. Le Président prend un grand intérêt à la prochaine conférence sur l'hygiène et la protection de l'Enfance.

Les membres de la délégation représentaient dix états et étaient présentés par Miss Sherwin. Chaque déléguée parla brièvement au nom des femmes de son état respectif.

MADELEINE RUDLER.

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**NEWS OF THE
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 THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**



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PREPARATION FOR WORK IN THE Y.W.C.A.

AT THE Y.W.C.A. COLLEGE, SELLY OAK, ENGLAND.

The Y.W.C.A. College at Selly Oak is one of a group of colleges founded for the study of different branches of social and religious work. The original college (Woodbrooke), is of a unique character, attracting men and women students from many countries for a variety of courses, specialising on such subjects as theology, social economics, psychology, and the study of international questions. The students of the Y.W.C.A. College, which was founded in 1926, attend the central lectures on these subjects with the students from the other colleges. In its three years of existence it has had students from no fewer than twelve countries.

The students of the different colleges have many opportunities for meeting one another. The fact that we attend the same lectures gives us the feeling that we are working together for a common end, although our work runs along different lines. A Girl Guide Cadet Company meets on one afternoon each week, and on another afternoon some students from most of the colleges go to the Bournville School of Art for various types of handcraft. The colleges play hockey, netball and tennis together, and social activities are also arranged. At the beginning of the term each college elects a representative to attend the meetings of the inter-collegiate committee on its behalf. This committee, consisting of one member from each of the colleges, arranges the system of inter-collegiate exchanges whereby two colleges each week exchange four or five students for either lunch, tea, or dinner on one day. The students thus see other colleges "at home," and in turn are proud to show their college to their guests. Each group of students, besides, hears the opinions and gets the point of view of those whose nationality, experience and upbringing may be very different from their own. Once a term an inter-collegiate social is held, which every student is invited to attend. Working and playing together so often and along so many different lines, any feeling of racial or national differences which may have existed soon disappears.

The spirit of fellowship and co-operation developed by our common work and play is fostered by the devotional services held every Monday morning. The services are open to the public as well as to all members

of the colleges. They consist of a hymn and prayers and an address given either by a visitor or by a member of the central staff. The realisation of our common aim which comes to us strongly in these services is an inspiring start to the week's work. The Student Christian Movement arranges a corporate service of devotion once a term to enable us to realise our kinship with students the world over.

In the Y.W.C.A. College itself the work is on more definitely Association lines. Once each week, members of the Headquarters Staffs of the National or World's Associations come to lecture to us and tell us of their experiences at home and abroad. Often these visitors are able to spend a few days in the college and we can ask all the questions for which there was not time in the lecture hour. Monday evenings are devoted to country dancing. When Fräulein Zarnack and Fräulein Stehmann, of the Y.W.C.A. of Germany, were staying here recently, Fräulein Stehmann, who speaks little English, taught a weaving dance to ten people who spoke no German; but the common language of music and dancing proved quite effective.

Each of us has some domestic duty to perform about the college, for example, tending flowers, tidying the hall and common room, writing up the college Log Book. All the students take turns at waiting at meals. We also sweep and dust our own rooms, and see that the students' pantry is kept in a reasonable state of tidiness. In this pantry, over the cocoa cups, the affairs of the world are set right, and the "Pantry Parliament" passes its judgment on all the important questions of the day.

includes devotional, historical and literary study of the Bible, interpretation of the truths of Christianity, the psychology of adolescence, study of the Christian solution of modern social and international problems, and of Y.W.C.A. principles and methods of work, including planning of programmes and the use of educational and recreative methods. Students who wish to do so may reside at the college while taking the Social Service Diploma of Birmingham University.

Perhaps the most valuable thing which each student takes with her from Selly Oak is the feeling that she belongs to a world-wide family. Here we realise the international spirit of the Y.W.C.A. more clearly than before, and know that we shall find friends in almost every country of the world. Wherever we go when we leave college, and whatever difficulties we may encounter, we shall be strengthened and helped by the knowledge that our work is remembered in the Quiet Room in the college.

A STUDENT.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Several lines of study for Y.W.C.A. leadership are being carried out in the United States of America at the present time. They all aim to meet the needs

Since the Y.W.C.A. secretary must take her place professionally with social workers and educationalists, the need of advanced degrees from universities or theological schools has been recognised. Many secretaries are now spending a year in graduate study. At National Headquarters in New York an opportunity is made for residence in the national building while secretaries are studying at Columbia. This gives them an opportunity to keep in touch with the latest developments in the Association, and appeals to a number of women each year. The National School, which has for many years been housed at National Headquarters, has always had an international character. Women of many countries and races have enjoyed the opportunities it has offered, and may now be found at work in the Association in all parts of the world. The present group of students in residence includes women from Czechoslovakia, Japan, Mexico and Australia.

IN CANADA.

The Association in Canada, like its neighbour, is finding it advisable to work out co-operative plans for the preparation of its workers. The Social Science departments of the University of Toronto and of McGill University at Montreal have entered cordially



THE Y.W.C.A. COLLEGE, SELLY OAK, ENGLAND.

both of new recruits and of those who are experienced secretaries. For the young secretary, summer schools of six weeks are held in different parts of the country, which provide an opportunity for an introduction to the Movement. One of these schools was held last summer in an old Vermont farmhouse recently given to the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. to use for such purposes. Secretaries especially interested in rural work gathered there for the six weeks. With them was also a group of nationality workers, that is, foreign born women who are engaged in working with their several nationalities. Each group carried on its own programme, and at the same time found many mutual interests.

In addition to summer schools for new recruits, there is also in operation a new plan for individual training which is carried out in several cities. This plan provides for graduate work in a near-by university, and some kind of staff responsibility at the same time, with maintenance. This arrangement is made for especially picked university women who have just completed their work for the Bachelor's degree.

into such planning, the latter indeed making use of the Y.W.C.A. of Montreal as a practice ground for its women students, some of whom are thus led to find in the Association their future and permanent field of service.

IN GERMANY.

The National Y.W.C.A. conducts a Training School in its spacious headquarters building near Berlin. The course covers a period of two years and is divided between periods of practical work in the school and actual experience in some local or district centre. Bible study holds the central place in the school programme, which also contains many subjects related to programme or to administrative work.

IN ROUMANIA.

The Y.W.C.A. of Roumania (*Asociația Crestina a Femeilor Romane*) has just opened a school of training for social workers in Bucarest, which provides a full three years' course of both theoretical and practical work. The school is working in co-operation with the Ministry of Health.