

Pamphlet

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# International Co-operative Women's Guild.

Report of the Committee, 1930—1934.

PRESIDENT.—Frau Emmy Freundlich (Austria).

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.—Frau Domaschko (Austria), Genossenschaftliche Frauenorganisation; Mme. Heymann-Coulon (Belgium), Ligue des Coopératrices Belges; Mme. St. Dr. Ivanova (Bulgaria), Ligue des Coopératrices en Bulgarie; Frau Necaskova (Czechoslovakia), Zentrale der Tschechischen Genossenschaftlerinnen; Frau Riedl (Czechoslovakia), Frauensektion des Verbandes deutscher Wirtschaftsgenossenschaften; Mrs. Barton (England), Women's Co-operative Guild; Mme. Jouenne (France); Mrs. Moll (Holland), Nederlandsche Coöperatieve Vrouwenbond; Mrs. Scott (Ireland), Irish Women's Co-operative Guild; Mrs. Anderson (Norway), Norges Kooperatve Kvinneforbund; Frau Selezinka (Poland), Soyus Ukrainok; Miss Callen (Scotland), Scottish Co-operative Women's Guild; Miss Jonsen (Sweden), Kooperativa Kvinnogillesförbundet; Frau Münch (Switzerland), Konsumgenossenschaftlicher Frauenbund der Schweiz; Mrs. Arenkina (U.S.S.R.).

CO-OPTED MEMBERS.—Miss Victoria Kent (Spain), Mrs. Nelson (U.S.A.).

SECRETARY.—Miss A. Honora Enfield (England).

OFFICE.—Stanfield House, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.

The International Guild was born in troublous times, at the beginning of the great economic decline which cast its first shadows before it as far back as 1921. But the four years since the Vienna

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meetings have been the most difficult, both for the Co-operative Movement as a whole and for the housewives comprising the Guild, whose budgets are the true measure of the world's prosperity or want. These difficulties have necessarily affected the Guild's rate of progress, by hampering intercourse, restricting its already exiguous finances, adding to the political obstacles that hinder development in certain countries and creating a mood of hesitation and concentration on immediate troubles that tends to impede international action.

Nevertheless, a substantial advance has been made, not only in membership by the affiliation of three new organisations, but in the more intangible gains of prestige, consciousness of strength and capacity for combined action. Looking back over the four years an increasing eagerness to enter the International Guild is evident among co-operative women, and a growing desire on the part of Co-operative Unions to initiate and foster Women's Guilds. A women's organisation has now come to be accepted as a recognised part of co-operative machinery, which is not quite complete without it. This is a great step on.

The international campaigns which, from the first, have been a feature of the Guild's work, have been better carried out, and, although on both Cash Trading and Disarmament—the two principal campaigns of the period—there were affiliated countries which did not participate, there has been greater and more sustained action than in previous years. The disarmament campaign especially, which called forth the most intense and widespread international effort yet displayed by Guildswomen, brought a new sense of solidarity and power and a new realisation of the value of international organisation, and should serve to show the Movement what its women can achieve when given a big and definite objective on which to concentrate.

The Guild's work for Disarmament brought it into relationship with many other bodies, and this afforded both much-needed publicity for the Guild and an opportunity to bring before new and interested circles the social purpose of Co-operation and the relation of its trading activities to these wider issues. As a Women's Organisation with access to circles not always open to the Movement as a whole, the Guild has sought to take advantage of every such occasion for preaching the gospel of Co-operation as the only true remedy for the world's present ills. Other opportunities arose with the Economic Conference of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, at Paris in April, 1931, addressed by the President, the Amsterdam Conference on World Planning in August, 1931, addressed by the Secretary, and the Jubilee Conference convened by the American National Council of Women at Chicago

in August, 1933, to which the President contributed a paper on "Co-operation and Civilisation." The provisional co-operation of other Women's Organisations was also secured in the summer of 1933 for a joint public Women's Conference on the economic situation, to be held early in 1934, in which the possibilities of Co-operation would be presented as a solution of the present chaos. Owing, however, to the increasingly disturbed conditions both in Europe and America, it has not yet proved practicable to organise this.

The part taken by women in the activities of the Movement in their respective countries has also advanced considerably. It was hoped to include in this Report a survey of the position now occupied by women in the Movement as a whole, and for this purpose questionnaires were sent to 46 National Unions. It appears, however, that such statistics exist only in a small minority of countries. Replies were received from only ten Unions and of these two were unable to give the information asked. It seems to us very desirable that every National Union should ascertain exactly how many women are active in their Movement, and in what capacities. In Switzerland the Guild itself carried out an exhaustive inquiry, the results of which are summarised later.

But while we rejoice in the growth of our ranks we think also of many Guildswomen whom death has taken from us. We would especially mention two, who, though they never held office in the International Guild, were closely associated with its history. Mrs. Tomlinson, of England, as Editor of the Women's Pages of the *Co-operative News*, was present at all our international gatherings, and from the first gave unfailing invaluable support to our work; and Mrs. Angst, of Switzerland, one of the founders of the Swiss Guild, also took part in the foundation of the International Guild at Basle in 1921. Both died in 1933, and we here pay our tribute to their memory.

#### WORK AND PROGRESS OF AFFILIATED GROUPS.

Since our last Report was issued the Organisations of German-Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and the Polish Ukraine, have affiliated to the International Guild, which now numbers 15 national members. With one exception all these report progress which is really remarkable in view of the universal economic depression.

In Austria statistics are only available up to 1932 as Reports are only sent in for the annual meetings of the Union and Women's

Organisation. The position of women in the Movement can most clearly be realised from the fact that in most Societies women really have the conduct and organisation of all propaganda work in their hands, and their number and activities in this sphere are far greater and more fruitful than those of the men. For this reason the activity of women cannot be wholly separated from the general activity of the Movement in this respect. In 1932, 78 women were members of Supervisory Committees, and 4,104 of Members' Committees, as against 2,267 in 1931, their number having thus almost doubled in a year. In the 44 largest Societies 1,356 functions took place which were attended by 212,009 women; 290,103 leaflets and 74,814 pamphlets were distributed, while 38,643 house to house visits were made, though the figure for these is not complete, as in Vienna alone 24,000 families were visited who had formerly belonged to a Society now dissolved, and these visits were unfortunately not accurately recorded. The various functions comprise all forms of propaganda work, films, social gatherings, children's functions, Punch and Judy shows, revues, lectures and classes on household and co-operative economy. Every month two circulars are sent out with points for speakers, and one with suggestions and programmes for social events. In the three largest Societies, Vienna, Graz and Linz, women control the whole propaganda and educational work. Through the efforts of the women children's sports clubs have also been established during the last year with the aim of winning children for the co-operative idea. Activities are continually growing. Propaganda work for the different Societies never ceases and forms the central feature of all co-operative activities. At the large Women's Conference in the autumn of 1933, attended by delegates from all but three Societies, it was decided to try to win 10 per cent more members in every Society by the spring of 1934. The Vienna Society has inaugurated six circles to decentralise the propaganda work in Vienna, so that it can be more effectively supervised, and in four of the five already formed the leaders are women.

The Belgian Guild has advanced during the four years into Luxembourg, and made great efforts to organise Guilds in Flanders. At the beginning of 1933 it had 154 branches, and the number of holders of accessory capital had risen from 4,230 to 5,164. Among questions which have occupied much attention have been the system of gift-trading and duties on foodstuffs, a very interesting report on the former subject having been presented to the Conference at Antwerp in 1933. Campaigns have been organised for pushing co-operative soap, polishes, chocolate, footwear, fish and preserved goods, and a measure of their success is the fact that the sales of co-operative productions during 1933 went up 25 per cent. The Guild has worked hard for the Co-operative Holiday Homes, for

which it has raised considerable funds, and the number of beds endowed at Glons is now 65. Special efforts have also been made for the organisation of School Co-operative Societies and Children's Co-operative Sections outside the schools. A valuable campaign has been one for assisting unemployed co-operators by various measures including the collection and distribution of clothing and the distribution of tickets to be used for purchases at the stores. The Guild has worked enthusiastically for disarmament; signatures to petitions have been collected, meetings and demonstrations organised, and resolutions and letters sent to the appropriate authorities.

The Bulgarian Guild, since its affiliation in August, 1931, has increased its branches from 10 to 15 and has carried through much successful work. One of its special tasks has been the organisation, both in Sofia and elsewhere, of arresting demonstrations on Co-operators' Day, and its chief propaganda work has been to increase the membership of the Stores of the Napred Union. Active assistance has been given during the Napred propaganda months, the Sofia Guild and several of the branches organising concert-meetings, teas with demonstrations of co-operative productions, and lantern lectures. Another interesting activity has been the organisation, for two years running, of an exhibition of co-operative literature at Sofia, this being visited last year by about 5,000 people. The work of organising children's summer colonies, undertaken by the Sofia Guild for the last three years in collaboration with Napred and the People's Banks, is growing rapidly, and led to the formation last summer of a Children's Co-operative, which had a membership of 150 by the end of the year. This work has also been taken up by the branches. On Christmas Day, 1933, the Seamstresses' Society, for which plans had been on foot for some time, was formally inaugurated, and other activities undertaken in various branches have been the organisation of Holiday Homes for children and Guild members, Kindergarten for the children of mothers at work, and medical consultation centres for mothers and children. On Disarmament the Guild took the initiative among all the women's organisations and also succeeded in uniting the whole Co-operative Movement of the country in a peace campaign. The signatures of 253 organisations, representing 667,000 individuals, were collected to a Disarmament petition, and with a view to promoting peace in the Balkans the Guild supported the formation of a Bulgarian section of the League of Slav Women.

Although the economic crisis has pressed hardly on the Czech Guild of Czechoslovakia, the Guild can report excellent progress. It has increased its Central branches (*Zentralausschüsse*) to a total of 63, and its sub-branches to 616, while its active members now number 3,100 against 1,800 four years ago. The Central Committee

prepares a general programme of activities to be carried out in the branches and the work of co-operative women is becoming more and more widely recognised, not only by the Societies but by the Board of the Union, two of whose members are women. Six women sit on Societies' Boards, 51 on Supervisory Councils, and 89 on Local Committees, and women are taking a prominent part in the discussions at Union Congresses. Four Conferences were held during the period and two elementary courses attended respectively by 30 and 62 women, and a special advanced course for active women propaganda workers was arranged during 1932. The last Congress agreed upon the ambitious programme of doubling the membership and turnover of every Society during the next ten years, and also set Guildswomen the task of seeing that only co-operative productions are stocked at the stores. Two pamphlets were issued; the first, printed in both Czech and Slovak, dealt with the arrangements for Children's Afternoons, and the second comprised three lectures under the title "Advice on Propaganda Campaigns." At the instance of the Guild Central Committee the Union decided that a propaganda campaign, to be included in the programme of Societies' activities, should take place every autumn. The last of these was most successful, one Guild alone winning 719 new members. The Czech Guild has worked splendidly for Peace. Before the opening of the Disarmament Conference it sent a petition to Mr. Henderson to which were appended resolutions from 204 Co-operative Organisations with a combined membership of 363,023. In June, 1932, 43 of the Central branches sent declarations to Mr. Henderson, and when the Disarmament Conference re-opened in October, 1933, the Guild forwarded to him a memorandum and strong resolution demanding its continuance, which had been adopted by 156 Guild branches and also by the Union Congress, representing 460,000 persons.

The Women's Section of the German Movement of Czechoslovakia has now 18 local sections. Four Societies each have a woman on the Board; 79 women sit on Supervisory Councils and 1,648 on Members' Committees. Six women have been elected to District Unions. The Central Women's Committee has held four educational conferences and schools during the period, of more than one day's duration, while 27 have been organised in the larger Societies. The Conference of 1931 set itself the task of winning 16,000 new members, and the subsequent campaign, in which women took a prominent part, actually brought in 13,000. During the last two years big campaigns have been undertaken in conjunction with the Union for reducing outstanding debts as part of the effort for cash trading, raising the percentage of purchases per member, increasing the number of paid up shares and recovering lapsed members. The attendance of women shows a constant increase both at

educational, social and business functions in their Societies, and the Central Union pays tribute to their splendid work and urges that special efforts be made to increase the number of women elected to Members' Councils. The Women's Section has published two pamphlets during the period, one in conjunction with the Union, while 154,000 copies of the women's paper published by the Union are distributed monthly.

In England the Guild celebrated its 50th Jubilee in June, 1933. The occasion brought many tributes to its work as a pioneer organisation for women, both from co-operative bodies in England and elsewhere and from the many friends associated with its public activities from the earliest days. Its Jubilee Congress and Demonstration were attended by thousands of women, and by representative leaders in the Co-operative, Trade Union, Labour and Women's Movements, including the officers and eight members of the International Guild Committee, and a banner was presented by the International President in commemoration of the first 50 years Jubilee to be celebrated by any national Guild.

During the past four years the English Guild has increased its membership by 7,022 to a total of 72,388, and the number of its branches from 1,395 to 1,513. English Guildswomen sit on the Central Committee of the International Co-operative Alliance (1), the Central Board of the Co-operative Union (4), the Co-operative Wholesale Society (1), the Central Education Committee (1), the Co-operative Party National Council (1), the National Co-operative Publishing Society (1), in addition to a number of district Organisations, while 357 Guild members are on the Management Committees of 206 local Societies, and 903 on local education committees. Some idea of the extent of its educational work can be gained from the fact that in addition to the weekly meetings of the 1,513 branches and the social activities organised by these, 749 District and 64 Sectional Conferences have been held in the four years, besides summer schools, schools for sectional and district speakers, classes for Guild officials and numerous one- and two-day Schools organised by the districts for branch members, while 17,986 district and sectional speakers have been sent to branch meetings. The Guild continued its campaign for Co-operative productions, a new feature of which has been the organisation of cocoa competitions in which 315 branches took part in 1931 and 365 in 1932. A far-reaching Trade and Membership campaign was inaugurated in 1931, each section, district, branch and individual being made responsible for their appropriate part, so that the entire country, including many remote villages, was covered, and over 1,000,000 leaflets were distributed. In the form of a special campaign to bring in Trade Unionists this campaign was continued in 1932.

The Guild's activities have since been concentrated on organising effective resistance to the new tax on Co-operative Societies. Other Co-operative activities have been concerned with the Co-operative Press and Coupon trading, on which the Guild sought to get a prohibitive bill introduced into Parliament by the Co-operative Party. A happy combination of the Guild's Co-operative and citizen activities was a campaign to induce the local education authorities to provide milk for all school children, and Co-operative Societies to increase their milk trade by tendering for these contracts. Continued efforts to stem the rising rate of maternal mortality by better services for the care of mothers, and strong protests against the Government's policy on unemployment and the operation of the "Means Test" have been other prominent features of the Guild's public work. But, as in other countries, Peace and Disarmament have occupied the foremost place. The Guild was responsible for the resolution on Disarmament which appeared on the Agenda both of the Union Congress of 1931 and the Co-operative Party Conference of 1932. It collaborated enthusiastically in the collection of signatures for the great Women's Disarmament Petition. Disarmament was the subject of its Sectional Conferences in the autumn of 1931 which were followed by postcards from all the branches to the Prime Minister conveying resolutions urging Disarmament. Hundreds of branches sent telegrams to Geneva on the opening of the Disarmament Conference, and these have been followed up by appropriate action throughout the sittings of the Conference, resolutions from 320 branches having been forwarded to Mr. Henderson on the re-opening of the Disarmament Conference in October, 1933.

We regret to report that in France, though a certain number of local Guilds are active, the Central Organisation has ceased to exist. This means, unless it can be speedily revived, that the International Guild must lose France as an affiliated member.

The Guild in Holland has made considerable strides during the period. Its membership has risen by 25 per cent and, although owing to a new Guild rule branches in the same town have now been amalgamated, the actual number of branches has increased by 20 per cent. By means of a series of lectures and comparative exhibitions of private and Co-operative goods, the Guild has been able to foster an understanding of Co-operation. It has also done much valuable propaganda work by means of Co-operative plays, specially written for Guild performers by the Secretary, and 145 performances of these have been given in 38 towns and villages. These have brought the meaning of Co-operation vividly before new audiences, and have developed new powers in the women themselves. A new experiment started in 1933 was a competition for five-minute speeches by branch members with prizes for the winners.

Special campaigns to increase the sale of Co-operative productions have been carried out, the most notable taking place on International Co-operators' Day. In May, 1933, the Guild organised at Zwolle the first Co-operative Summer School held in Holland, which was attended by 97 women. The women's paper (*De Co-operatieve Vrouwengids*) has been published regularly every month since January, 1930, and its readers now number about 1,500. The Guild has also worked enthusiastically for Disarmament; various resolutions were sent to the President of the Disarmament Conference from all branches, and Co-operative women were active in signing the Disarmament Petition sponsored by the Dutch press.

In view of this record of progress and admittedly valuable work it is particularly regrettable to report that proposals are now on foot to dissolve the Guild as a national organisation and replace it by a system of local groups whose propaganda work would be assisted by an official of the Union's propaganda service instituted a year ago. By such a transformation the status necessary for affiliation to the International Guild will be lost, and Holland will unfortunately cease to be a member.

The Irish Guild has now 44 branches, including two in Southern Ireland, and a membership of rather over 3,000. Two Guildswomen have acted as lecturers at the successful Women's Course organised by the Belfast Society, six Guild members now sit on the Boards of four Societies, three on the Belfast Education Committee, and one on the Central Education Committee of the Union. Educational work has been done on credit trading, co-operative productions and international co-operation, while on the citizen side the Guild has taken up the question of Children's Courts and has also worked keenly for Disarmament, especially through the collection of signatures to the Women's Petition which was distributed to all branches.

In Norway the Guild has increased its membership in the four years from 2,000 to 3,000 and its branches from 71 to 100. It has one member on the Board of the Union and one on the Education Committee, and about 400 on the Committee of local Societies, while one woman is Vice-President of her Society. Sixteen sit on District Committees but without voting rights. The Guild has carried on much educational and propaganda work including the publication and distribution of 65,000 copies of a pamphlet for housewives. A valuable piece of work was an investigation into housing conditions undertaken in 1930-31 with a view to furthering the establishment of Co-operative Housing Societies. The Guild held its first Summer School at the holiday home of the Oslo branches in September, 1933, which was attended by 26 students. Subjects taken included Co-operative Propaganda; Co-operative Societies

and the Law of Taxation; Knowledge of Goods; and the Tasks of the Co-operative Movement under the Present Social System. The President and Secretary of the Union and the Guild President were among the speakers. A propaganda tour to the Far North was decided upon by the 1932 Congress.

The newly affiliated Ukrainian Guild of Poland is a specially constituted Co-operative section of the Union of Ukrainian Women. It has nine branches comprising a membership of 730, but aims at speedily getting branches established within each of the 60 branches of the parent body. Its activities since its formation comprise 57 large Co-operative gatherings and over 100 smaller ones, as the result of which 1,300 women became members of the local Societies, the issue of three pamphlets and the organisation of a six weeks' School for the training of women speakers and propagandists.

The Scottish Guild has added 29 to its branches, making a total of 386, and its membership has grown from 27,380 to 30,023. It has a member on the Central Board of the Co-operative Union and the National Council of the Co-operative Party; a number of members sit on Societies' Management and Education Committees and two are Presidents of their Societies. The chief campaigns for the period have been on Cut Price Policy; Co-operative Productions; and Low Dividends; the first named having been taken up as a special subject at sectional and district Conferences. As a result of the Guild agitation several Societies reduced their prices and were able to report increased sales and membership. The Guild has continued the successful one- or two-day Schools organised in conjunction with the Co-operative Party, alternate sessions being devoted to Guild procedure and the National and Municipal Programme of the Party. Scottish Guildswomen have organised determined opposition to the new tax on Societies and this campaign still continues. The Guild has participated in the work for Disarmament and has sent telegrams and letters to Geneva pressing for definite action.

The Swedish Guild celebrated its 25th Jubilee in 1932, and has made great progress during the past four years. Its membership has increased by 3,389 and is now 9,497, while it has added 90 new branches making a total of 262. About 200 of its members are active on various Committees of their Societies. The Summer School started in 1928 has now become a regular feature of the Guild's educational programme, and so popular that two Schools were held during 1933, in the North and South respectively, attended by 180 women. One of several interesting subjects discussed was that of the Housewife's Views on Modern Tendencies in Taste, which was later brought before the branches. Another question which has been given special attention is that of Co-operative Societies and their stocks, on which the Central Committee issued an illuminating

report, while other matters taken up during the period have been Co-operative Production and Housekeeping; International Co-operation; Credit and Instalment Buying; the Membership of Women in Co-operative Societies; Co-operative Education of Women; How to Estimate the Quality and Value of Goods; Methods of Individual Propaganda Work. A welcome recognition of the Guild's educational work was a gift of 10,000 Swedish crowns from the Union on the occasion of its Jubilee, to provide scholarships for Guild members to the Folk High Schools. The Guild also decided to establish a Jubilee fund of 10,000 crowns, towards which the first 1,000 was voted by Congress, the interest on which is to be used for travel scholarships in Sweden and abroad.

In Switzerland the four years have brought a notable consolidation and expansion of the Guild's activities, with a much increased interest of women in the Movement. The Guild has partly an individual and partly a collective membership in the Women's Commissions, which, according to the Guild's recent inquiry, now exist in 32 Swiss Societies. Twenty-five of these are affiliated to the Guild, which is in touch with a further 51 Societies with a view to the formation of Women's Commissions. Sixty-three Societies report that women have stood as candidates for positions; 179 that they habitually exercise their voting rights. In 13 Societies women are on the Boards of Supervisory Committees; in 19 on Committees or General Councils (Verwaltungsrat); in nine on the Co-operative Council, while in a number of Societies women have been co-opted on to different bodies as consultative members. Much educational work has been done, a new feature being a course for Guild officials, first held in 1932 and attended by 39 women. A valuable inquiry has been carried out on credit trading, and this question, coupon trading, and the supply of non-alcoholic drinks by the stores have constituted three of the Guild's chief campaigns. It is hoped soon to bring into the Guild the still unaffiliated Women's Commissions in French Switzerland, some of which are very active, especially interesting work having been done in connection with Children's Holiday Homes. Both the Lausanne and Renens Commissions help to support a number of children at the homes each summer and take a prominent part in their management.

In the U.S.S.R. the total number of women members of the Co-operative Movement now amounts to approximately 20 million. The number of women serving on Boards of Directors and Auditing Committees is 7,287. Some women are Presidents of their Boards. Much attention is being devoted to the training of women for responsible positions; there are now 31,470 women in training at Co-operative Schools, Colleges, &c. The work of the Women's Organisation has been mainly concentrated on pressing on the establishment of services which will relieve women of their household duties and

enable them to take part in industrial life. Special attention has been paid to the organisation of Co-operative Restaurants and mechanised laundries. The establishment of Children's Nurseries, Gardens, Playgrounds, and the provision of hot lunches for school children by the Co-operative Societies, has also been an important point in the women's programme. Women also exercise an active control over the work of the Stores, Restaurants, &c., through serving on Store Committees, Restaurant Committees and similar bodies.

#### SPREAD OF THE GUILD MOVEMENT.

There has been a gratifying increase in women's activities during the four years in countries not yet affiliated to the International Guild, where the organisation of new Guilds is one of its principal tasks.

Special mention must be made of Spain. Here the coming of the Republic gave a stimulus to women to which Co-operators were quick to respond, and from the first the Guild Movement has had the whole-hearted support of Co-operative leaders. In 1931, in order to establish personal relations with the Spanish women, the International Guild arranged for Mrs. Naftel, after a holiday in Spain, to visit Madrid and Catalonia, where the first Guild branch had just been established at Badalona. This visit, which enabled many problems of organisation to be discussed, has borne good fruit. The following year a Women's Propaganda Section was formed in Catalonia, under the leadership of an active group of women, headed by Senoritas Palomera and Forment, to take in hand the systematic organisation of women's activities. There are now nine local Guilds in the same number of Societies and others in course of formation. Much educational work has been carried on, particularly through the press; and the International Guild's pamphlet *The Power of the Market Basket* has been adapted and translated and over 8,000 copies distributed. Practical work has included dressmaking and cutting-out classes, the encouragement of young people's groups, and the starting of a Women's Co-operative Shirt and Dressmaking Society to protect seamstresses and render them independent of private employment, in which many women have taken up shares and which has received warm support and a grant of 1,000 pesetas from the Provincial Government. Municipal, social and other public questions have also claimed attention, and keen support has been given to the International Guild's Disarmament campaign. Throughout Catalonia and other parts of Spain, including Madrid and Bilbao, Guilds are being formed and reports received show that the Movement is steadily spreading. Senorita Victoria Kent was co-opted in 1931 as a member of the International Guild Committee.

Notable progress has also been made in Poland. Under the leadership of Dr. Marja Orsetti "Circles of Active Women Co-operators" were inaugurated in several towns in the autumn of 1930 and have done some very successful work, their combination of educational and practical action being especially valuable. A two-weeks' School was organised in 1931 in Warsaw. The Warsaw branch also secured the establishment in one of the Co-operative Housing Estates of a Co-operative Laundry, to which a dry-cleaning department has lately been added. With its up-to-date equipment, model labour conditions, low prices and use of only Co-operative materials, the laundry has become very popular with the women. The branch hopes also to get a tailoring department started, both for the sale of women's and children's clothing and the cutting-out of garments to be made up at home. On the educational side much work has been done on the question of credit trading, and, in order to give the housewife practical help in keeping to cash trading, the Guild got out a leaflet showing the best method of keeping household accounts and apportioning the family income. The Lodz branch has started a holiday home for its members and conducted a very successful canvassing campaign.

In Hungary the women are giving increased support to the Guild started by the General Society of Budapest. The branches now number 16 and the attendance at the branch meetings varies from 40 to 230. In 1931 a seminary was started for instruction in the history, principles and organisation of the Movement, and a number of women are now promising speakers and organisers, and the Union reports that they have done excellent work in winning new members for the Movement and spreading the spirit of Co-operation. During last year the following were some of the subjects on which addresses were given. The Tasks of the Women's Guilds; The Adulteration of Food; Household Hygiene; What Women can do for the Welfare of Humanity; Co-operative Societies and the Economic Crisis; Co-operative Productions; and the Movements of Finland and England. Attention was also given to practical methods of heating, a question which has special importance for Hungary who depends on her own brown coal. A specially popular feature of Guild activities too, have been the health talks and advice which it has arranged for doctors to give to its members.

During 1931 a national Guild was formed in Estonia. A number of branches are at work in connection with different Societies under the leadership of a Central Committee of five active women who hope to form branches in every Society. The programme of the Guild comprises educational work, canvassing for new members, educating women to economy in the running of their households and saving in the Co-operative Stores, the beautifying and care of the home,

food reform, and reform in the economic system. Classes, meetings, excursions, exhibitions and competitions have been organised, and it is proposed to institute exchange visits between branches in order that members of the different Societies may keep in close touch with one another.

In Denmark a local Guild has been established in Copenhagen under the auspices of the Co-operative Societies of the capital, and in Latvia, where a year ago women's membership in Societies amounted to 22.3 per cent, a National Guild is now in course of formation.

Owing to the strict censorship in Yugoslavia it has been difficult to keep in touch with the Guild in Slovenia, but a Guild is now in course of formation in Serbia under the auspices of the General Union of Serbian Agricultural Societies, and it is hoped that time will ultimately see a union of women's forces throughout the country.

Contact has been maintained with Greece, and with both the Roumanian and Hungarian Movements in Roumania, where propaganda for the Guild idea continues, but as yet no definite step for the formation of women's organisations has been taken in these countries. For the first time also direct contact has been established with the women of Turkey.

Since the death of Mrs. Lodahl it has proved impossible to maintain any direct relationship with the women of Germany, though up to the time of the re-organisation of the German Movement women's groups existed in several Societies and a number of women were members of Supervisory Councils, Co-operative Councils and Delegates' Meetings, and a few served on Boards of Directors.

In Finland the K.K. Union reports that 75 of the 111 Societies in the Union have special Central Women's Committees, with a further 164 local Sub-Committees. Their activities consist mainly of propaganda work among women, young people and children, and during 1933, 955 sewing-meetings with addresses on Co-operative subjects were attended by 42,385 women. Seventy-seven debating meetings were organised at which 3,216 persons were present, and the attendances at the special Co-operative entertainments organised for women and children respectively were 17,776 and 11,320. The Women's Committees have also done good work in comparing the prices charged in Co-operative and private stores, arranging exhibitions of Co-operative goods and visits to Co-operative enterprises, and distributing literature. They have also been successful in winning new members through house-to-house visiting. With

the aid of the Women's Committee of the Central Union (K.K.) 21 household courses were held in various districts during 1933, and were attended by 1,942 women students.

Both in Finland and Germany, however, for different reasons, there seems little prospect at present of developments which will bring these countries within the International Guild.

Perhaps it is in the extra-European countries that the Guild Movement has made the most noticeable progress since 1930.

Australia has now a fully constituted Guild, with a number of branches, in New South Wales, a permanent constitution having been adopted at its Congress in 1931. The Guild has thrown itself actively into the life of the Movement. Co-operative production, extension of the co-operative press, co-operative education of the young people, the linking up of co-operative and socialist forces, have been among the chief questions taken up. It has sought to get the study of co-operative principles included in the curriculum of the State schools, and the young people's circles, started by one of the branches, proved so successful that they have been taken up all along the South Coast. It is now considering the starting of a Co-operative Holiday Home for its members. Australian Guildswomen have also shown themselves keenly alive on international questions, and have taken their full share in the international campaigns, especially on Disarmament, on which representations were made to the Australian Prime Minister and petitions sent to Geneva. In addition to the New South Wales Guild isolated branches now exist in other States of the Commonwealth and, though the great distances make linking up difficult, it is hoped that an All-Australian Guild will come into being before long.

In the United States of America great strides have been made. After many years of isolated effort the local Guilds have been brought together on the initiative of the Northern States Guild, itself a District Federation uniting 51 local branches, which secured the adoption of a resolution by the Northern States Convention in 1931 asking for the calling of a Women's Conference in connection with the next National Congress. Though no Conference was held a National Women's Committee was formed at the Congress of September, 1932, under the leadership of Mrs. Virginia Hill and Miss Julia Perkins as Chairman and Secretary, with the task of preparing for a National Women's Conference at the next Congress and, in the meantime, extending and solidifying the local Guild Movement. Through the efforts of this Committee organising tours have been conducted which have led to the formation of many new branches, and interest in women's work has considerably increased, both the Eastern and Central States Leagues having



taken steps at their Conventions for the organisation of their women members. These developments are themselves the outcome of much valuable work done by the local Guilds, which has won the recognition and support of the whole Movement. Fine service has been given particularly in organising Co-operative Holiday Camps and classes for young people, and campaigning for subscriptions to the co-operative papers. The Northern States Guild has granted scholarships to Guild members for the Summer Institute of the Northern States League and has sent young people to the Advanced Youth Courses, and has also contributed to the League's training school. The Guilds of the U.S.A. have also taken their part in international work, especially on Disarmament, for which they were active in the collection of signatures to the great Peace Petition.

Early in 1933 the first Women's Guild in South America was started in the Argentine, under the auspices of the Buenos Aires Society, "El Hogar Obrero," on the initiative of Senora Juana de Colombo. An organising Committee was formed at a meeting convened by the Society, and over 200 women attended the inaugural meeting of the Guild subsequently arranged by the Committee, a large number becoming members. A regular correspondent with the International Guild has been appointed, and active educational work is being carried on.

Numerous contacts have now been established with the leading women of the Indian Movement, whose Co-operative activity has increased much in the last four years. In Bihar and Orissa a yearly Conference has been organised and propaganda for women's clubs, thrift societies and handicraft societies for women have been carried on. In Bombay the Women's Stores have increased both in numbers and membership. In Mysore the shield offered by the Provincial Co-operative Congress to the best women's society was won in 1931 by a Banking Society run by women. While there is as yet nothing in the shape of a National Women's Organisation, it is hoped that a linking up of the various provincial efforts will in time make this possible.

There has been little direct news from Japan during the period, though there is every indication that women are taking an increasing and enthusiastic part in the Movement. Beginnings have been made in uniting the large numbers of local Guilds now existing by the organisation of District Conferences in certain towns. A Japanese student, Miss Keiko Hani, who was in England from 1931-1932, spent some time at the International Guild office making a study of Guild work and methods, and the International Guild was also able to arrange a number of co-operative visits for her both in England and elsewhere.

New contacts have been established since our last report with the women of Palestine, who are taking a prominent part in the life of the Movement there, particularly on the agricultural side, as well as in its social activities. Efforts have also been made to get into touch with the women of Mexico and Persia, but so far without result.

#### INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS.

The Vienna meetings left the Guild certain definite tasks to be followed up, which have constituted the main lines of joint effort in the succeeding years.

The subject of "Mothers of the Future" was remitted by the Vienna Conference to a future Conference for decision, with the recommendation that it should be further studied by the National Guilds so as to ascertain the feelings of the individual members on the question, and that more material on the practical issues involved should meantime be collected. Investigations have, therefore, been carried on, on the one hand into the various kinds of communal services which exist in different countries to relieve the housewife of her labours, how far they are under Co-operative or public control and what additional services women are demanding; and, on the other hand, into different systems and experiences in family allowances and their effect on women's position, wages, Co-operative purchasing power, &c. To ascertain the opinion of Guild members as to the kind of economic position they want, questionnaires to be discussed and filled in by the branches were sent out. These brought interesting information from Austria and Norway and were widely discussed in England, though, unfortunately, without recorded results. As the question is such a many-sided one and the study of it is not yet complete the Committee had intended to present a different aspect of it to the Conference in London—the question of what the Co-operative Movement itself can do through social services and enterprises, protection of the housewife's interests, increase of her purchasing power, &c., to relieve her of needless labour and raise her economic status. But as recent changes in the international and co-operative situation have raised more urgent questions it has been necessary to defer the further consideration of this subject to a future occasion.

Following the Alliance Congress discussion on Credit Trading, it was decided to make "Women and Credit Trading" the subject of a special campaign. All the National Guilds were urged to bring the question before their branches, taking the paper presented to the Alliance Congress as the basis of their discussions, while the office was instructed to make an inquiry into those methods of Credit Trading, both inside and outside the Movement, that most

easily attract women, and the best methods of combating them. Ten of the 13 Guilds then affiliated took action through the press, pamphlets, circulars, &c., and a vigorous campaign has been carried on. Special mention must be made of the work done by Austria, the two Guilds of Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Switzerland, where the Guild carried out an interesting investigation among its members for the purpose of ascertaining the extent, reasons for, and conditions of credit purchasing by women, the results of which were enlightening and interesting. Among unaffiliated countries Poland and Australia deserve congratulation. The report of the inquiry conducted by the International Office was adopted by the Committee at its meeting in June, 1933, and is being published in English in the *Co-operative Review* by the British Co-operative Union.

### THE DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN.

The outstanding campaign of the period, however, has been that on Disarmament. From its earliest days the International Guild has tried in every way to give effect to the strong and united will of Co-operative women for peace and disarmament, which are the indispensable conditions of true International Co-operation. The Vienna resolution on the Prevention of War charged Guildswomen with the duty of intensifying these efforts, and in view of the approaching World Disarmament Conference the Guild at once took steps to rouse and concentrate peace forces. Early in 1931 it approached all important international organisations suggesting that they should take common action to convene a People's Disarmament Conference, which would be held simultaneously with the official Disarmament Conference at Geneva, so as to give public opinion a means of expressing itself and bringing pressure on the official Conference. Though the suggestion was received with approval on all sides, it proved impossible to get the necessary practical collaboration between the different international organisations, and the proposal fell through. The Guild then approached the International Co-operative Alliance as to the possibilities of a purely Co-operative Disarmament Campaign, believing that the Co-operative Movement was for every reason specially fitted to voice the people's will for disarmament. Owing, however, to the negative decision of the Central Committee at its 1931 meeting this effort also came to nothing. Meantime, the Guild had kept in touch with other Women's Organisations working for Disarmament, and a Joint Committee on which the Guild was represented as an observer had already been formed, with headquarters at Geneva. The Guild, therefore, decided to throw in its forces with those of the 14 International Women's Organisations composing the Women's Disarmament Committee, and to have a representative

resident in Geneva in order that it might pull its full weight on this body and have the possibility of keeping the National Guilds in the closest touch with the progress of the Disarmament Conference. For the first six months of the Conference, therefore, the Secretary took up her quarters in Geneva, the London office being carried on by Mrs. Naftel. A generous donation contributed for this purpose made it possible, without touching the slender funds of the Guild, to meet the expenses involved, including those of the President and other members of the Committee whose presence at Geneva was needed on special occasions.

Both the President and Secretary took part in the great demonstration on February 6th, 1932, at which eight million signatures collected to the Peace Petition were presented to a special session of the Disarmament Conference and all sections of public opinion given an opportunity of voicing the people's demands. In June Mrs. Moll, of Holland, and the Secretary, represented the Guild in a large deputation initiated by the Women's Committee to the President of the Conference. The Women's Disarmament Committee soon acquired a reputation in Geneva as one of the most active bodies working for Disarmament, and the Guild as one of its progressive elements. Regular contact was also maintained with other groups and organisations sharing the Guild's aim of total disarmament; the work of the Conference itself and its various Commissions was closely followed, and at each stage of the Conference a detailed report was sent to the National Guilds with suggestions as to the action needed. The response from the different countries was magnificent. From National and Local Guilds resolutions, letters and telegrams were showered upon the President of the Conference, the national delegations and the Home Governments, and drew a special mention from Mr. Henderson.

Although it was impossible to continue the arrangement of a resident representative at Geneva after July, 1932, and though bitter disappointment was felt at the slow progress and imperceptible results of the Disarmament Conference, the campaign was not abated during the succeeding 18 months. Continuous pressure has been brought by different Guilds on their Home Governments, demonstration meetings and Conferences have been organised, and funds have been collected for the work of the Women's Disarmament Committee. The President took part in the gathering at Geneva, organised in 1933 on the anniversary of February 6th, to re-affirm the public demand for real and speedy measures of disarmament, and the Secretary represented the Guild at a special Study Conference on the situation held by the Women's Committee at the end of May. A telegram was sent to President Roosevelt on the publication of his famous letter in June, 1933, thanking him for expressing the people's will and supporting his four points as

an immediate step towards total disarmament. At their meeting in London later in the month the Committee adopted a resolution, which they subsequently presented to Mr. Henderson by deputation, thanking him for his splendid conduct of the Disarmament Conference, stressing their profound disappointment at the lack of concrete results, and demanding, as immediate steps towards the substantial reduction promised, the abolition of military, and control or internationalisation of civil, aviation; the abolition of private, and international control of State, manufacture and trade in arms; the fixing of a time limit for the general reduction of armaments to comply with promises to the vanquished powers; and a permanent Disarmament Commission for control and supervision, to include representatives of non-governmental opinion.

Co-operative women again played their part by means of telegrams, letters, resolutions and memoranda in the great demonstration held at Geneva on the re-opening of the Conference in October, 1933, and, although at the time of writing hope for the Conference has reached its lowest ebb, the Guild is proud to have had its share in the great awakening of public opinion the Conference has evoked, and to have been able to act as standard-bearer for the Movement in the struggle for lasting peace. What the next step in that struggle is to be is a question that is exercising its earnest thought.

#### OTHER PUBLIC WORK.

Owing to the unsatisfactory provisions of the Hague Conference on the Codification of International Law regarding the nationality of married women, the Guild collaborated with other Women's Organisations in an effort to get the League Assembly to recommend a revision of these provisions and the acceptance of the principle of equality between men and women with regard to nationality. Though this attempt failed, and the Assembly advised ratification of the Hague Convention, the way remains open for subsequent revision of these provisions and the question of further action is still under consideration.

In 1931 the whole question of the Collaboration of Women with the League of Nations was raised by a resolution passed by the Assembly on the proposal of Spain, which requested the Council to examine the possibility of women co-operating more fully in the work of the League. The Guild was one of the organisations invited by the Secretary General to express its views on this question for inclusion in a report to be presented to the Assembly of 1932, and the Committee submitted a memorandum emphasising the fact that equality of status between men and women was the first condition for effective co-operation, and making some practical

suggestions as to methods of closer collaboration pending the attainment of such equality. Though a valuable report was presented, the Assembly resolution of 1932 was somewhat disappointing and experience has still to show how far the position of women has in fact advanced.

The Guild has continued its activities in connection with mother and child welfare work, particularly with regard to maternal mortality, a question of deep concern to many of its members. Inquiries made in 23 countries showed that the phenomenon of a high or rising maternal death rate is widespread, and the Guild approached the Health Committee of the League of Nations with the request that they would carry out an official investigation into the causes of maternal mortality on the lines of their previous inquiry on infant mortality. Though a sympathetic reply was received, financial difficulties prevented the investigation, and the Guild was referred to a Committee already set up by the League to report on the condition of Maternal and Infant Welfare. In the hope of being able to present to this Committee evidence gathered from the mothers themselves as to the possible effects of their home and working conditions on the high mortality rate, the Guild attempted an inquiry on the subject among Co-operative women. Very interesting information was obtained from Austria, where the questionnaire was published in the press and 2,000 answers were received and tabulated. Elsewhere the results of the inquiry were disappointing and insufficient for the purpose contemplated.

As a result of other researches, however, the Guild was able to submit to the Reporting Committee a Memorandum on Possible Contributory Causes of Maternal Mortality and Ill Health. The Memorandum drew attention to the high proportion of deaths from undetermined causes as shown by official investigations, and asked the Committee to consider the possibility of an investigation of factors not hitherto taken into consideration, such as the effect of housework and housing conditions upon health, the part played by nervous and psychological conditions, the influence of diet, and the effect of lack of sunlight and fresh air. The Memorandum roused considerable interest both at the League and in medical and labour circles, particularly in England, where the Medical Women's Federation devoted several meetings to its discussion, and also in Canada.

Early in 1933 the Guild took the initiative in trying to secure representation for women at the World Economic Conference, with whose labours the interests of women, both as housewives and in every calling, are so closely involved. A letter asking his assistance in obtaining some voice for women in the Conference was addressed

to the President, and other Women's Organisations were asked to support the action taken. Their combined efforts, however, proved unavailing. When the Economic Conference met, the Committee submitted, in the form of a resolution to the Conference and the press, a reasoned statement on the situation as viewed by Co-operative women, which emphasised that the crisis, due to the disproportionate amount of wealth absorbed by production, could be overcome neither by restriction of production nor by the artificial means of increasing purchasing power through inflation, but only by a redistribution of wealth as between production and consumption; pointed out how the Co-operative system equated production and requirements; and outlined definite practical steps to bring about the redistribution necessary.

#### REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCES.

In addition to co-operative gatherings, which included the 25th Jubilee Congress of the Swedish Guild in 1932, all the annual Congresses of the English Guild and the Jubilee celebration of the Vooruit Society of Ghent in 1931, the Guild has been represented at the Economic Conference arranged by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at Paris in 1931, by the President; the Conference of Peace held by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance at Belgrade in 1931, by Miss Ajdisek of the Slovenian Guild; the 1931 Conference of the American Academy of Social and Political Science at Philadelphia, by Mrs. Nelson of the Minneapolis Guild, U.S.A.; the World Planning Conference at Amsterdam in 1931 by Mrs. Moll, of Holland, and the Secretary; the Pan-Europa Conference at Basle in 1932 by Mrs. Münch of Switzerland; and the International Rural Women's Conference at Stockholm in 1933 by Miss Jonsen of Sweden. The President acted as fraternal delegate of the Guild at the International Conference of Socialist Women at Vienna in 1931, where, on a motion for the formation of special Housewives' Committees to further the economic and public interests of the housewife, the Co-operative women present made a strong plea for the Co-operative Movement and its Women's Guilds to be recognised as the appropriate machinery, and succeeded in getting the motion referred back for further consideration.

#### HOUSEWIVES' PROGRAMME.

These developments showed the necessity for the Guild, which has always acted as the Housewives' International, to formulate and synthesise the needs, demands and objectives of the housewife in a comprehensive programme. After considerable thought and

discussion the Committee adopted the following programme, which they hope the Conference will ratify:—

1. Recognition both in the family, socially, and at law, of the work of the woman in her home as a valuable social and economic service.
2. Security of living conditions for the housewife by means of State social insurance and voluntary co-operative insurance societies.
3. The participation of women in all inquiries and investigations affecting the social and economic position of women or the interests of consumers and their organisations.
4. Instruction in housewifery and study of the economic and technical aspects of domestic economy, with special courses for the wage-earning woman and the woman at home, in order to promote efficiency in domestic work and to protect the health of the woman.
5. The participation of women in the administrative work of housing reform and co-operative housing schemes.
6. The provision through municipalities and Co-operative Societies of all technical aids to housework.
7. Recognition of the right of mothers and housewives to freedom and holidays, and to all such provision as may help to preserve their health and lighten their duties.
8. The promotion of women's work in Co-operative Societies, so as to win the collaboration and understanding of housewives for the Movement and secure for women the right of exercising all functions which influence the character and upbuilding of the Movement.
9. Legislative and administrative recognition of the public utility and special social functions of Co-operative Societies.
10. The promotion, morally and materially, by all public authorities of the activities of Co-operative Societies.
11. Resistance to any measure of taxation or legislation directed against the co-operative principle and practice of mutual trading.
12. The collaboration of the housewives of all countries in the services of international understanding and peace.

### PUBLICATIONS.

The following have been published during the period under review: *The Power of the Market Basket*, *The Housewives' Programme*, *Report on Women and Credit Training*.

### MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee has held two meetings, the first in March, 1932, at Freidorf, Basle, by the kind invitation and generous hospitality of the Swiss Guild and Co-operative Union, who not only placed ample accommodation in the beautiful "Co-operative Home" at the Guild's disposal, but entertained the Committee as their guests during their two days' stay. Members were present from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia (both Organisations), England, Holland, Scotland, and Switzerland, in addition to the officers. The principal business related to arrangements for the Conference, the Geneva Disarmament campaign and work for the year ahead. A fine meeting, arranged by the Basle Society, followed the business sessions and was addressed by the members of the Committee, while those who could remain had the privilege of visiting a number of the Society's undertakings the next day.

The second meeting, necessitated by the postponement of the Conference till 1934, was held in London in June, 1933, and attended by members from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia (German Organisation), England, Holland, Ireland, Polish Ukraine, Scotland and Spain, and the officers. In addition to matter mentioned elsewhere the business included arrangements for the adjourned Conference, matters of finance, and the question of married women's nationality. Generous arrangements for the Committee's entertainment and visits to co-operative and other places of interest were made by the English Guild and Co-operative Wholesale Society.

### FINANCES.

At its earlier meeting the Committee also had under consideration the question of the subscription from the Soviet Women's Organisation. When the rule governing subscriptions was framed, such a great and rapid increase in membership as that which has taken place in the Soviet Union was not contemplated, and, as the Soviet member pointed out, the position has arisen when a subscription in accordance with the existing rule would be overwhelmingly disproportionate to that paid by any other Organisation. Unfortunately, the attempt to adjust matters by an amendment to rule at the Vienna Conference fell through, and, in view of the constantly fluctuating money values, the Committee do not feel that the present is an opportune time to propose an alteration of

the rule. On the other hand, they consider it undesirable that the funds of the Guild should be derived in preponderating measure from any one country, and they, therefore, decided to recommend to the Conference that, pending the possibility of a satisfactory alteration of rule, the Guild should accept the amount hitherto paid, viz. £115, as the rate of subscription from the U.S.S.R.

During the earlier part of the period under review the finances of the Guild showed steady improvement, thanks partly to the growing membership of both National and International Guilds, and also to the increased donations which the Guild received both from its own members and from an increasing number of official bodies in the Movement, including in 1931 a much valued grant of £100 from the International Co-operative Alliance.

These growing resources made it possible in 1932 to pay off the remainder of the loan for badges, thus leaving the Guild entirely free from debt.

At its meeting at Freidorf the Committee felt, moreover, that the time had come to take a further step towards making the Guild a self-supporting organisation by recognising that it should no longer be dependent on the voluntary services of the Secretary. They, therefore, agreed in principle that, from the beginning of 1932, the Secretary should be a part-time paid official and voted a salary accordingly, funds permitting.

Unfortunately this satisfactory financial position has not been maintained. Currency devaluation, restrictions on the transfer of money and the difficult circumstances in so many countries, have meant a falling-off in the available resources of the Guild, and it has been impossible to adhere to the Freidorf decision during 1933. Other liabilities have been met, and the budget is sufficient to carry on till the end of 1934, after which the Guild's position will become precarious unless the level of its income can be raised. Under these circumstances the Committee decided to bring the whole position, with a full explanatory statement, before the Central Committee of the Alliance at its meeting in April, 1933, and to apply for the renewal of the grant of £100 made in 1931, hoping that the support of women's work might find a recognised place in the budget of the Alliance as in those of many national Unions. The Central Committee of the Alliance, however, while expressing its appreciation of the Guild's work, decided that the financial position of the Alliance did not permit them to make a further donation, and that the question should be adjourned till such time as its own finances were on a more satisfactory basis.

The Guild was thus again thrown back upon its own efforts, and the serious position faced the Committee at its meeting in

London of having to find increased resources before 1935 or contemplate the closing down of the Guild's work. After much discussion the Committee decided to recommend to its national members:

- (1) That the affiliation fees to the International Guild should be doubled;
- (2) That until this could be effected by change of rule the increase should be paid voluntarily;
- (3) That a branch levy of 1/- (or equivalent national amount) should be instituted by Guilds not already contributing such a levy.

Several of the National Executives have already expressed their willingness to adopt one or other of these recommendations, while a few have agreed to both. We feel bound here to emphasise that, failing additional outside help, the position of the International Guild can only be made secure if both recommendations (or their equivalent) are adopted, and if all the national members shoulder their responsibilities accordingly. The Conference will be asked to consider proposals to this end.

We desire to take this opportunity of expressing our special appreciation of the generosity of the following Unions and Wholesale Societies in giving assistance to our funds during a very difficult period: The Workers' Distributive, Building and Credit Society of the Argentine; the Austrian Co-operative Union, who have borne the cost of expenses incurred by the President for travelling and postage; the Belgian Wholesale Society; the Czech Union and Czech Wholesale Society; the German-Czech "Gec" Union and Wholesale; the Central Union of Germany; the Wholesale Society of the Finnish Central Union; the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies; the Japanese Union; the Polish Union and Wholesale Society; the Swiss Union and Wholesale Society; and the Co-operative League of the U.S.A.

We have also to express our thanks for the greatly appreciated donation, previously mentioned, from Miss Llewelyn Davies' Testimonial Fund, in aid of the Disarmament Campaign.

Our thanks are specially due to the International Co-operative Alliance, both for the grant of £100 in 1931 and for the other help they so unfailingly give us.

On behalf of the Committee,

EMMY FREUNDLICH, *President.*

A. HONORA ENFIELD, *Secretary.*

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

JANUARY 1ST, 1930—DECEMBER 31ST, 1933.

### *Receipts.*

	£	s.	d.
Balances in Hand, January 1st, 1930 .....	149	5	9
Subscriptions .....	455	16	1
Donations.....	973	17	6
Sales of Literature .....	50	8	3½
Sales of Lantern Slides.....	2	0	0
Sales of Badges .....	134	6	7
Dividend and Bank Interest .....	16	6	8
Loans, Refunds and Advances.....	2	17	3
Sundries .....	0	6	5
	<hr/>		
	1,785	4	6½

### *Payments.*

	£	s.	d.
Postage and Carriage.....	76	0	0
Stationery and Office Expenses .....	147	15	9
Salaries and Wages.....	609	7	0
Insurance.....	20	1	0
Travelling, Conference and Committee Expenses.....	158	7	9
Printing .....	2	18	3½
Literature.....	60	6	3½
Loans, Refunds and Interest .....	67	15	9
Bank Charges .....	3	11	10
Sundries .....	5	12	0
Rent, Fire and Lights .....	270	2	6
Badges .....	91	8	8
	<hr/>		
	£1,513	6	10

	£	s.	d.
Balances, December 31st, 1933—			
Bank .....	270	6	10
Cash .....	0	0	0½
Petty Cash.....	1	10	10
	<hr/>		
	271	17	8½
	<hr/>		
	£1,785	4	6½

Examined and found correct,

Catherine Webb,

January 30th, 1934.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

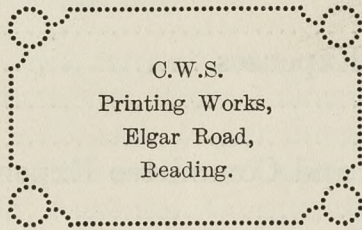
January 1st 1880 - December 31st 1880

Receipts

Balance in Hand, January 1st 1880	142 8 0
Subscriptions	455 10 1
Donations	978 17 0
Sales of Publications	50 8 3
Sales of Manuscripts	2 0 0
Sales of Books	134 8 7
Dividend and Bank Interest	18 0 8
Loans, Returns and Advances	217 8 3
Subscriptions	0 0 8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,788 4 01</b>

Payments

Printers and Carriers	70 0 0
Stationery, Post Office	147 15 2
Books and Papers	200 7 0
Printing	20 0 0
Traveling Expenses	128 7 0
Printing	2 18 3
Stationery	20 0 0
Books, Manuscripts and Papers	27 10 8
Bank Charges	2 11 10
Printing	2 12 0
Books, Manuscripts and Papers	170 8 0
Books	81 8 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>815 18 0 10</b>



Balance, December 31st, 1880

Balance	270 8 10
Cash	0 0 0
Party Cash	1 10 10
<b>Total</b>	<b>271 18 01</b>

Examined and found correct  
C. W. S.  
January 30th 1881