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British Federation of University Women.

The Fourth Conference of the International Federation of University Women.

The Fourth Conference of the International Federation of University Women was held at Amsterdam, from July 28th to August 2nd, 1926. The attendance, of over 400 members, included representatives of the university women of 26 countries. The British Federation was represented by 57 members, including the Council Member and 12 Delegates.

The hospitality offered by the Dutch Federation included the use of excellent halls and rooms at the Colonial Institute, the organisation of a series of interesting excursions and entertainments, and an invitation, for all members who wished to avail themselves of it, to enjoy the private hospitality of Dutch members and their friends during the Conference week. Several British members took advantage of this kind offer and greatly appreciated the opportunity.

The Council Meeting held just before the Conference admitted four new national federations—those of Estonia, Germany, Hungary and Poland. The admission of these federations brings the total number of branches of the I.F.U.W. to 27.

The programme of the Conference was arranged to include as many open meetings, for all members, as possible, only two being reserved for delegates. These meetings were devoted to financial and other business, such as the revision of the By-Laws, amendments of the Constitution and the election of Officers.

OPEN MEETINGS.

The arrangement of the programme for the open meetings was left, to a certain extent, to the Convenors of the Committees of the Federation, who were asked to select whatever subjects they considered most valuable in connection with the work of their own Committees and to secure good speakers on those topics. The chief Committees of the Federation are those dealing with International Fellowships, Intellectual Co-operation, Secondary Education, the Interchange of Secondary School Teachers, Academic Standards, International Auxiliary Language, and Careers for Women in Industry, Commerce and Finance.

I. INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS. The progress of the plan for establishing a Foundation for International Fellowships was presented by Dr. I. Smedley MacLean, Convenor of the Committee, supported by Dr. Ellen Gleditsch and Professor Agnes Rogers. The donations to the fund amount to nearly £3,000 and the first Fellowship will be awarded in 1928. The speakers urged the members of the Federation to found the first four Fellowships within the next two or three years.

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2. INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION. The report of this Committee, of which Professor Cullis was Convenor, drew special attention to the co-operation established with the Paris Institute and with the various International Students' Organisations. It was followed by an address by Professor A. Zimmern, Assistant Director of the Institute. He spoke particularly of the ways in which it is hoped that the Federation will aid the work of the Institute. Professor Bonnevie, who had just come from a meeting of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation at Geneva, emphasised the plea for assistance, and spoke of the value already attached by the Committee of the League of Nations to the work of the Federation.

3. SECONDARY EDUCATION. In 1925, a comprehensive questionnaire dealing with the position of women in the teaching profession and the curricula of secondary schools was circulated to all the federations. At the Amsterdam Conference, Dr. Hannevert, Convenor of the Committee on Exchange of Information regarding Secondary Education, reported on the results obtained from this questionnaire. She drew attention to the relatively small number of women holding posts as Inspectors or as members of School Boards, and suggested that since many women were now fully qualified to take their place in the organisation as well as on the teaching staff of Secondary Schools, it would be useful to press for the appointment of more women to these positions. Questions relating to the over-loading of the curricula and the training of teachers were deferred for further consideration.

4. INTERCHANGE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS. Miss Oldham, Convenor of the Committee on Interchange, gave an address on "Some Problems of Interchange." In addition to setting forth the reasons which make it extremely desirable to encourage exchange between secondary school teachers, Miss Oldham spoke of the points of agreement reached by the British and American Committees which are dealing practically with the problem. Her address aroused a great deal of interest and was followed by a meeting of Secondary School Teachers of many different nations, who discussed the points raised in her speech and agreed to set up committees in each country.

5. ACADEMIC STANDARDS. An interesting report was presented by the Convenor, Mrs. L. Skonhoft, illustrated by a diagram showing the amount of time devoted to each division of education—primary, secondary and university—in the countries belonging to the Federation. A comparison of the standards required for membership of the various national federations, based on the time of university training required, was accompanied by a comparison between countries in which the highest general culture is taught in the secondary schools, the universities being entirely devoted to specialised professional training, and those in which the universities are largely attended by students who are not training for any definite profession but taking more general courses, according to their interest and inclination. The Committee is continuing an interesting piece of work in connection with the equivalence of standards, a point on which the assistance of the Federation has been asked by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

6. INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE. Mrs. Edgerton Parsons, Convenor of the Committee, although unable to be present herself, had secured Professor Pierre Bovet, Principal of the J.-J. Rousseau Institute, and Mr. David Sarnoff, Managing Director of the Radio Corporation of America, as speakers. Professor Bovet dealt with the value of Esperanto as an educational instrument, and urged that it might be tried, while Mr. Sarnoff suggested that the influence of Radio development would be to make, not

Esperanto, but one of the dominant living languages, the medium of international intercourse. A demonstration in Esperanto was given by Miss Offerhaus, a Dutch member.

7. CAREERS FOR WOMEN IN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND FINANCE. Professor Spurgeon, Convenor of the Committee, had invited Mrs. Frank B. Gilbreth, a well-known American Efficiency Engineer, to speak on the Reconciliation of Marriage and a Profession. Mrs. Gilbreth's account of the methods applied in her own home aroused lively interest and was followed by a brisk discussion.

Another aspect of the Committee's work was touched upon in a paper by Madame Suzanne Grinberg, who examined the legal disabilities of married women engaged in professional work in the various countries represented in the Federation. A Resolution in favour of the right of married women to continue their profession and to control their own earnings was referred to the national federations for their consideration and whatever action they may find desirable.

8. THE WORK OF DUTCH UNIVERSITY WOMEN. A meeting of special interest was arranged by the Dutch Federation. Ten distinguished members gave 15 minutes' speeches, illustrated by lantern slides, describing the work of university women in ten different professions: Biology, Medicine, Education, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Engineering, Theology, History of Art, Law and Politics, and work in the Colonies. The addresses are published in a special pamphlet, which can be obtained, if desired, separately from the general report.

9. REPORTS OF NATIONAL FEDERATIONS. The reports on the work of the national federations were amplified or explained by delegates from the different countries. In addition, short speeches were made by a representative of the Mexican University Women and a representative of the University Women of Japan.

BUSINESS MEETINGS OF DELEGATES.

The main business considered by the delegates was concerned with the financial arrangements for carrying on the work of the Federation, the passing of amendments to the Constitution, the revision of the By-Laws, the election of Officers and the appointment of Committees.

1. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. Two proposals for placing the International Federation on a self-supporting basis, so far as the essential work is concerned, were considered by the delegates. One would have doubled the former rate of subscription, the other involved a sliding scale to be worked out *per capita*. The second alternative was adopted, after discussion by a special committee, and the scale is now being worked out.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. Two amendments, one proposing to substitute triennial for biennial conferences, the other giving former presidents a seat on the Council for six years after the end of their term of office, were passed by the delegates.

3. REVISION OF BY-LAWS. The text of the By-Laws, as revised and approved by the delegates, may be obtained from the Central Office. The general object of the revision is to define more accurately and clearly the methods by which the Federation can perform its work.

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4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The following Officers were elected for the current period :—

President : Docent Ellen Gleditsch.
Vice-Presidents: { Professor Winifred Cullis.
Madame Nelly Schreiber-Favre.
Professor Johanna Westerdyk.
Treasurer : Mrs. Thomas Raeburn White.
Secretary : Miss Theodora Bosanquet.

5. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES: The following Standing Committees were appointed :—

- (a) Budget Committee.
- (b) Committee on Exchange of Information regarding Secondary Education.
- (c) Committee on Interchange of Secondary School Teachers.
- (d) Conference Committee.

6. PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE. An invitation from the Swiss Federation to hold the next Conference in Geneva was gratefully accepted. An invitation was also received to hold a Conference in Spain. It is hoped that this may be arranged at some future date.

7. HEADQUARTERS OF THE FEDERATION. It was agreed that for the present the Headquarters of the International Federation shall remain in London.

NOTE.—A full Report of the Speeches and Debates has been printed and may be obtained from the office of the International Federation of University Women, 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, for 1/6, post free.