

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

# 10th CONGRESS OF THE I.W.S.A., PARIS, May 30th—June 6th, 1926.

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## THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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## A CALL TO THE CONGRESS.

LONDONERS have had the pleasure of a visit from Madame Malaterre-Sellier, President of the Paris Section of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. Under the auspices of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, formerly the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, a meeting was held on February 25th, at which Mme. M. Sellier made an eloquent appeal to English women to support the Paris Congress, and assured her audience that the women of France were looking to the Congress as the crowning effort of their campaign. Success was in sight, but it might be delayed; she felt that the great Congress of Paris would bring victory in its train. She counted upon the women from enfranchised countries to bring home to politicians of France the good work they had achieved since winning citizenship. The French Government was to welcome the Congress, the Municipality would



Mme. Malaterre Sellier, President of the Paris Section of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

follow suit, and that was right, but when the visitors had returned to their respective countries, Frenchwomen would point out to their rulers that having blessed the Congress and the principles for which it stands they could scarcely refuse to debar the women of their own country from the rights of citizenship, enjoyed by the women of so many other countries. Mme. Malaterre-Sellier said that it was a triumph to have been allowed to hold the Congress in the Sorbonne, with all its centuries of tradition; indeed, it had been a terrible shock to certain anti-suffragists, and to feminists an omen of coming victory. There was a Socialist Bill before the House of Deputies to confer votes on women, but the vote being a question of justice, all parties could and should support the Bill. In hearing Mme. M. Sellier's eloquent description of true patriotism, that love of country which teaches respect

and friendliness for the countries of others, we were reminded of the historic phrase: "Patriotism is not enough."

Madame Malaterre-Sellier spoke of several meetings of the Congress, which would be of special interest. The meeting at which distinguished men would pay tribute to the good results of women's co-operation in public life; the meeting at which women of the world would denounce the Code Napoleon, under which women had suffered so much; and lastly the closing meeting of the Congress, when women from all parts of the world would unite in the support of World Peace, upon which depended all the reforms dear to the hearts of women. Women who gave life must always have a horror of war.

The audience had also the pleasure of a speech from Mrs. Corbett Ashby, which was full of interest. Mrs. Ashby reminded her hearers that two Suffrage Bills had already passed through the House of Deputies in France, and that the last was defeated in the Senate by a very small majority. It would be strange if hundreds of women from forty different countries were not able to convert a handful of Senators, however prejudiced. Mrs. Ashby then dealt with the position of women the world over, paying a fine tribute to the Scandinavian countries, which had been the pioneers in recognising the equality of men and women. The victories won by women in one country gave impetus to the progress of women in other countries. The solidarity of women was demonstrated in the fact that in every quarter of the globe women encountered the same difficulties in a greater or lesser degree. The meeting together of women from so many different countries, women of every race and every creed, could not fail to have far-reaching effects on the position of women all over the world, and the delegates would return to their countries inspired to further efforts to obtain the enfranchisement of women, so that as partners with men, they might bring their full contribution to the solution of world problems and use the experience gained in their own homes for the welfare of humanity.

The speeches of the two distinguished advocates of the Congress made a deep impression on the audience and left all who heard them eager to take part in the Congress.

On the following day Mme. Malaterre-Sellier addressed a Mass Meeting for Equal Franchise, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and gave an eloquent invitation to the vast audience to come to the Paris Congress and help the women of France to victory.

### CONGRESS NEWS.

Last month we published the Draft Programme of the Congress, and it will appear again in next month's issue. Meanwhile, copies of the February number may be had from the office, 11 Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

#### Public Meetings of the Congress.

The meeting to be addressed by women members of Parliament promises to be of great interest. Already we have had acceptances from the following women M.P.'s:—Madame Frantiska Plaminkova, Senator, Czecho-Slovakia; Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Great Britain; Dr. Gertrude Bäumer, Germany; Mrs. Bakker-Nort, Holland; Miss Anna Kethly, the only woman member for Hungary; Mrs. Chichester, the only woman member for Northern Ireland; and Miss Hesselgren, the only woman senator for Sweden, also hopes to be able to attend. The meeting will be presided over by Miss Annie Furuholm, ex-M.P. of Finland.

#### Men's Meeting.

Dr. Benes, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Czecho-Slovakia, has provisionally accepted the invitation to

speak at the public meeting at which distinguished men politicians will testify to the favourable results of woman suffrage. Lord Astor is unfortunately unable to attend the Congress, but Great Britain will be represented by Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., whose devoted work for woman suffrage is well known to all our readers. The Irish Free State will be represented by Professor William Magennis. As we have already reported, Mr. Everett Colby will represent the U.S.A., and Mr. Marchant, Holland. Northern Ireland will be represented by Senator Leslie, and Australia, we hope, by Mr. Colebatch, the Agent-General, in London, for Western Australia.

#### Representatives From the League of Nations.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations has promised to send an official representative, but so far the name of the representative has not been received. The International Labour Office has appointed Made-moiselle Martha Mundt as its official delegate.

#### Wayfarers' French Agency.

Delegates and visitors wishing to extend their stay in France are advised to apply to The Wayfarers' Travel Agency, 10 rue Gaillon (Avenue del'Opera), Paris. Telephone: Central 49-83. The Wayfarers' Travel Agency will be glad to make arrangements for sight-seeing, to provide reliable guides for museums or for shops, to recommend hotels, book seats at theatres, and to give information generally. They will also make full arrangements for travel anywhere in Europe, quoting inclusive terms if desired, and will provide rail and air tickets and obtain accommodation on steamers for any destination.

### CONGRESS ARRANGEMENTS.

Dear Presidents,

The time of the Paris Congress is approaching, and many of the delegates and visitors will be getting anxious about the question of accommodation. As I have already stated in my letter to you, the problem in Paris is very great, but "La Bienvenue Française" has offered us their services and has appointed M. Frédéric Hébert, 18 bis Rue de Ranelagh, Paris, to assist you. He has printed the following form:—

Monsieur Frédéric Hébert,  
18 bis Rue de Ranelagh,  
Paris XVIe.

Sir,

As I wish to attend the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, may I ask you to take in my name from the.....May to the.....June, 1926, .....rooms for.....persons at an approximate charge of.....francs.

Room for 1 person at 25 to 75 frs.  
Room for 2 persons at 30 to 100 frs.  
Room for 2 persons with dressing room, 40 to 120 frs.  
Room for 2 persons with bathroom, 50 to 200 frs.  
Plus 10 per cent. for service.

I wish to stay in.....(State what part of Paris.)  
I enclose a sum of three hundred francs (frs. 300)\* to guarantee the reservation of the room, and I should be glad if you would acknowledge receipt, sending me at the same time a confirmation signed by the hotel.

Yours faithfully,  
(Signature and Address).†

\* By cheque on Paris, international money order, etc.  
† Please write name in block capitals.

These forms can be obtained from Headquarters, 11 Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2, and should be signed and returned to M. Hébert without delay.

You will notice that he needs three hundred francs (frs. 300) from you as a guarantee. I hope you will understand that this guarantee is needed, as when M. Hébert has engaged a room for you for a certain date, the hotel proprietor, in his turn, wishes to receive

(Continued on page 83.)

# NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association  
34 Baker Street, London, W. J.



President - THE LADY PARMOOR. General Secretary - MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.  
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Treasurer - BEATRICE, COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH.



Members of Executive Committee, Sub-Committees, and Visitors at High Leigh.

### OXFORD, 1926.

NOT since the first World's Conference of the Y.W.C.A., held in London in June, 1898, have the members of the World's Committee met together in Great Britain. In that year the gathering was a regular Conference to which unlimited numbers could come, but, even so, there were not a hundred delegates from the world at large, exclusive of Great Britain and Ireland, who alone supplied nearly two hundred. This year the gathering is strictly for regular World's Committee members only, with a few specially invited visitors, and there will be over a hundred delegates, exclusive of visitors from Great Britain. At the time of the London Conference there were only seven affiliated Associations and seven countries in "corresponding membership" (though another was added later in the year); now there are nineteen fully affiliated national associations, eight "corresponding members," eight in the "pioneer" stage, eight affiliated "isolated centres," and yet others "under survey."

The Committee meeting this year will be held July 1st-8th in St. Hugh's College, Oxford, one of the women's colleges which moved into its present building ten years ago. In addition to a large library and common room, the College has a chapel, which will afford a very welcome change of place and atmosphere for the devotional meetings. In addition to the strictly business sessions, dealing with reports and matters arising therefrom, a great many hours will be given to group discussion on the summaries of the answers to the questionnaire on membership which has been for some time in the hands of delegates. There will also be hours of group Bible study on subjects related to the questionnaire. Outlines for this Bible study are now being prepared by Mademoiselle de Dietrich of the

French Student Movement, and will shortly be available in English, French and German. There will only be three set addresses during the week, by English, French and German pastors, the subjects of the addresses being those set for the Bible study, namely, the Church, Christ and Discipleship.

The holding of the World's Committee in Great Britain has presented an opportunity for the Executive Committee to gather together some of the delegates a month in advance for some kind of Training Course. At first it was the plan of the Training Committee to hold the same variety of school as had been so successfully organised on two occasions last year—in early spring at Visegrád in Hungary, in summer at Mens in France. Those were, however, regular schools for younger leaders of the Association, the French course actually insisting on examinations each week! It was hoped that the course this June would be attended by junior delegates or visitors to the World's Committee, who would desire really to sit down to study Association aims and ideals and methods. However, partly owing to the fact that the course will only be of two weeks' duration (June 11th-25th), it is developing more into an international study group.

The course will be held in a beautiful Elizabethan country house, surrounded by some hundred and fifty acres containing a wood and a lake. This estate is known as Sandgate Park, and is in one of the loveliest parts of the famous county of Sussex. The house could accommodate a larger number of guests, but the Training Committee is convinced that the best results will be obtained if the number of students is limited to forty. Obviously much of the value of any international gathering lies in the personal contacts made, and it is felt that since the course cannot be of longer duration, the number must not be increased.

After the two weeks in Sussex, it is hoped that all the delegates will move in a body to London to attend the Biennial Conference of the Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain, which has sent invitations to the Conference to each country having a representative on the World's Committee. Just as two years ago the Biennial Convention of the U.S.A. held in New York was enriched by many foreign visitors, delegates to the World's Committee meeting at Washington, so it is hoped that many guests from other countries will be present at the Conference in London this June.

The general theme of the course will be "The Oneness of Life," and this will be the subject of the devotional hours the first two mornings. The practical aim of the course will be the making of programmes suited to different types of girls—rural, industrial, high school, and so on—that shall express this oneness of life. Much time will naturally be given to group discussion. It is hoped that a Girl Guide leader will be present, as well

as lecturers on the psychological, pedagogical and physical bases of Association work. Other hours will be occupied with nature work and dramatics. The first hour each morning will be given to Bible study, in groups.

Norway, Sweden, Australia, Hungary, Canada, are some of the countries that have already sent in registrations. The speakers also are coming from many countries; indeed, it is expected that several persons will be both speakers and students! This, after all, is only natural in an international course, where the very different experience of the delegates is in itself one of the greatest contributions to the value of the gathering.

### THE WORK OF A SERVICE CENTRE

(From a report).

THE last months have been full of labour and much pleasure, and there has been a marked progress along some definite lines as the result of a Girls' Conference. For example, the idea of having small committees in all groups responsible for the programme of the groups for three months, the committee to change at the end of the term, has worked splendidly. It has not only helped in keeping all the members more interested in their groups, but it develops the initiative of the girls, for they have to put their heads together and decide on things and think for themselves, with no outside help at all. This is a great step in advance, for the girls in this part of the world are inclined to have others do the thinking for them. It is with great pleasure also that I remark the gradual development of the girls along some of the most important lines such as discipline, dependability and the taking of responsibility. They have proved this to be true not only in their groups, but in their attitude in general. How willing and how eager they all were to work for our annual bazaar, and how they showed their determination to make a success of our bazaar. Out of 250 girls in the different groups there is not even one case that I can mention who showed unwillingness or who shirked from doing her duty. And I wish I could describe to you their happiness and joy when they all heard the results!

The Group Council (which is composed of one representative from each group) met immediately after the bazaar to decide what would be the best way to make use of the money. The majority of the girls felt that the greatest need was again amongst refugee children, who are simply starving and almost naked. So part of our sum was put aside for this purpose, part was kept for expenses of next year's bazaar, and part for our loan fund. The loan fund comprises money for sending under-nourished or weak members to camp, and you may be sure there are a great number of such girls in our centre. The Group Council also decided to help a smaller number of children this year, but try to give them something more than candy and dry fruit. So we chose the two camps where two of our recreation leaders go and give lessons. In this way we reached 205 children in the camps, besides the 100 who came to our centre, who were given a good New Year's party. All the 305 children had a big bag of fruit and candy and one pair of good stockings each.

As for the party which we gave at the centre, it worked this way: Each group had the right to bring 10 children who were poor and needy. We also had 23 children sent by the American Red Cross. In all we had 100 poor children of many nationalities. In one corner of the room we had tables with the presents and cakes which were kindly given to us by the committee ladies. Our dramatic class prepared a small pantomime, "Little Snow-White," which they gave for the children. The story was told to them in four different languages so that they all understood it thoroughly. At the end of the pantomime, our recreation leaders organised group games, and the children had a wonderful time. It was for the first time in their lives that

some of them had actually played with a ball. Their excitement was so great that when the time came to distribute presents to them, some of them were still lost in their game and did not seem to care for anything else. This fact made me realise once more how great is the need for recreation in this country and how the poor children seem to grow old before their time because of the lack of play.

From different comments which I heard I know that the children had a grand time, and that this party was a great event in their lives. It seems some could not sleep many days before just because they were thinking of "the day" that was to come, and others were asking the girls who had brought them to the party if they would bring them again the next day. So much about our New Year parties. It was a great joy to me to hear the girls talking among each other, expressing words of satisfaction, and saying how worth while it was working so hard for the bazaar in order to give a little happiness to these poor children. How they wished they could have done much more!

And now I shall write a few lines about our groups in general. There are eight of them, namely, the business girls' group, the French, the embroidery, the glee, the music, the home economics, the fireside and the Girl Reserves. The programme of these groups differs according to their interests. But there are some things that apply to all the groups equally; for example, all groups do some kind of social service (these three months all groups were doing bazaar work as social service). Then the meeting of all groups lasts one and a half hours. This was decided at the Conference on condition that it should be tried. It has worked very well. Also it was decided at the Group Conference to have some kind of recreation in all the groups at every meeting. This was taken into consideration by all the programme committees which definitely planned for it. Another thing that all the groups should do is to take charge of Sundays in turn. That is, they should act as hostesses after the talk, serve tea to all present, and then wash the cups. It is also the duty of each group to help in turn with the recreation hour every Wednesday, to interest and encourage new girls and to help with the games or dancing.

This year I have only 60 Girl Reserves. They are divided into three groups. The first, composed of 26, are the Volunteers, that is, those preparing to be regular Reserves. They learn to be regular Reserves, they learn the purpose, slogan and code. They have special handiwork, singing and recreation. At the end of the three months they pass an examination and those who succeed receive their ties. Just this last week we had the initiation service for both centres together. At ours there were only seven who passed. Some of the rest did not, not simply because they did not understand and could not write, but for various other reasons. For example, three of them had exchanged words, although not about their examinations. All the same, they had to stay another three months in the Volunteer group in order to learn that true Reserves are not only those who know perfectly well the code and slogan and purpose, or those who receive their ties, but those who go a step farther and put that code into practice in their everyday life. It was the first time that those girls had heard of examinations, and you can imagine what they felt and what little discipline they had. In their homes they had very little of it—I may say nothing at all. There was some weeping and mourning when these girls were told that they had to begin all over again, but after I talked to them privately and left them to think about it by themselves, it was such a surprise to me to have them come back to say that they were willing to stay another term in order to prove that they could be better, and that they had realised their mistake. It was such a perfect example for all the rest of the girls! These girls have reached the point where they are absolutely sure that whatever they do or learn, it is for their own benefit and good, and not for a pin or a ring. If you could only know how eager they are to learn new things.



Dutch Girls at Camp.

### Y.W.C.A. WORK in the NETHERLANDS

By MISS VAN ASCH VAN WYCK.

THE Dutch Association, affiliated to the World's Young Women's Christian Association, is known as the Federation of Christian Associations for Women and Girls, and held its fifth annual meeting last autumn. On that occasion the secretary gave a most interesting report, a summary of the five years' work of the Federation.

When we say the Federation has existed five years, it might easily be thought that Y.W.C.A. work was only started five years ago in the Netherlands. But how false an idea one would have then of the circumstances in our country. On the contrary, Y.W.C.A. work has been done for many years, perhaps longer than in many countries where the Y.W.C.A. is a very strong body now. But this work was done by many separate organisations, sometimes in quite independent local groups, sometimes nationally organised, but the aim in each case was quite specialised, or applied to girls of only one class of society.

The great influence on the religious life in our country of the strong revival movement about the middle of the last century had its effects, too, on the work for young people. Results were first apparent among young men and boys, and the Y.M.C.A. was nationally organised in 1853. But association life was not deemed necessary for girls so soon, and though some local groups of girls were formed not so very long after, still there was for many years no question of any national organisation.

Work for girls on a somewhat larger scale was begun about 1880 by the Dutch branch of the Union International des Amies de la Jeune Fille, and this association still does much of the work which in other countries is done by the Y.W.C.A. In all the larger centres, groups were organised for servant-girls having no home of their own in the town. In several towns the Amies de la Jeune Fille have homes and foyers. Travellers' Aid work has been taken up by this association, also employment bureaux, mostly for domestic service, meetings for foreign girls, and in some towns work among adolescent girls has been started. The great progress of the Amies de la Jeune Fille makes the task of a national Y.W.C.A. very different from that in other countries.

Girls' Camps have been held for many years. They were introduced by woman members of the Student Christian Movement. These were for the girls who intended to study later at the university and with whom the S.C.M. wanted to come into contact while they were still at school. Very soon the camp movement spread, first for girls of high school education, but of late years many camps for working women and girls have been held.

Until lately the majority of local associations were quite independent and not affiliated in any way. Only about fifty of these groups were organised in the Nederlandsche Meisjesbond (Dutch Girls' League), which was affiliated with the World's Y.W.C.A. as early as 1907. This affiliation was transferred to the Federation in 1922, the League being one of the seven national organisations which desired to co-operate in



A rest by the way.

Y.W.C.A. work. This league also initiated an organisation called "Zusterhulp" (Sisterly Help), which has a convalescent home (a second will shortly be opened) and a hostel in Amsterdam, while help is given to many girls in illness, unemployment and so on.

Thus it is quite clear now that Y.W.C.A. work has been done on a large scale for many years. Only some of the largest groups have been mentioned. But the Federation was founded to bring into this work a new spirit of co-operation, to make a common search, to introduce new methods of work and to further its activities.

Great are the difficulties one has to cope with in attempting to unite in a common effort all these groups so long quite independent, yet doing work so closely related. It is difficult for anyone not acquainted with the history of religious life in our country to understand the problems which arise from the divisions between churches, and even between the different currents of thought within one church. Moreover, the strong individualistic tendency of the Dutch character does not make it easier, though the work in each separate group often benefits from this very same trait.

Many leaders, however, in the different groups, realise very clearly that co-operation is absolutely necessary. Never can we be thankful enough for the amount of work done in all these years. It has been a blessing to thousands of girls; it has prepared their minds for the changes which must now be brought about. But the enormous difference in the circumstances of girls' life, in the thoughts of the girls even in the most distant rural districts, makes it imperative to find new ways and methods. These changes have come to us somewhat later than to the countries which took part in the great war, and they have come more gradually. But they have come none the less. New needs have arisen among our young womanhood, and they must be met. The old organisations, each with an aim limited to one branch of the work, cannot meet them separately. All must join together and assume the responsibility for the whole field of work.

The five years of Federation work which have passed can best be called the survey and pioneer periods. Very slowly the sense of the urgent need of more co-operation and development through new methods is reaching ever larger circles.

One great piece of work which has been done in these years is the uniting in a national organisation of a large number of small isolated groups mostly from rural districts. It was the membership clause which made it impossible for the existing league (formerly Meisjesbond, now Christian Young Women's League) to take in all these groups. In view of the discussions on membership, which will be held at the next meeting of the World's Committee, it is interesting to note the difference between these two organisations. In the League each member has to sign a membership card, thereby saying she agrees personally with the basis of the League which is nearly identical with the basis of the World's Y.W.C.A. The new organisation knows no personal, only group membership. The local groups must declare themselves in agreement with the Christian

basis, but every group remains entirely free as to its rules for accepting members. This new organisation will have its second annual meeting in February and has a membership of 240 local groups with about 5,000 girls.

As all the leaders are voluntary workers and can only give their free time, many of them are prevented from attending conferences of some days' duration. A great many are clergymen's wives and cannot leave their families for more than a day. But as they too desire to get new inspiration and to discuss the many problems which arise from their work, the Federation began last year to organise "leaders' days." Three were held in the south and three in the north of the country in six different towns. They were a great success. The attendance varied from 18 to 80. Many towns and groups of villages have asked the Federation to organise similar days, and next autumn a great many will be held all over the country. A special committee has been appointed to do all the preparatory work. For many leaders these days have been a unique experience. Working in very isolated places, they had never realised what it may mean to belong to a national movement; their horizon was broadened, their spiritual life strengthened, and they saw new possibilities for their own association work.

Has the end now come now for the pioneer period for the Federation? Has enough preparatory work been done? Great plans are being made for the next year. The work has accumulated to such a degree that it is impossible for those now working in the Federation to meet the growing needs. They can only give a small part of their time to Federation work, as each has some other occupation besides. The work among adolescent girls has to be organised, the growing number of leaders' days and conferences demand much preparation, work among industrial girls should be done on a much larger scale than it is to day, etc.

A staff of a few full-time workers is an urgent need, and plans are being made for a great appeal for funds to finance this new scheme. If all the ten organisations now forming the Federation will assume the responsibility together for this considerable extension of work, it will no doubt prove a strong link between them and will benefit them all. It would mean an entirely new phase in our work for girls. The Dutch people go "slowly but surely," and so we can have good hope that if once this development is started, it will prove to be strong and sure. Then the Y.W.C.A. work in the Netherlands may to a much larger extent than even now be a blessing to thousands of girls and be an instrument for the extension of the Kingdom of God in our country.

#### ICELAND.

THERE has for some years been an Association in Iceland with branches in two separate towns. Some months ago the World's Executive Committee received a letter stating that Iceland wished to become a member of the World's Association, and submitting a Constitution. This was considered by the Executive Committee and returned to Iceland with suggestions. These have been accepted by the committee of that country, which now has hopes that it will be formally admitted to the World's Association at the meeting of the World's Committee in July, the Executive Committee having already accepted it as a member.

We are convinced that Iceland is, for most people, one of the countries that belong to the realm of legend or fantasy, and therefore add some solid facts about the country itself, in order that the Association may be fitted into its national background. The colonisation of Iceland took place in the years 874 to 830, the first settlers being of Norwegian origin. In 930 the Icelandic Commonwealth was organised, and remained independent until 1264, when they became subject to Norway. More than a century later both Norway and Iceland came under Danish rule. Last century saw progress towards political freedom, and since 1918 Iceland has been a sovereign State, though owing allegiance to the King of Denmark. The population of the island is 98,000, of whom 40,000 live by farming,

20,000 are gathered in the capital Reykjavik, and the remainder are mostly occupied in the fishing industry. The Icelandic people stand high in regard to education, which is compulsory. There are commercial and technical schools and colleges (including three for women) and a university.

#### THE STOCKHOLM ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS FORTIETH BIRTHDAY.

THE Stockholm Association celebrated its fortieth birthday by a five days' festival towards the close of last year. Old and young members and their friends gathered together from far and near to join in thanksgiving to the Y.W.C.A., to its leaders, above all, to the Giver of all good gifts for the many blessings the Association has received throughout the years. Looking back on the days of festivity, the chief impression is that of unity in Christ, unity in worship and thanksgiving, and enthusiasm to give the very best to the Association. These days will never be forgotten by any who were present. Reports were given by leaders, new and old, and greetings were brought from many of the associations and other societies.

Sunday, November 29th, was the chief festival day. A special service was held in the morning, when the Association was commended most heartily to the sympathy and interest of the congregation. In the evening a very large meeting was held at Brunnsgratan, the main branch of the great work which now has so many smaller branches. Miss Anna Roos, chairman of the Stockholm Association, gave a full report of the history of the forty years. The seed of the now flourishing Association tree was planted in 1885 by Mrs. Anderson-Meyerland, who, during a visit to England that year, for the first time met the Y.W.C.A., and, returning to Sweden, she was filled with a burning desire to start the same kind of work among girls in her own country. She, with a Miss Schroder, initiated the Swedish Association by holding a meeting for girls in a church hall, when fifty girls were enrolled as members, 30th November, 1885. A few days later a committee was elected with herself as chairman, and Miss Schroder as secretary and treasurer, and so the seed was planted of that great tree which now has its branches and twigs all over Sweden. Little by little the work has grown and new ventures have been made, handicraft classes, lectures, employment bureaux, picnics, clubs for factory girls in the industrial section of the city, and so on.

Miss Roos, after her report, was surrounded by her committee and presented with the sum of 32,784 krona. This had been raised by members as a special contribution to the Association to wipe out the debt on the building, and was presented by a delegation representative of the membership all down the forty years. The choir then sang hymns of thanksgiving and praise.

After this, Countess Elsa Bernadotte, national president, gave hearty greetings and congratulations from the National Committee, and, speaking from the parable of the mustard seed, expressed her committee's hopes that the Stockholm Association would extend its work in ever-widening circles, reaching out finally to all girls and women who in their hearts longed for peace and life. After the president's speech, greetings were given by the representative of the Association of Women Missionary Workers and of the Y.W.C.A. The president of the first conference, 1894, was also present, and ended the first part of the evening's programme with a devotional address, which was followed by a social hour.

Meetings were also held the following days, and among the speakers were Mrs. Penn Lewis, and Prince and Princess Bernadotte. At these meetings many reports were given by secretaries and voluntary workers. There were social gatherings also, and a spirit of festivity pervaded every day. It is the hope of the leaders of the Association that its work has been strengthened through the joyous activities of the festival week, and its whole life stimulated to fresh growth.

## THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IN 1925.

VIEWED in the light of recent events, the year 1925 stands out as a period of marked progress for the League of Nations—progress towards universality and, particularly, in its work on arbitration and security.

The Locarno agreements, although not negotiated at Geneva, may nevertheless be considered as an endorsement and outgrowth of the patient endeavours of the Assembly, the Council and other League bodies with a view to the maintenance of peace by the application of the Covenant, conciliation and arbitration, mutual guarantees of security, and the reduction of armaments.

As Sir Austen Chamberlain said:

"In placing these documents under the guardianship of the League and attributing to the League all the authority which is therein specified, not less than by the agreement come to between Germany and the other nations that, as part of those agreements, Germany should enter the League of Nations, we have made a contribution towards the support and increase of the League's authority and strength."

Or to turn to the hopeful message contained in M. Briand's telegram:

"France sees in the evergrowing authority of the League of Nations and in the enlightened and vigilant action of its Council the best guarantee against war. This work of peace-making performed by the League of Nations, among the members of which we hope soon to welcome Germany, can but be facilitated and strengthened by the conclusion of the Treaties of Locarno. These Treaties, which are inspired by the provisions and directing principles of the Covenant, are designed to be the beginning, between the States which have signed them, of normal relations based on equal desire to achieve conciliation within the limits of the Treaties and of the rights of each party."

In September, the Sixth Assembly expressed its conviction that the most pressing need of the moment was the re-establishment of mutual confidence between nations; declared afresh that a war of aggression should be regarded as an international crime; and noted favourably the effort of certain nations to attain those objects by concluding arbitration conventions and treaties of mutual security conceived in the spirit of the Covenant and in harmony with the principles of the Protocol (arbitration, security, disarmament).

The questions of arbitration, security and disarmament continue to form part of the League programme. The Sixth Assembly recommended that, after conventions and treaties dealing with these subjects had been deposited with the Secretariat, the Council should examine them from the point of view of the progress in general security thus brought about. It also requested the Council to submit to careful examination the proposals, declarations and suggestions made at Assembly and Council meetings.

Five sessions of the Council, including an extraordinary meeting; four sessions (three extraordinary) of the Permanent Court of International Justice; several conferences, three of which led to the conclusion of international conventions; constant meetings of the Technical Organisations and various League committees give ample evidence of the League's activity during the past year in the following fields: development of international law (Permanent Court of International Justice and the Committee for the codification of International Law); settlement of political conflicts (the Iraq frontier dispute, the Greco-Bulgarian frontier incident); application of Article 23 of the Covenant as regards the supervision of the traffic in arms; settlement of minority questions and improvement of the procedure followed by the Council on such matters.

Improvements were effected in the method of settling disputes between Poland and the Free City of Danzig; progress was also made in the supervision of the administration of Mandated Territories.

The Technical Organisations—the Economic and

Financial Organisation, the Organisation for Communications and Transit, and the Health Organisation, as also the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, displayed constant activity in their different spheres. The work of the last-named body will henceforth be completed and developed by the International Institute at Paris.

In the humanitarian field may be noted the conclusion of two international conventions on the traffic in opium; the constitution of the Child Welfare Committee; and the drafting of a convention for the suppression of slavery, and of a scheme for an international union for relief in disaster.

#### PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

In 1925 the Permanent Court of International Justice gave two decisions and three advisory opinions. The first opinion dealt with the interpretation of an article of the Lausanne Convention on the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations; the second concerned certain legal points in connection with the Polish postal service at Danzig; the third, given like the foregoing at the request of the League Council, bore on the interpretation of an article of the Lausanne Treaty relating to the tracing of the frontier between Turkey and Iraq. On these opinions the Council based its decisions in disputes which had arisen between Greece and Turkey, Poland and Danzig, and Turkey and Great Britain.

#### THE HEALTH ORGANISATION.

The Health Organisation besides assisting in the preparation of international conventions, extended its epidemiological intelligence service, in particular, by means of the establishment of the Singapore Bureau and its system of interchange of health officers. Important progress was made in the technical and scientific work begun in former years (serological and biological research, anti-malarial campaign, study of cancer death rate). Inquiries on Tuberculosis and Sleeping Sickness were instituted at the request of certain Governments and Organisations. The Health Organisation is making arrangements to despatch to Central Africa a Commission which will study on the spot questions relating to sleeping sickness. The importance of the work of the Organisation for the Health Services of various countries and its interest for Governments are confirmed by the resolutions adopted by last Assembly, which entrust the Organisation with various new duties.

This brief summary of the activities of the League gives ample proof of its growing power. We hope to deal more fully with the social and humanitarian work of the League in another article.

(Continued from page 82.)

a guarantee from M. Hébert. Now, at the last moment you might not wish to go to the hotel where a room had been engaged for you, but the hotel proprietor would still make M. Hébert responsible for it. So it is only fair to him to send a small guarantee of three hundred francs in advance when you engage your room. This money will be deducted from your hotel bill when you are in Paris.

If your delegates and friends wish to go to the same hotel, it will perhaps be easier if you, or the responsible person in your delegation, will send in the signed forms all together to M. Hébert and tell him this in your letter.

Mrs. Ashby and I are going to Paris for a few days in the beginning of March, and we shall make a special point of looking into the question of hotel accommodation, as we do wish everyone to get a good room for as little money as possible.

From the 25th April my address will be: Hotel Lutetia, Paris, where all correspondence concerning arrangements will reach me.

Sincerely yours,  
ROSA MANUS.

## NEWS FROM MANY LANDS.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

An event unique in the annals of the courts of Prince Edward Island has just taken place in the admittance to the Bar of the Province of Miss Roma Stewart, daughter of the Prime Minister and Attorney-General of the Province, the Hon. J. D. Stewart.

Miss Stewart made an average of over eighty-five per cent. in her examinations and as a consequence will not have to serve the usual year as attorney, but has been at once admitted as a barrister and at the opening of the Hilary term of the Superior Court had the honour of being the first woman law student to sign the Roll of Barrister at Law.

The admission of Miss Stewart, who was presented to the Court by her father, took place immediately after the Chief Justice had addressed the Grand Jury. She was called to the bar and addressed by the Chief Justice as follows:

"I desire on behalf of the Court to congratulate you on your admission as an attorney. The ancient parchment roll which you have signed contains the names of many men who during the last 100 years have gained distinction in the Courts and in public affairs. To-day you have added to that Roll the name of the first lady who has ever been admitted to this Court to practise as an attorney. That alone is a unique distinction that will endure. In the ordinary course you would have been obliged to wait one year after your admission as an attorney before being qualified to practice at the Bar, but from the report of your examiners it appears that you have made such excellent marks in your examinations as to entitle you to immediate admission as a Barrister of this Court, and I make the order accordingly in the confident hope that the same qualities that have gained you such marked success as a student will ensure distinction in the wider field of usefulness and honour to which you are now promoted."—*"Montreal Star."*

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

The London "Times" reports that, in pursuance of the Act authorising the appointment of women to the Legislative Council, Mr. Lang, the Premier of New South Wales, may ask the Governor to appoint several women Labour members.

## CUBA.

The National Suffrage Party is making headway in Cuba. At a recent general meeting the President, Señora Mallen de Ostolaza, moved that the Federation of Feminist Associations should send a deputation of delegates from each constituent society to the Senate to present a petition to the President, Dr. Vazquez Bello, praying that the Constitution should be so amended as to confer the right to vote and eligibility on Cuban women. The delegation was received by the President and feminists await the result. In a recent number of "El Sufragista" Señora Mallen wrote an eloquent appeal for the emancipation of Cuban women, pointing out that Spanish women have now got the municipal vote, and Cuba, which prides itself on being a democracy, has left the women out.

## SCOTLAND.

The Scottish Council of Women Citizens' Association has issued an interesting pamphlet on "Some Aspects of Scots Law Affecting Women and Children" (post free, 6d., Colin McLean, 27 Rutland St., Edinburgh). The pamphlet is composed of abstracts of six lectures delivered to a Study Circle of the Edinburgh Women Citizens' Associations in 1925, by leading experts, on such subjects as marriage, divorce, protective legislation for women in industry, and on the Scottish Law of Inheritance. We commend the pamphlet to our readers.

## ROUMANIA.

## The League for Women's Rights and Duties.

The League was founded in 1911, starting with one hundred members. The League is very active and publishes a paper of its own, entitled "Women's Rights." The first Suffrage Petition was presented to the Senate in 1914. During the Great War the League maintained thirty children of soldiers at the front, and the members worked in the hospital of Bucharest. During the years 1919-1921 a very active campaign for suffrage was in full swing, with paper-selling in the streets and posters and meetings. The League was represented at the I.W.S.A. Congress at Buda Pest, Geneva, and at Rome, and is affiliated to the Alliance.

The League has so good a record of work that it may with full authority call upon all Roumanian women to work together to obtain woman suffrage and eligibility.

## Australia.

The Federal House of Representatives has adopted a private member's Bill, proposing that no British woman should lose her nationality by marriage with an alien. The Premier, Mr. Bruce, promises that the Australian representatives will endeavour to get this law adopted throughout the Empire.

## League of Nations.

The three new assessors appointed by the Council of the League to the Committee for Child Welfare and Protection are: Miss Julia Lathrop, U.S.A.; Miss Charlotte Whitton, Canada; and Mlle. Burriax, International Federation of Trade Unions.

## Great Britain.

Sir Austen Chamberlain having stated in the British House of Commons, in reply to a question by Mr. Frank Briant that His Majesty's Government had no information as to which countries had given women the vote on equal terms with men, we have forwarded to Sir Austen the table of Woman Suffrage, which appeared in our November issue.

The Equal Franchise campaign is in full swing. Following on the great mass meeting at the Central Hall on February 26th, convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, meetings are being held all over the country. The campaign will culminate with a procession and demonstration in Hyde Park on July 3rd.

FOR THE PREPARATION OF A  
WORLD'S WOMEN WELFARE  
DIRECTORY.

## WANTED

Humane and thinking persons all over the world, who may be interested in this cause, kindly to help in procuring for love of justice and mercy any information together with their valuable suggestions on the following points, before the 1st of June, 1926:—

1.—Names and addresses of books or periodicals that are devoted to the sacred cause of mothers and their children.

2.—Names and addresses of Women Societies or individuals who are working chiefly for the welfare of mothers and children of any country.

3.—Names and addresses of institutions that are working to produce educated motherhood.

Any assistance in collecting information on the above subjects will be gratefully accepted. All friends helping in this work will receive a free copy of the "Directory" when it is ready for distribution.

Please address all correspondence to BHAGAT RAM, *Jiv Daya Parcharak* (Animals' Friend Society), Ferozepore Cantt. (Punjab).

THE PROGRESS OF FEMINISM IN  
CHILE.

THE progress of feminism in Chile since 1922 has consisted first in that the movement has obtained an increased amount of support, and secondly in the fact that the organisation which supports it, The Partido Civico Femenino, has formulated its programme in a Bill which was introduced into Parliament at the end of 1923. This Bill would confer on Chilean women certain civic rights they now lack, namely, rights of guardianship over their own children, the right to be guardians of the children of others, the right to witness a legal document, the right, if they are married, to hold property, and the right to do paid work.

The custody of her children is given to the widow who does not marry again, to the wife whose husband has, for mental incapacity, conviction for crime, or other moral incapacity, forfeited his guardianship; and to the wife whose husband has been divorced for his fault.

All women may become guardians of children not their own on the same terms as men, saving that married women may not do so without their husbands' consent and a special legal authority.

All women may witness legal documents on the same terms as men.

The act of marriage is held to institute the separate property rights of husband and wife, unless there be special contrary provision. A wife who thus holds her property separately may sue and be sued in respect of it. If she and her husband collaborate in trade or industry, a partnership is *ipso facto* established between them; the husband is the managing partner, and profits and expenses are divided between the two, according to the rules generally in force.

A husband and wife may, however, specially stipulate in their marriage contract that they will hold their property in common.

Persons who are already married when the Bill becomes law, may either, within a year, declare that they wish still to hold their property in common, or, at the petition of either husband or wife, they may at any time liquidate their partnership as holders of property and subsequently own in severalty.

Property acquired after marriage by husband or wife will be owned by them separately unless they declare that they desire to own it jointly.

If a woman loses her civil capacity, the custody of her property passes, in the first instance, to her husband.

As to the married woman's right to work, the Bill rules that she may accept any employment and enter any profession or trade unless at the husband's petition, the magistrate forbids her to do so.

The Bill was introduced by a numerous group of Members, but it was anticipated that its provisions would, none the less, be subject to much delay and amendment before they became law. The very stormy course of political life in Chile in the latter part of 1924 and throughout 1925—the revolutions and counter-revolutions—has made the accomplishment of this legislative reform impossible.

The feminists of Chile do not yet desire political rights for the women of the country, conceiving that these should come after their legal position has been improved.

It is noticeable that Chilean women are increasingly becoming independent earners. They have arrived in the offices, and courses in shorthand, typewriting and book-keeping have been opened for them in the larger towns. In 1923 one State Department, that of railways, took the new step of making certain clerkships available for women. In 1925 a more important victory was obtained when the Minister of Justice appointed Señorita Jovita Valenzuela to a post in a law court, the *Juzgado de Letras* of Valdivia.

HELEN DOUGLAS IRVINE.

## THE WOMAN TEMPTED ME.

The people, and they are numerous, who have felt that the special courts in the United States dealing with sex offenders operated unjustly against women, will scarcely have been reassured by the publication of the enquiry into the methods of these Courts, undertaken by the American Social Hygiene Association and the Bureau of Social Hygiene. ("Specialised Courts Dealing with Sex Delinquency," Hitchcock, New York.) The whole attitude of these courts seem to justify the age-long cry of the guilty male, "The woman tempted me."

It may be thought that this is a domestic matter which should be left in the hands of the American public. Unfortunately all civilised countries are wrestling with the problem of prostitution and seeking a method of combating it, and a method adopted in one country for which success is claimed, may have reactions in many others. This then must be our excuse for criticising the Sex Courts of the United States.

No lovers of justice, whatever their nationality, could read this enquiry without burning with indignation.

Any woman coming before these courts in Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia seems to be liable to physical examination for venereal disease, even before trial. In Philadelphia, it is stated, no legal authority could be found for this examination. In New York the physical examination appears to be after trial. The whole business of the Vice Squad is open to objection and must have a demoralising effect on many of the men employed.

In New York, where it is a crime to commit prostitution, or to offer to commit it, the male customer of the prostitute is rarely arrested because of the difference of opinion as to whether or not he is guilty of a violation of any law. Fornication is not an offence in New York, and a magistrate has laid down in a case brought before him, that "A Statute which made it a crime to resort to a house of ill-fame for the purpose of prostitution did not apply to a man who went there as a customer, but only to the actual female prostitute because prostitution, in the opinion of that court, was a practice of women only." "One or two other magistrates have taken a different view in their interpretation of the foregoing clauses and have convicted the male customer in uncontested cases. These have been so few, however, as to discourage the police from making arrests under charges of that character for fear of civil suits for false arrest in case the defendant is discharged."

It would seem that the fear that these courts were one-sided was amply justified.

Fornication, as stated above, is not an offence in New York, but it has been made a punishable offence in Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia, and possibly in other States which do not appear in this enquiry. But one may ask whether the guilt of fornication is such as the State can take cognizance of? Surely it comes within the category of theological guilt, and lies within the Court of Conscience. Provided always that the offenders are adults and there has been no deception or violence. When the State steps beyond its authority and makes laws which it is practically impossible to enforce, it is apt to bring law into disrepute.

It is difficult in a brief review to criticise adequately so complicated a subject as the Specialised Sex Courts of the United States, but we may say that whatever apparent success they may obtain they are doomed to failure in the long run. After reading this enquiry we can echo Lady Astor's plea for justice in the British House of Commons: "We have done all kinds of things for this most unfortunate and piteous class of women. We have tried appeals to them, rescue homes and detention, but we have always denied to them what every woman in the country should have, and that is common justice. We who are interested in this feel certain that if they could get common justice, things would be much better."

L. de ALBERTI.

## REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

## GERMANY.

## Women City Councillors and Magistrates.

ACCORDING to an inquiry recently published by the National Council of Women's Bureau for Women's Professions, the exact number of women members in the administrations of cities with more than 25,000 inhabitants is at present 745, which indicates a percentage of 4.5 to 12.5 per cent. women councillors and magistrates in the different States, Bavaria representing the smallest, Hessen the highest figures. This means, to be sure, no progress at all, but probably neither a step backward. As the many smaller communities are not yet included in the statistics (another inquiry being in preparation), one may assume that the total number will be about the same as it was at previous inquiries—1,400 f.i., after the first communal elections, 1919. As a remarkable fact, however, I may mention that, as a rule, the number of women members in the City *Senates* has considerably diminished—thanks to the ambitions and tricks of the political and professional men's organisations.

## Trial Voting for Local Option.

A terrible fight is at work once again between the representatives of alcohol interests and capital—brewers, distillers, public-house keepers, etc., etc.—and the national temperance organisations, amongst which the "Women's Association for Alcohol-Free Culture" is holding a prominent place. To support their unanimous claim, and to prove its righteousness, the organisations have arranged *trial votings* on the introduction of *local option for public-houses* in several cities and parts of the Reich, with the most satisfactory effect of an overwhelming majority in favour of local option, not only with the women, but also with the men voters. In Hanover City f.i., amongst 4,493 households, resp. 9,189 voters, 79 per cent. had voted for, and only 21 per cent. against local option; in Saxony the result was about the same. In view of this surprisingly splendid success, the opponents doubled their efforts, with an ardent and most unscrupulous propaganda in the Press, on posters, and in millions of pamphlets, with the sole purpose of misleading the public by misrepresentations and falsehoods of every kind—especially with the fable that it was nothing else than total prohibition they were asked to vote for in these trial options. Though this seems an obvious proof of the enemy's fear and inner weakness, the temperance organisations will not slacken in their hard struggle, and have planned, on their part, another campaign of propaganda throughout the Reich for the next time.

A national exhibition for public health, social welfare and physical culture is in preparation for this summer in Dusseldorf. A wide space will be given to women's work in this domain. In the historical section, a special sub-section will be reserved for the memory of prominent women whose work for public welfare calls for the general recognition and permanent gratitude of their people. Not only German (in the first place Rhineish) women, however, but also women pioneers of other countries will have a place in this historical section. Another whole section will be devoted entirely to the state and conditions of *women in professions*, special attention to be given to the domestic labours of the housewife. Interesting statistics will show her average daily work in comparison with the average daily work of men in various professions. The establishment of a special section for domestic science is further contemplated.

## Women in Police Service.

The propaganda for police women has, after several successful experiments, especially in Cologne during the British occupation, recently made a decisive start. A conference of experts on the introduction of women functionaries in the police service was called by the National Council of Women, and took place, with the president, Frau Ender, in the chair, on January 6th in Berlin. Immediately afterwards the special com-

mittee for the study of this important matter which the National Council had appointed in October in Dresden, gathered for its first sitting, under the chairmanship of Frau Anna Pappritz, the meritorious pioneer and leader for many years in the struggles against the regulation of vice, and for an equal moral standard for men and women. So it is to be hoped that the first steps of the German women in this new line of work will also lead, by and by, to a satisfactory result, i.e., to the official establishment of women police in Germany. Dresden, February 17th. MARIE STRITT.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.  
The King's Speech.

THE Session has now started once again. No mention was made in the King's Speech either of the Government's intention to deal with equal franchise, or of any other of the reforms closely affecting women on which we had approached the Prime Minister beforehand. We hear since, however, that the Legitimacy Bill, to legitimate a child on the marriage of its parents, will shortly be introduced by the Government into the House of Lords. In the meantime, great pressure has been brought to bear on the Prime Minister, both in and out of the House, to state when the conference of members of all parties he promised last session to set up on equal franchise is to be established.

## Private Members' Ballot.

None of the members who had undertaken to vote for any of the measures or resolutions in which the National Union is particularly interested has been successful in obtaining a place in the ballot for Private Members' time. At the same time various interesting subjects are being tackled. Miss Ellen Wilkinson will be introducing a Bill to amend the Factory Acts, and she has been approached by the National Union asking her in that Bill not to propose fresh restrictions on the work of women which are not at the same time imposed on the work of men. A Bill to make legal the adoption of children, and to protect the interests of children so adopted, will also be considered. Yet another Bill, which will have had its second reading by the time this paper is published, is one which will increase the powers of the Court to inflict punishments in cases of certain offences against women and children.

The *Coverture Disabilities (Abolition) Bill*, drafted by the N.U.S.E.C., to which we referred last month, and which removes many of the inequalities in the present legal status of married women, will be introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Buckmaster.

Dame Caroline Bridgeman, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, has been nominated as chairman of the Council of the National Unionist Organisation, and by the time this appears in print, will probably have been duly appointed. This is one of the most important positions which can be held by anyone in the Conservative Party's Organisation, and it is the first time it has been held by a woman.

The question of the employment of married women teachers has again been brought before the London County Council. The Council adheres to its original decision that women should be forced to resign on marriage, but it has modified it to this extent, that married women may be employed on "supply," or temporary work, when there is a deficiency of single women. During the discussion an amendment was moved by a protagonist of the teachers' cause, proposing that women members of the L.C.C. also should lose their seats on marriage. This was seriously voted upon, and was defeated.

## Annual Council Meeting.

This year's Council Meeting promises to be the largest yet held. More delegates have notified their intention of being present than ever before. As for the mass

meeting on the 26th on equal franchise, nearly every seat has been sold, and we now wish we had taken the Albert Hall instead of the Central Hall. This enthusiasm clearly shows that it is sheer nonsense to say there is no interest in this question. We have pleasure in announcing that Lady Astor and Mme. Malaterre-Sellier are also going to speak at this meeting in addition to the other speakers, Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Miss Maude Royden and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. A full account of the Council and of the Conference on Restrictive Legislation for Women Workers will be given next month.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

THE Women's Freedom League has written to the Prime Minister expressing its keen disappointment and extreme indignation at the omission of any reference to *equal franchise* in the King's Speech. We have pointed out that in a country which believes in representative Government, the equal enfranchisement of all its citizens, men and women, is of vital importance, and we have called upon the Government to introduce and to carry into law without delay a simple franchise measure, conferring the Parliamentary vote on women at the same age and on the same terms as men have it. At the present time there are four-and-three-quarter million of voteless women over the age of 21, compared with only 313,000 voteless men over 21, in this country, and more than two millions of these voteless women are over the age of 30. The time is more than ripe to remove this glaring injustice. Women shoulder the burdens of citizenship equally with men; they have to compete with men in the professions and in industry, and they demand the same political power of the vote which men enjoy to safeguard their interests as citizens and workers.

With regard to *women police*, we have written to the Home Secretary asking him to initiate legislation at the earliest possible date which will make it compulsory on all Watch and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of fit women as well as a sufficient number of fit men to be constables.

We have also written to the Minister of Health urging that when the permanent appointments are made for the administration of widows' pensions an adequate number of the higher posts shall be allotted to women.

With regard to the Factories Bill and the Lead and Paints Bill, we are pressing upon the framers of those Bills and upon the Home Office that women should not be handicapped by the imposition of restrictions upon their work which are not imposed upon men's work, and we have protested against women being placed in the same category as young persons for the purposes of legislation in industry. We have pointed out that adult women workers are as capable as adult men workers of taking the ordinary risks in connection with their work. At the same time we urge that the State should insist upon the best possible conditions for all workers of both sexes.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

We are still receiving requests from Mothers' Meetings to send our speakers to explain the new Widows' Pensions Act.

Our meeting on February 25th, on the Paris Congress, addressed by Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mde. Mamaterre-Sellier, was very successful. As a result, St. Joan's Alliance was able to hand over £10 10s. towards the expenses of the Congress. Next month, after Mrs. Corbett Ashby has addressed our Liverpool members, we hope to be able to send a further donation. Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford and Miss Barry have been appointed delegates of St. Joan's Alliance to the Congress. We hope that many of our members will attend as visitors.

Our annual meeting will be held on March 13th, when resolutions dealing with equal franchise and others on our equality programme will be submitted to our members.

Our next public meeting will be on equal franchise on April 29th. Among distinguished persons who have already promised to speak are His Lordship the Bishop of Pella, Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

## ICELAND.

The following extracts from letters recently received from Miss Asmundsson, of Iceland, contain an interesting account of the important work being done there:—

Just now we are preparing an electoral campaign. In July there are to be elections to the Upper House of our Parliament. Only three members are to be elected for a period of eight years. We are going to have a non-partisan women's list as this is the only chance of having a woman elected.

The candidates of our list are:

1. Mrs. Briet Asmundsson, president of Kvenrétindafélag Islands (veteran suffragist).
2. Mrs. Guorún Lárusdóttir.
3. Miss Halldóra Bjarnadóttir.
4. Mrs. Aoalbjörg Siguroardóttir.

In case the first candidate were elected, Mrs. Guorún Lárusdóttir would be an alternate. She is a very able woman, has been a member of our City Council and has for many years worked on the Board of Guardians. Further she has, together with her husband, taken the initiative to found a home for old people in Reykjavik which was much needed and is very popular. The necessary money was collected by gifts, but the commune also supports the home. She has also been one of the leaders of the Young Women's Christian Society. The two other ladies have no chance of being elected, but are merely supporting the list with their names. Miss Halldóra, by appointment of the Parliament, is a travelling adviser of the Association of Handicraft. Mrs. Aoalbjörg Siguroardóttir is the president of the Theosophic Society "Star of the East" here.

In June, together with the women's organisations of Northern Iceland, we are helping to arrange a national congress of women, which will take place in Akureyri, in the north of Iceland. The women there are inviting delegates from all parts of the country. We took the initiative by convening a similar congress three years ago; now we hope to strengthen our organisation. When we obtained the Parliamentary suffrage our branches were dissolved and it is difficult to form new ones, but at the congress in June we are going to propose that every women's organisation should have a permanent committee of at least three women for the purpose of furthering the aims of the Alliance; working together for such causes as are chiefly of interest to women and using their united efforts to have women elected to all bodies on which they are entitled to sit.

A limited company has been formed to start a centre for women's associations in Reykjavik. It is to be a home for homeless girls and for lonely old women; we want also to have a good and cheap restaurant and a school of housekeeping. Parliament has given us the ground and we hope it will be finished in 1930, when we are going to celebrate the 1,000 years' anniversary of our Parliament.

In Lígulfjordur, the chief place for the herring fishery, the women are building a house which is to be a home for their association and also a clubhouse for the working girls (fish curers) who come there in great numbers during the herring season. There are to be reading rooms, workroom with sewing machines, etc.

You understand that we have got many of the rights which women are still fighting for in many countries. We have universal suffrage, the right to all offices and professions—nominally women can be Bishops. As far as I know we were the second of the Scandinavian

countries to pass the new marriage law, which is very progressive. An illegitimate child, recognised by the father, gets support from the father according to his means and inherits his property like a legitimate child. If the father has not willingly recognised the child, but has by decree of court been found to be the father, the child has the same right to support but does not inherit. The law is still more progressive than the Norwegian one, as there is, for instance, no exception forbidding an illegitimate child the right to inherit an estate. La recherche de la paternité is, of course, allowed, but the mother is not compelled to tell who is the father provided she is able to support the child herself.

Our moral legislation is equal between the sexes. Last year a new law was passed concerning venereal disease, including compulsory notification. I fear this may be doing harm, but we knew too little about how it had worked in other countries to feel able to make a protest, as the doctors recommended it.

### PROGRESS IN SWEDEN SINCE 1922

**I**N 1923 a law was passed admitting women to the Civil Service, with the exception of police service, and any office connected with the maintenance of public order.

In 1924 a new law was passed reorganising the whole system of Child Welfare. By this law the community becomes responsible for all children and young persons who are ill-treated or morally neglected. The central authority is vested in a permanent Board for Child Welfare, of which at least one member must be a woman. The age at which young persons can come under the care of the Board has been raised to 16, in case of vice to 18.

By the Law of Nationality, passed in 1924, a Swedish woman does not lose her nationality on marriage with an alien until she takes up residence in her husband's country. Children of parents of different nationality take the mother's nationality if under her special care.

In several provincial towns women have obtained for girls admission to colleges hitherto open to boys only. By this reform they have facilitated for girls the procedure of preparing themselves for the students' examination (baccalauréat). Women have further striven to provide municipal dwellings for large families. They have promoted municipal appointment of sick nurses, especially for the nursing of sick persons of small means. Women have taken the initiative in the campaign against tuberculosis.

Generally speaking, women are very active members on the Boards and Committees superintending schools, trade schools, and institutions for child welfare, poor relief, and public health.

#### Women M.P.'s.

In 1925 two women members entered the Second Chamber of the Riksdag (Parliament), viz., Mrs. Signe Wessman and Mrs. Olivia Nordgren, both belonging to the Social Democratic Party, and taking the seats of two deceased members of the same party.

In 1924 three women members were returned to the Second Chamber, viz., Miss Bertha Wellin (the Conservative Party), Mrs. Agda Ostlund and Mrs. Nelly Thüring (the Social Democratic Party). A fourth woman member withdrew on account of ill-health. Besides these, the First Chamber of the Riksdag has a woman member in Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, who has occupied her seat since 1921.

The women members, besides contributing to matters bearing on different political questions, have in great measure concerned themselves with social questions, viz., enactments for child welfare and other interests of women. They have greatly contributed to the satisfactory solution in the Riksdag of 1923 of the law conferring upon women the right of holding offices in the Civil Service. Several motions have been laid before the Riksdag by the women members. In 1924, for instance, they brought forward a joint motion for a continued investigation of the needs and due care of poor child-bearing women and their infants. Though

the motion was not carried by the Riksdag, it has resulted in greater activity throughout the country for the care of poor child-bearing women. In 1925 three of the women members moved the amendments to a Government Bill on the salaries of women in the Civil Service. These amendments aimed to bring the salaries more in accordance with the principle of "equal pay for equal work," on which the Government Bill was based.

Two women members have been elected substitutes of Standing Parliamentary Committees. Women are also either members or substitutes of one or several occasional committees within the Second Chamber.

In 1922 and 1923 elections to the Municipal Councils took place. 221 women were elected Town Councillors; 98 of the elected women belong to the Conservative, 55 to the Liberal, 66 to the Social Democratic, and two to the Communist Party. To the Rural Municipal Councils 481 women were elected.

### THE NEW LAW IN SWEDEN CONCERNING ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

**I**N 1917 a new law concerning children born out of wedlock was passed in Sweden and our Law Commission has recently made a statistical research in some twenty communities—towns and country parishes—in order to investigate the results of this law.

The Commission states that the law has quite altered the position of the illegitimate children in our country. Its efficiency depends mostly on the new institution, "the child's guardian." Every expectant unmarried mother should report herself three months before the child is expected to the Children's Welfare Board in her parish, which then nominates a "child's guardian" for her and her child. This person who is sometimes a salaried civil servant, sometimes a voluntary social worker, often a woman and sometimes a man, has to assist the mother, if necessary, with applications to lying-in hospitals and infirmaries, and after the birth of the child she—or he—sees to that it is placed in as good a home as possible if the mother is unable to keep it with herself. The child's guardians keep in constant touch with both child and mother, and one of their principal duties is to secure economic assistance from the child's father. If he does not pay the stipulated monthly sum for the keep of the child, this sum can be deducted from his wages and paid over to the guardian.

When the law was first passed there was a widely spread fear that illegitimate children would grow in number, but this fear has proved to be without cause. On the contrary, their number has grown constantly smaller. In many cases the new law has caused persons who would otherwise have lived in concubinage to marry in order to escape the supervision of the child's guardian, which they consider a shame for themselves. Further, the law has had the good effect of making the fathers feel responsibility towards their illegitimate children. Formerly there was a general feeling among the men that the father of a child born out of wedlock had fulfilled his duty, if he saw to it that the child got its bare keep. Now it is generally considered right that such a child has a right to maintenance and education from its parents after a standard in keeping with the economic position of the parents. And it is much easier to get the questions about paternity and maintenance settled by agreement now, than it was in the first years after the law was passed.

ESTER BRISMAN.

Stockholm, January, 1926.

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**W**ITH American entrance into the World Court apparently assured, women of the United States, who championed the World Court cause, are now viewing with great interest the next forward steps in international relations. Hardly had the Senate acted

favourably on the World Court resolution than proponents began turning their thoughts to "What next?" and opponents, headed by Senator Borah, resolved to fight the World Court to a finish, and to carry the fight back to the people in the 1926 senatorial elections.

Women, however, saw in the ratification of the World Court resolution a great hope, and indicated it in full measure at a dinner in the Hall of Nations Hotel, Washington, on the night of February 13th. The dinner was given by the National League of Women Voters in honour of the Women's World Court Committee, which, under the direction of Mrs. Maud Wood Park, represented seventeen national women's organisations in the campaign for American entry into the World Court. Several hundred guests attended.

The speakers were Senator Irvine L. Lenroot, of Wisconsin, and Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, two of the leaders in the Senatorial debate on ratification, and Mrs. Raymond Morgan, representing the Women's World Court Committee. Mrs. Morgan was chairman of the Women's Committee up to a few months ago, when Mrs. Park assumed leadership for the final campaign. Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, chairman of the National League's department of international co-operation, presided.

The World Court Committee honour guests were:—Mrs. Raymond Morgan, American Association of University Women.

Miss Selma Borchardt, American Federation of Teachers.

Miss Helen Atwater, American Home Economics Association.

Miss Lucy Minnegerode, American Nurses' Association.

Miss Florence Quinlan, Council of Women for Home Missions.

Mrs. Kate Trenholm Abrams, General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Miss Elizabeth Eastman, National Board, Y.W.C.A.

Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Miss Margaret C. Maule, Philadelphia, National Council of Friendly Societies in America.

Mrs. George Hyman, National Council of Jewish Women.

Mrs. Glen L. Swiggett, National Council of Women.

Miss Charl O. Williams, National Education Association.

Mrs. Mary F. Thompson, National Federation of Coloured Women.

Mrs. Maud Wood Park, National League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Henry F. Baker, National Service Star Legion.

Mrs. Ellis A. Yost, National Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Dr. Louise Tayler-Jones, Medical Women's National Association.

Evidence of the widespread interest in what might be called a "victory" dinner was shown in the attendance of members of the League of Women Voters from sixteen States. New York, Virginia, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Connecticut sent the largest delegations.

Announcement of candidacies in the 1926 elections are forthcoming frequently. The latest interesting candidacy is that of Mrs. Bertha Baur, of Chicago, who will run for Congress. Mrs. Baur was very active in the suffrage campaign, is a recognised successful business woman, and her campaign is expected to be exceedingly lively.

Women have entered another field of service long held exclusively by man. Miss Mary J. Simpson has been appointed clerk in charge of the Bills of the United States Senate, a stupendous job when it is realised that the number of Bills introduced so far this session surpasses the number passed in the last twelve months by every civilised nation. This comparison was recently made by a member of Congress.

Miss Simpson, who is thirty-seven years old, is a former member of the Vermont legislature, and knows legislative procedure and methods down to the fine

points. She was educated at Wheaton College, Mount Holyoke, and the University of Vermont, is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and taught school for several years.

Finishing touches are now being put on the plans for the National League's seventh annual gathering in St. Louis, April 14th-21st. Every subject relating to the programme is to be thoroughly discussed, special conferences on ways of promoting the steady growth of the League are to be held, there will be mass meetings with international relations and political issues of the day as entertaining themes, and then a real interesting evening, with Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the League, and Mrs. Maud Wood Park, former president, as the speakers. It will be an evening hard to duplicate, with the statesman, general, and administrator of League progress, speaking to an audience of 2,000.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

### PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS FROM BRITISH AUXILIARY.

#### Equal Franchise.

**T**HIS Congress of the I.W.S.A., believing that the possession of the vote is both an indispensable instrument for the attainment of practical reforms and a matter of wider import affecting the whole status of womanhood, protests against the inequality of the franchise existing in Great Britain, Hungary, Northern Ireland, Greece, Italy, Spain, etc. It calls upon the Governments of these countries to remove this injustice by the immediate granting of the vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as the men.

#### Abolition of Reglementation of Prostitution.

The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance condemns all systems of State Reglementation of Prostitution under which prostitutes are licensed or registered and subjected to periodic compulsory medical examination (la visite obligatoire). It further condemns the system of maisons tolérées and declares all these measures to be morally indefensible, medically useless, and socially pernicious, leading to the corruption of youth and the traffic of women.

The I.W.S.A. calls upon all its affiliated societies and social reform organisations of men and women all over the world to demand from their respective Governments the rapid and complete abolition of the Reglementation system in all its forms.

#### Compulsory Measures Against Venereal Disease.

The International Woman's Suffrage Alliance being deeply concerned with the health and welfare of the race, urges all the national Governments to promote and give financial support to such vigorous medical, social and educative measures against venereal maladies as are compatible with freedom and equal justice.

The I.W.S.A. is, however, strongly of the opinion that systems of compulsory notification, treatment, and detention of persons suffering from venereal maladies tend to deter infected persons from seeking medical treatment in the early and more curable stages of these maladies and also lead to partial and inequitable administration which, not infrequently, discriminates between rich and poor and between men and women to their disadvantage. The I.W.S.A. asks that the campaign against venereal maladies be dealt with by the diffusion of information and by the provision of ample facilities for free, confidential treatment in general hospitals and clinics, without any deterrent compulsory conditions being imposed on the patients. The I.W.S.A. points to the excellent results achieved in Great Britain and Holland by these voluntary methods, and urges the Governments to adopt them.

#### Women and Hospitals.

This Tenth Congress of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance strongly recommends that in hospitals

containing women patients suffering from illness of body or mind, these patients shall be treated by women doctors, and that in the administration of these institutions and the ultimate control of the patients, women shall have equal authority and responsibility with men.

#### Women and Penal Administration.

That this Tenth Congress of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance calls upon the organised women in all countries to insist that there shall be women governors and women deputy-governors in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons, women medical officers in all women's prisons and women inspectors of prisons.

This International Congress of enfranchised and un-enfranchised women takes note of the fact that the Conventions and recommendations emanating from the various International Labour Conferences have, when dealing with the interests of men, been on the lines of attempting to secure greater power, facilities, and technical educational opportunities for male workers; while in every case where women have been specifically mentioned, the Conventions and recommendations have sought to impose disabilities upon them through prohibitions and restrictions under the guise of "protection."

This Congress holds that all regulations and restrictions which aim at the true protection of the worker must be based not upon sex but on the nature of the occupation; and that any international system of differential legislation based on sex, in spite of any temporary advantage, must develop into an intolerable tyranny and result in the segregation of women workers and impose fresh handicaps on their capacity as wage-earners.

This Congress therefore condemns:—

- (a) The Conventions and recommendations prohibiting the night work of women in Industry (Washington, 1919) and Agriculture (Geneva, 1921); but would welcome Conventions seeking to minimise night work for men and women equally.
- (b) The Convention concerning the use of White Lead in painting (Geneva, 1921), in that after restricting certain uses of white lead in painting for all workers, it proceeds in Article II. practically to exclude women from the painting industry.
- (c) The recommendation concerning the protection of women against lead poisoning (Washington, 1919); and calls attention to the fact that this form of poisoning affects disastrously both sexes, may cause abortion and still-birth or be transmitted in various forms to offspring, whether the male parent or female parent is the poisoned person.

This Congress demands that regulations safeguarding the worker against lead poisoning should apply to men and women equally.

#### Sex Education.

Believing that a higher and equal moral standard is necessary and possible for both sexes, and considering that moral and biological instruction would be conducive to increased self-respect and self-control in matters of sex, this Congress recommends:—

1. That no false information, however well intentioned, should be given in matters of sex during childhood. Children in possession of false information increase the difficulties of proper instruction during adolescence.
2. While believing the parents to be the most suitable persons to instruct their children in matters of sex, it must be recognised that in many cases the parents are unwilling to impart this knowledge or are ignorant of the best methods of so doing. This Congress recommends, therefore: (a) That teachers should receive instruction how best to give help individually on matters of sex to older children; (b) that the various religious authorities

should be asked to consider the advisability of supplementing this instruction from the moral point of view, by the publication of carefully written text-books on the subject for the use of adolescents of both sexes.

#### THE CAMPAIGN IN JERSEY.

MRS. TRACHY, President of the Women's Jersey Political Union, sends us a report of the campaign in Jersey to obtain eligibility for women. Mrs. Trachy, who has been a social worker for twenty years, was drawn into politics because she repeatedly came into contact with women suffering under unjust laws. The Bill which gave women the vote, under certain conditions, was thought also to confer eligibility, and Mrs. Trachy was nominated in December, 1922, for the St. Heliers No. 3 District, and had great prospects of success. The nomination was, however, refused on the ground of the ineligibility of women. She lodged a remonstrance with the Royal Court, which gave a decision against her. As a result of the agitation which followed, the Women's Jersey Political Union was formed in April, 1923, with Mrs. Trachy as president. The new society did well, and as a result of a petition signed by many women, a Bill was passed in February, 1924, making women eligible as Deputies if they were "Sui Juris" "separated." The women were not satisfied, and following on another petition, the Married Women's Property Act was passed in February, 1925—a great victory for Mrs. Trachy and her followers. One might have thought that victory was complete as regards eligibility, but when Mrs. Trachy was again nominated at the close of last year, her nomination was again refused, this time on the ground that the new Act did not apply to women married prior to 1925, a decision upheld by the Royal Court. Mrs. Trachy will not prejudice other married women by being "separated," and continues her plucky fight for freedom. She has so successfully broken barriers that we have no doubt of the complete success of her gallant fight.

#### DATE OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE I.W.S.A.

Frau Else Luders writes from Berlin to say that the date of the foundation of the Alliance is 1904, and not 1902, as given in the article "The Great Alliance" in our last issue. The writer of the article, after duly considering the matter, came to the conclusion that the earlier date was the correct one. No doubt the Alliance took definite shape and registered its present title at the conference at Berlin in 1904, but this conference is always spoken of as the second conference of the Alliance, consequently we still think it correct to say that the Great Suffrage Alliance was actually born at the Washington Conference in 1902.

It was not possible in so short a space to follow the development of the I.W.S.A. and the writer endeavoured to convey an idea of its quick growth by drawing a sharp contrast between the Washington Congress at which seven countries only were represented, Budapest, at which twenty-two were represented, and the great post-war Congress at Geneva, 1920, to which thirty-four countries sent delegates, and twenty Governments sent official representatives. In any detailed account of the I.W.S.A. due prominence must always be given to the Berlin Conference in 1904, although we think that Washington was the actual birth-place of the alliance.

#### TURKISH WOMEN AT THE CONGRESS.

We are happy to announce that the Union of Turkish Women, whose President is Nezieh Hanoum, will send representatives to the Paris Congress.

#### ACTIVITIES AFFECTING WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

(Issued by the WOMEN'S BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, WASHINGTON.)

**Illinois.**—The Executive Board of the State Federation of Labour, meeting in Chicago in October, adopted a resolution instructing the officers of the Federation "to make every effort to secure the passage of the Women's eight-hour law at the next session of the Illinois General Assembly so as to shorten the hours of women workers in factories, offices and domestic employment."

**Kansas.**—The Kansas Public Service Commission has refused permission to the Cudahy Packing Company of Kansas City to establish a night shift for women workers. The company made application in October to work women at night in certain departments during a period of ten weeks on the grounds that such work was essential to the packing business.

While the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Kansas denied to the State the right to establish minimum wage rates for women, the opinion did not affect the regulation of hours and working conditions.

#### MINIMUM WAGE SET FOR STATIONERY GOODS.

**Massachusetts.**—A minimum rate of \$13.75 a week for women and girls employed in the manufacture of stationery goods and envelopes has been entered by the Minimum Wage Commission. This action was taken following the hearing on the determinations of the wage board for the occupation. The wage board recommended a minimum rate of \$13.75 for women 18 years of age and over who have had a year's employment in a particular plant, and special rates of \$9, \$11, and \$12 a week for beginners, according to age and experience. The occupation includes the manufacture of envelopes and other stationery goods, tablets, card filing equipment, greeting cards, and other miscellaneous paper goods.

The decree makes the following provisions for women of ordinary ability whether time or piece rate workers in the occupation: (1) For experienced employees, not less than \$13.75 a week; (2) for those under 18 years with 12 months' experience in a particular shop, \$12 a week; (3) for inexperienced employees over 16 years, \$11 a week; (4) for inexperienced employees under 16 years, \$9 a week; (5) an employee shall be deemed experienced when 18 years of age, having had at least one year's experience in the particular plant of employment.

The new rates became effective on January 1, 1926.

#### INVESTIGATION OF WAGES IN MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY SUPPLIES.

The Minimum Wage Commission is studying the wages of women employed in the manufacture of electrical machinery and supplies to ascertain if it is advisable to establish a wage board for this occupation.

#### MORE FIRMS ADVERTISED.

Thirteen firms, most of them in Boston, have just been advertised by the Minimum Wage Commission for non-compliance with minimum wage decrees. One of the firms is listed for non-compliance with two decrees—the retail store and the women's clothing decree.

#### HOME WORK.

**New York.**—That the next Legislature be urged to pass such legislation as will give the State Department of Labour the same control over home work in one and two-family houses as it now has over tenements is recommended in the latest annual report of the Industrial Commissioner. Miss Nellie Swartz, Director of the Bureau of Women in Industry, recommends also that with the enactment of such legislation additional inspectors be provided as well as additional

statistical workers and clerical assistants, and "that hand in hand with the enforcement end of the home-work law go a campaign of education. One hundred per cent. enforcement can never be achieved in this State unless an inspector sits on the doorstep of every tenement 24 hours a day. Much that the inspectors are unable to do because of their inadequate force can be accomplished through co-operation between the Departments of Education and Labour, particularly in some of the foreign neighbourhoods."

"As usual articles of clothing, embroidery and flowers form the bulk of the work sent out from the factory to the home," the report of the Chief of the Division of Homework Inspection states. "All work items as we find them are as follow: On articles of custom clothing work, 8,778 workers, male and female; ready-made clothing work, 6,981 workers; embroidery, 4,688 workers; artificial flowers, 1,455 workers; feathers, 65 workers; gloves, 257 workers; miscellaneous articles, 2,639 workers,—a total of 24,863 workers in the State. Of this number 4,580 workers were reported in 2,031 allowable shops in tenement houses, leaving a total of 20,288 persons actually at work in the home proper. These workers embraced 34 different races or nationalities, as follows: Italians, 12,532; Jewish, 6,204; Americans, 2,398; Germans, 1,025; Irish, 124; Scotch, 12; English, 28; French, 127; Swiss, 16; Belgians, 8; Austrians, 48; Hungarians, 168; Bohemians, 136; Poles, 342; Roumanians, 2; Slavs, 29; Lithuanians, 43; Negroes, 520; Cubans, 13; Mexicans, 2; Spaniards, 496; Portuguese, 11; Porto Ricans, 22; Greeks, 285; Syrians, 48; Armenians, 95; Swedes, 39; Danes, 7; Norwegians, 11; Finns, 30; Dutch (Holland), 1; Russians, 35; Ukrainians, 4; Argentineans, 2."

#### CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIES FOR WOMEN PRISONERS.

On September 30, 1925, the first Conference on Industries for Women Prisoners was called by Mrs. Haley Fiske, president of the board of managers of the New York State Reformatory for women. The conference was called because the New York State Reformatory, finding difficulties in developing adequate industrial training and in studying other institutions for delinquent women and girls of working age, had reached the conclusion that a conference of representatives of such institutions would result in many suggestions for the development of co-operation.

The following resolution was passed by the conference which agreed to meet again in December or January, 1926:

Whereas, this Conference on Industries for Women Prisoners has disclosed the fact that research is necessary to determine the methods of fitting delinquent women and girls of working age into industries and training them therein so that they may be capable of supporting themselves on release; and also that research is necessary in connection with the commodities which will be produced in the training process; be it

Resolved: That this conference urge the Committee on the Care and Training of Delinquent Women and Girls of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labour to make such a study and to serve as a clearing house for the interchange of experience between institutions for delinquent women and girls.

Invited to attend the conference in September were the superintendents of all institutions for delinquent women and girls within short distance from New York City, experts in charge of prison industries, representatives of New York State Department of Labour, and the Women's Bureau of the Federal Department of Labour, together with representatives of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labour and the Associates for Government Service.

Next month we will publish an article on American Women in Industry by Miss Mollie Ray Carroll, Professor of Economics at Goucher College.



## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

*Le travail des enfants aux Etats-Unis.*—Le 21<sup>e</sup> rapport biennal du Bureau des statistiques du travail de Californie signale que l'enquête sur les conditions de travail des enfants, entreprise en mars 1924, a montré que 5,000 enfants environ étaient occupés à cette époque à des travaux agricoles en Californie. Un grand nombre de ces jeunes travailleurs étaient employés dans les plantations de coton du canton de Fresno et de la Vallée impériale, en violation des lois sur l'enseignement obligatoire et sur le travail des enfants.

Dans son rapport, la Commission d'enquête a recommandé notamment, que les lois sur le travail des enfants et la scolarité obligatoire soient modifiées de manière à interdire l'emploi des travailleurs de moins de 16 ans aux travaux agricoles pendant ou avant les heures de fréquentation scolaire et à prévoir un système d'autorisation pour les enfants âgés de moins de 16 ans qui désirent s'employer dans l'agriculture après les heures de fréquentation scolaire ou pendant les vacances.

D'autre part, le Parlement de l'Etat de Georgie a voté, en août 1925, une nouvelle loi sur le travail des enfants, qui entrera en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1926. Cette loi porte de 14 ans et demi à 16 ans l'âge minimum d'admission des enfants au travail de nuit (de 7 heures du soir à 6 heures du matin). Les enfants âgés de 14 à 16 ans devront se procurer une autorisation de travailler. Avant de pouvoir obtenir une autorisation de ce genre, les enfants seront tenus de justifier d'une promesse d'emploi, de fournir leur acte de naissance et de prouver au fonctionnaire chargé de la délivrance des certificats qu'ils sont capables de lire et d'écrire des phrases élémentaires en anglais. L'autorisation doit attester par ailleurs que les intéressés sont suffisamment robustes pour remplir l'emploi qu'ils postulent. Enfin, la nouvelle loi interdit d'employer des enfants âgés de moins de 16 ans dans certains métiers dangereux ou dans toutes les industries qui, de l'avis du conseil d'hygiène de l'Etat, sont susceptibles de porter atteinte à la santé physique ou morale des enfants.

Pour La Société des Nations, Bulletin Mensuel.

## LA FRANÇAISE NE DESIRE PAS VOTER ?

(Lettre adressée à Mme. Corbett Ashby.)

J'ai été trop étonnée hier de la réflexion que vous m'avez dit qu'on vous faisait au sujet du vote des femmes pour ne pas essayer de relever le gant et éviter de laisser s'accréditer une chose que je juge trop injuste. Voyez plutôt !

En 1793 lorsque les hommes s'octroyèrent le suffrage dit "universel" ils s'inspirèrent certainement plus de l'esprit de Justice que du nombre. Le premier vote ne donna que 40,000 voix. Le suffrage dit "universel" n'en resta pas moins acquis.

En 1914, un grand journal de Paris organisa avec les Sociétés Féministes, un référendum pour savoir si les Françaises voulaient voter. 505,792 femmes répondirent oui.

En 1922 ce même journal fit seul un nouveau référendum. 224,155 femmes répondirent oui. Jugez ce que ce référendum aurait alors donné comme voix s'il avait été organisé comme en 1914 et même si on l'avait étendu dans toute la France.

En tout cas je vous prie de rapprocher les 40,000 voix masculines des chiffres ci-dessus et vous pourrez conclure de la mauvaise foi de ceux qui veulent répandre que la Française ne désire pas voter. De plus, pourquoi exigent ils le nombre, en ce qui concerne la femme quand le vote a été donné à l'homme par simple esprit de Justice.

Nous avons des féministes très sincères parmi nos gouvernants mais nous en avons aussi beaucoup trop hélas ! de mauvaise foi et qui rebutent les meilleures d'entre nous. D'un côté, on condamne d'avance le moindre acte de violence, de l'autre on veut accréditer que la Française ne veut pas voter parce qu'elle ne fait pas de bruit. Et voilà, des années que cette comédie dure !  
MARIE LOUISE BOUGLE.

## NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

## Etats-Unis.

*Illinois.*—Le Comité de la Fédération nationale du Travail a décidé de faire tous ses efforts pour obtenir le vote de la loi de 8 heures à la prochaine assemblée générale.

*Kansas.*—La Commission du Service public a refusé à la Cahay Packing Co. l'autorisation du travail de nuit pour les femmes.

*Massachusetts.*—Un minimum de \$13.75 par semaine a été accordé depuis le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier aux femmes et jeunes filles employées à la manufacture de papier. La même Commission étudie les salaires des femmes employées à la manufacture de machinerie électrique.

*New York.*—Les femmes demandent que le département national du Travail exerce un contrôle sur le travail à domicile. A une conférence sur le travail des femmes libérées, il a été décidé d'étudier, avec le Comité des prisons et le Comité de protection des femmes délinquantes, les meilleurs métiers à apprendre aux femmes prisonnières pour qu'elles puissent se faire une situation indépendante à leur sortie de prison.

## Grande Bretagne.

*Le discours royal.*—La session parlementaire est ouverte. Le discours royal n'a pas fait mention de l'égalité de franchise. Une pression a été exercée sur le Premier Ministre pour qu'il fixe la date de la discussion du projet de loi. En revanche, le Bill légitimant l'enfant par le mariage subséquent des parents va être bientôt soumis à la Chambre des Lords.

*Autres projets de loi.*—Miss Helen Wilkinson va présenter un bill pour réformer les "Factory Acts"; l'Union nationale des femmes l'a priée de ne pas proposer de nouvelles restrictions sur le travail des femmes.

—Un bill pour rendre légale l'adoption des enfants et pour protéger les intérêts des enfants adoptés sera aussi proposé.—Un autre bill pour augmenter le pouvoir des tribunaux contre les cas d'assaut envers les femmes et les enfants va passer en 2<sup>e</sup> lecture.—Un autre bill supprimant les incapacités de la femme mariée va être présenté par Lord Buckmaster. Dame Caroline Bridgeman, femme du ministre de la marine, a été nommée présidente du Conseil de l'organisation nationale unioniste. C'est la position la plus importante dans le parti conservateur.—La question de l'emploi des institutrices mariées a été portée de nouveau devant le Conseil municipal de Londres; il a maintenu sa décision que les femmes mariées perdront leur place, mais elles pourront être employées comme surnuméraires ou temporaires.

*Meeting annuel.*—Ce meeting promet d'être le plus large qui ait été tenu; il aura lieu au Central Hall et tous les sièges sont déjà retenus. Parmi les oratrices, citons: Lady Astor, Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, Dame M. Fawcett, Miss Maude Royden et Miss Helen Wilkinson.

## Bottin international des femmes.

On prie les personnes qui s'y intéressent d'envoyer à Bhagat Ram, Jiv Daya Parcharak, Ferozspore, Cantt (Punjab), avant le 1<sup>er</sup> juin, les renseignements suivants: 1<sup>o</sup> Noms et adresses de livres ou périodiques consacrés à la cause des mères et des enfants. 2<sup>o</sup> des Sociétés ou individus qui travaillent au bien-être des mères et des enfants de tous pays. 3<sup>o</sup> d'institutions qui travaillent à l'éducation de la mère.

## Suède.

*Nouvelle loi concernant les enfants illégitimes.*—Une loi ayant été votée en 1917 en faveur des enfants illégitimes, la Commission législative a fait une statistique dans 20 paroisses pour en connaître les résultats. Elle a constaté que cette loi a complètement changé la position de ces enfants et cela est dû surtout

à la création des "tuteurs d'enfants." Chaque future mère doit s'inscrire, 3 mois avant la naissance de l'enfant, au bureau de la protection de l'enfance de sa paroisse qui nomme un tuteur ou tutrice à la mère et à l'enfant. Cette personne assiste la mère, lui facilite l'entrée à l'hôpital ou aux infirmeries, et, après la naissance, trouve un foyer à l'enfant si la mère ne peut le garder. Le tuteur s'assure que le père verse la somme mensuelle due à l'enfant et, s'il le faut, la fait déduire de son salaire. Cette loi, loin d'augmenter le nombre des enfants illégitimes, a amené beaucoup de parents à se marier pour s'épargner la surveillance d'un tuteur.

## Chili.

*Progrès du féminisme.*—1<sup>o</sup> le mouvement féministe a été beaucoup encouragé; 2<sup>o</sup> la société qui le soutient: le Partido civico feminino a formulé son programme dans un projet de loi présenté au Parlement fin 1923. Ce projet accorde aux femmes le droit de tutelle, le droit d'être témoin pour un document légal, si elles sont mariées, le droit à leur propriété et à leur salaire, le vote a été retardé par les orages parlementaires de 1924-25. Les féministes ne demanderont le vote que lorsque ce premier projet aura amélioré leur situation légale. Leur situation sociale est déjà meilleure. Elles ont obtenu des postes dans les bureaux, les chemins de fer, et même l'une d'elles: Señorita J. Valenzuela a été nommée par le ministre de la Justice à un poste au Tribunal de Valdivia.

## Société des Nations.

Les questions d'arbitrage, de sécurité et de désarmement sont à l'ordre du jour de la Ligue. 5 sessions du Conseil, 4 sessions de la Cour de justice internationale, plusieurs conférences dont 3 ont conduit à la conclusion d'une convention internationale, des meetings techniques montrent l'activité de la Ligue pendant toute l'année sur les points suivants: développement de la législation internationale, règlement des conflits internationaux: (frontière de l'Irak, frontière gréco-bulgare, etc.), application de l'article 23 du contrat sur le trafic des armes, règlement de la question des minorités, amélioration de la procédure, en particulier sur la méthode de régler les disputes entre la Pologne et Dantzig, sur l'administration des mandats territoriaux. Sur le terrain humanitaire, citons la conclusion des conventions internationales sur le trafic de l'opium, la constitution du comité pour le bien-être de l'enfance, pour la suppression de l'esclavage et pour une caisse de secours internationaux en cas de désastre. Pour l'hygiène: un service d'études sur les épidémies a établi son bureau à Singapour; d'autres études ont été continuées (recherches sérologiques et biologiques, campagne anti-malarienne, étude du cancer, statistiques de mortalité, enquêtes sur la tuberculose et la maladie du sommeil).

## L'Institut de Coopération Intellectuelle et les femmes

De la Griffe, numéro du 1<sup>er</sup> février, sous la signature Yvonne Netter.

Qu'on le veuille ou qu'on ne le veuille pas, les femmes commencent à jouer un rôle effectif dans la vie sociale et même politique de notre pays, elles font partie de comités, elles s'introduisent dans les ministères, elles travaillent en silence, et gagnent du terrain. Un jour viendra... Savez-vous combien il y a de femmes dans le comité de l'Institut de Coopération intellectuelle que l'on vient d'inaugurer? J'en ai compté six qui occupent des situations de premier plan. Mlle. E. Coste est chef du secrétariat particulier. Mlle. Beresovski-Chestor est secrétaire du directeur. Mme. Ibbelson James est archiviste et directrice du secrétariat. Mlle. Zoya Zilberstein, Mlle. M.-L. Coste, Mme. Sarah Kusama sont chargées de mission. Cinq grands états ont déjà désigné des femmes pour tenir les premiers rôles, voilà qui doit nous réjouir. L'Institut de Coopération intellectuelle est un des organismes les plus importants de la Société des Nations. Son but est noble mais combien difficile! Dégager la conscience commune à tous les peuples sans nuire au génie propre de chacun. Œuvre

de paix œuvre d'intelligence, de bonté et de tact. Il faudra étudier la vie économique, intellectuelle et sociale de toute la planète—ce n'est pas rien—et du haut de cet observatoire immédiat idéal, rester cependant en contact avec la réalité des faits, garder cet esprit pratique qui seul permet les grandes réalisations. Avouez que les femmes peuvent être fières d'être appelées en nombre à participer au fonctionnement et à l'organisation de cet Institut compliqué et délicat.—*Le Droit des Femmes.*

## LE MOUVEMENT SUFFRAGISTE

## Au Sénat.

Depuis le 3 novembre 1925, M. Gourju a fait inscrire à nouveau à l'ordre du jour du Sénat une demande d'interpellation "sur le Concours que peuvent attendre du gouvernement les auteurs de projets relatifs au suffrage des femmes."

Le 19 janvier, le ministre de l'Agriculture, au nom du gouvernement, invitait le Sénat à renvoyer au mardi suivant 26, la fixation de la date de l'interpellation. M. Gourju faisait alors remarquer qu'à la précédente séance il avait été décidé que cette fixation aurait lieu ce mardi 19, mais puisque son interpellation attend depuis 20 mois (alors que le règlement ne permet pas l'ajournement de plus d'un mois), il se montra conciliant et accepta le renvoi au 26.

Ce jour-là, même comédie. Mais cette fois, c'est le Garde des Sceaux, ministre de la Justice, qui, au nom du Gouvernement, sollicita un nouveau renvoi à huitaine. Ce qui fut accordé.

Le mardi 2 février, c'était le ministre du Travail qui était au banc du Gouvernement et qui demanda une fois de plus la remise à huitaine. M. Gourju se fâcha, déclarant que si le Sénat et le Gouvernement ne voulaient rien faire, il en serait réduit à dire aux féministes, bien que cela ne soit pas son tempérament: "Faites comme les suffragettes anglaises," et réclama la fixation de l'interpellation au 25 février.

Le Sénat n'accepta pas cette date, ne décida aucune fixation, de sorte que l'interpellation est renvoyée... aux calendes!

Que reste-t-il de ces débats? Le Conseil donné par M. Gourju: "Faites comme les suffragettes anglaises!" Est-ce là ce que veulent les sénateurs, ce que désire le gouvernement qui très probablement trouve qu'il n'a pas assez de difficultés en ce moment?—*Le Droit des Femmes.*

## Les calamités publiques et la Société des Nations.

L'un des projets les plus intéressants mis à l'ordre du jour de la Société des Nations est le *Secours international contre les calamités.*

"C'est dans la réparation des désastres causés par les éléments ou par les famines ou les grandes épidémies, écrivait solidarité de tous les hommes doit s'affirmer. A la Société des Nations, ont pensé des esprits généreux et cependant positifs, M. Léon Abensour dans le *Quotidien* du 14 septembre, que la d'organiser cette solidarité et d'en être au besoin l'initiatrice.

"Tel fut le point de vue du président de la Croix-Rouge italienne, le sénateur Ciraolo, qui, en 1921, lança l'idée mère de l'immense réforme qui s'élabore aujourd'hui. Dès 1921, il attira l'attention de la Société des Nations sur le devoir qui s'imposait à toutes les nations de venir en aide aux victimes de calamités exceptionnelles."

"C'est dans cet esprit qu'il traça les grandes lignes de l'Organisation internationale des secours."

La Société des Nations ne pouvait manquer de s'intéresser à ce projet. Elle l'a discuté l'année dernière et, sur le principe, tout le monde a été d'accord. Mais nombre de délégués, tout en rendant hommage à la foi humanitaire qui inspirait le projet Ciraolo, ont été un peu effrayés par son ampleur. Pas plus que les budgets nationaux d'après-guerre, le budget de la Société des Nations ne comporte les grandes largesses...

Sur la proposition de la France, la Commission de la

Société des Nations a tenu compte de ces critiques. Elle prévoit une Union internationale de secours qui viendrait en aide aux populations victimes d'une calamité vraiment exceptionnelle et non prévisible: éruption volcanique, tremblement de terre, épidémie soudaine et meurtrière. On laisserait donc de côté les famines, les inondations, etc., que la prévoyance des gouvernements peut, dans une certaine mesure, prévenir.

L'organisme nouveau aurait une très grande souplesse: formé par des représentants soit des Etats, soit de leurs associations charitables, telle la Croix-Rouge, pouvant accueillir les délégués d'Etats non représentés à la Société des Nations, tels les Etats-Unis et l'Allemagne, qui désirent participer à la grande œuvre, il disposerait d'un fonds initial d'allocations votées par les divers Etats, de dons émanant de particuliers, et, par la suite, peut-être de ressources qu'il tirerait d'un système de capitalisation et d'assurances.

Il serait chargé de distribuer, par l'intermédiaire de techniciens qu'il enverrait sur les lieux, les premiers secours aux populations éprouvées. En outre, il poursuivrait des études de tout genre, médicales, démographiques, météorologiques, géologiques, ayant pour but de rechercher les causes des grandes calamités, et, dans la mesure où c'est humainement possible, de les prévenir.

Tels sont les traits essentiels du grand projet sur lequel la Société des Nations a eu à se prononcer et qu'elle n'a pas manqué de sanctionner.

La Commission préparatoire de mise au point s'est réunie de nouveau à Paris, les 18 et 19 novembre, sous la présidence de M. Fernandez y Medina. MM. Sarraut et Cassin représentaient la France.—*Bulletin Mensuel Pour la Société des Nations.*

#### L'Enfance Malheureuse.

Le 12 février dernier, Mme Gabrielle Réval donnait aux "Annales," avec réplique de M<sup>e</sup> Torrès, une conférence sur l'*Enfance malheureuse*; jamais nous ne vîmes salle plus émue, émue jusqu'aux larmes, et toute vibrante de compassion humaine.

D'abord attendrie au souvenir de *Poil de Carotte* et de *Jacques Vingtras*, Mme Gabrielle Réval passait vite de la littérature à la vie réelle, en nous contant ses pathétiques visites dans les prisons de Paris.

Quelles sombres visions, à travers ces grilles hostiles de la Petite Roquette, d'enfants plus malheureux que coupables, qui ont peut-être volé parce qu'ils avaient faim, dormi sous les ponts, parce qu'ils étaient sans famille ou sans gîte et qui demeurent là avec de vrais bandits, ceux-là cyniques et révoltés!

Alors, M<sup>e</sup> Torrès, le grand avocat de l'enfance, examina le mal au point de vue juridique et nous retraça l'historique navrant de lois tardives ou insuffisantes, de lois bonnes, mais inappliquées, sur la réglementation du travail des mineurs, sur l'obligation scolaire et la protection de l'enfance sous toutes ses formes.

Il réclama avec une éloquence fervente, d'abord la *sélection* parmi les jeunes prévenus, puis de vrais tribunaux d'enfants avec des magistrats *spécialisés*, et un juge unique confessant seul à seul le coupable, au lieu d'une mise en scène et d'une comparution où s'exalte souvent le goût du crime.

Et tandis que M<sup>e</sup> Torrès, pour atténuer ce mal social, cette criminalité précoce, réclama à l'exemple des lois belges, des lois qui éduquent au lieu de sévir, qui réhabilitent par leur travail des coupables devenus d'excellents ouvriers, Mme Gabrielle Réval cherchait aussi, pour ces misérables, un remède dans tous les cœurs généreux.

Elle nous montra l'inlassable effort que des femmes de bien ont déjà fourni pour le sauvetage de l'enfance: c'est, aux "Annales," sous le patronage de Mme Brisson, l'œuvre des *Maisons claires*, soucieuse de la santé physique qui contrefait souvent la santé morale; c'est l'œuvre de Mme Avril de Sainte-Croix, tirant de Saint-Lazare les mineurs égarés pour les occuper dignement et leur faire une vie possible, apaisante même, puisqu'elles retrouvent le goût de chanter en

travaillant; c'est enfin la phalange mystique de l'Armée du Salut, dirigée par Mme Peyron et offrant aux déshérités des refuges qui sont des "palais" avec de vrais "anges" pour soulager leur infortune.

"Il faut que vous connaissiez toutes ces œuvres admirables," Mesdames! s'écriait, avec une foi d'apôtre, Mme Gabrielle Réval.

Oui, certes, il serait bon que toute Française les connût, non seulement pour les indiquer, mais aussi pour les soutenir, les imiter et, répondant au souhait de M<sup>e</sup> Torrès, sentir, pour les enfants délaissés, "battre, en son cœur de femme, un cœur de mère!"

E. EMILE-MAGNE. *La Française.*

#### Pour le relèvement de la moralité publique.

Un grand meeting a eu lieu le 15 février au soir aux Sociétés Savantes, sous la présidence de M. Gemalhing, professeur à la Faculté de Droit de Strasbourg, contre la réglementation de la prostitution.

Les orateurs qui se sont succédés, Mme Brunshvicg, M. Louis Marin, le docteur Fernand Merlin, l'abbé Viollet et M. Pomès y ont dénoncé les méfaits de la réglementation abolie déjà en plusieurs pays. Ils ont aussi rendu hommage à Mme Avril de Sainte-Croix qui, toute sa vie, a étudié la question et qui a présidé avec tant d'habileté et de compétence la sous-commission à la Commission Extra-Parlementaire.

L'après-midi, une séance d'études avait eu lieu au Musée Social, au cours de laquelle la réglementation avait été examinée et trouvée néfaste au triple point de vue juridique, moral et social et de l'hygiène publique.

Espérons qu'à force d'arguments et d'exemples probants la France se décidera, elle aussi, à supprimer cet "esclavage de sexe" légalement organisé.

—*La Française.*

#### AU SENAT.

##### Le Consentement des parents au mariage de leurs enfants.

Tout le monde sait que M. Louis Martin réclame instamment le suffrage des femmes, mais on ne sait pas assez l'œuvre qu'il accomplit au Sénat au point de vue des réformes civiles.

A la séance du 21 janvier 1926, est venue en discussion une proposition le roi relative au consentement des parents en cas de mariage de leurs enfants. Les art. 148 et 158 du Code civil imposent aux enfants légitimes ou reconnus, âgés de moins de 21 ans, l'obligation d'obtenir le consentement de leurs parents pour se marier, mais en cas de dissentiment la loi dit que le consentement du père seul suffit, ce qui veut dire en termes polis que le consentement de la mère est sans intérêt. M. Louis Martin a demandé à ses collègues de donner des droits égaux au père et à la mère, la Commission a été favorable à cette réforme, et voici le texte qui a été adopté par le Sénat:

Article premier.—Le premier alinéa de l'article 148 du code civil est modifié ainsi qu'il suit:

Les mineurs ne peuvent contracter mariage sans le consentement de leurs père et mère; en cas de dissentiment entre le père et la mère, ce partage emporte consentement.

Art. 2.—Les deux premiers alinéas de l'article 150 du code civil sont remplacés par l'alinéa suivant:

Si le père et la mère sont morts, ou s'ils sont dans l'impossibilité de manifester leur volonté, les aïeuls et aïeules les remplacent; s'il y a dissentiment entre l'aïeul et l'aïeule de la même ligne ou s'il y a dissentiment entre les deux lignes, ce partage emporte consentement.

Art. 3.—Le deuxième alinéa de l'article 158 du code civil est modifié ainsi qu'il suit:

En cas de dissentiment entre le père et la mère, ce partage emporte consentement; toutefois, si l'un des père et mère est déchu de la puissance paternelle, l'enfant naturel mineur ne peut contracter mariage sans le consentement de l'autre.

L'article 152 du code civil est abrogé.

L'art. 152 est relatif au mariage des enfants dont les parents sont divorcés.—*Le Droit des Femmes.*

## INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, LONDON.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year ended 31st December, 1925.

GENERAL FUND.	
RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
Balances, 1st January, 1925:—	Rent ... .. £50 0 0
Loan to British Overseas	Salaries ... .. 621 5 4
Committee ... .. £30 0 0	Light, Heat and Cleaning... 40 8 8½
Deposit Account, Standard Bank of South Africa ... .. 100 0 0	Printing and Stationery ... 96 5 5½
Bons du Tresor, Frs. 8,500 held by Credit Lyonnais, at cost ... 100 0 0	Telephone, Telegrams and Messenger ... .. 25 2 2½
Cash in hand, Mlle. Gour, Frs. 270.35 at 24.33 ... .. 11 2 3	Postages ... .. 48 14 5½
Cash at Barclay's Bank 402 17 11	Repairs ... .. 5 2 6
Petty Cash in Hand ... 3 16 8½	Insurance ... .. 7 10 3
	Press Cuttings ... .. 7 12 3
	Audit Fee ... .. 5 5 0
	Office and General Expenses, including Traveling to Board Meetings, Bank Charges and Petty Cash Expenditure ... 49 10 0½
Donations:—	Mlle. Gour—Expenses, less sale of "Le Suffrage des Femmes en Pratique" ... 3 12 7
Leslie Commission ... 839 6 2	Transfer to "Jus" ... .. 287 6 8½
In Memoriam—F. Merrifield ... .. 26 5 0	Loss on realisation of Bons du Tresor .. .. 22 0 0
Miscellaneous ... .. 8 0 0	
	Balances, 31st December, 1925:—
	Loan to British Overseas
Members' Fees ... .. 873 11 2	Committee ... .. 30 0 0
Life Membership Fees ... .. 158 1 1	Deposit Account, Standard Bank of South Africa ... .. 200 0 0
Report Receipts ... .. 40 10 8	Cash in Hand, Mlle. Gour ... .. 7 9 8
Affiliation Fees ... .. 0 6 0	Cash at Barclay's Bank... 463 1 0
Sale of "Le Suffrage des Femmes en Pratique" .. .. 46 4 9	Petty Cash in Hand ... 0 2 5½
Rome Congress Pledges ... .. 0 6 0	
Tenth Congress Fund ... .. 31 8 9	
Interest on Deposit, Barclay's Bank ... 153 7 1	
Leslie Commission—Balance of Account in United States ... .. 1 6 8	
Miscellaneous Receipts ... .. 7 3 8	
	700 13 1½
	£1,970 8 7½

"JUS."	
RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.
Subscriptions ... .. £173 18 7½	Printing ... .. £322 1 8
Cash Sales ... .. 4 13 6½	Salaries ... .. 138 10 8
Y.W.C.A. Supplement ... .. 48 0 0	Rent ... .. 25 0 0
Transfer from General Fund ... .. 287 6 8½	Miscellaneous ... .. 28 6 6½
	£513 18 10½

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Documents of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. The English Banks have certified as to the correctness of the balances held by them.

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#### Treasurer's Note on above Statement.

The item "Miscellaneous Receipts" includes the interest on the deposit in the Standard Bank of South Africa (£4 18s. 6d.), and Advertisers' Fees (£3 18s. 8d.)

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