

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
Events of the Month:		News in Brief	38
Sweden	34	Jus Cartoons, No. IX.	39
Geneva	34	Mexico	41
Gt. Britain	34	Section Française:	
Austria	35	Nouvelles Internationales	43
Dr. Elizabeth Altmann-Gottheiner.....	35	Compte Rendu des Travaux recents de la	
Mrs. Chapman Catt	35	Société des Nations	43
Reviews:		La Premier Conference Balkanique et les	
"One of the Great Miracles of History," by		femmes, par M. Bogdanovitch	44
M. I. Corbett Ashby	36	Bressuire, par A. M. Rees	44
A Suffrage Pamphlet	36	Czechoslovaquie	46
A Calendar	36	Lettre de Genève, par E. Gourd	46
Maternal Mortality	37	Commission du Suffrage: Réponse de	
Women in India, by Hilda M. Robson, M.B.	37	Belgique	48

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EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Sweden. We have received the following information from Miss Jenny Verlander: In Sweden, women are employed in large numbers in the Civil Service. In 1925, a law was passed which put them on equal terms with men in every branch of the Service, except of course in the Church and the Army. Amendments to the constitution were passed to bring it into accord with the law. The salaries for women were provisionally regulated, but were to be definitely fixed after being examined by a Commission charged with examination of the salaries of all state servants. This Committee was appointed in 1928, and has published its findings this year. In this Report it is suggested that women should be given exactly equal rights with the male officials, except in the schools, where it suggested that women should accept lower salaries, but should have the same qualifications and obligations as men. A schedule of salaries has been drawn up. In the fourteen lower ranks, there are two grades, one for men, and a lower one for women. In the higher ranks women have been turned out and put into the lower ranks. But, still worse, the Commission expresses an opinion which is entirely contrary to the Swedish sense of justice. It says: "Theoretically, it is possible for a man to hold a lower post and a woman a higher one; but in practice it is to be taken that the higher posts should be held by men and the lower ones by women. It is expected that such an allotment of the work will be arranged in the department of recruiting and promotion." In the department of communications the superiors follow the same line. Courses are arranged for those who wish to apply for higher posts, and a certificate from the holder of the course is obligatory; as women are excluded from taking these courses, they are consequently excluded from the higher posts.

Both men and women were shocked by this denial of fundamental justice. The various women's organisations in Stockholm organised a protest meeting on the 31st October in one of the largest halls in the city, which proved, however, too small for the enormous audience, so an overflow meeting was quickly arranged. There were five main speakers—three women and two men: Professor Wigfors, a former member of the Government, maintained that the State had no mandate for evading the law, and Baron Stjernstedt, a prominent lawyer, proved that such methods were contrary to Swedish law. Miss Sörensen and Dr. Wahlström represented the school-teachers, and Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, M.P., laid stress on the economic consequences of the new policy. If women were forced into rivalry with men on such unequal terms they, being cheaper than men, but with the same or even better qualifications, would expel the men from the posts where they could enter into competition with them.

A resolution embodying these views was unanimously voted. It will be delivered, together with an address, to four members of the Government: the Prime Minister, and the Ministers of Justice, Education, and Finance.

The atmosphere of the great meeting was one of indignation and disappointment, but we have trust in the future. It is satisfactory to see women joining together in the defence of justice, and we are confident that in the long run, equality before the law will be established.

Geneva. Miss Lucy Mair writes as follows: Among the half dozen League committees which have met since the Assembly concluded its session, the most important, probably, are the Mandate Commission and the Preparatory Disarmament Commission. The former, in addition to receiving reports from a number of different Governments had before it several inter-

esting questions of general principle. The first of these concerned the situation which arises when the terminating date of a Mandate approaches, an event which if all goes well, will occur in Iraq in two years time. In addition to the theoretical question, the Commission discussed the particular problems which will be raised by Iraq's recognition as an independent state. One of these, the question of solvency, occupied the Commission's attention for a considerable time in its early years. At that time it was found difficult to attract capital to mandated territories, because of a widespread fear that on the termination or transfer of a mandate financial obligations would not be honoured. The reply made to this was that in such cases it would be for the League itself to guarantee the carrying out of financial obligations, once the supervision of the mandatory was removed. This would probably be done by the provision of disinterested financial advice. Another question of importance in Iraq is the protection of the numerous religious minorities whose security has sometimes been doubtful even under the mandatory régime. There is also the problem of Mosul province, which was assigned to Great Britain by the Council in 1925 on the understanding that the Iraq mandate should be retained for twenty-five years, or else that a special arrangement should be made with the Iraq Government regarding the treatment of the Kurdish population. A possible solution might be the appointment of resident League Commissioners; the cessation of religious persecutions during the period, in 1925, when a League Commission of Enquiry was on the spot, suggests that this might be the most efficacious form of protection. The Commissioners need not, of course, be British. The Commission took note of the declaration by Great Britain that nothing would be done with regard to Federation in East Africa until the advice of the Commission had been asked, and it postponed discussion of the situation in Palestine until the examination at its next session of the regular annual report.

The Preparatory Disarmament Commission is holding what it is confidently hoped will be its final session. It has discussed the technical points with regard to the framing of a model Disarmament Treaty into which figures which were left unsettled in 1929 should be inserted at the General Conference. The two main points dealt with so far have been the limitation of reservists and of material. It was found impossible to limit the number of reserves, but it was agreed that a maximum period of training should be fixed for all states—which would limit offensive efficiency and that Individual States should be free to agree to accept a lower limit. The discussion on the limitation of material turned on the question of method, that is, whether actual stocks of guns and material, or budget appropriations, should be limited. Various compromises were suggested. The United States and Germany were the strongest partisans of direct limitation; Mr. Gibson, the United States representative, was willing to compromise only in so far as he made no objection to other States agreeing to budgetary limitation, provided that his country was allowed to disarm on a basis of direct limitation. Finally, the Commission accepted the principle of budgetary limitation, while placing it on record that some of its members had expressed a preference for other methods.

Unemployment in Great Britain. The subject of the unemployed women in Great Britain has been much before the public this month

on account of Miss Bondfield's proposal that unemployment benefit should be withheld from those women who, being out of work on account of the industrial depres-

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

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association
2, rue Daniel Colladon, Geneva, Switzerland.

President: JONKVROUWE C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK. General Secretary: MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.
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THE Y.W.C.A. AT THE PAN-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

A year ago a secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association, who has had many years' experience of Association work outside her own country, wrote a fascinating little book on international relationships.* In the introductory paragraph called "The Weaving of a World-Life," the author refers to the many ways in which the exchange of life and spirit and culture between nations and races, on a plane of "give and take," of "mutual world service" is taking place. "No one of us," she says, "can be totally deaf to the sound of the weaving that to-day is so swiftly and closely binding together, for good or ill, the nations of the world. Those who profess to hear it best, those with an ear for overtones, say it is the chief meaning of the life of our day." As one of the centres where gatherings of many kinds are trying to inject the right spirit into this weaving process she mentions "Honolulu, centre of the Institute of Pacific Relations, which by assembling nations from all the Pacific countries is deliberately trying in advance to form a basis of understanding and good will for the Internationalism of the Pacific Basin."

The writer then refers to the first meeting of the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference in August 1928, "at which delegates from countries all around the Pacific basin gathered to consider in informal fashion the eventual interests of their respective countries in the realms of health, education, social service, industry and government." She then asks the question which may be raised by those who see our work only in terms of hostels and cafeterias—"Why is the Y.W.C.A. mixed up in all this?" and her answer is—"One of the thread-bare words in our current vocabulary is 'interest group.' But 'interest' took on a new meaning the other day when we chanced to see a reference to its literal meaning—in the midst of it all." We seem to see the world-wide Association as an enormous 'interest-group' in the world of to-day, a world where lines of division are rapidly being broken down, and where for the first time in two thousand years we are beginning to see that Christianity is literally for the whole of life. To this view-point our Association stands committed by its purpose and form of organisation, and finds itself willy-nilly 'in the midst of it all.'

Were our writer to trace further steps in this weaving process, she would find many fresh and interesting proofs of its continued progress, as for example in the Second Pan-Pacific Women's Conference which met at Honolulu in August last. Twenty-five out of the eighty delegates to this Conference had been actually connected with the Y.W.C.A. in their own countries, either as Board or Committee members, Secretaries or student members. They represented the following countries:

* *International Threads*, by Helen Thoburn. Published by the Woman's Press, New York City.

Australia, New Zealand, United States, Honolulu, China, Korea, Japan, India, Mexico and the Philippines. This year the programme dealt with the same five topics studied at the first conference, namely Education, Health, Social Service, Industry, Government, and an additional Section in Home Economics. The members of our Association present at the conference chose the following Round-Table Groups: Industrial Questions, Social Service, Education and Government, thus reflecting their major lines of interest.

Mrs. C. Montague Cook, President of the Y.W.C.A. of Honolulu, and Dr. Georgina Sweet, National President of the Australian Y.W.C.A., served on the Executive Committee of the Conference. The latter made an outstanding contribution through her paper on "Women and International Relationships," which provided the background for the ensuing discussion of the future of the Pan-Pacific Women's Conference. The outcome of several hours of consideration of this important question was the formation of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association, with Dr. Sweet as the new President.

Miss Jean Begg, secretary of the Y.W.C.A. of Auckland, New Zealand, served as International Project Director of the Social Service Section, and presented to the Conference a most interesting summary of the reports which had been sent in of the various forms of social work carried on in the countries bordering the Pacific. An interesting fact became apparent regarding social service, namely, that it was touched upon in each section's discussions. The main interest that evolved was in the family as an entity and its adjustments to modern economic and social conditions.

Various matters of special concern to the conference as a whole were reported upon on alternate days and amongst these the Moving Picture Industry was given careful consideration. Much interest was taken in a paper entitled "Method of employment of extra players in the Motion Picture Industry in California," which was presented by Miss Marian Mel, Director of the Division of Women and Children of the Central Casting Corporation, Hollywood, California. In it she made reference to the work of the Hollywood Studio Club of the Y.W.C.A., to which the Central Casting Corporation (a free employment bureau) refers girls who are strangers in Hollywood, whose funds appear to be slender and who are in need of information about safe and reasonable housing and other kinds of assistance and advice. Miss Marjorie Williams, director of this Y.W.C.A. Club, which is situated in the heart of Moviedom, was one of the delegates present who brought years of first-hand experience with the severe vicissitudes which "girl extras" meet in this form of employment.

This second gathering of women representatives from

countries bordering on the Pacific was of particular significance to the Y.W.C.A. because of the plans for the next meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Council which is to be held in China in 1932. Four meetings of the Y.W.C.A. members present in Honolulu were held on the fringe of the conference gatherings to consider some programme suggestions for this coming meeting in China. The last of these four meetings studied the results of the main conference and their significance for the Y.W.C.A. On this occasion the group had the privilege of hearing from Dame Rachel Crowley something of her work as Director of the Social Welfare Department of the League of Nations and of the ways in which the Y.W.C.A. might co-operate with that department.

THE WELFARE OF MIGRANTS.

Ever since its earliest days the Young Women's Christian Association has interested itself in the lot of girls and young women who for one reason or another transplant themselves (or are transplanted) from the country of their birth to another country, whether temporarily or permanently. Indeed many of the earliest branches of the Association came into existence to meet the special needs of these girls and in several countries where there is now an increasingly indigenous work the origins are to be found in work for "foreign" girls.

At one conference after another, national and international, the subject can be seen coming up in its different aspects—travellers' aid, hostels for foreign girls, foreign employment bureaus, advice to would-be emigrants, care of immigrants. After the War, which from 1914 to 1918 checked the regular streams of emigration, the whole subject assumed new importance. There was the special problem of the brides—the girls of many countries of Europe who, often with more courage than discretion, had married soldiers from across the seas, and when these went home for demobilization, had to follow them, sometimes to remote corners of the North American continent. There was the bringing together of members of families, separated during those terrible years. These and other things raised all the old questions in new and urgent forms. So it was that at the first conference of the World's Y.W.C.A. held after the War, that of Champéry, Switzerland, in 1920, a commission was called to study the subject of Migration as it affected women and girls. The findings of this commission led to the appointment of a special secretary on the World's Y.W.C.A. Staff, to concern herself with this whole question. After six months careful study she presented a report (*The Welfare of Migrants*) from which the following paragraph may be quoted. Though written in June 1921 it applies no less to-day, and shows the attitude of the Y.W.C.A., to this whole question—the approach from the human and social standpoint.

"From among the laws, the treaties, the contract forms and the statistics which surround this subject, the human experience of the emigrant needs to be disentangled and understood. It sometimes seems as if the last thing to be considered in this much-explored problem were the patient traveller—tongue-tied in the foreign countries he passes through, confused beyond any orderly thinking by the shifting, unfamiliar surroundings, the amazingly complicated procedure, and the terror of being turned back which dogs every new step. The argument that after all an emigrant's journey is a temporary experience and therefore the conditions under which it is made are not important, is fallacious. The mistakes made because of ignorance or false propaganda; the economic loss due to fraud; the exposure to disease, indignity and demoralisation; the prolonged anxiety; the failure; these habitual experiences of the emigrant are neither temporary in effect nor slight in the injuries they inflict."

The surprising growth and development of this service on an international scale made it seem advisable that it should become an independent organisa-

tion, and this was gradually effected, so that in 1923 the "International Migration Service" became an entity in itself, shortly afterwards moving its headquarters to Geneva, where it continues to carry on a very special work of solving the problems presented by the conflicting laws of various countries as these affect migrants. Difficult cases of this kind are referred to it by all kinds of organisations of many countries.

But the interest of the Young Women's Christian Association in women migrants is not any less than it was, and much service in this connection still falls to the national units. Country after country might be mentioned, but the attention of the World's Y.W.C.A. Headquarters has recently been specially directed to the steady stream of emigrants which continues to leave Le Havre for North America. At this port the World's Young Men's Christian Association has for several years stationed a port-worker to serve in any way he can the men and boys passing through to seek a new home beyond the Atlantic. Last year this secretary pointed out to the World's Y.W.C.A. that his work was not confined to men and boys, that it was in fact a family matter, and that he had many opportunities of giving advice to women and girls, whether these were travelling alone or with their families. In response to his request for leaflets containing helpful information in several languages, which he could put into the hands of these girls, a member of the World's Y.W.C.A. Executive Committee went to Le Havre to find out just what was needed. She had the opportunity of seeing the embarkation of three hundred emigrants from Central Europe for New York, and of studying the precautions taken by the authorities. She also saw the hostel accommodation provided by certain steamship companies for waiting travellers.

The other side of this picture is to be seen in a heap of correspondence reporting, on behalf of the Y.W.C.A. of Canada or U.S.A., the safe arrival of women and girls commended to the Associations by this indefatigable port worker. Very stimulating to the imagination are some of these letters, from which the human touch is never absent. Here is the mother of six children, who for some reason which is unexplained, after being many years in America, where four of her children were born, went back to her native country in Western Europe, taking all the children, four girls and two boys, but leaving the father behind. After seven years she decided to return. Meanwhile the older children have forgotten the English language. For them, at least, it is a re-emigration. Here are two girls who emigrated to America as children with their parents, and became American citizens through the naturalization of their father. Last year they visited their old home in Europe and both married there. On returning to America they find that much machinery has to be put in motion to enable their husbands to join them there. Meanwhile they must find work. Another letter brings the explanation as to why Anna, aged 12, with her brother Jan only two years older, and another brother younger than herself, were travelling alone to America some months back. The children, though American born, were taken abroad in their childhood. They came back to join their father and step-mother. The mother having died this spring, the father had married a widow with four children [and then had sent for his own children.

Here are innumerable cases of girls recommended to evening classes, put in touch with Settlement Houses, Jewish and other, invited to the local Y.W.C.A., given addresses of employment agencies. Very clearly the advantages of co-operation with other organisations come out, for in so large a field economy of effort is called for. It is good, for instance, to read in a report from Canada that such excellent work is done in one centre for Finnish girls by the Finnish pastor that it is not necessary for the Y.W.C.A. to look them up when they arrive. Within a very short time they come to the International Club of the Association. The work of these International Clubs and of the International Institutes in U.S.A. are in themselves a fascinating study and may be enlarged on in a later paper.

sion, refuse to accept domestic service as an alternative employment. Miss Bondfield stated that she had especially in mind the women cotton operatives. The cotton industry has been in a bad way for some years, and Miss Bondfield maintained that there was small chance of many of the women ever being re-absorbed by it. The domestic service she proposes for them is mainly in canteens and hotels, which means that they would still be able to claim unemployment benefit when out of work, but the press and the general public, acclaiming the suggestion, have instantly carried it further, and would have it applied to domestic service also, where the right to unemployment benefit for workers who go into it from insured trades lapses after eighteen months. It is very doubtful whether the cotton-workers could be trained to become useful household servants; it is certain that if they were they would lose any chance of re-entering their old trade, because the heavy manual work they would have to perform would ruin their hands for the delicate operations of cotton spinning, and, in spite of Miss Bondfield's pessimistic remarks about the state of the cotton industry, this is a factor in the situation, for it is only in connection with these women workers that we have been told that the position of the cotton industry is hopeless. Mill-owners have not yet been pressed, for instance, to "show grit" and emigrate to the Colonies. And that brings us to the point which is of special interest to feminists. An important principle is at stake: the proposal means sex-discrimination to the disadvantage of the woman-worker—for there is no suggestion that an unemployed man shall lose his right to the benefit on refusing work which he does not consider suitable. And why should not unemployed men be obliged to enter domestic service if opportunity offers for them to do so? There is no reason which would not be as cogent in the case of unemployed women. If the law on the subject is to be altered, it must be made to apply equally to both sexes.

In the meantime, the Women's Freedom League has held a Conference of representative women's organisations on the subject of women's unemployment generally, with the object of focussing public attention on the problem, and of finding fresh avenues of employment for the workless women and girls who number considerably more than half a million at present. Resolutions were passed repudiating the idea that the problem could be solved by removing any women from the Labour Market, and calling upon the Government to increase the Exchequer Grant for women's training schemes, urging that the Ministry of Agriculture Land Settlement Scheme shall provide equal opportunities of access to the land for women and men, and adequate facilities for their training on both the indoor and outdoor sides of farm life; calling for the speedy establishment of the promised National Maternity Scheme which would give increased employment for women in all grades connected with maternity service; stressing the advisability of reconstructing the conditions of the various nursing services of this country so as to attract to them suitable women; calling upon the Government to initiate a Home Helpers' Scheme for employing daily domestic assistants on business lines; urging the Overseas Settlement Department to make provision for the further training, transport, reception and settlement of those women in the Homeland who desire to go overseas, the training to include agricultural work (poultry farming, dairying, care of stock, horticulture, etc.), for such women as do not desire to go out as household workers; calling upon the Overseas Settlement Department to urge the Dominion Governments to give the same facilities to women as to men to acquire land for settlement; and calling for Great Britain to take an active lead in a world movement

pressing for immediate international action for the withdrawal of trade barriers.

Austria.

For the fourth time since the adoption of the Republican Constitution the Austrian people have been called to the ballot box. The call was answered with great enthusiasm—the proportion of the women who voted being over 90%. As it is a custom for men and women to use different coloured ballot papers, it was possible to ascertain that women, who have a numerical preponderance, also gave the greatest number of votes, thereby showing that they were conscious of the importance of their duty as citizens. The good sense of the Austrian population, which is shown by the final results of the elections, is reflected for the most part in women's activities. Things were certainly not made easy for them, as the Social Democrats are still the only party which places women in definitely favourable positions on the lists of candidates. It would hardly have been surprising if the women had retired, in view of the confusion of parties and groups, electioneering excesses, and our coercive electoral system with its restricted lists, which entirely subordinates the interest of the member to party interest.

In the last Nationalrat there was not a single woman member of the middle class parties as against eight women Social Democrats; this time Dr. Marie Schneider, professor in a High School, of the National Wirtschaftsblock, and Frau Emma Kapral of the Christian Socialists will be facing the women of the Left, Frauen Adelheid Popp, Emmy Freundlich, Anna Boschek, Gabriele Proft, Amalia Seidel, Marie Tusch, Maria Hautmann and Marie Kostler, so there is an advance, but it is so small that the progressive middle class women can hardly declare themselves satisfied.

E.P.

Dr. Elizabeth Alt - It is with very great regret that we have to record the death on October 21st of Dr. Elizabeth Altmann-Gottheiner.

The woman's movement in Germany has lost a very great leader, for she combined great enthusiasm with a scientific mind and a remarkable capacity for administrative work. Frau Altmann-Gottheiner was born in 1874. She studied Economics at the University of Zürich and in 1902 she obtained her doctor's degree for her thesis on "Women in the Textile Factories of the Wupper Valley." She was for many years a member of the Board of Officers of the National Council of Women of Germany, and an active member on the Committees of the German Women's Citizen Association, the German Society of Social Economists, and the German Group of the International Federation of Women.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has just been chosen as the 1930 winner of the Pictorial Review Achievement Award of \$5,000 given each year by the American magazine to the woman who has contributed most to the national life in science, art, letters, philanthropy or social welfare. In making the award, the judges of the contest, sponsored each year by the Woman's Magazine considered the recent efforts of Mrs. Catt in the interests of international peace and her activities in securing for women a greater share in the public life of her own and foreign countries. As our readers know, Mrs. Catt worked for thirty years for woman's suffrage in the United States and initiated the movement which led to the organization of the National League of Women Voters. She founded the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and was our president for a number of years. Tremendously interested in

the cause of world peace, Mrs. Catt is now the chairman of the Committee on the Cause and Cure of War to which she has called representatives of nine national women's organizations.

We congratulate Madame Maria Vérone, president of one of our French affiliated Societies, avocate at the Court of Appeal of Paris, on her appointment as Corresponding member of the American Institute of Law and comparative legislation of Mexico.

REVIEWS.

"ONE OF THE GREAT MIRACLES OF HISTORY."

Ten years of World Co-operation. (League of Nations Secretariat. Bound English copy 10/-, unbound French copy 7.50 Swiss francs.)

This record of the work done by the League of Nations during the first ten years of its existence should be not only read, but owned, by all who are interested in world peace. It is an astonishing compilation of facts, tightly packed, with hardly a spare word except when enthusiasm breaks through the veil of civil service reserve and we too see the zeal and faith of the men and women who are keeping the League alive.

Sir Eric Drummond in his introduction reminds us that "the League of Nations is not static, it is alive and dynamic, influencing and being influenced by the other forces whose interplay is moulding the political aspect of the world to-day." The introduction summarises the origin and growth of the League from the initial stage of experiment to its position of authority to-day, and gives an outline of its organisation as an association of Governments.

Then follow nine chapters which give the complete history up to-date and the activity of the League in each of its great departments. Besides the record of actual facts there are occasional pregnant sentences which keep our sense of values alive such as the following "the touchstone of the more general work of organising peace is success in disarmament." We can follow in detail every move in the simultaneous work on security, arbitration and disarmament. The triple problem of reductions in land, sea and air armaments is dealt with and the differing views and concessions are clearly stated. The chapter ends with a section on private manufacture of arms and chemical warfare.

The chapter on International Justice describes the procedure which "contains every safeguard to ensure the impartiality and independence of the 15 judges," and we are reminded that the most notable attribute of the Court is its permanency. It is astonishing to learn that compulsory production has been established which would have required 406 bilateral treaties to effect. Indeed the number of bilateral relationships after the first ten years of the League's existence is now approximately 20,000.

Half the volume is devoted to international co-operation which is introduced with the remark that "the decision to concentrate the activity of the League in its early years upon the development of international co-operation appears as perhaps the most important simple act of policy during the first decade of its existence."

The details and sequence of the financial and economic co-operation follow, including the failure of the world economic conference. "As time went on it became increasingly clear that no general lowering of

barriers could be expected through the action of interested parties in particular domains."

International transit and communications are made interesting even to the laymen while the Health section reads almost like a romance in its survey of vast fields of suffering alleviated, of brilliant research and steady growth. Progress in the social and humanitarian activities was possible as soon as the League took over the voluntary organisations which had so nobly led the fight against such evils as traffic in women and slavery.

Alas, as regards the drug traffic we are told the problem has become world wide, and is graver than it was before the war.

The least progress is recorded under intellectual co-operation and the difficulties are frankly stated.

The Chapter on Mandates gives the 10 years' record of the system which is "a new conception in international law and a novel experiment in colonial policy."

Minorities and their production are dealt with in an extremely able chapter which at least brings some comfort to those of us who feel how little has been accomplished so far. We are reminded that "the existence of minorities is not a recent phenomenon nor is their protection an innovation in international law. 350 petitions excluding those from Upper Silesia, have been presented to the League since 1921."

Short chapters on the Saar and Dantzig, on the financial administration of the League close the book, which includes, besides the Covenant of the League, an admirable annotated bibliography, a list of League publications and a good index. Our thanks are due to the Secretariat for the publication of this invaluable work!

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

A SUFFRAGE PAMPHLET.

The Uruguayan Auxiliary has issued in book-form the speeches which were delivered at the great feminist Rally held at Montevideo in December of last year. A notice about the meeting appeared in these columns, and we congratulate Doctor Paulina Luisi on the book, which should be a useful piece of propaganda. Its title is *La Mujer Uruguaya Reclama sus Derechos Políticos* and it contains a map which shows the political status of women at the present time all over the world. We hope that soon South Central America will cease to be painted black.

A CALENDAR.

Mutter und Kinde. Compiled by Frau Adele Schreiber. Price: 3, Reichsmark (German.)

This calendar for mothers is now being issued for the fourth year, and, though priced the same as previously, it is considerably enlarged and improved. No efforts have been spared to make it into a work of art containing a varied collection of charming photographs with the additional feature of six coloured plates, one of which forms the outer cover.

The texts cover the whole range of child management from earliest infancy to adolescence. They are quite short and naturally do not claim to give full explanations, but they form a valuable quick reference of reliable advice. The extracts, quoted from authorities on the different subjects, deal among other things with problems of nourishment, hygiene, clothing, recreation, and many aspects of child psychology. They not only advocate the age-old necessity of absolute cleanliness, but also explain the benefits of modern science, as, for instance, in treatment with violet rays. The future lies in the hands of our children and they get the greatest benefit from education only

WOMEN IN INDIA.

The Key of Progress. A survey of the status and conditions of women in India. Edited by A. R. CATON. (Oxford University Press, 7/6.)

The impression with which one rises from the study of this book is one of wonder that so much has happened in the women's world in India during the past five years, and also thankfulness that not only the Statutory Commission recognises that "the woman's movement holds the Key of Progress," but that so many individuals and organisations are putting their best into the work.

The extension of the franchise in a limited form in all the provinces, the growth of the All India Women's Conference on Educational Reform, the leadership of women in Congress, and in non-violent resistance, the deputy presidency of a woman in the Madras Legislative Council, these are outstanding evidences of a movement which is growing rapidly among the intelligentsia, and which no doubt already has some effect on the inarticulate millions of women in rural India.

The book appears, as Lady Irwin observes in her foreword, at an opportune time. It is a compilation by several writers of facts from many sources, including the report of the Age of Consent Committee and the Interim Report of the Statutory Commission (on Education) and the answers to a widely circulated questionnaire, and it deals with the present position of women in the home, and in health matters, in education and public life, in rural and urban industry and with regard to two wide-spread forms of prostitution.

Much evidence is brought to show the effect of child marriage on the education of girls, and it is stated that in Bengal, out of three schools, only one girl passes into the 4th class, and that the average for all India is two such girls to each school. Three girls out of every four enrolled drop out before reaching Class II. This means an immense waste in even the comparatively small expenditure on girls' education.

There are two conditions necessary before compulsory education can be widely extended, the first is a tremendous increase in the number of teachers available and the second, a greatly increased demand for education. The lack of teachers is part of a general dearth of women workers. That invaluable person in the West, the maiden aunt, practically does not exist in India except in professional circles, and the great body of women who have no marital duties, the 20 million widows of 15 years and upwards, are neither trained nor would be allowed after training to live alone as village teachers or health-visitors. At present the stipend of most women teachers is insufficient to support a chaperone, and even if one were available it is very unusual for two women to live together without the protection of a man.

The change in the control of education since the Reforms has been rather unsettling, and so far in only three of the nine provinces is there a woman in high position to aid the Director of Public Instruction in his policy as it affects girls. The Inspectors have very large districts and have to take long and tiring journeys in order to bring encouragement to the teachers in the scattered Girls' Schools.

Indigenous efforts in Western India to train widows are successful under the auspices of the Seva Sadan in Bombay and Poona, in Dr. Kaine's University and in the home founded by Pandita Ramabai in Poona, while in the East there is a remarkable movement for adult education by means of Women's Institutes, started by the late Mrs. G. S. Dutt before she had seen or heard of this movement in England.

It is likely that British and American women will be wanted in India for many years in helping to raise up a trained body of women to teach the millions who in remote villages or behind the purdah are as yet untouched even by the desire for knowledge other than they acquire at home.

Much of the information given about girl wives and widows has been produced before, and it is stressed in a recent "memorandum on the problems of child marriage and maternal mortality in India" compiled by Miss E. F. Rathbone, M.P.

Perhaps hardly enough recognition is given to the difficulties which beset the Government in dealing with these matters, tied as it is by the promise made in 1858 to refrain from interfering with religious customs. Although Indian local reformers have been agitating for 40 to 50 years, their number has been almost negligible compared with the dead weight of conservatism and custom arrayed against any change, whilst the fatalistic saying "It is written" accounts for the extraordinary fact that fathers and mothers who love their little girls as we love ours can knowingly allow them to suffer as they inevitably must, under such a system. It must be remembered in studying the available statistics with regard to child marriage and maternity that the cases observed must belong to one of two classes, i.e., the very serious, or families accustomed to call in medical aid—and also the patient must have been within a reasonable distance from such assistance. The vast majority of confinements are attended only by midwives, and there is no means of knowing the age of the mother of each recorded baby. One of the difficulties of keeping any law regulating marriage is that the overwhelming majority of parents do not know how old

when their parents and elders realise the importance of complete understanding and sympathy. Frau Adele Schreiber offers in this publication a selection of charming and informative articles intended to lay the foundation of understanding between mother and child and to help mothers in the great task of producing healthy and useful citizens.

All through the calendar references are given to books and publications relating to the different subjects, and also to children's reading books, and at the end there is an index enabling you to look up any article quickly and conveniently.

G.D.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Save the Mothers. By E. Sylvia Pankhurst. (Alfred A. Knopf, Ltd. 6s.)

The appalling state of affairs in nearly all countries with regard to maternal mortality is at last being brought well before the public. In England we have had the report published by the Ministry of Health, and various other bodies such as the British Medical Association, the Medical Women's Federation, as well as some of the political parties have all put forward schemes for a maternity service, and these are all discussed in Miss Pankhurst's book. There is also a comparison of the various services in different countries, which proves that where the problem of maternity has really been tackled the death rate has been substantially reduced. Holland, which possesses the finest maternity service in the world, has the lowest maternal death rate, with Sweden as a very close second.

The object of Miss Pankhurst's book is to rouse the general public to action; we know the facts, we have plenty of suggestions as to remedies; it remains to get something done. On those to whom facts and figures never mean very much, this book, which is full of extracts of letters and personal experiences of some of the terrible conditions in which women have to produce children, may have the effect of which Miss Pankhurst desires.

For others, the rather emotional attitude adopted towards the problem, as well as the many semi-medical details, may irritate rather than otherwise, but they are mostly the "converted," and we must welcome any book which helps to arouse the great inert mass of the public in general.

D. R. M.

THE INDIVIDUALIST LUNCHEONS.

These Luncheons provide an opportunity for considering the problems that face us, as questions of principle and right. The names of the Speakers substantiate our claim to be a non-party movement.
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Reception 12-30 p.m. Lunch 1 p.m. Carriages 2-30 p.m.
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Date.	Speaker.
Oct. 13th, 1930	The Right Hon. Josiah Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P.
Nov. 12th, 1930	Mr. Alfred Duff Cooper, D.S.O.
Dec. 10th, 1930	Sir Charles Oman, K.B.E.
Jan. 14th, 1931	Sir Arthur Balfour, B.T., K.B.E.
Feb. 11th, 1931	Mr. A. P. Herbert.
Mar. 18th, 1931	Principal L. P. Jacks, M.A.
April 15th, 1931	The Very Rev. Dean Inge, K.C.V.O.
May 13th, 1931	Sir Josiah Stamp, G.B.E.
June 10th, 1931	His Highness The Aga Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O.
July 8th, 1931	Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

SECRETARY: The Individualist Bookshop,
53, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 0850.

their children are. What are the possibilities of efficient medical attention by women doctors, when there are only four hundred of them among 120 million women scattered over an area as large as Europe without Russia? There is need for a very much larger enrolment of Indian women in the women's medical Service, and a satisfactory recognition of its status—for proper registration of births and marriages and for further efforts to train the hereditary midwife and for increasing the number of hospital trained women.

The role of tuberculosis in the death rate of women is mentioned in connection with purdah and early parturition, and it is rightly pointed out that the results are the worst among the middle classes. It is very prevalent among the young wives of clerks, who have left their fairly spacious homes in the village and come to live in one or two rooms in a street of a country town, often on the first floor, where they have no space in which to sun themselves. In a village, the sheltered women folk of the headman have one or two large courtyards where they and their babies can sun-bathe on one or other verandah; and the timber contractor's or station master's wife has a small walled yard where she may enjoy sunshine though the life may be lonely and restricted in the extreme.

The chapter on rural life gives a valuable picture, but perhaps hardly shows how the whole population from small children upwards is "employed," and how necessary all the members of a family are for the wresting of any profit from such a precarious occupation as agriculture. Mr. Gandhi's idea of home industries is intended to fill up the many weeks when there is little or nothing to be done in the fields, thus increasing the family income. There are many organisations at work and if these could be more co-ordinated they might be more successful.

Some of the blackest pages in the book deal with the state of women workers in factories. When we in the country used to say goodbye to girls marrying workers in Bombay, it was always with the fear that it might be a final goodbye. The insanitary and sunless houses and overcrowding, even where the woman herself was not going to work, were sufficient to precipitate the rapid consumption which is all too familiar. Housing is surely a reform which may be expected soon, as in this case one has not to run counter to custom or religion, but rather to use common-sense and imagination in providing for the privacy and access to the sunshine which is so necessary to Indian woman and child.

Money—and personnel—the need for these runs through the book. The former may be more plentiful if the recommendations for increasing provincial funds (in the Statutory Commission's report) are found useful in the new constitution. Personnel can only be made available gradually, by training, but it might be rapidly increased if the legal disabilities of widows were lightened and they were able to take a larger share in work outside their homes.

There are a number of suggestions in the last chapter which may be helpful to the many women both in England and India who are working for the uplift of India, and who feel that whatever advance in self-government is attained, it will be hampered by the inability of women to take their part, unless conditions are radically altered. It is a strong argument for self-government that reforms running counter to deep rooted religious beliefs and rites cannot possibly be passed by pressure from an alien government which professes a different religion. Turkey has freed herself from the tyranny of the purdah, and it is for a self-governing India to emancipate her women and girls from the many shackles that still bind them.

HILDA M. ROBSON, M.B.

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Readers are asked to mention the "International Women's News" when answering advertisements.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The French Senate has definitely decided to consider the report of the Suffrage Commission at this session, and the French suffrage organisations have been actively engaged in doing propaganda work with their respective senators.

The Conference of Presidents has decided to inscribe on the order of the Day at one of its next sessions Colonel Picot's proposal to grant the vote to war-widows. French feminists are of opinion that if Colonel Picot's proposal restricted as it is, is unanimously agreed to by the Chamber of deputies, it will have a useful effect both on public opinion and on the Senate, and will prepare the way for M. Monzie's bill—which as readers of this paper will remember, proposes the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men.

Four women are now municipal councillors of Stamboul, as a result of the recent municipal elections in which, for the first time, women were permitted to take part.

The National Council of Women in India has called an all India Conference of Women on Labour to be held in Bombay at the beginning of December. Some of the subjects suggested for discussion are, maternity benefits, women factory inspectors, unregulated industries, and the trade union movement.

Miss Liu Manchou, in the employment of the Nanking Government, has carried out successfully a diplomatic mission to the Dalai Lama at Lhasa (Thibet).

The National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club (U.S.A.) co-operated with the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Michigan in addressing a questionnaire about earnings to 14,073 business and professional women. The answers showed that unmarried women make the most money, widows and divorcees the next and married women the least.

Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P. (Great Britain) has introduced a bill to amend the laws relating to the nationality of married women which comes up for its second reading on November 28th. It is similar to the one already mentioned in these columns, introduced last year, and again this year by Captain Cazalet, and which was the subject of a memorial signed by 241 M.P.s in July.

The Director of the International Labour Office at Geneva has asked the Governments of all States-members to forward their views on the possible revision of the Washington Convention in regard to the employment of women during the night in industry.

In the recent general elections for the Norwegian parliament for the first time since women were granted the suffrage two women have been elected members. They are Fröken Augusta Stang, Oslo, and Dr. Signe Swensson, Trondhjem.

The planning committee for the conference on Home Building and Home Ownership called by President Hoover had thirty-three members of whom nine were women. They included Mrs. Lillian Gilbreth, famous industrial engineer; Mrs. John Sippel and Mrs. W. F. Lake of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Gertrude Lane, editor of the Woman's Home Companion, Mrs. Hugh Bradford of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Dr. Louise Stanley, head of the federal Bureau of Home Economics; Frances L. Swain of the

JUS CARTOONS: No. IX.



Swedish Woman Civil Servant: I, too, could climb to the top of the tree if it weren't for the dog.

American Home Economics Association, and Mrs. Henry Ford, representing the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters has been elected to Active Membership in the National Advisory Council of Radio in Education under the leadership of Secretary of the Interior, Ray Lyman Wilbur. The council is to consist of but fifty active members.

On November 19-22 the hundreds of experts who compose the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection will meet in Washington. In this group called by President Hoover in the spring of 1929 to make an investigation of the progress and present situation in the health and protection of childhood, are many women.

Mrs. Martha van Rensselaer is the assistant director under Dr. H. E. Barnard and ten other women are represented on the committee which arranged for the Conference. At the Washington meeting, results of the study of children's environment, health, education, and home training will be given so that the nation may be aware of conditions which prevail and may know how to correct and improve them.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education announces that new sections are being started in two schools, one at Alexandria and the other at Cairo, where Egyptian girls will be admitted to learn commercial methods, including bookkeeping typewriting in Arabic and European character, foreign languages and mathematics.

A Ball was held on Hallowe'en (November 5th) in London in aid of the Townswomen's Guilds Appeal. It was a great success and resulted in a profit of over £700. The Townswomen's Guilds are to do for the urban and suburban woman the same work as is done for the country woman by the village Institutes—to provide a centre for education and recreation.

Mrs. Bakker Nort has succeeded in getting a bill passed by the Dutch Parliament which gives wives a legal right to a proportion of their husband's earnings for the upkeep of the household.

The yearly elections for the British Town Councils were held on the 1st November; there are now eighty-nine women Councillors in England and Scotland, and nine women Mayors in England.

The Six-Point Group held a suffragette exhibition in London last month, twenty-five years after the first imprisonment of the militant suffragettes. The most interesting of the exhibits—which included samples of prison bread and various articles smuggled out of Holloway Gaol—were the photographs from contemporary papers of leaders of the movement, evening paper posters of 1909 and 1910 bearing such legends as "Wild Women at the Palace," and "Where is Christabel?"

£104 in gifts and promises towards an English contribution to St. Joan's Quincentenary Memorial Church at Rouen, was collected at an enthusiastic meeting last Friday, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance in co-operation with other organisations of Catholic women and held in Kensington Town Hall, with His Eminence Cardinal Bourne in the Chair. Among the speakers, Mrs. Corbett Ashby said that this memorial was typical of the new brotherhood between nations. St. Joan was the modern woman's patron and ideal, a lesson not to be afraid of youth, a symbol of

scorn of convention and of sacrifice for a cause.

Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Miss Picton Turbevill, M.P., Dr. Letitia Fairfield and Miss Monica O'Connor also paid tributes to the Saint; Mr. Leon M. Lion read Humbert Wolfe's "St. Joan," and at the end the French Ambassador moved a vote of thanks, saying how deeply he was touched that England should thus unite with France in atonement.

King's College Hospital has decided once more to admit women students. For two years, women in London who wished to study medicine have only been able to go to University College Hospital or to the Royal Free Hospital (whose students are exclusively women), though many others were glad enough to open their doors to them during the war. King's College Hospital, one of the last group to join the boycott, has been the first to repent. Its decision has been greeted with general approval by the Press.

Mrs. Patrick Ness is the first woman to be elected a member of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society.

The German Auxiliary, the Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband, has sent the following Resolution adopted at its General Meeting in Frankfurt in October: The Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband demands universally binding measures of protection for minorities in those countries which are not parties to Minority Protection agreements, with adequate international supervision. The oppression of minorities constitutes a permanent menace to the peace of Europe. This danger can only be met by the recognition of the cultural rights of individuals and national groups. The preservation of national characteristics, culture and the mother-tongue as inalienable rights within the borders of every State must not only be assured in law, but practical protection must be afforded. Minorities thus assured of protection may become the intermediaries between two cultures: the peace of Europe depends on contented minorities.

MEXICO.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MME. ANDRE RIEDER.

In the past twelve months remarkably little has been heard about Mexico, and, as it is a well-proved fact that "les peuples heureux n'ont pas d'histoire," we must conclude that the American republic has embarked upon a period of peace and beneficent organization. Such is Mme. André Rieder's opinion, and such was also the impression left last year on Dr. Rivet, of Paris University, after some months spent in archaeological research up and down this country. Mme. Rieder and Dr. Rivet are in complete agreement on these points: that the upheavals and riots so much written about in European papers were hardly noticeable in all the towns or places where they resided; that the Government put courteously at their disposal all possible means of information and transport; lastly, that the sway of Roman Catholicism, although politically well in hand, is still undisturbed, as the large congregations in the countless churches are a constant reminder.

Since the Revolution of 1910 which overthrew the autocratic Porfirio Diaz and his oligarchy of landowners, and especially since the solving of the difficulties as to the property rights of United States nationals in Mexico, the Latin Republic has been the object of much interest in America and in Europe.

Lately a Society for Cultural Relations with Mexico has been formed, and it is as a member of this society

that Mme. Rieder went to Mexico on a visit of two months. She took part in a Round Table Conference on almost every subject, ranging from discussions on Labour, Immigration, to reports on Penal Law Reform, surveys of educational systems, or discoveries of Mexican Art. Thus she has been able to gather much information about the Mexican people in general and Mexican women in particular.

Born and bred in the Latin American tradition and under the tutelar discipline of the Roman Catholic Church, the women of Mexico can hardly be in the forefront of progress; their feminist movement is as yet hardly noticeable. There exists a National Council of Women which, up to now however, has not shown any activity. Real work is to be expected from the newly formed Mexican Branch of the Women's International League, of which Senora de Kiel has just been made a President. One of its members, Eleanor Torres, has studied in Chicago and was serving under Professor Vasconcelos in the department of Education. She is an able organizer and will no doubt show her usefulness. There is at present no definite organization for Suffrage. In this direction the first efforts are to the credit of the Pan American League of Mexican Women, presided over by Dr. Ursua. They claim political equality with men, moral equality and the understanding of the responsibility of parenthood.

As is usual with countries where the feminist movement is still in its infancy, philanthropic work affords the first training ground for women. A Red Cross has been organized in Mexico and the Government are showing their active interest in its development by sending a woman to London (Senorita Ritter) to study Red Cross organization in these islands.

The intentions of the Government towards women seem liberal enough. Talent or efficiency are sure of recognition, and it is to the interest of a modern, non-sectarian Republic like Mexico to make use of all abilities, whatever sex they belong to. The same educational facilities exist for both sexes, from the primary school to the University.

Among the Commission of Five whose task it is to discuss and elaborate the new Penal Code there is a woman member, Dr. Matilda Rodríguez Cabo. Besides Dr. Cabo, who is the medical representative, there are three lawyers and one anthropologist. The latter is Dr. Gamio, well known for his work on the Commissions of Emigration and of Labour. Dr. Cabo did medical research work in Berlin. She enlarged the circle of her observations by going to Moscow as special envoy of the Mexican Government. There she was given the opportunity to study the welfare work for women and children, and particularly the Birth Control Clinics and the Hospitals directly under Soviet supervision.

Another of the fraternal delegates in Berlin, Senorita Eulalia Guzman, was at the time studying at the University of Jena on a scholarship. The Humboldt scholarships are especially awarded to women by the Mexican Government for study in Germany, and not only does the bursary cover all the expenses of the students during their stay abroad, but its benefits may extend to the parents left in Mexico. It thus happened that the Board of Education gave a grant to Senorita Guzman's mother and younger brothers during her absence from home. Eulalia Guzman is now an Inspector of Elementary Schools in Mexico. She gave Mme. Rieder useful information about teachers' diplomas and salaries. Married women teachers, she said, do retain their posts.

The Educational system of Mexico includes three grades, as in Europe. All the Federal schools are non-sectarian; even the private schools are subject to official supervision. There are secondary schools for boys and girls in the principal towns and Mexico City

has its National University, open to men and women, with its faculties of Philosophy, Law, Medicine and Economics. The University Association is very active and students play an increasing part in its self-government. It is to be noted that, in spite of this system of education being highly centralized on the pattern of European countries, the syllabuses for teaching vary widely between urban and rural schools. The rural schools claim the attention of the Mexican Board of Education, as they are the nucleus for the resurrection of country life, which is the fetish of the new Government. The disastrous rule of Porfirio Díaz now belongs to history. Yet, it is not so very many years ago that this autocrat allowed the ruthless dispossession of the Indian peasantry, thus enabling a few hundred rich hacendados, who formed the main support of his government, to appropriate the land for themselves. All the Indians who lived on the ejidos, or communal lands, were reduced to a state of destitution such as had never been witnessed since the Spanish Conquest. Since 1915, however, beginning with Carranza, the Mexican leaders have been attempting the herculean task of elevating Mexico from a medieval feudal State to a modern, self-governing, self-respecting nation.

This self-government begins with the rural community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Mexican leaders and to the treaties with the United States (whose nationals had acquired a large part of Mexican land and subsoil) private property as well as ejidos are in the process of being restored to their former owners, and we may now watch the springing up of a new communal life, whose centre is the village school. Madame Rieder insists on the fact that in this re-birth of national life in Mexico, women are playing their part. In the lovely districts far away from the towns, among the humble surroundings of village huts which are the homes of the descendants of the Aztecs, Toltecs and Mayas, women are giving up their youth and strength, teaching the rudiments of a civilisation of which most of these Indians have heard only vague rumours. They succeed in inculcating in the men of the tribes, fathers, brothers, the desire to build schools with their own hands, so that their children may have the opportunity to learn things which they never knew. Better cultivators of the soil, they will remain, nevertheless, the guardians of the traditional trades and artisanship. The advisers of the Government are as careful to revive the rural industries as they are to preserve the riches of old Mexican art. (Mme. Rieder gathered information on this subject from Dr. Atl, an Indian by birth, who is an authority on Archeology and Art.) That is not all. After having regained communal consciousness, these Indians will have to learn a sense of citizenship and of national pride. So the teachers must, to this end, instruct them in Spanish, which is the administrative language. Indians who have already travelled and worked in the United States or in the large towns, are the readiest to assimilate this cultural form of civilisation and will lead their brothers to accept it willingly.

With the soil belonging to the Mexicans, and tilled by the Mexicans, the problem of their emigration to the United States will lose its urgency and the fears of the American Federation of Labour may be stilled; while the independent labour of the Mexican Indians may gradually lead them towards the apotheosis pictorially described by Diego Ribera on the walls of the Public Education Building, Mexico City, that of the powerful Indian woman, standing, Caryatid-like, in a tropical garden, raising above her head the basket of fruit and grain, symbol of her prosperity.

ALINE MARTIN REES.

SECTION FRANCAISE. NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Une grande manifestation a eu lieu récemment à Stockholm (Suède) pour protester contre le règlement de la Commission des Emplois civils qui décrète que les salaires des institutrices seront désormais plus bas que ceux des hommes, bien que leurs compétences et leurs obligations restent les mêmes. La Commission constate qu'en théorie il est possible qu'un homme occupe un poste inférieur, et une femme un poste supérieur, mais en réalité les postes supérieurs devront être réservés aux hommes. C'est une injustice flagrante, d'autant plus qu'une loi est entrée en vigueur en 1925 décrétant que les employés de l'Etat, hommes ou femmes, auraient des droits égaux dans tous les départements du service, sauf l'armée et l'église.

Le Ministre Egyptien de l'Instruction publique annonce que dans deux Ecoles, l'une à Alexandrie et l'autre au Caire, les filles seront admises à une section commerciale où on leur enseignera la comptabilité, la dactylographie, les langues et les mathématiques.

Les Elections municipales anglaises annuelles ont eu lieu le 1er novembre. Il y a maintenant 89 conseillères municipales en Angleterre et en Ecosse, avec neuf femmes-Maires.

Le Six Point Group a organisé le mois dernier une exposition rétrospective du mouvement suffragiste. On put y remarquer un échantillon du pain servi aux suffragettes prisonnières ainsi que de nombreuses coupures sensationnelles des journaux d'il y a vingt-ans.

Madame Bakker Nort a réussi à faire voter une loi par le Parlement hollandais qui accorde à la femme le droit légal à une certaine proportion des gains du mari pour l'entretien de la maison et de la famille.

Un bal organisé le 5 novembre par les *Townswomen's Guilds* donna une recette de 700 livres. Ces associations sont fondées dans les centres urbains pour le même objet qui occupe les *Women's Institutes*, dans la campagne.

Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P. (Grande Bretagne), a introduit au Parlement un projet de loi sur la nationalité de la femme mariée qui sera discuté le 28 Novembre. C'est le projet déjà cité dans ce journal et qui a été proposé une autre fois par Captain Cazalet.

Le directeur de l'office International du Travail à Genève a demandé à tous les Etats de la Société des Nations d'exprimer leurs points de vue sur la révision de la Convention de Washington en ce qui concerne le travail de nuit des femmes dans l'industrie.

Aux élections parlementaires de Norvège, et pour la première fois depuis l'obtention de la franchise, deux femmes ont été élues. Ce sont Augusta Strang d'Oslo et Dr. Signé Swensson de Trondjhem.

Les femmes de Stamboul viennent de prendre part pour la première fois aux élections municipales. Quatre conseillères ont été élues.

Le Conseil national des femmes de l'Inde a convoqué une Conférence pour l'Inde entière sur la question du travail des femmes dans l'Industrie. Entre autres sujets on discutera les allocations maternelles, l'inspection des femmes dans les usines, les industries non réglementées et le mouvement syndicaliste.

Mlle. Liu Manchiu, employée par le gouvernement de Nanking s'est acquittée avec succès d'une mission diplomatique auprès du Dalai Lama à Lhasa (Thibet).

Le Sénat français a décidé enfin de considérer le rapport de la Commission du Suffrage; les différentes sociétés suffragistes s'occupent activement de propagande auprès de leurs Sénateurs respectifs.

Le projet du Colonel Picot qui donnerait le droit de suffrage aux veuves de guerre est inscrit à l'ordre du jour pour la prochaine session des Chambres.

Les féministes françaises estiment que le passage de ce projet, tout restreint qu'il soit, aurait un excellent effet sur l'opinion publique et le Sénat et préparerait la voie pour l'extension de la franchise d'après la proposition de M. de Monzie.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, présidente honoraire de l'Alliance et de tant d'autres sociétés féministes, se voit attribuer le prix de 5,000 dollars donné chaque année par la *Pictorial Review* pour la femme qui a le plus contribué au progrès de la vie nationale par les arts, la littérature, les sciences ou le travail social et philanthropique. Mrs. Catt est aujourd'hui la présidente du Comité sur les Causes et Remèdes des Guerres où elle a convié les déléguées de neuf associations nationales.

La président Hoover a convoqué une commission de trente trois membres dont neuf sont des femmes pour leur soumettre un projet qui donnerait à tout citoyen des facilités pour la construction et la possession de son propre home.

Miss Belle Sherwin, présidente de la Ligue des Femmes Electeurs a été élue membre actif de la commission Consultative d'Education sous la direction du Secrétaire d'Etat à l'Intérieur, M. Ray Lyman Wilbur.

Le 19 Novembre, à Washington se sont réunis les centaines d'experts qui vont présenter leurs rapports sur la situation actuelle de la santé et de la protection de l'enfance. Plusieurs femmes étaient présentes dont Madame Martha Van Rensselaer adjointe au Dr. Barnard, un des promoteurs de la Conférence.

La Fédération nationale des Clubs pour femmes d'affaires et de professions libérales des Etats-Unis a coopéré avec le Bureau des recherches industrielles pour la rédaction d'un agenda classifiant les emplois rétribués, au dessus d'un salaire ouvrier. Le tableau montre que les plus gros appointements vont aux femmes célibataires. Les veuves et les divorcées viennent ensuite; les femmes mariées en dernier lieu.

COMPTE RENDU DES TRAVAUX RECENTS DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Parmi les Commissions qui se sont réunies depuis la clôture de l'Assemblée, les plus importantes sans aucun doute sont celles des Mandats et du Désarmement.

La Commission des Mandats après l'examen des rapports des divers gouvernements s'est occupée de certaines questions de principe. La première concerne la situation provoquée par la terminaison d'un mandat. Tel sera, si tout va bien, le cas de l'Iraq dans trois ans. Outre la question théorique, la Commission a discuté les problèmes particuliers que soulèvera la reconnaissance de l'Iraq en Etat indépendant. L'un de ceux-ci est la question des dettes et occupe la Commission depuis plusieurs années.

Il a été difficile au début de persuader les prêteurs de risquer des capitaux dans les territoires mandatés à cause de leur crainte—non justifiée—qu'à l'expiration du mandat, les nouveaux états souverains pourraient ne pas faire honneur à leurs obligations. La Société des Nations déclare que si tel cas se présentait elle se porterait garant pour les territoires mandatés et leur donnerait le secours d'un avis désintéressé en matière financière.

Une autre question importante pour l'Iraq est celle des minorités religieuses dont la sécurité n'est pas encore établie, même sous le régime des mandats. Il y a aussi le problème de la province de Mossoul qui a été assignée à la Grande Bretagne en 1925 sous condition que le mandat de l'Iraq serait maintenu pendant vingt cinq ans ou qu'alors un arrangement spécial serait conclu avec le gouvernement de l'Iraq au sujet du traitement de la population Kurde. Une solution possible serait la nomination de Commissaires résidents responsables devant la Société des Nations. On se rappelle qu'en 1925, il n'y eut aucune persécution religieuse pendant l'enquête faite par les Commissaires de la Société. Il n'est pas nécessaire du reste que ceux-ci soient de nationalité britannique.

La Commission prit note d'une déclaration de la Grande-Bretagne que ce pays ne ferait pas l'essai d'une Fédération en Afrique Orientale sans demander au préalable l'avis de la Société des Nations.

La discussion du mandat de Palestine fut renvoyée à la session prochaine lorsque viendra l'examen du rapport annuel.

La Commission préparatoire pour le désarmement est à l'heure actuelle réunie; on espère que ce sera sa session finale. Elle a discuté les questions techniques qui formeront la base d'un traité modèle de désarmement. Les deux points principaux sont la limitation du nombre des réservistes et du matériel de guerre. Il paraît impossible de limiter le nombre des réservistes mais on s'est entendu sur une période maximum d'entraînement à fixer pour tous les Etats, avec liberté laissée à chaque état de la raccourcir si bon lui semble.

La discussion pour la limitation du matériel de guerre revint surtout à une affaire de méthodes à savoir limiter-t-on les stocks et engins, ou bien les appropriations budgétaires? Divers compromis furent suggérés.

Le Etats Unis et l'Allemagne sont les plus forts partisans d'une limitation directe. Mr. Gibson, le représentant des Etats Unis compromit en admettant pour les autres Etats une limitation budgétaire, mais en réservant pour son pays le droit de désarmer par limitation directe.

Finalement la Commission accepta le principe de la limitation budgétaire tout en notant que certains de ses membres auraient préféré d'autres méthodes.

d'après LUCY MAIR.

LA PREMIERE CONFERENCE BALKANIQUE ET LES FEMMES.

(Athènes, du 7 au 11, Delphes, le 12 Octobre).

Vu la grande sympathie que les femmes éprouvent pour le pacifisme, on aurait pu s'attendre à les voir prendre part en plus grand nombre à cette belle tentative. Ni la Bulgarie ni la Roumanie (dont pourtant la délégation était la plus nombreuse), ni la Turquie, quoique vivant d'un esprit nouveau, n'avaient délégué des femmes. La Grèce, qui faisait les honneurs de la maison avec autant de grâce que de dignité, en donna cinq: Mmes. Théodoropoulos et Svolo, les féministes les plus en vue de ce pays, Parren, la présidente du Lyceum-Club, Sifinaou et Thiakakis; l'Hellénie avait envoyé Mme. Eminé Toptani, une femme douce, intelligente et cultivée, mais qui, malheureusement, se trouvant souffrante, ne pouvait prendre part aux débats. La délégation yougoslave, quoique

la moins nombreuse, comprenait une femme parmi ses sept membres.

Il est très souhaitable qu'à l'avenir il y ait des femmes dans toutes les commissions de la Conférence Balkanique; pour le moment, il n'est que naturel que deux surtout nous aient attirées; celle du rapprochement intellectuel et celle de la politique sociale. Parmi les nombreux rapports déposés, il y en eut trois provenant de femmes: Le rôle des femmes dans le rapprochement balkanique, par Mme. Théodoropoulos; Le travail commun des femmes des Etats balkaniques, par Mlle. Aloysia Stebi, présidente de l'Alliance des sociétés féministes yougoslaves (malheureusement une maladie avait empêché l'auteur de venir en personne); et enfin, Réforme de l'enseignement de l'histoire, par la sousignée.

Mme. Théodoropoulos nous rappelle qu'en 1923 déjà, pendant le congrès féministe de Rome, un groupe s'est formé comprenant des organisations féministes du sud-est européen et que, depuis lors, cinq conférences annuelles ont eu lieu dans les capitales des pays représentés par ce groupe. De cette collaboration, les conclusions suivantes ont pu être tirées: 1. Les femmes des pays balkaniques, malgré un fond d'amertume qui leur reste encore comme conséquence naturelle des désastres de la guerre, sont prêtes à se donner la main pour écarter la possibilité d'un nouveau conflit. 2. Des démarches répétées ont été faites afin d'amener dans ce groupe les organisations féminines de certains pays balkaniques qui s'abstenaient encore. 3. Les pays balkaniques sont liés par une grande affinité de mœurs, de traditions, de folklore. 4. Des vœux ont été énoncés pour une union douanière; pour l'organisation de ports communs, qui serviraient de débouché à toute la péninsule; pour l'unification des voies de transport et de communication sous une administration commune. 5. Des résolutions ont été adoptées concernant l'orientation de la jeunesse vers un idéal pacifiste. Considérant tout ce travail déjà accompli, Mme. Théodoropoulos propose de créer une Union Balkanique des Femmes, qui serait liée organiquement avec la Conférence Balkanique.

Mlle. Stebi désire la création d'un institut social inter-balkanique dans le genre du Bureau International de Travail. Enfin je donne l'historique, d'après M. Ferrère, des tentatives faites après la guerre pour la réforme de l'enseignement de l'histoire.

Notons que les statuts de la Conférence Balkanique, dont la discussion se termina à la séance de clôture, à Delphes, prévoit une collaboration suivie des comités nationaux avec des organisations féminines.

Au théâtre antique de Delphes, là où Mme. Sikélianos, cette Américaine hellénisée dont la force et la ferveur se cachent derrière une modestie presque timide, a ressuscité Eschyle, vers la fin de la séance, j'ai prononcé un discours.

Le lendemain, avant de se séparer, les déléguées ont signé un appel aux femmes des Balkans.

Sans nous griser de paroles, nous espérons qu'une bonne volonté et qu'une intelligence claire peuvent porter de beaux fruits, que cette première Conférence Balkanique sera suivie par d'autres, et qu'on y verra des femmes de toutes les six nations balkaniques travailler sérieusement à la réalisation—non seulement pour les Balkans—d'un état de choses plus digne de l'humanité que celui qui règne actuellement dans le monde.

MILITSIA BOGDANOVITCH.
YUGOSLAVIE.

BRESSUIRE.

Les grands événements historiques, a dit Voltaire, ont souvent des causes insignifiantes. Un verre d'eau renversé sur la robe de Queen Anne, et la disgrâce de Lady Masham permet à la politique étrangère anglaise une orientation nouvelle. De même des villages infimes restent pour jamais associés aux convulsions de l'histoire: les coteaux de Valmy retentissent encore des accents de la jeune Révolution victorieuse. Sans doute un rang non moins notable est réservé à Bressuire dans les annales des conquêtes féministes.

Bressuire (Deux-Sèvres) 5846 habitants, a comme toute ville de France qui se respecte, sa vieille église, son château féodal perché en nid d'aigle, sur un promontoire de rochers taillés à pic, au pied duquel s'égaillent maisons et jardins, serpentent au petit bonheur des rues, qui aux abords de la gare s'élargissent devant un magnifique parc public.

L'atmosphère quotidienne de Bressuire est d'une sérénité dominicale. Sauf les jeudis, jours de marché ou la ville s'anime du roulement des carrioles, du piaille-

ments de la volaille et de tous les bruits discordants qui accompagnent la vente du bétail.

Les manuels de géographie donnent encore à Bressuire le titre de sous-préfecture. Mais voilà bientôt quatre ans que la hache économe de M. Poincaré, élagua les branchages inutiles d'une vieille administration routinière. Bressuire regrette ses sous-préfets et leur cordiale hospitalité, qui rendait la ville populaire aux visiteurs de marque et aux touristes gastronomes. On dit même que les frasques d'un de ces derniers et spirituels représentants défrayèrent les conversations pendant plusieurs semaines. Il n'y a plus de sous-préfet à Bressuire. Mais il y a toujours M. Héry, Sénateur-Maire et il n'est pas, pour le moment, d'homme plus en vue, car M. Héry est l'adversaire déclaré du Suffrage des femmes.

M. Héry représente depuis longtemps les Deux Sèvres au Palais du Luxembourg et son nom jusque là inconnu, menace de passer à la postérité: c'est à M. Héry que le Sénat a confié le rapport du projet de loi déjà voté à la Chambre et qui accorde aux femmes françaises le suffrage municipal. On sait l'aversion de la majorité du Sénat pour le vote des femmes. L'opinion de M. Héry est celle de la majorité: Il ne va certes pas perdre son temps à préparer un rapport sur un sujet aussi frivole! le projet de loi dormira dans ses dossiers et on n'en parlera plus.

M. Héry avait compté sans ces dames de Bressuire.

Qui l'aurait pensé! Voilà de braves femmes et de bonnes ménagères qui depuis des générations vivaient, modestes et méritoires, variaient les plaisirs de la cuisine et de la couture par ceux de la broderie et du piano. Quelques papotages innocents chez "Madame la Baillive ou Madame l'Elue," une excursion annuelle à Nantes ou aux Sables d'Olonne et ces femmes vertueuses s'éteignaient dans la paix bressuiraise sans avoir jamais discuté les canons de l'Eglise ou ceux de la Politique. Il a fallu ce damné projet de loi, et sans doute quelque mauvais serpent soufflé de Paris, pour éveiller chez elles une activité anarchique, à laquelle M. Héry ne comprend rien.

Ces dames ont d'abord usé de la manière douce. Elles n'ont pas voulu attaquer de front leur Sénateur-Maire, dont elles apprécient les qualités réelles, et à qui leurs maris font sympathiquement cortège sur la liste républicaine municipale. Elles ont voulu le persuader aimablement. Elles lui ont rendu visite et plaidé la justice de leur cause. Peine perdue! M. Héry leur a déclaré, que les femmes n'étant pas les égales de l'homme, ne sauraient prétendre aux mêmes droits. Le vote minierait l'autorité maritale. L'instruction des filles a déjà fait bien des ravages et notre Chrysale XX siècle laisse entendre à ces mères de famille instruites et sensées, anciennes élèves des lycées et des Ecoles supérieures de la région—

"Qu'une femme en sait toujours assez
"Quand la capacité de son esprit se hausse
"A connaître un pourpoint d'avec un haut de chausses."

Enfin il évoqua le spectre bien connu de l'homme noir. La femme ne saurait résister à l'influence persuasive de son directeur de conscience: Le cléricisme, voilà l'ennemi! Une de ses interlocutrices fit remarquer à M. Héry que si les femmes étaient sensibles à l'éloquence, celle de leur Sénateur saurait bientôt les convaincre. Pourquoi ne pas les mettre à l'épreuve? M. Héry secoua la tête et congédia ses visiteuses sur un refus poli.

Alors ces dames de Bressuire usèrent de la manière forte. Elles se constituèrent en comité, firent circuler une feuille de propagande et annoncèrent la conférence contradictoire d'une célèbre avocate de Paris, une militante de la cause suffragiste. Mme. Kraemer-Bach vint, arla; son charme conquit ceux que sa parole avait déjà ébranlés. Lorsqu'elle quitta Bressuire il ne restait plus qu'un petit groupe de mâles impénitents autour de l'irréductible Sénateur.

Le printemps passa, puis l'été. M. le Sénateur jouissait en paix de ses vacances parlementaires et le projet Marraud dormait toujours dans ses dossiers. Ce n'est pas qu'il n'eut un brin d'inquiétude et ces histoires de femmes commençaient de l'agacer un peu; ce fut bien pis lorsqu'à l'automne, la présidente du groupe féministe bressuirais le convia au meeting que Madame Malaterre Sellier, vice-présidente de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des femmes devait haranguer à Bressuire, le 19 octobre. M. Héry est beau joueur. Il accepta. Quatre cents personnes, par un soir pluvieux s'empilaient dans la salle du Théâtre municipal.

Je ne répéterai pas ici les arguments de Mme. Malaterre. Pour si évidents qu'ils nous paraissent, à nous suffragistes de longue date, ils avaient besoin d'être redits à Bressuire et son éloquence—qui lui vaut une réputation internationale—leur prêtait un nouvel accent. Son discours empoigna la salle. Vint le tour de M. Héry qui répéta son négatif acte de foi: "La femme est inférieure à l'homme: le bulletin de vote serait un instrument de discorde. La femme n'a pas de génie. La femme n'a pas de patriotisme: n'a-t-il pas connu, 'O honte!' des paysannes bressuiraises qui, pendant la guerre, envoyaient aux soldats, prisonniers en Allemagne, des lous d'or dissimulés dans leurs provisions de bouche." O merveille! dirions nous aujourd'hui que cet instinct maternel, qui, d'un vol, s'élève au-dessus des étroits nationalismes!

Enfin laissant de côté les discussions doctrinales, Mme. Malaterre attaqua en M. Héry le rapporteur d'un projet, qui, depuis six mois demeurait oublié. M. Héry dut promettre de le produire à sa rentrée au Palais du Luxembourg.

La proposition Marraud va donc être discutée ces jours-ci. Le Sénat va l'accepter ou la rejeter. Il faudrait un miracle pour modifier au moins l'attitude du rapporteur.

Mais pourquoi, Mesdames de Bressuire, ce miracle ne s'accomplirait-il pas? Nous avons vu, ici, en Grande Bretagne des choses plus extraordinaires. Des Suffragistes de la première heure me disaient un jour, qu'un de leurs adversaires les plus acharnés, un certain Major Hill, était devenu au Parlement leur défenseur enthousiaste. Et M. Héry n'ignore pas que des Anglais sont allés en prison pour la cause féministe et qu'un des ministres actuels, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, l'a constamment soutenue de sa plume, de sa parole et de l'appoint de sa fortune.

Les étrangers qui ont si bonne opinion des Françaises—M. Héry devrait lire le chapitre de Mr. Sisley Huddleston sur la préexcellence de la femme française dans son livre "la France et les Français" s'étonnent que la France soit un des derniers pays d'Europe à leur marchander le suffrage. Tout le monde est d'accord pour vanter l'industrie et le sens pratique de la Française.

Pourquoi une telle anomalie? Voici l'explication que je propose: Les Français sont des hommes très intelligents mais ils sont aussi très vaniteux.

Parce qu'ils sont intelligents ils n'hésitent pas à reconnaître la valeur et la capacité des femmes; toutes les Ecoles d'enseignement, y compris le droit et la médecine leur sont ouvertes—tandis qu'en Angleterre l'Université de Cambridge restreint encore leur admission et que les Hopitaux-Ecoles refusent les étudiantes en médecine.

Les Français reconnaissent à la femme le droit au salaire égal pour travail égal, et la femme mariée en France continue l'exercice de sa profession, si elle le désire.

Même le code Napoléon dont la femme avait fort à se plaindre est aujourd'hui bien amendé. Tout cela les Français l'acceptent parce qu'ils sont intelligents. Mais parce qu'ils sont vaniteux, ils attachent au bulletin de vote un prestige qui ne consent aucun partage.

La femme française, associée à la vie de l'homme dans

ses joies et dans ses travaux, ne prétend pas que si justice lui est rendue, ce soit par un don gracieux.

Le droit de suffrage est pour elle une question de dignité. C'est pourquoi, sans casser des vitres, ce qui n'est pas leur manière, ces dames de Bressuire continueront à presser M. Héry de questions insistantes, qu'il finira un jour par trouver opportunes.

Et peut-être une illumination soudaine venant du cœur, éclairera-t-elle l'intelligence de ce vieux républicain, qui, faisant sienne à nouveau la Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme (homme étant pris ici dans son sens humain et universel) ne craindra pas de proclamer que les citoyens des deux sexes, nés libres, sont, devant la loi, égaux en droits.

A. M. REES.

CZECHOSLOVAQUIE.

La défense des droits des femmes employées au service public.

La sénatrice Plaminkova, présidente du Conseil National des femmes, vient de prononcer, à la commission budgétaire du Sénat aussi bien qu'à la séance plénière, un énergique discours au sujet de la gratification de Noël (treizième mensualité) des fonctionnaires publics. Nous en extrayons les passages suivants où elle expose le traitement dont les femmes employées au service public sont l'objet et s'élève contre les injustices qu'on a voulu leur infliger.

Pendant la période de douze ans qui s'est écoulée depuis la libération nationale, les femmes tchécoslovaques ont dû parer à toutes sortes de chicaneries, d'intravés et de préjugés pour pouvoir prouver qu'elles sont à même d'exécuter au moins un travail égal à celui d'un homme moyen. Elles y ont réussi de sorte que personne n'ose leur faire aucun reproche en public. Néanmoins, chacune des lois relatives aux fonctionnaires publics qui ont été promulguées depuis 1918 cherchait à leur nuire, à restreindre leurs droits, à les rendre victimes des nouvelles injustices. On pourrait croire que les hommes portent envie aux femmes de pouvoir subsister indépendamment d'eux, de pouvoir gagner honnêtement leur pain et de contribuer à l'entretien de la famille. Leur travail constitue aujourd'hui leur dot. C'est pourquoi les socialistes devraient venir en aide aux femmes.

Un autre motif antidémocratique est l'attaque barbare contre la maternité que les hommes savent glorifier, s'il s'agit de la mère de leurs propres enfants, mais qu'ils considèrent comme un privilège, s'il s'agit d'une femme employée au service public.

La loi relative à la gratification de Noël des fonctionnaires publics devait porter un nouveau coup aux femmes. Le projet gouvernemental refusait d'abord—sans aucune explication—ladite gratification aux époux employés au service public.

Lorsque la Chambre des députés a abordé en juin la discussion de cette question, Mme. Plaminkova se mit à en traiter avec le conseil des ministres, avec le représentant du ministère des finances et avec la plupart des députés du parti socialiste national. Il est très intéressant de noter que tous, sauf le représentant du ministère des finances, étaient d'avis que la gratification de Noël n'était qu'une récompense du travail et devait, par conséquent être reconnue à tous ceux qui travaillent. Cependant, si les femmes députées n'avaient pas fait de démarches à temps, la question aurait été résolue en défaveur de chaque couple qui touche ses revenus de la caisse publique. Grâce aux protestations de toutes les associations féminines de la République, on a adopté, après de longs débats, une décision digne du sage Salomon. La gratification de Noël sera accordée à celui des époux qui reçoit un traitement plus élevé, c'est à dire à l'homme, car la femme est presque toujours inférieure à cet égard.

Sous prétexte que la caisse de l'Etat serait trop chargée, si elle devait verser la gratification de Noël aux époux qui travaillent tous les deux au service public, on ose la refuser à l'un d'eux. Un employeur privé pourrait-il jamais faire valoir des raisons analogues? Et fait-on des raisonnements pareils, s'il ne s'agit pas des époux, mais de plusieurs membres de la même famille qui touchent leurs revenus de la caisse publique, parce qu'ils travaillent tous au service de l'Etat? En voilà une mesquine économie qu'on cherche à réaliser aux dépens des femmes employées au service public.

Les femmes fonctionnaires sont tolérées au service public, mais elles n'y sont jamais bien accueillies. L'atmosphère où elles travaillent est malsaine, car on cherche à l'envenimer de tous les moyens et à troubler le calme des travailleuses au lieu de leur procurer une sécurité matérielle.

La libre et démocratique République tchécoslovaque a inscrit dans sa constitution: "Le mariage, la famille et la maternité

sont placées sous une protection spéciale des lois." Toutefois sa législation n'en a pas moins cherché à restreindre tous les privilèges dont les femmes pourraient bénéficier. En 1920 on a essayé de lancer un projet imposant le célibat aux femmes fonctionnaires—projet dont l'auteur n'a jamais été découvert. Un nouveau projet de ce genre qui n'existait, paraît-il, qu'en cinq exemplaires a soulevé une grande indignation et de vives protestations de toutes les femmes, qui ont fini par obtenir gain de cause. En 1924 la loi relative à la restriction du nombre des fonctionnaires publics a cruellement frappé les retraitées auxquelles elle ne permet qu'un revenu maximum de 12,000 couronnes par an.

Cette loi, si dure pour les femmes mariées, employées au service public qu'elle permettait de licencier sur le champ, apportait en même temps des avantages considérables aux hommes en leur permettant de se mettre en retraite avant le temps. En 1926 une autre loi voulait secrètement enlever aux institutrices leur droit à l'indemnité en cas de mariage, et il a fallu prouver que les auteurs mêmes de cette loi l'interprétaient fausement! En 1927 on a stipulé que les hommes seuls pouvaient être membres des commissions d'impôts, mais la même loi rendait la femme mariée responsable des engagements de son époux.

Le Ministère des Chemins de fer et la Direction des Finances observent jusqu'à présent une disposition de l'ancienne Autriche d'après laquelle le mariage d'une fonctionnaire publique ou la naissance d'un enfant doit être considéré comme une démission volontaire. Cependant, l'Autriche-Hongrie, plus miséricordieuse que la République, lui accordait au moins une indemnité et lui faisait subir une retenue moins élevée.

Après avoir exposé tous ces torts, Mme. Plaminková demande aux législateurs de cesser enfin ce jeu rusé contre les femmes, employées au service public, de leur accorder avec la liberté le droit au travail et d'assurer leur existence par des mesures légales pour leur permettre d'envisager sans crainte leur propre avenir et celui de leurs familles.

Zenska Rada.

LETTERE DE GENEVE.

Puisqu'il n'a été possible à JUS de publier cette année, comme cela en était la coutume établie, un article rendant compte de l'activité du Bureau temporaire établi par l'Alliance à Genève pendant l'Assemblée plénière de la S.d.N., peut-être mes lectrices me permettront-elles de revenir ici, avant qu'il soit plus tard, sur quelques-uns des aspects du travail féministe accompli durant cette période, et qu'il serait dommage de passer sous silence. Longue séance des membres du Board présents à Genève; réunion simultanée à deux reprises de ces mêmes membres du Board et de ceux de la Commission d'Égalité des conditions du travail pour organiser la Conférence de 1932 sur la législation du travail féminin; réunions du Joint Committee d'abord, puis, sur l'invitation du Conseil International des Femmes, des déléguées des organisations féminines internationales pour étudier les bases possibles d'une coopération en certaines occasions; adoption de "l'Appel aux Hommes d'Etat" en faveur de la paix; visites à des délégations et à des personnalités du Secrétariat de la S.d.N.; entrevue de quelques membres du Board avec M. Albert Thomas, Directeur du B.I.T.; rencontre de membres de notre Commission des Finances pour discuter de la campagne financière à mener; organisation de causeries ayant surtout trait à l'éveil féministe en Orient—tout ceci nos lectrices le savent déjà, et, elles ont pu ainsi se rendre compte de l'activité très-grande qui n'a cessé de régner à notre petit Bureau de la rue de Saussure. Peut-être même cette activité a-t-elle été intensifiée par une cause toute matérielle: la proximité si immédiate de l'Assemblée que nous pouvions, de nos fenêtres, suivre de l'autre côté de la rue les allées et venues de personnages importants, et que l'heure du thé nous amenait invariablement des visites de journalistes, de féministes, de déléguées même, qui profitaient du répit d'une traduction pour venir chercher chez nous un renseignement ou une adresse. Aussi pensons-nous que cela a été une sage mesure du Board de l'Alliance de s'assurer dès maintenant la disposition pour l'année prochaine de ce même Bureau, mais agrandi

d'une pièce pour nous permettre de recevoir nos visiteuses ailleurs qu'au milieu du clapotis de trois machines à écrire manœuvrées à la fois!

Ce qui, toutefois, n'a pas encore été dit, que je sache, aux lectrices de JUS dans les excellents comptes-rendus des travaux de la XIe Assemblée, c'est la satisfaction que nous avons remportée relativement à un sujet qui intéresse directement plusieurs de nos Sociétés: l'élaboration d'un projet de Convention internationale sur l'assistance aux mineurs étrangers. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de montrer à ce propos comment le Comité de Protection de l'Enfance de la S.d.N. se heurte constamment dans ses travaux à la difficulté de se limiter aux questions qui touchent *seulement* à la protection de l'enfance: comment en effet venir en aide à l'enfance illégitime, ou à la petite enfance, sans s'occuper aussi du sort de la mère? Je ne crois pas qu'une seule organisation féminine hésiterait dans la réponse à faire à cette question. Mais telle n'avait pas paru être l'opinion du gouvernement britannique, qui, lors de la session de mai dernier du Conseil de la S.d.N., avait fait donner à notre Comité de protection de l'enfance l'avertissement de berner ses travaux au seul sujet qui donne son nom, et de ne pas s'occuper de questions sociales, comme celle de l'assistance aux étrangers par exemple, qui touche les adultes encore plus que les enfants. Heureusement que cet avertissement n'est pas tombé dans des oreilles sourdes: les organisations féminines de plusieurs pays se sont émues, des démarches officieuses se sont multipliées, si bien que, lorsque cette question vint devant la Ve Commission de l'Assemblée, on n'entendit plus qu'un concert de louanges à l'égard de ce Comité, et que Mrs. Hamilton, déléguée suppléante de Gde-Bretagne, ayant exposé avec autant de loyauté que de netteté que son gouvernement n'entendait nullement mettre des bâtons dans les roues au Comité de protection de l'enfance, un rapport fut adopté à l'unanimité qui donne tout encouragement à celui-ci pour poursuivre ses travaux. Ce rapport fut éloquentement appuyé en séance plénière par le Comte Carton de Wiart (Belgique), qui est, comme on le sait, un féministe convaincu, et qui rendit hommage à l'activité du Comité, à l'œuvre accomplie par Dame Rachel, et enfin à la collaboration des organisations féminines internationales. On peut donc dire que toute cette affaire, en faisant prévaloir le point de vue des femmes, a constitué un succès féministe.

La vie féministe internationale ne chôme guère à Genève. Sitôt reparties les déléguées, journalistes, visiteuses, que nous amène chaque septembre l'Assemblée plénière, des sessions de Commissions et de sous-Commissions de la S.d.N. nous ont valu la présence dans notre ville d'autres personnalités féminines intéressantes. Cela a été d'abord Dr. Alma Sundquist, médecin à Stockholm, et l'un des membres les plus anciens de l'Alliance en Suède. Et Dr. Sundquist vient de donner à la cause des femmes une preuve de grand dévouement, en acceptant de faire partie de la Commission de voyage, chargée de mener en Orient l'enquête sur la traite des femmes, qui continue celle faite précédemment en Europe et en Amérique. La désignation de Dr. Sundquist, comme l'un des trois membres, et comme la seule femme, de cette Commission de voyage est certainement due aux démarches des organisations féminines internationales; mais nous lui devons de notre côté une chaude reconnaissance pour son courage et son abnégation à se charger de cette mission, qui va l'éloigner pendant deux ans de son pays et de son travail professionnel. L'entrevue que la secrétaire de l'Alliance, ainsi que celles du Comité Universel des Unions chrétiennes de jeunes filles ont pu avoir avec elle, comme représentantes du Joint Committee, a été extrêmement intéressante et

utile, en nous permettant de fournir à Dr. Sundquist des adresses de Sociétés féminines dans les pays où elle va mener cette enquête, et où le concours et les renseignements d'organisations féminines privées luttant contre la traite et ses résultats lui seront précieux.

Plus récemment, c'est Mlle. Valentine Dannewig (Norvège), le seul membre féminin de la Commission des Mandats, que nous avons eu également le plaisir de voir à Genève. On sait que Mlle. Dannewig est rapporteur à cette Commission sur tout ce qui a trait à l'éducation dans les pays sous mandat; et l'on peut bien penser l'intérêt de la conversation toute amicale qu'elle a eue avec quelques membres de l'Alliance à Genève, notamment la présidente de notre Société en Palestine, Dr. Welt-Strauss. De plus en plus se marque ainsi l'utilité de l'Alliance pour établir ces contacts et ces relations.

On se souvient que, sur la proposition du gouvernement britannique, la Conférence Internationale du Travail a décidé, lors de sa dernière session (juin 1930), d'ouvrir la procédure de révision éventuelle de la Convention de Washington de 1919 sur le travail de nuit des femmes. Cette révision porterait, selon la décision du Conseil d'administration, sur les points suivants:

(a) la distinction à établir entre ouvrières et surveillantes (en effet, l'un des motifs de proposition de révision était l'exclusion actuelle de tout travail de nuit des femmes occupant des postes supérieurs dans l'industrie (femmes ingénieurs, surveillantes etc.)

(b) la question du commencement et de la fin de l'intervalle de la nuit pendant laquelle le travail des femmes est interdit.

Et Le Bureau International du Travail a adressé aux gouvernements une circulaire, leur demandant de lui faire connaître avant le 15 décembre 1930 leur opinion quant à l'utilité de reviser les dispositions de la Convention de Washington touchant à ces deux points.

Dans leur séance commune tenue à Genève, en septembre, les membres du Board de l'Alliance, et ceux de la Commission d'égalité des conditions du travail ont estimé qu'il était conforme au programme de l'Alliance d'engager nos Sociétés affiliées à veiller à ce que les gouvernements ne répondent pas à cette circulaire du B.I.T. sans avoir au préalable pris l'avis des intéressées, c'est à dire des travailleuses directement touchées par cette partie des dispositions de la Convention. Une lettre a donc été envoyée à toutes nos Sociétés qu'il était encore temps d'atteindre, car le gouvernement suisse par exemple avait déjà pris les devants et consulté *de lui-même* les organisations féminines. Espérons que d'autres feront de même; mais en tout cas il est indispensable que nos Sociétés aient l'œil au guet pour que des mesures concernant certaines catégories de travailleuses ne soient pas recommandées ou déconseillées, sans que celles-ci aient pu donner leur opinion. Nous ne manquerons pas de tenir nos lectrices au courant de la suite de cette affaire. E.G.D.

M. Maria Vérone, Avocate à la Cour d'Appel de Paris, vient d'être officiellement avisée par M. le Docteur Francisco Cosentini, professeur de droit civil américain comparé à l'Université de Mexico qu'elle venait d'être élu membre correspondant de l'Institut américain de droit et de législation comparé à Mexico.

Onze femmes ont été élues aux élections parlementaires d'Autriche. Ce sont: Adelheid Popp, Emmy Freundlich, Anna Boschek, Gabriele Proft, Amalia Seidel, Marie Tusch, Ferdinand Flossmann, Marie Schneider et Emma Kapral, Maria Hautmann et Marie Kostler.

COMMISSION DU SUFFRAGE ET DES ELECTIONS.

Sous-Commission du Suffrage.

REponses AU QUESTIONNAIRE.

IV. BELGIQUE.

- I. Les femmes sont électrices et éligibles aux Conseils communaux. Elles sont éligibles à la Province, à la Chambre et au Sénat. Elles ne sont électrices ni à la Province, ni à la Chambre ni au Sénat. Néanmoins l'électorat a été conféré, à titre exceptionnel d'hommage national:
- (1) aux femmes emprisonnées durant la guerre pour motif d'ordre patriotique;
 - (2) aux veuves (non-remariées) de militaires ou civils tués à l'ennemi;
 - (3) aux mères de militaires ou de civils tués à l'ennemi—à condition toutefois qu'elles soient veuves.

- II. Les femmes ont déjà pris part à deux élections communales, en 1921 et 1926. Leur participation n'a aucunement augmenté la proportion des bulletins nuls. Le vote étant obligatoire le nombre des abstentions non-justifiées par absence, maladies ou infirmités est infime.

Les femmes n'ont pas créé de parti distinct. Elles ont voté pour les divers partis existents, sans altérer l'équilibre de ces partis entre eux.

En 1921, ont été élues: 181 conseillères communales 5 conseillères provinciales;

13 conseillères communales ont été choisies comme échevins; la première en date est la résidente de la Fédération pour le Suffrage des Femmes, Mme. Jane Brigode. Six conseillères ont été nommées bourgmestres.

Une femme est entrée au Sénat comme sénatrice cooptée.

Aux élections législatives de 1925, une femme a été élue député de Liège.

Aux élections communales de 1926 un certain nombre de conseillères n'ont pas demandé le renouvellement de leur mandat. Nous ne possédons pas de renseignements à leur chiffre actuel.

- III. Tous les députés sont élus.

Le Sénat se compose

- (1) de membres élus directement par les électeurs;
- (2) de membres élus par les Conseils Provinciaux;
- (3) de quelques membres désignés par cooptation.

Les élections se font au scrutin de liste avec répartition proportionnelle entre les diverses listes.

Aux élections législatives l'électeur peut:

- (1) voter en tête de liste, ce qui bénéficie à tous les noms portés sur la liste et selon l'ordre ou ils sont classés;
- (2) émettre un vote de préférence pour un candidat quelconque de la liste, ces qui bénéficie également à toute la liste mais en modifie l'ordre de classement.

Tout bulletin émettant des préférences pour deux ou plusieurs candidates est nul.

Aux élections communales, au contraire, l'électeur peut *panacher*, c'est-à-dire émettre autant de préférences qu'il y a candidats à élire, et il peut désigner ainsi les candidats qui lui paraissent les meilleurs dans les différentes listes.

Déclaration de candidature:

Pour les élections législatives, les déclarations de candidatures doivent être envoyées 15 jours au moins avant le scrutin, au Bureau principal, présidé par le Président du Tribunal de première instance de l'arrondissement. Les candidatures doivent être présentées par un certain nombre d'électeurs.

Pour les élections communales, les déclarations de candidature doivent être adressées 15 jours au moins avant le scrutin, au président du bureau principal qui sera suivant les cas, le Président du Tribunal de première instance de l'arrondissement, et, à son défaut le juge de Paix. Les déclarations de candidatures porteront un nombre de signatures variant avec l'importance de la localité.

Conditions d'éligibilité:

Pour être éligible à la Chambre, il faut être Belge de naissance ou avoir obtenu la grande naturalisation; jouir des droits civils et politiques; avoir atteint l'âge de 25 ans; avoir son domicile en Belgique.

Pour être éligible au Sénat, il faut être Belge de naissance ou avoir reçu la grande naturalisation; jouir des droits civils et politiques; être domicilié en Belgique; être au moins âgé de 40 ans. Sont électeurs et éligibles aux conseils communaux, ceux qui sans distinction de sexe possédant la qualité de Belge ou ayant obtenu la naturalisation ont atteint l'âge de 21 ans et sont domiciliés dans la Commune depuis 6 mois au moins. Les filles ou femmes qui se livrent à la prostitution sont privées de leurs droits politiques.

- IV. Les femmes font partie des Commissions d'enseignement, d'assistance et d'hygiène. Elles n'y sont pas nombreuses. Elles sont désignées par les organismes officiels.

ERRATA.

Le dernier numéro de JUS contient malheureusement plusieurs erreurs d'imprimerie, en particulier dans l'article sur "La Mortalité des Femmes en couches."

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Note de la Traductrice.

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