

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

The Monthly Organ of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Our readers will remember that in the Assembly Resolution of 1935 on this matter, the women's international organisations were asked to continue study of the question, and Memoranda from these bodies have been printed and circulated to the delegations to the number of eight according to the documents received from the League.

The Alliance Memorandum has been distributed by us to the Presidents of all our affiliated societies, and copies can be sent to anyone who is interested. The general conclusions are accompanied by an Appendix giving brief details of the civil and political status of women in a considerable number of countries.

Of the other Memoranda, we would call special attention to that prepared by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance which deals with the status of women of 'Native Races' and which is of particular interest.

The result of the campaign of the Women's organisations in Geneva in regard to the Status of Women has achieved a substantial measure of success. The concrete proposals accepted unanimously by the First Committee show a great advance on previous vague declarations, and the spirit in which the discussions were conducted has been remarkably different from that of 1933 and 1935.

Twenty-three Governments took part in the discussion and the Sub-Committee whose duty it was to collate the proposals worked seriously for many hours. The Chairman's summing up, in which he congratulated the members on work well done, contained two significant phrases: "The question of Status had been put on a practical basis." "The proposed enquiries would do much to secure the removal of inequalities in the status of women."

At the time of going to press, we do not know what budget for this enquiry will emerge from the Fourth Commission. In view of the fact that expenses are being cut all round, we cannot delude ourselves into hoping that this first budget will be satisfactory.

There is no doubt that the loyal team work of eight women's organisations was largely instrumental in achieving this measure of success.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION

adopted by the First Committee for Presentation to the Assembly.

- The Assembly,
1. Having regard to the information concerning the question of the legal status of women, more particularly the political and civil status, which has been collected by the Secretary-General in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly adopted on September 27th, 1935;
 2. In view of the fact that in general the trend is for law to develop in the direction of equality between the sexes;
 3. Considering it to be desirable that a comprehensive study should be prepared and published giving full information on the legal status accorded to women in the various countries of the world by the provisions of national law and the application of these provisions;
 4. Considering that by its resolution of September 27th, 1935, the Assembly recognised "that the question of conditions of employment, whether of men or women, is a matter which properly falls within the sphere of the International Labour Organisation"; and expressed the hope that that Organisation "will, in accordance with its normal procedure undertake an examination of those aspects of the problem within its competence, namely, the question of equality under labour legislation, and that it will, in the first place, examine the question of legislation which effects discriminations, some of which may be detrimental to women's right to work";
 5. Considering that the International Labour Organisation is engaged in the study contemplated by the Assembly's resolution and that the comprehensive study now in view should not cover matters which have been recognised to fall within the scope of the International Labour Organisation.
 6. Considering furthermore that the comprehensive study should also not extend to questions of the nationality of women, in regard to which the Assembly maintains the decisions which it has already taken;
 7. Considering it desirable that the study of the other elements of the question should be entrusted to the competent scientific institutions, which should be

given instructions enabling them to co-ordinate their work;

8. Seeing that for private law the League of Nations possesses in the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law an organ well qualified to carry out a study of comparative legislation; and that for other aspects of the question it would be desirable to have recourse to competent scientific institutions:

9. Considering that a small committee of experts, comprising members of both sexes, should be established for the purpose of determining the exact scope of the contemplated comprehensive study and distributing the work among the various scientific institutions, should, so far as necessary, maintain contact with the institutions during the progress of the study, and finally should examine and settle the final form and content of the documents, with a view to the establishment of a synthetic survey, which should accompany the documents when they are published by the League;

10. Considering that this committee should have power to consult women's international organisations and invite their co-operation in any form which it thinks advisable;

11. Asks the Council to appoint a committee of experts of both sexes for the purpose above-mentioned and

Expresses the hope that the Committee will receive the co-operation necessary for the successful execution of the present resolution.

THE ALLIANCE AT GENEVA.

The great question of the status of Women and the Assembly was this year so pressing, that it is difficult to separate from it the other important work under consideration by the Alliance Board. It is hoped that "last minute" news of what has happened at the Assembly will be given elsewhere in this issue, and here we will only briefly indicate the other questions dealt with.

The Board accepted with great regret the resignation of Miss Winnifred Kydd of Canada, who has found it impossible for her in view of her own absorbing professional work, and the distance of her country from Europe where inevitably most of our meetings are held to give us that active co-operation which she felt incumbent on her. We shall hope in our next issue to be able to tell our readers the name of the new member who will fill her place.

Note was taken of the unanimous vote of the auxiliaries to postpone the next Alliance Congress from 1938 to 1939, in view of the fact that the International Council of Women will be holding its Jubilee in the former year. We are hoping to be able to count upon going to Copenhagen in 1939 and future work is being based on that happy prospect, but it is of course too early to begin to make detailed plans.

A question raised at the last meeting in Zurich, namely the formation of a Provisional Youth Sub-Committee within the Alliance, took a slightly more definite shape. Mlle. Ginsberg consented to accept the Chair of this provisional committee, with a nucleus of young members already interested in the proposal, and all our societies will shortly receive a letter on the matter. We hope that by the time of the Copenhagen Congress the Committee will have progressed far enough to be able to ensure some form of very active co-operation both in the Congress and in the regular work of the Alliance.

Finance is an eternal question, and the postponement of the Congress means that the Alliance must carry on its regular work for an additional year before being able to take stock of its position in consultation with the auxiliaries. That has meant a new budget and though the situation is not very bright, the magnificent help given to us by Mlle. Ginsberg's initiative in the issue of the Congress Stamps by the Turkish Government, makes

it possible to plan as far ahead as the summer of 1939.

The various International Standing Committees reported on their proposed future work, which will of course be the subject of individual communications. A small sub-committee to consider the organisation of Alliance meetings, whether the Congress, special Conferences or sittings of the Board, had a very interesting session which it is hoped will result in increased efficiency and smoothness of working.

Among other matters of administration and policy, the Board discussed the proposed issue of a real History of our movement as to which we shall hope to give full details before long.

As is always the case at this time in Geneva, there were many social occasions to be enjoyed. The Alliance Board itself gave a most successful reception in the pleasant rooms of the Lyceum Club, where many of the women delegates to the Assembly were present with a great host of other friends, and one of the chief men delegates, namely M. Osusky of Czechoslovakia. The Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee had a big luncheon, and there were many other receptions and smaller lunches and dinners. The really disastrous weather seemed to have no effect on these gatherings, beyond causing some congestion in the way of umbrellas mackintoshes, and gum-boots!

Women in Delegations to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

Australia: Mrs. F. M. Muscio, M.A., Substitute.
China: Miss Hilda Yen, Expert.
Czechoslovakia: Mlle. Hélène Bernadova, Expert.
Denmark: Miss Henni Forchhammer, Substitute.
Finland: Mrs. A. Mäkinen-Ollinen, Substitute.
France: Mme. Malaterre-Sellier, Expert.
Great Britain: Miss Irene M. B. Ward, M.P., Substitute.
Hungary: Countess Apponyi, Delegate.
Lithuania: Mme. Sofija Ciurlionis, Substitute.
Mexico: Mlle. Palma Guillen (Minister at Copenhagen), Delegate.
Netherlands: Mrs. C. A. Kluyver, Substitute.
Norway: Miss J. Reutz, Substitute.
Poland: Mme. Wanda Woytowicz-Grabinska, Substitute.
Roumania: Mlle. Hélène Vacarescu, Substitute.
Sweden: Miss Hesselgren, M.P., Substitute.
Switzerland: Mlle. Suzanne Ferrière, Expert.
U.S.S.R.: Mme. Alexandra Kollontay (Minister at Stockholm), Substitute.



IN MEMORIAM.

Chrystal Macmillan.

We have to announce with the deepest regret the death of Miss Chrystal Macmillan in the nursing home in Edinburgh to which she had been moved after her operation. The women's movement, and especially the international movement, has suffered a very great loss, for she was among its ablest and most single-minded leaders. Her work for the Alliance extended

over many years, from the Congress in London in 1909 which she attended as a fraternal delegate from the International Council of Women, to her death when she was still acting as its Rapporteur on the question of Women's Nationality.

Miss Macmillan came to the Alliance Congress in Stockholm in 1911 as the personal proxy for Mrs. Fawcett, then a member of the Board. In Budapest in 1913 she was elected to the Board herself as Recording Secretary, and in Geneva, 1920, as Vice-President. At the Rome Congress in 1923, she resigned from the Board, but was present both at Paris, 1926, as a member of the British Delegation, and Rome, 1929, as Chairman of the Alliance Nationality Committee, an office she had held since the formation of the Committee in 1920.

During the difficult years of the War, when international meetings were not possible, Miss Macmillan was Chairman of the Headquarters Committee of the Alliance which met in London and which, necessarily, administered most of the business of the Alliance during that time. It was part of her very valuable work to help to organise help and relief to refugees and foreign girls and women of "enemy" nationality left stranded in London. On the day after the fall of Antwerp, she organised the first dispatch of food sent from England to Belgian refugees in Holland.

Chrystal Macmillan was the daughter of John Macmillan and Jessie Chrystal Finlayson, of Edinburgh, and as educated at St. Leonard's School, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh University, where she graduated M.A. and B.Sc. with first class honours in mathematics and natural philosophy. She studied subsequently at Berlin University. She was the first woman to address the House of Lords when she pleaded the Scottish women's claim to the Parliamentary vote. She was a very active member of the National Union of Woman Suffrage Societies, and a close colleague of Mrs. Fawcett, with whom she worked for very many years. She continued to be a member when the society changed its name to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship until she resigned on a difference of policy on equality questions. She was one of the founders, both of the Open Door Council and of the Open Door International, of which she was president from its inception in 1929 until her death. She had also served on the Executives of the National Council of Women and of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

Miss Macmillan was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1924, and her legal knowledge was invaluable for her work in connection with Women's Nationality. As Chairman of the Alliance Nationality Committee, she organised and presided over the Joint Women's International Demonstration at The Hague in 1930 at the time of the Codification Conference, to which she led deputations. She was also Chairman of the Nationality of Married Women Pass the Bill Committee which for some years has been trying to get the British Parliament to adopt a measure giving married women independent nationality rights. She also represented the Alliance on the Consultative Committee on Nationality which the League of Nations invited the international women's organisations to form for study of this question.

Nor can we fail to mention that in 1915 she was the initiator of The Hague International Women's Congress for Peace, and in 1919 acted as Secretary of the similar Congress in Zurich, from which she went as a delegate to the Paris Peace Conference.

Her activities in the woman's movement were so varied, that it might almost be said that she took part in every effort made to improve women's status, and there can hardly be a woman's society which has not at some time or other had the benefit of her advice and help, which was also given freely to individuals, especially in

connection with the heart-rending personal problems with which so many women married to men of other nationalities are faced.

Chrystal Macmillan's great capacities, learning and experience were throughout her life given to women, without thought of self or of personal reputation. Her very single-mindedness, her undeviating adherence to principle, her inability to understand mere compromise were sometimes misunderstood, and occasionally led her colleagues to fail to recognise her very real desire to see the other point of view. But in the end everyone who had the privilege of working with her learnt to place their entire confidence in her. She was incapable of the slightest tinge of intellectual dishonesty: loyalty and a perfect straightforwardness were part of the very fabric of her being, and she could not fail to inspire respect and a deep affection in every fellow-worker, which were increased by the vein of almost child-like simplicity which mingled with her great gifts and shrewdness.

OBITUARY.

The death of ex-President Masaryk has brought a sense of loss to every one who cared for the noble ideals of democracy which he represented. Not only for his own country did he strive for the triumph of those ideals, which for him always and necessarily included the equality of women with their men fellow citizens. He was one of the really great men of the present century, a noble and wise statesman, and in expressing our profound sympathy with the people and especially with the women of Czechoslovakia, we recognise how much we also have lost.

PEACE.

R.U.P.—I.P.C. At the recent meeting of the General Council in Geneva, a Resolution was adopted for submission to the League of Nations asking that the disappearance of Ethiopia as an independent nation should not be recognised; that all measures be taken under the Covenant to defend the people and lawful Government of Spain against the deplorable aggression by foreign powers of which they are the victims; to reject the inadmissible claim of certain governments to intervene in foreign countries and interfere with the right of their peoples to choose their form of government and social organisation; to put into action and develop the co-operative action against piracy initiated at Nyon; to respond to the request of the Chinese Government by addressing to Japan a final appeal to conform with the provisions of the Covenant, and to assist China financially or otherwise in her resistance to the aggressor and take such steps as are necessary to set in motion the collective action which is indispensable for ending the aggression.

On September 16th the President of the League Assembly, in the presence of members of many delegations, received representatives of the I.P.C., the International Federation of League of Nations Societies and the World Youth Congress Movement. Vigorous speeches calling for action in defence of collective security were made by Senator Rolin for the Federation, by Lord Allen of Hurtwood and Pastor Jezequel for the I.P.C., M. Kasperek of the World Youth Movement and Dr. Atkinson representing the American League of Nations Association.

The President of the Assembly, the Aga Khan, in thanking the speakers said that the delegates were aware of the valuable work being done by the organisations represented.

In the Press Report we do not see that he felt able to make any promise of action on the lines desired!

Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee calls attention to some interesting publications now available at special prices and also to its service of illustrated lectures. The documents are (1) a 52 page booklet in a durable binding giving information about the work of the Committee from 1931 to 1936, and including many special articles by experts, etc. This is published in both French and English and costs 1/6 or 1.50 Swiss frs. per copy. (2) Surveys and Reports of the International Consultative Group, 47 pages including studies on raw materials, reform of the League, etc., etc., at the same price and also in either French or English.

The lectures are on three points: Abolish the Menace of Air Warfare; The Peace Machine, and The Shrinking World. The text is in either French or English and Films of standard size can be obtained at a low cost.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has sent us a copy of the Resolutions adopted at their Conference in Luhacovice which cover protests against the presence of foreign troops in Spain; the application of the League Covenant to the Sino-Japanese conflict; a demand for the non-recognition of the Italian conquest of Ethiopia; an appeal for the right of asylum of political refugees and the liberation of political prisoners, etc.

GERMANY.

This year's Party Rally was, as far as women were concerned, remarkable for several reasons. For the first time formations of female "Arbeitsdienst" (Public Service, chiefly for agriculture) appeared, clad in their new green uniforms and brown hats (very similar to the Girl Guides). Adolf Hitler himself inspected their parade. They had a camp of their own, with tents and sacks of straw, which had been put up by the male A.D. From all we hear the Women's A.D. is to be organised shortly as a compulsory institution, thus meeting the wishes of the German women.

Further the "Frauenwerk" (the central women's organisation under the leadership of Frau Scholz-Klink) had arranged an exhibition demonstrating the activity of German women in public life and women's work during the war. Besides statistics, etc., there were pictures of the former leaders of the Women's Movement, e.g.; Louise Otto-Peters, Helène Lange, pioneers in social work, Henrietta Schrader, Margarete Behm, M.P., Dr. Frieda Duensing, leaders in professional enterprises, and Ida von Kortzfleisch. Another section showed works of art. In accordance with the subjects dealt with by the Rally, the work of women's organisations among Germans abroad was demonstrated, and as usual the training for housekeeping and motherhood.

A big meeting, which Herr Hitler attended, took place as usual.

An interesting fact without any direct connection with the Rally is that a new "Fachschaft" (organisation) has been created to promote the university study of women; it comprises not only academic women and students, but all interested in the question. The idea is to create clubs, hostels, scholarships, to provide for holiday recreation, etc. We hope that it will also make a stand for a reasonable handling of school reform.

D.v.V.

INDIA.

We have had further information as to offices given to women in the new Indian Legislatures. Mrs. L. V. Pandit is Minister of Public Health in the United Provinces; Mrs. Kale, Deputy Speaker in the Central Provinces Assembly; Mrs. Lakshmi Patthi, Deputy Speaker in the Madras Assembly. In our last issue we stated that Mrs. Hansa Mehta was to be Chief Whip for the Congress Party in Bombay, but it is now stated that she is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of

Health. Also Mrs. Rahman is Deputy Speaker of the Assembly in Assam, whereas our previous information stated that it was of the Council.

This is a very fair beginning and we may hope that as women members gain parliamentary experience, they will be given more and even more responsible office.

EGYPT.

The last number of *L'Egyptienne* gives the news that its Editor Mlle. Céza Nabaraouy recently married a well-known young sculptor, M. Moustafa Naguib. Her name now appears therefore as Mme. Céza Nabaraouy-Naguib, from which we are glad to see that she will continue her splendid work as editor of this valuable monthly paper. We offer her our very best wishes for a very happy married life, and we certainly offer our congratulations to her husband who has won such a charming and able young wife. All visitors to Alliance Congresses will certainly remember this "spiritual daughter" and companion of our Board Member, Mme. Hoda Charaoui Pacha.

SWEDEN.

Our Senior affiliated Society in Sweden, the Frederika Bremer Forbund, has recently elected a new President in the person of Dr. Hanna Rydh Munck af Rosenschöld, a well-known archaeologist and wife of the Governor of one of the Northern Provinces of Sweden. We had hoped to have had the pleasure of making Dr. Rydh's acquaintance in Geneva, but unfortunately she was prevented from coming at the last moment.

The Secretary of the second society, the Medborgarforbund, tells us that the women's societies in Sweden joined together to erect a tombstone to the memory of Ingeborg Walin. The monument of grey granite bears the inscription: "To the Philanthropist, the Pioneer in Education and Promotor of the Women's Movement, this monument is erected by grateful pupils, colleagues, and friends." Wreaths of flowers were laid on it when it was unveiled in the family vault at Leksand, some of her favourite songs were sung, and Dr. Lydia Wahlström spoke to recall the pioneer work done by Miss Walin, especially in the Swedish feminist movement.

REVIEW.

THE MODERN LINE OF ATTACK ON WOMEN'S CIVIL RIGHTS: AN EXAMINATION OF CONTEMPORARY THINKING.
The Open Door International, 4 Idlesworth House, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1. Price 6d.

This pamphlet of twelve long pages deals with various points affecting working women from the recent International Labour Conference Resolution proposed by Miss Grace Abbot, U.S.A. Delegate, and adopted last June, back to the British White Paper issued in December 1929 under the heading "The Study of Factors which have operated in the Past and those which are operating now to determine the distribution of women in Industry." In between these dates come the question of the Montevideo Equal Rights Treaty and discussion thereon in the League of Nations, the "Women's Charter" issued by some women's organisations in the United States, and a Study by the United States Women's Labour Bureau on the effects of labour legislation on the employment opportunities of women.

The value of the pamphlet lies in its exposition of the dangers inherent in recent developments regarding the position of the working woman not only to her actual economic position but also to something even more fundamental, her civil status. This is brought out by the following quotation from the Labour Conference Resolution: "It is for the best interests of society that in addition to full political and civil rights and full opportunity for education, women should have full opportunity to work." That sounds all right at first

hearing perhaps, but as the pamphlet points out the right to enter a contract of employment is a civil right, and the suggestion that it is possible to possess full civil rights without full opportunity to work implies that for a woman the possession of full civil rights does not, as is the case for other possessors of such rights, involve the full right to work.

The examination of the two special studies, British and American, of the distribution of women in industry, reveals a rather different kind of confusion of thought, the confusion between half truths, generalisation, and ignoring of a great many inconvenient facts. We would not imply that this is a conscious and deliberate process, but rather that it is apt to be the tendency when people make a study of conditions for which they or their department is to a large extent responsible, they start with preconceived views which they are rather naturally concerned to support. It makes depressing reading and none the less so because both these documents are now some eight or nine years old and any optimism then displayed has not been conspicuously justified in the interval.

We will quote in full the concluding sentence: "The damage done during nearly a century of such legislation (i.e. legislation applied to women only) in some countries, will be still further extended if it becomes generally accepted that such legislation not only does not lessen women's opportunities of employment but is not even an infringement of their civil rights. For this will mean that, for the first time, it is laid down that equality of rights between a man and a woman is something different from equality of rights between a man and a man, and that the attainment of full human rights is something of which a woman is incapable."

There is a short Appendix dealing with the safeguarding of motherhood, which points out that this should have nothing to do with a woman as a worker, but should apply to all women at the moment of childbirth who need help and should be recognised as a benefit for the family since both father and mother are responsible for the birth of the child.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Great Britain. In the recent by-election in Glasgow, Mrs. G. D. Hardie, the Labour candidate, was elected by a majority of nearly 6,000 votes, and thus became the eleventh woman Member of the House of Commons.

A young woman of 29, Miss Ragless, of Bognor Regis, is the first woman according to the Press, to be granted a Board of Trade Master's Certificate, which will enable her to take out 56 passengers in her motor boat. She has for several years held the local Council's permit to take out passengers to the number of 12.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London, entirely staffed by women, is the pioneer in dress reform for its nurses. In place of the old uniform in which there were six separate items involving 21 fastenings, the nurses will have a practical one-piece dress with open neck and short sleeves, and just six rubber buttons. We do not know whether nurses in other countries have suffered as much as those in Britain from the tyranny of a wholly out-of-date dress, but the present reform is a real measure of emancipation for a very hard-worked profession, and we hope the example will be quickly followed by the larger hospitals.

Hungary. Rosika Schwimmer celebrated her sixtieth birthday on September 11th, when she was given a special World Peace Prize Award, given by an international committee composed of hundreds of men and women all over the world. Our readers will hardly need to be reminded that Miss Schwimmer was a great suffrage pioneer in Hungary,

where under the brief Karolyi administration she was appointed Minister to Switzerland. She never actually took up the post but she must be the first woman ever to be appointed to such a high diplomatic post. Her activities in the peace movement are universally known.

South Africa. Mrs. Ballinger has been returned to the Union House of Assembly in the first purely native election ever held in South Africa, and is therefore the third woman member of the Union Parliament.

Turkey. Dr. Faize, who has been appointed Inspector in Chief in the Ministry of National Economy, was the first woman doctor of political and economic science at the University of Istanbul.

LITHUANIA.

In the Bulletin of the Abolitionist Federation the text of a new law on Venereal Disease and of amendments to the Penal Code is given. There is much that is good and perhaps some things which are not so good in these new laws.

To the good is the provision of free treatment by the State and the Municipality and the prohibition of treatment by unqualified persons. What is in our view not so good is the element of compulsion and the establishment of the offence of contagion. Such enactments must surely lessen the value of free treatment because they tend to make people conceal their condition for fear of coming into contact with the law. There is also a clause by which anyone being treated by a doctor must disclose the name of the person by whom he or she supposes he was infected. That is obviously to create grave risks of blackmail and false accusations actuated by spite.

In the Penal Code, there are heavy penalties against persons trading in vice, especially if they make profits from the prostitution of members of their family or those under their guardianship. There is a separate Article dealing with penalties for keeping a maison de tolérance or similar establishment.

A CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION.

At this time of year, when "women's news" tends to be scarce, the Editor has been faced with a certain difficulty in filling her columns. Inspiration was sought in the pages of the past, and it so happened that in studying the issue of October, 1917—just twenty years ago—it was revealed that the question of general interest then discussed was that of Birth Control. And that coincided with the receipt of the News Letter from the Birth Control International Information Centre, and seemed to resolve the doubt felt as to whether or not we could touch upon this question, certainly of interest to women, but on which the Alliance has not and cannot take position because of a fundamental principle held by our Catholic members.

Nor do we now propose to discuss the rights and wrongs of birth control, but there are two matters which do and must call for the consideration of women citizens. One is the very big question of population as an economic and even a political question. The other is the actual fact of the immense damage done by illegal and unprofessional abortion. The first is beyond our scope, though we should indeed welcome an article on the question from one qualified to discuss it.

But the second is a matter which ought to be faced by women. It is being faced by those who advocate birth-control on the lines that if proper information and facilities for birth-control—not simply the avoidance of motherhood—were widely available, the cause of this terrible practice would be removed, or shall we say largely removed. That is rather a big claim to make, because whatever facilities may be available, the

emphasis must always be on "control," and in the end that means "self-control" in one form or another. But for those who cannot agree to any artificial methods and therefore presumably limit control to abstinence, how do they propose to face up to the very real horrors and dangers of abortion? The British Medical Association has reported that "the high degree in which abortion in this country is contributing to the maternal death-rate is recognised as constituting a public health problem of great gravity." And we know that it is not only actual mortality but a tragic amount of permanent ill-health that is in question.

And to these medical views, we would add a human one. An uncounted number of women look forward to the possibility of bearing a child not with hope and joy, but with fear. Yet another of the fears which are making our present-day world a place of gloom and misery. And most surely the greater number of those women are not the "gay butterflies" who fear to lose a few months of pleasure and dread the claims and responsibilities of motherhood. They are the working women, whose natural desire for motherhood is unimpaired, but who learn to dread, and with good reason, the too-frequent pregnancy, the accumulating brood of small children for whom they have neither house-room nor means of proper subsistence, the weariness of economic anxiety on top of lowered vitality, and the being cut off from that reasonable mead of leisure and recreation which our generation so willingly recognises as a necessity in modern conditions.

K.B.

ESTHONIA.

In August the Esthonian National Assembly adopted the new constitution which will come into force on January 1st, 1938, when elections are to take place. This means the end of the semi-dictatorship which has been in force for nearly four years and is a combination of a democratic and corporative system. Thus the Lower House will be elected by simple majority, the age for electors being raised to 24 years. We presume that the word "elector" covers both men and women. The Upper House, however, will consist of 40 members, ten of whom will simply be nominated by the President of the State, the other thirty being elected by various Corporative Chambers, one of which we know will be a Chamber of Housekeeping for women. We do not know whether women will also be represented in this Upper House as members of the other Chambers, but we hope that this may be so although obviously there are dangers in grouping women apart. The present President, M. Paets, has assumed the title of "Guardian of the State" which he will keep until a new presidential election is held.

It is interesting to note this return to a moderately democratic régime, with its admixture of another system, and we hope that under it the women of Esthonia will be able to take up again their active public work and return to Parliament, where several of them sat under the full democratic system which was adopted in the beginnings of the Republic in 1920.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

STATUT DE LA FEMME.

Comme nous l'avons annoncé dans notre dernier Bulletin, cette question, d'une importance spéciale pour les Femmes a été examinée à Genève par un groupe des Organisations internationales des femmes.

L'organisatrice, Melle Manassevitch, dans ses conversations avec les diverses délégations employa une formule demandant que l'Assemblée convoquât une Conférence diplomatique internationale pour discuter

et adopter une Convention internationale qui donnerait complète égalité de statut aux femmes. Comme nous l'escomptions, la question fut renvoyée par l'Assemblée à la Première Commission (Juridique) dont Mr. Politis (Grèce) est président.

A la première séance de la Commission, Miss Hesselgren fut nommée Rapporteur.

Le texte du rapport et de la résolution adoptés par la Ière Commission nous est arrivé seulement en anglais, et trop tard pour le faire traduire. Prière voir l'article dans la section anglaise.

GENEVE.

A la réunion du Conseil général du Rassemblement Universel pour la Paix un vœu fut adopté pour le soumettre à la Société des Nations, à savoir: Que la disparition de l'Ethiopie comme état indépendant ne saurait être consacrée; Que le gouvernement légal de l'Espagne dans sa lutte contre une agression étrangère devrait avoir le protection du Covenant; Que l'intervention étrangère dans le gouvernement et l'organisation sociale d'autres pays ne saurait être tolérée; Que l'initiative prise à Nyon soit appliquée à combattre la piraterie en Méditerranée; que le Gouvernement de la Chine se voie accorder une assistance morale et financière dans sa lutte contre l'invasisseur japonais, et qu'une exhortation ultimo soit adressée à ce dernier.

Le 16 Septembre le Président de l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations, en présence de plusieurs délégations, reçut des représentants du Rassemblement Universel pour la Paix, de la Fédération internationale des Sociétés des Nations et du Congrès de la Jeunesse.

L'Aga Khan, président de l'Assemblée, remercia les représentants, mais ne semble avoir pu faire aucune promesse.

NECROLOGIE.

La mort du Président Masaryk nous fait sentir douloureusement quelle perte pour les idées démocratiques est celle du chef et du patriote que la Tchécoslovaquie acclame comme fondateur.

Dr. Masaryk était un féministe aussi, et toujours dans sa pensée, la femme avait sa part égale dans la conquête des droits civiques et des droits humains.

MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

C'est avec douleur que nous notons ici la mort toute récente de Miss Chrystal Macmillan.

Écossaise d'origine elle fit de brillantes études de mathématiques et de philosophie aux Universités d'Edimbourg et de Berlin — et entra au Barreau de Londres plus tard en 1924. Dans l'intervalle elle avait combattu pour le Suffrage aux côtés de Mrs. Fawcett; en 1908, elle fut la première femme à faire un discours à la Chambre des Lords pour les exhorter à donner aux universitaires écossaises la Franchise Parlementaire. Pendant la Guerre, après la chute d'Anvers elle organisa le ravitaillement des réfugiés belges en Hollande.

Miss Macmillan coopéra avec notre Alliance pendant de longues années. Dès 1909 elle représentait le Conseil International des Femmes comme déléguée Fraternelle à notre Congrès de Londres, à Stockholm en 1911 elle représentait Mrs. Fawcett; à Budapest en 1913 elle était élue au Bureau; à Genève en 1920 elle était réélue comme Vice-Présidente. Elle fut à Rome, à Paris, à Berlin; mais plus récemment son nom restera associé à la fameuse création du Conseil de la Porte Ouverte, et de l'Emancipation économique de la Femme qui travailla.

Dans notre Alliance, elle s'intéressait particulièrement à la question de Nationalité et elle présida notre Commission de Nationalité de 1920 jusqu'à sa mort.

BULGARIE.

Madame Ivanova, membre du Comité Exécutif de l'Alliance, nous a donné l'intéressant article qui suit sur l'histoire du mouvement féministe dans son pays.

L'Union des Femmes Bulgares existe depuis 1901; elle a été fondée par les clubs féminins qui existaient dès 1857, c'est-à-dire avant même la libération de la Bulgarie du joug turc. Ces clubs étaient alors au service des luttes nationalistes pour la libération spirituelle et politique du peuple bulgare. Après la libération ils travaillèrent au service de la culture, de l'éducation et de la bienfaisance; faisaient des conférences, organisaient des écoles professionnelles pour jeunes filles (dont il y a encore 36 dans notre pays), des ophélinats, des asiles, des maisons d'enfants trouvés, etc. etc.

A cette époque la femme bulgare a joui de ses pleins droits. Elle fut reconnue en tant qu'individu, sans perdre ses droits lorsqu'elle se maria. Elle a eu, même avant la libération, la même instruction que l'homme, et elle a occupé des postes responsables dans les fonctions d'état. Elle a pu conclure un contrat de travail sans l'autorisation de son époux; elle a hérité, en tant que fille, la même part de l'héritage comme son frère des biens de ses parents, et en tant qu'épouse et mère, la même part que son mari et ses enfants. Elle pouvait tout simplement quitter son époux si elle avait à se plaindre de lui. Elle avait droit à ses propres biens et le mari n'a aucun droit sur eux. En général, et malgré les mauvaises conditions de vie des balkans, la femme bulgare n'a pas perdu son individualité.

Tous les clubs, qui représentaient l'activité de la femme, se sont dans la suite réunis pour mener ensemble la lutte pour les droits et les intérêts de la femme, en formant l'Union des Femmes Bulgares, qui reste en marge des partis et des classes.

Malheureusement, après la libération, l'Etat a puisé ses lois dans la législation des autres pays et plusieurs barrières se sont levées contre la femme.

Ainsi, elle ne peut plus travailler librement, et ses droits d'héritière, de mère et de tutrice sont lésés. Elle peut devenir commerçant si elle a reçu l'autorisation de son époux. Elle peut conclure un contrat de travail sans l'autorisation du mari, mais si ce dernier le veut, ce contrat peut être annulé.

Son droit à la même instruction est sauvegardé, mais il y a des tendances à le limiter par le petit nombre des écoles de filles, et le nombre restreint de femmes sont admises à l'Université. Toutes les fonctions ne sont pas permises à la femme, par exemple, elle peut suivre un cours juridique, mais elle ne peut pas être avocat. Son droit sur les biens est encore sauvegardé, mais la loi ne lui assure pas pleine sécurité. Nous n'avons que le mariage religieux sans le mariage civil.

Nous n'avons pas le droit de vote, mais le 18 Janvier 1937, nous avons reçu le droit de vote communal ou municipale, seulement pour les femmes mariées et légalement mères. On nous a promis de supprimer ces restrictions et de permettre la femme d'être élue et de voter pour le parlement.

En dépit de cela, la femme bulgare grandit avec la conception de sa liberté en tant qu'individu et avec la connaissance de son devoir social. Par son travail social, la femme s'est imposée à la société en gagnant sa confiance. L'Union des Femmes est devenue une grande organisation, honorée de tous, sauf quelques ennemis du droit de la femme. Elle est représentée dans diverses commissions, surtout celles qui s'occupent de l'éducation et du secours public. Elle travaille avec les grandes organisations culturelles, non seulement pour les questions concernant la femme mais aussi pour les questions d'ordre national.

Dès ses débuts, l'Union a travaillé pour la Paix. Elle est pour la S.d.N., mais elle pense que la S.d.N. doit être améliorée pour devenir plus puissante afin de pouvoir apporter l'équité et la sécurité dans la paix.

L'Union des Femmes Bulgares compte aujourd'hui 126 clubs féminins répartis dans les villes et les villages et représente plus de 15,000 femmes organisées. Elle est membre du Conseil International des Femmes et de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes, étant ainsi en contact avec le mouvement féminin international.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Grande Bretagne. Dans la récente élection partielle à Glasgow, Mrs. G. D. Hardie, candidate travailliste a été élue avec une majorité de 6,000 voix. Cette élection porte à 11 le nombre des femmes siégeant aux Communes.

Hongrie. Rosika Schwimmer a célébré son soixantième anniversaire le 11 septembre, jour où un comité international lui décerna le prix spécial de la Paix. Miss Schwimmer a été une pionnière du Suffrage en Hongrie et elle fut même nommée Ministre de Suisse sous le Cabinet Karolyi, bien qu'elle n'en exerçât jamais les fonctions.

Afrique du Sud. Mrs. Ballinger a été élue député. Il y a maintenant trois femmes dans l'Assemblée législative de l'union sud-africaine.

Turquie. Madame Dr. Faize nommée Inspecteur Chef au Ministère de l'Economie nationale fut la première à prendre son titre de docteur des sciences politiques à l'Université d'Istanbul.

Egypte. "L'Egyptienne" nous apprend que sa rédactrice en chef, Melle Céza Nabaraoui a récemment épousé un jeune sculpteur Moustafa Naguib. Nos compliments et vœux de bonheur aux jeunes époux. Madame Céza Nabaraoui-Naguib continuera à éditer "L'Egyptienne" comme par le passé.

Inde. Plusieurs femmes ont des fonctions dans la nouvelle Législature de l'Inde. Ce sont Mme L. V. Pandit, Ministre de l'Hygiène dans les Provinces Unies; Mme Lakshmi Patthi, Député Président de l'Assemblée de Madras. Mme Hansa Mehta devait être Chef Whip pour le Parti du Congrès à Bombay, mais on nous apprend qu'elle sera Secrétaire parlementaire du Ministre de l'Hygiène.

Mme Rahman, nous dit-on définitivement sera Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Assam.

C'est là un honorable commencement et nous espérons qu'ayant gagné de l'expérience les femmes députées se verront attribuer de plus en plus des postes de responsabilité.

Suède. Notre auxiliaire de Suède, la Frederika Bremer Forbund a récemment élu une nouvelle Présidente, Dr. Hannah Rydh Munck af Rosenschild, archéologue bien connue et femme du Gouverneur d'une Province du Nord. La Secrétaire de la seconde société la Medborgarforbund, nous dit que les deux Sociétés ont collaboré pour l'érection d'une pierre tombale à la mémoire de la regrettée Ingeborg Walin.

Allemagne. La Rallye annuelle du Parti en Septembre présente un intérêt pour les femmes. Pour la première fois des formations féminines du Service agricole ont pris part à la Parade avec leurs uniformes bruns et verts. Ces jeunes filles avaient leur camp particuliers avec tentes et paillasses. Nous entendons dire de tous côtés que le Service public féminin va bientôt être déclaré obligatoire, satisfaisant ainsi le désir des Allemandes elles-mêmes.

Le Frauenwerk (l'organisation centrale féminine sous la direction de Frau Scholz Klink), a arrangé une exposition démontrant l'activité des femmes allemandes, dans la vie publique et pendant la guerre. En plus des statistiques, on y voyait les portraits de

celles qui furent jadis parmi les animatrices du mouvement féministe: Louise Otto-Peters, Hélène Lange pionnières pour le travail social, Henrietta Schrader, Margaret Behm (membre du Reichstag), Dr. Frieda Duensig pour les entreprises professionnelles, aussi Ida von Kortzfleisch. Une autre section exposait des œuvres d'art. En accord avec le programme de la Rallye, l'activité des organisations féminines à l'Etranger fut aussi démontrée, avec naturellement l'exposition habituelle pour l'éducation domestique et maternelle.

Notons aussi un fait intéressant, bien qu'il n'ait aucun rapport avec cette manifestation annuelle.

Une nouvelle organisation (Fachschaft) vient d'être créée qui assigne à la question féminine sa place dans les études universitaires. Tous ceux qui s'intéressent à la question, en plus des universitaires eux mêmes peuvent en faire partie. L'idée est de créer des clubs, foyers, centres de récréation, etc. Espérons que la

réforme scolaire sera aussi envisagée par cette organisation.

Esthonie. L'Assemblée nationale d'Esthonie a adopté en Août dernier une nouvelle constitution qui sera effective à partir du 1er janvier, 1938, date des élections. Cela signifie la fin d'une quasi dictature, et le commencement d'un régime qui essaye de réconcilier les systèmes démocratique et corporatif.

L'élection à la Chambre basse sera faite à la majorité ordinaire, l'âge des électeurs étant élevé à 24 ans. (Par électeurs nous présumons qu'il s'agit des femmes aussi bien que des hommes). La Chambre Haute sera composée de 40 membres dont 10 seront nommés par le Président de l'Etat, les autres 30 seront élus par diverses Chambres corporatives, l'une d'elles sera la Chambre d'Economie domestique, pour les Femmes. Le Président actuel, Mr. Paets a assumé le titre de Gardien de l'Etat qu'il gardera jusqu'à la nouvelle élection présidentielle.

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