

# THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 25. No. 6.

PRICE 6d.

MARCH, 1931

Annual Subscription, 6/-

### CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
Events of the Month	82	Jus Cartoons: No. XII	89
World Wide Peace Campaign. By M. Ashby.	83	Reviews	91
Peace Conference in Belgrade	83	Section Française.	
The Nationality Campaign	84	Au B.I.T. Par E. Gourd	92
News from Bulgaria	85	Les Elections Polonaises.	
News in Brief	86	Par Anna Szlagowska	92
Obituary: Dr. Ada Sacchi	87	Nouvelles Internationales	93
Correspondence	87	La Campagne Pacifiste Mondiale	93
League Appointments	88	La Campagne pour le Droit de Nationalité	93
Compulsory Repatriation of Prostitutes	88	En Lisant les Maîtres de la Pensée Moderne	94

## THE WAYFARERS TRAVEL AGENCY

(FOUNDED BY GEOFFREY FRANKLIN & DAVID GOURLAY)

### TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

PERSONAL SERVICE AND ECONOMICAL RATES.

*RAILWAY TICKETS FOR HOME AND FOREIGN DESTINATIONS ISSUED.*

Write for full particulars to:—

33, GORDON SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.1.

PARIS:  
1, RUE D'ALGER

NEW YORK:  
19 WEST 44TH ST.

Telegrams: "Waytravag Westcent London"

Telephone: "Museum 2312"



## EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

**Revision of School Text-Books.**

The International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation has asked whether the Alliance can supply it with information as to the work being done in any country with regard to the revision of school text-books for the purpose of correcting passages prejudicial to mutual understanding between nations and to the spirit of international friendship. The Institute has been recommended by the League Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to make an exhaustive inquiry on the subject, which, all pacifists will agree, is an important one, and, while it falls outside the domain of our committees, it is possible that some of our auxiliaries may have studied the question, or be in touch with organisations or groups in their own countries which are interested in it. We shall be glad to receive any information they can give us for transmission to the International Institute, but, to be useful, it should be in our hands before April 10th.

**The Washington Convention.**

The revision of the 1919 draft Convention concerning the employment of women in industry during the night was discussed at the 51st Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office last month. The request for revision came from the Belgian, British and Swedish Governments, which desired the amendment of certain provisions without raising the principle of the Convention. The two following points were selected for consideration by the Governing Body:

(1) The distinction to be made between working women and women employed in a supervisory capacity, and (2) The question of the beginning and end of the period during which the employment of women is prohibited. In accordance with the procedure adopted, the International Labour Office consulted all the Governments of the States Members, and the replies received were now submitted to the Governing Body.

1. By 12 votes to 11 it was decided to place on the Agenda of the 1931 Session of the International Labour Conference the question of including in the Convention on the night work of women a clause to provide that the Convention shall not apply to persons in managerial or supervisory posts.

2. By 12 votes to 10, the Governing Body decided to place on the Agenda of the 1931 Session of the International Labour Conference the question of inserting in the Convention a provision authorising the States Members to substitute for the period of absolute prohibition of night work, 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., the period 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Two proposals made by the Swedish Government for more extensive revision were rejected by 14 votes to 8, and 14 votes to 7 respectively.

The International Labour Conference meets in May, and it is important that auxiliaries should begin at once to take steps with their respective Governments, to express their desire that these alterations in the Convention should be made, and to ensure the presence of women delegates at the discussions.

**The Case of Mrs. Wise.**

Letters have been received from feminists in many different countries imploring British women to agitate for the change of the law under which a pregnant woman is condemned to death and her sentence "remitted until after the birth of her child." The case of Mrs. Wise has attracted wide publicity in other countries, and has drawn attention to the brutal nature of British law in this respect, but it does not seem to have been made clear that custom for over half a century has been less inhuman than the letter of the law. There was never any question of this woman being hanged, either before or after the birth of her child, but the law

required that, being convicted of murder, sentence of death should be pronounced on her, as a judicial formality. Immediately afterwards her sentence was commuted to one of imprisonment, as everyone knew would happen. But feminists in Great Britain and an overwhelming majority of the general public are agreed that the law which requires the formal pronouncement of sentence of death in such a case must be altered, and Miss Picton Turberville, M.P., is introducing a one-clause Bill in the House to that effect.

**Japanese Suffrage Bill.**

The Ministry is to introduce a Bill to grant the municipal suffrage to women during the Diet in session. It will give women above twenty-five years of age who live two years successively in the same place the right to elect and to be elected members of the local assemblies, as well as honorary offices—mayors and assistant mayors, village masters and assistant village masters, city councillors and members of educational boards. The age and residential qualification may be reduced to twenty years and one year respectively. Of course, this right is given on the same terms as that of men. But it cannot be said that it is complete municipal suffrage, for it does not include, as it should, prefectural suffrage, and many feminists are petitioning that this also should be granted at the same time.

If the proposed bill is approved by the Diet, the number of woman voters will be to 13,560,000.

It would come into force at the next general municipal election; in some places in 1932, and in others in 1933.

**Cause and Cure of War.**

The sixth National Conference on the Cause and Cure of War was held in Washington last month. The Conference was addressed by many distinguished speakers, including its Chairman, Mrs. Chapman Catt, Miss Jane Addams, Mr. Paul Kellogg, Senor Madariaga and Mr. H. N. Brailsford. We hope next month to give an account of its conclusions.

**Unjust Wills.**

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., secured an excellent majority on Friday, 20th February, for the second reading of the Bill which she has introduced in the House of Commons. This Bill, which has been promoted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, aims at bringing the English law more nearly into line with that of Scotland and the majority of European countries. At present in England, a man or woman, while bound by law to keep their dependants during life time, are free to dispose of their wealth as they wish and may consequently leave their dependants destitute. As is well known, in the majority of countries, such freedom does not exist and certain proportions of the estate are bound to be left to the surviving spouse and children.

Miss Rathbone's Bill is naturally complicated, and while it has been drawn up with the greatest care, it is unlikely that it will eventually pass in quite its present form. The House of Commons, at Miss Rathbone's request, resolved that the Bill should be referred to "a Joint Select Committee of both Houses." That means that it will have the opportunity of being thoroughly discussed by well qualified legal experts who are Members of both Houses of Parliament, Lord Astor having promised to introduce a similar bill in the House of Lords.

It has long been felt that the English law should be modified in this respect. In the British Dominions the law has already been amended, in the majority of cases it being now possible for the survivors to appeal to the Courts if the terms of a will appear to be unjust. Miss Rathbone's Bill endeavours to combine the best points of the two methods, Continental and Dominion, for dealing with this subject.

G.H.

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



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

President - JONKVROUWE C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK. General Secretary - MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.  
MADAME ALFRED BERTRAND. Vice-Presidents: MISS RUTH ROUSE.  
MRS. C. G. CHEN. MISS UNA SAUNDERS.  
MRS. JAMES S. CUSHMAN. MRS. MATSU TSUJI.  
MRS. LUXMOORE. FRAULEIN HULDA ZARNACK.  
Treasurer - MADEMOISELLE CATHERINE PICOT.



## WOMEN IN INDIA AND THE Y.W.C.A.

All those who are interested—and who is not interested in these days?—in the future of India must have been struck by the growing prominence of Indian women in public life and the infinite possibilities of influence, for good or evil, which are theirs in the present rapid progress of their country towards greater independence and far reaching reforms. In two recent books in which the subject of India's women is approached from two rather different angles, these possibilities are brought out with great clearness. The distinctive feature of *Women in Modern India* (published by D. B. Taraporewala Sons and Co., Bombay, 1929) is that the writers of the various articles are all themselves Indian women (incidentally their astonishing mastery of the English language is in itself a proof of their intellectual capacity). It is, therefore, as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu puts it in her foreword, the authentic voice of modern Indian womanhood that speaks through its pages. Further in an article on the status of women in India, Mrs. Naidu points out that the women's movement in India is not a revolt against man, but rather a calm assertion, and although men for many years have kept women out of all fields of activity, now that they claim their rights it is not considered as anything strange. Certainly Indian women have an honourable record in the past of achievement in various directions, and this background must not be lost sight of in estimating the position that women could and should occupy in India to-day. In the Vedic period, untrammelled as they were by the disabilities of purdah and child marriage, individual women composed hymns, studied philosophy, took their share in public administration and even distinguished themselves on the battle field, while their economic rights of inheritance and succession were fully recognised.

Mrs. Naidu characterises the present movement as an effort for the revival of a lost glory rather than the establishment of a new order. During the last half century one woman after another has come forward to take her part in bringing about better conditions for her fellows—Pandita Ramabai with her work for education, the relief of distress and above all the emancipation of widows; Mrs. Ranade, founder of the Seva Sadan. The achievements of such women, in spite of tremendous opposition, may well be an inspiration and encouragement to Indian women to-day, when barriers are falling and new doors are being opened in every direction. The imperative need for women doctors in a country where purdah still prevails is self evident, and the relation between men and women doctors in

India is not, as it so often is in the West, one of competition but of co-operation.

Again, in questions of law Indian women are often prevented from ascertaining their actual rights, and are still hampered in efforts to enlarge them if they have not the assistance of lawyers of their own sex. Miss Cornelia Sorabji, who led the way forty years ago by taking her degree in law at Oxford, though it was not until much later that she acquired the right to practise in her own country, did notable service to the cause of women's liberties, and has been followed by several others who are now admitted to a public legal career. Under the heading of education we read of young students in informal college debates upholding the advantage of some Indian custom, such as joint family life, which has often been regarded only from the point of view of its defects. It is clear that the young people of India, whether men or women, are not prepared to accept western ideas wholesale, but intend to work out for themselves the future structure of their individual and social life.

*The Key of Progress*: A survey of the status and conditions of women in India (Edited by A. R. Caton, Oxford University Press, 1930) to which various writers, Indian and European, have contributed, with a foreword by Lady Irwin, who expresses the hope that the book will be widely read in Great Britain, will help those who are interested in India to understand the ideals and hopes of Indian women of the present day. The title of the book is taken from a sentence in the report of the Simon Commission: "The women's movement in India holds the key of progress, and the results it may achieve are incalculably great; it is not too much to say that India cannot reach the position to which it aspires in the world until its women play their due part as educated citizens." Throughout the book this statement finds abundant confirmation in the articles in which such problems as Education, Home and Religion, Health and Sanitation, Religious and Commercial Prostitution, and the Needs of Women in Rural Life and in Industry, are discussed. It seems that countless possibilities of progress have remained unrealised because of the lack of women able to develop them. In the sphere of girls' education, and the inspection of girls' schools; in medical and legal work, as we have already seen; in the effort to awaken the women, especially in the innumerable villages, and to lead them to higher standards of home life, there is a great field for voluntary agencies, as well as for fully qualified paid workers where funds are available.

In view of all these calls on the women of India in



the present and in the immediate future, the work of any organisation which aims at reaching girls of many types and developing their character and their capacities, is clearly of very great importance and value; and a glance at the reports which come in from the Y.W.C.A. of India show that it is making great efforts to respond to the challenge of these days.

One of these reports, from Miss Iris Wingate, National Industrial Secretary, gives an account of some experiments in industrial work established by the Association. A number of rooms have been secured from the Government at a nominal rental, in the centre



The Girl Guide Movement unites girls of different races. (The variety of uniform will be noticed.)

of a group of "chawls" or cottages, and a dispensary and Girls' Club started. "Some women have also asked to be taught to read and some who have a little education now aspire to learn English. We are also experimenting with a lantern show for women once a week—partly health and partly education. Health slides to be effective must deal with conditions such as those in which the people live, and that is what is hard to get. . . . One interesting thing about this effort is the number and variety of volunteer helpers. There is a young Hindu widow who is throwing herself into the work of social service. There are one or two Hindu students, some Parsees, Christian students and mission school teachers. These girls who help with volunteer service are getting valuable knowledge of social service and conditions and gaining confidence in their own powers. . . . As regards the societies with which I spoke of co-operating, . . . the Infant Welfare have a Centre near us where they do maternity, child-welfare and pre-natal work. They take children up to five years old and send on to us women who go to them for ordinary medical treatment, which they do not give. We also recommend women to go to them for maternity work, so we are working in very happily with them. I know two out of the three nurses at the centre, as they used to be in my nurses' club years ago in Bombay, so they are already friends of mine, which has made them all the more ready to work in with us. There are two other societies who have not hitherto worked in this district but whose aims and objects are similar to our own, save that they are non-sectarian, and in actual fact non-Christian. The Seva Sadan is an Indian women's society whose aims are very similar to our own, but they have hitherto only worked among the middle classes and have not touched the industrial problem. They are in touch with large numbers of women who could give volunteer service and have given us some workers. . . . The work has almost unlimited possibilities. . . ."

It is interesting to note that Miss Wingate, and also Miss Mercy Azariah, the Indian Secretary for the Southern District, have been asked to give reports to the Royal Commission now investigating existing conditions of labour in British India. Among the

questions on which Miss Wingate is collecting information is the extent of infant mortality and its causes.

Other interesting accounts come from girls of various types and nationalities who have attended one of the Association Summer Schools at the camp centre in Ootacamund. A Moslem girl speaks of the wonderful feeling of sisterhood which pervaded the camp. "People of various races, communities and ranks were there. Each one was a stranger to every other in many ways, but all the strangeness and all the difference was forgotten in the common life of the camp." A Hindu girl notes "how the Guides make friends with each other, irrespective of class or creed." Yet another came away with the conclusion that "Social Service is not merely starting baby clinics, or visiting poor homes, or sewing a few garments for the orphans in hospitals. It is something more, something far deeper and wider. It is a debt we owe to humanity; it is Christianity."

All these testimonies come from girls of Indian nationality. Until recent years the work of the Y.W.C.A. has been mainly with British and Anglo-Indian girls, but the importance of coming into close touch with Indians is becoming daily more clear. Among the resolutions passed at a recent Conference is the following: "This Conference is convinced that the Y.W.C.A., as the only Women's Christian Movement for all India, has a distinct contribution to make to the life of India to-day in view of its international character and its equipment for service to women of all communities, especially the younger generation. It therefore resolves that this is the time when the development of Indian work should be emphasised and should be under the guidance and control of Indian committees and Indian leadership."

One of the secretaries, describing at a meeting the many and varied activities of the Y.W.C.A.—hostels, employment bureaus, cafeterias, holiday homes—concludes: "The Association is something greater, wider, deeper than all these. It is a fellowship for the sharing of gifts and the making of life in all its richest and finest possible for every girl and woman." Fellowship, fullness of life—these are great things that the Y.W.C.A. offers to these girls of India, but there is something deeper beyond and above even these. "Behind the many activities that the Y.W.C.A. has developed during the last few years has been the belief that all wholesome things are holy. On that ideal we have gone ahead, meeting many needs. At best, we have aimed at taking religion into every part of life. . . . Morality for its own sake does not appeal to the normal person, especially the younger person, as a worthy objective. But people will accept almost any self-discipline if they have an objective which they consider worth while and which satisfies an instinctive need. . . . For the service of others a woman will do almost anything; but there is another objective for morality—the love of God which is the knowledge of God, the instinct of worship which cannot be satisfied with anything less than God."



Cingalese and Tamil make friends.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1930.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
BALANCES, 1ST JANUARY, 1930:—		Jus:—	
£1511 12s. 9d. 4½% Treasury Bonds		Printing and Dispatch	288 19 9
1932-34	1477 12 6	Editor	137 10 0
£500 Brazil 6½% Loan, 1927.		Assistant Editor	37 10 0
Bearer Bonds	495 13 6	Advertisement Agent, Expenses	
£500 Western Australia 5%, 1945-75	500 1 0	and Commission	26 1 9
Army and Navy Stores Deposit A/c.	800 0 0	Articles	34 11 6
Standard Bank of South Africa		Translations	20 18 0
Deposit Account	200 0 0	Cartoons	9 5 0
Barclay's Bank Deposit Account	500 0 0	Blocks	4 16 10
Current Account, Barclay's Bank	318 15 11	Rent	11 10 0
Petty Cash	1 0 2½	Postages	22 8 5
	4293 3 1½		593 11 3
Jus—		DIVIDENDS TRANSFERRED TO CAMPAIGN	
Subscriptions	234 0 9	COMMITTEE ACCOUNT	35 5 7
Cash Sales	3 9 3	GENERAL:—	
Advertisements	56 12 1	Salaries	852 14 0
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	18 0 0	Lighting, Heating and Cleaning	43 19 4½
	312 2 1	Rent	132 12 0
DONATIONS:—		Printing and Stationery	66 3 3½
I. M. Dame Millicent Fawcett	20 0 0	Telegrams, Telephone & Messenger	31 3 5
Mrs. Catt—Special Donation for		Postages	49 13 5
Peace Work	20 11 1	Insurance	4 7 6½
Miscellaneous	14 8 8	Geneva Office	64 1 0
	54 19 9	Mile. Gourd—Secretarial Expenses	12 5 0
REPORT RECEIPTS	52 19 8	Joint Nationality Demonstration	121 10 4
MEMBERS' FEES	185 12 2		1378 9 4½
AFFILIATION FEES	103 12 10	MISCELLANEOUS:—	
BERLIN CONGRESS PLEDGES	237 13 1	Income Tax	3 6 4
DIVIDENDS:—		Subscriptions	5 9 11
Western Australia 5%	19 13 9	Audit Fee	5 5 0
4½% Treasury Bonds	53 11 4	Press Cuttings	7 12 3
Brazil 6½% Loan	25 11 10	Travelling in connection with Hague	
	98 16 11	and Vienna Meetings	55 1 6
DEPOSIT INTEREST:—		Delegate's Expenses to Syria	23 0 0
Army and Navy Stores	24 2 6	Transferred to Campaign Committee	56 0 0
Standard Bank of South Africa	6 6 6	Miscellaneous—Cheque Books,	
Barclay's Bank	3 17 3	Stamps, etc.	33 10 7½
	34 6 3		1567 15 0
PROFIT ON SALE OF £500 4½% TREASURY		BALANCES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1930:—	
BONDS	23 11 9	£1011 12s. 9d. 4½% Treasury Bonds	
JOINT NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION:—		1932-34	988 17 6
Donations	131 2 1	£500 Brazil 6½% Loan, 1927.	
Loan from Miss Macmillan	6 7 10	Bearer Bonds	495 13 6
	137 9 11	£500 Western Australia 5%,	
LITERATURE SALES	7 4 2	1945-75	500 1 0
MISCELLANEOUS	0 12 4	Army and Navy Stores Deposit	
		Account	800 0 0
		Joint Nationality Demonstration:	
		Loan	5 0 0
		Petty Cash Expenses repayable	5 1 11
		Due to Miss Macmillan	5 17 8
		General Fund	538 15 11
		Petty Cash	6 4 8½
			3345 12 2½
	£5542 4 0½		£5542 4 0½

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Vouchers of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. We have verified the Cash at Bank and the securities.

106, St. Clement's House,  
Clement's Lane,  
Lombard Street, E.C.4.  
February, 1931.

Incorporated Accountants.



**An Old Injustice.** Some time ago Mrs. Morrell, who is a woman of property in Bermuda, decided on a tax resistance campaign on the grounds of "No taxation without representation." She refused to pay her taxes. Under the law, it appears that in such cases where a person has property, the proper course is to distrain on it for payment; where they are without property they are summoned to Court and can be imprisoned if they don't pay. In Mrs. Morrell's case the second procedure was used, and she was summoned to Court, and attended to protest against this wrong procedure being adopted. The Court took no notice of her protest but gave her three months in which to pay. She did not do so and at the end of the three months was again summoned to Court. She refused to attend, stating that they could either distrain on her property according to the law, or send a constable for her and put her in prison. Apparently they did neither, but just let the case drop. It has aroused a very strong feeling among the women and may lead to an active militant campaign. They feel that the whole matter calls for publicity at home.

The colony has had representative government of a kind for over three centuries, but the constitution works out as something like an oligarchy, as, though the House of Assembly is an elected body, the franchise is only exercised by the small population of male whites and is practically in the hands of some eight families. The Woman Suffrage Society has appealed to the Home Government for constitutional reform, but so far with little success.

**Campaign against Hitler Party.** The Hitler party won over 100 seats in the last elections to the German Reichstag. This has enabled them to pursue their aims by legal (parliamentary) means. In their meetings and publications the party have made it known that in the so-called "third Reich" which they want to proclaim, women will have to put themselves under the guidance of men. The party will have neither the political nor the economic emancipation of women. To avoid frightening off their women supporters they have so far been careful to avoid clear formulation of their plans and opinions with regard to women. All the more necessary it is for the German women's movement that women should be enlightened as to the aims of the Hitler party.

The German Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband called two well-attended public meetings in February to discuss "What have Women to expect from National Socialism?" Women speakers of various professional and political groups spoke on the attitude of the Hitler party towards women. Besides the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Frau von Velsen and Frau Ulich-Beil, the speakers were: Frau Adele Schreiber-Krieger, Member of the Reichstag, Vice-president of the World Suffrage Alliance, Frau von Kulesza, Member of the Prussian Diet, and Frau Klara Mende. Closely following the published statements of the Hitler party with regard to educational and legal matters, the attitude of the party with regard to women was critically examined.

The Hitler party had been invited to send women speakers to the meetings. They had taken no notice of that invitation, but a few women sympathizing with them tried to make a disturbance. They had to be finally ejected, as they tried to drown the speakers' words by shouts and noises. In the discussion other sympathisers of the Hitler movement also spoke.

The German Press reported the meetings very fully and with the exception of the organs which are supporting the Hitler Party, expressed its entire approval of the action of the Staatsbürgerinnen-Verband. The latter has won complete success in

its first attack upon the anti-women party, which it is going to pursue systematically.

DR. KATE MARCUS.

**The Asian Union.** The first all-Asian Conference of Women met in January at Lahore. Delegates were present from Japan, Burma, Persia, Java, Afghanistan and Ceylon and from all parts of India. The daughter of the Maharani of Kapurthala read the address of welcome. Sarojini Naidu was elected President. Many messages were received from sympathisers who were unable to be present, among them the Maharani of Travancore; the Mohan Malaviya of Benares Hindu University; the sister of Abdul-Baha, head of the Bahai movement in Egypt; Professor Sheshadri; Professor Radhakrishnan, the Jewish Women's League for Equal Rights, and Madame Nour Hamada of Syria. The Conference was delighted to respond to the appeal for support cabled by the International Women's Committee on the Nationality of Married Women, then in Geneva, and immediately acquainted the Asian member of the League Council with their views. We hope to publish the resolutions passed by the Conference in our next issue.

#### WORLD-WIDE PEACE CAMPAIGN.

The announcement by the Council of the League that the Disarmament Conference would meet next February is a challenge to all those men and women of good will who are working for peace.

A hundred causes, political and economic, combine to produce war, but the great increase in armaments is a standing menace. Can the world stop this mad race?

The Peace Societies, the Christian organisations, the women's organisations, and political associations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and economic bodies like the Women's International Co-operative Federation are planning world-wide campaigns. A start has been made in the great Conference on the Cause and Cure of War in Washington, U.S.A., and at the Queen's Hall Meeting, London, when the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, newly returned from Geneva, made a remarkable speech.

The Alliance is planning a Conference on Disarmament in Belgrade in May. Will each auxiliary which sends us delegates announce that they have organized or helped in such a peace demonstration?

Few of us who were working for the vote could foresee the day when the Foreign Secretary of a Great Power would announce policy at a meeting organized by women. In 28 other countries women wield the same political power as they do in Great Britain and could stage such a demonstration. We want, not feeble, isolated efforts, but real union of strength, nationally and internationally.

We can take as our basis of discussion the resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, or by a bold gesture ask for a drastic cut all round in money, men, material, each arm and each category, and so free energy and constructive effort to correct the economic and political ills from which we suffer to-day.

M. CORBETT ASHBY.

#### PEACE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE.

##### Preliminary Programme.

##### Sunday, May 17th.

- Morning Session.* Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan.  
 9-30 Welcome by civic authorities and women's organisations.  
 10-15 "The Aims of the Conference" (Purpose and scope of the Conference and of the Peace Committee). Miss Morgan (from the Chair).  
 10-45 The Economic Situation and European Co-operation.



Luncheon with brief speeches in interval.  
*Afternoon Session.* Chairman: Mrs. Bakker van Bosse.  
 3-30 Economic Problems. (Three 20 minute speeches).

#### Monday, May 18th.

*Morning Session.* Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan.

9-30 Disarmament:

(a) The Pledge to disarm.

Art 8 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, paragraph 1:—"The Members of the League recognise that the maintenance of peace requires the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety and the enforcement by common action of international obligations."  
 (And other pledges).

(b) Draft Disarmament Convention drawn up by the Preparatory Commission for Disarmament Conference.

Discussion.

*Afternoon Session.* Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan.

3-30 Disarmament (Contd.):

(c) Security Sanctions and Disarmament.

(d) Disarmament and Unemployment.

(e) What women can do to influence public opinion (i) in time of peace; (ii) in time of war.

*Evening.* Dinner with speakers; Chairman: Miss Ruth Morgan (invitations to civic authorities, Presidents of local societies, etc.)

#### Tuesday, May 19th.

*Morning Session.* Chairman: Miss R. Manus.

9-30 Summary of proceedings of Conference.

10-0 Reports and suggestions from delegates.

11-30 Chairman's closing speech.

*Evening.*

7-0 Public Meeting. Chairman: Mlle. Atanaskovitch.

Speakers: Board Members and others.

#### THE NATIONALITY CAMPAIGN.

As readers will remember, the question of the Nationality of women was discussed at the first Conference for Codification of International Law held at the Hague in March and April, 1930. The discussion did not result in an international settlement of this question. The States were in particular recommended to study the question whether it would not be possible

1. to introduce into their law the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality, taking particularly into consideration the interests of children, and especially
2. to decide that in principle the nationality of the wife should henceforth not be affected without her consent either by the mere fact of marriage, or by any change in the nationality of her husband.

Immediately after the Hague Codification Conference, women from all over the world started a second Nationality campaign with the result that the delegate for Cuba, Mr. Ferrara, introduced in the Assembly of the League, in September 1930, a resolution calling for the re-opening of the question of the Nationality of women. Prominent women from all parts of the world were gathered at Geneva in September 1930. Our President, Mrs. M. Corbett Ashby, worked hard,

interviewing delegates and securing their support for the Ferrara resolution. Forty-two countries promised to vote for the re-opening of the question of the Nationality of women.

In November 1930, Miss Alice Paul, Chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, met me in Paris in order to discuss the steps we should take if the Council of the League decided at its January meeting to place the question of the Nationality of women on the Agenda of the 1931 Assembly.

I suggested the formation of a women's advisory commission to the League, thinking it would be the most effective and dignified way of exposing the women's point of view on the subject. But who was to introduce such a resolution at the January meeting of the Council? That was the question. Half an hour later we had an appointment with Mr. Matos, representative of Guatemala on the Council, one of the most distinguished jurists of the western hemisphere and an expert on questions of Nationality.

We laid our views and suggestions before His Excellency and expected (at least I did!) the usual "but's"; however, they did not come. "I love that question," Dr. Matos said, "and will promise you to do all I can to help you in the matter. I am prepared to introduce a resolution which will meet your wishes at the January meeting of the Council, if you let me do it in my own way. I should first of all like to confer with my colleagues and prepare the ground."

We left Mr. Matos, relieved, and at the same time disappointed because we realised that there was nothing to be done from our side before the Council meeting on January 19th.

We decided to meet again at Geneva on January 17th. Other very important and very complicated questions were to be treated by the Council, so that there did not seem to be much hope for the consideration of our question, which of course, to us, was the most important of all. Everything looked rather doubtful that first day at Geneva, and above all, it was bad news that Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who had promised to be there, had suddenly fallen ill and could not come.

On Monday, January 19th, the question of Codification was on the agenda of the Council but was closed before Mr. Matos even had time to formulate his resolution. Everybody told us that our case was lost—at any rate for the time being—and thought us rather eccentric to go on working for an object which could not be furthered at the moment.

It needed the high political sense of Alice Paul to meet and overcome all these obstacles. By her firmness and tenacity, she achieved the impossible and succeeded in having the question brought up again, and in securing the unanimous vote of the Council for the Matos resolution—though several members of the Council had to be bombarded with hundreds of telegrams from home before they gave up their opposition. After four days' work, the victory was hers.

On Saturday, January 24th, the Council unanimously adopted the resolution, introduced by Mr. Matos of Guatemala, and supported by Mr. Zumeta of Venezuela and Mr. Barreto of Peru.

The following is the text of the Resolution:

*Text of the Proposal submitted by the Representatives of Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela and passed by the League Council on January 24th, 1931.*

The Council will remember that the question of the nationality of the wife was discussed at length at the Conference for the Codification of International Law held at the Hague in March and April, 1930. The discussions did not result in an international settlement of this question. The States were, in particular, recommended to study the question whether it would not be possible:—

1. To introduce into their law the principle of the equality of the sexes in matters of nationality, taking particularly into consideration the interests of the children, and

2. especially to decide that in principle the nationality of the wife should henceforth not be affected without her consent either by the mere fact of marriage or by any change in the nationality of her husband.

It is to be noted that there is a clear movement of opinion throughout the world in favour of a suitable settlement of this question.

Various members of the Council have received petitions from women's organisations urging the Council to appoint a committee of women to consider the question of the nationality of the wife, and submit a report on the subject to the 1931 Assembly.

We venture to propose the adoption by the Council of the following resolution:—

#### "THE COUNCIL

"Decides to place on the agenda of the next session of the Assembly the question of the continued study of the nationality of the wife, and

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly a report on the question after consultation of the following organisations which have been specially concerned with the nationality of the wife:

The International Council of Women.

The International Alliance for Women Suffrage.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The World Women's Union.

The International Federation of University Women.

The Young Women's Christian Association.

The Inter-American Commission of Women.

The Equal Rights International.

The All-Asian Congress of Women.

The Secretary-General might, if he thinks fit, request the above-named organisations to set up a Committee consisting of two representatives of each organisation with the task of formulating joint proposals to be attached to the report to be submitted to the Assembly."

I believe that I am speaking in the name of all the women's organisations, and especially in that of the

Alliance if I thank the three South-American delegates of the Council for the initiative they have taken on behalf of the woman's movement, and I also should like to express my deepest gratitude to the different women's organisations which have supported or sanctioned the step taken with regard to the Council. Six days in which to do a piece of international work is not long, and we had not time to consult the different organisations as much as we should have liked.

Lastly, I am very glad to have an opportunity of thanking Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont for everything she has done for the International women's movement during the Nationality campaign. Not only did she take an active part in inaugurating the campaign in France in order to show Mr. Briand the great interest the French women are taking in the Nationality question, but she also placed the means at our disposal to carry this campaign through, and offered her support in such a generous and noble way that it was a pleasure to accept it. LILY VAN DER SCHALK.



Scene at Geneva Headquarters of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Left to right:—Dr. Rosa Welt-Strauss, Palestine; Mme. Lily van der Schalk, Holland; Mme. Eugenie Meller, Hungary; M. Barreto, Peru, Member of the Council of the League of Nations; Mme. Marta Vergara, Chile; Mrs. Emily Smith, U.S.A.; Mme. Marie Volinski, Yugoslavia.

We are glad to be able to report that the procedure proposed in the last paragraph of the Resolution is being adopted, and that the organisations named have been asked to form the committee there suggested. In view of the fact that the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations, which was initiated last September in Geneva, has now been formed and includes among its members six of the organisations named by the League Resolution, that Committee is now taking steps to secure the necessary co-operation among all the nine bodies in the formation and work of the proposed Committee to report to the League.—ED.

#### NEWS FROM BULGARIA.

This year the Bulgarian National Council of Women held its regular annual congress in Kustendil. Such congresses have been held regularly every year except during the war. In June, 1931, the 25th annual Congress will be held and will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the National Council of Women.

The most important questions on the agenda of the last Congress were: social service, social legislature and social education. Special attention was given to the questions of social service for children and mothers, and it was decided to ask the respective government offices to pass a special law for the protection of children.

The second question was: what must be the activity of the Council among peasant women? We are primarily an agricultural country, three-quarters of the population are peasants, and in spite of this, very little is being done for the uplift of the peasant woman and for the betterment of her position. Our Council, which includes all the women's organisations in the

country, is working to establish centres which will do educational and charitable work in the towns and villages. We have no tradition nor any special reasons for separating the village organisations from the city ones.

The Bulgarian National Council of Women is the only general woman's organization in our country. It is affiliated both to the International Council of Women and to the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. The only women's organisations which are not included in it are: The Federation of University Women, The Bulgarian Section of the International League for Peace and Freedom, and the Young Women's Christian Association. The programme of the National Council of Women includes the interests of school teachers, business women, working women, housekeepers, etc.; in general it stands up for the rights of women against the injustices inflicted on them by reason of their sex.

The third important question on the agenda of the



Congress was the question of peace. It was unanimously emphasized that it is impossible to have peace so long as such unjust Peace Treaties exist,—injustices which are specially felt in our small country, which has to bear the burden of heavy reparations, and where large numbers of Bulgarians are left under foreign rule. This situation was felt particularly strongly in Kustendil, where the Congress took place, because it is a frontier town on the boundary between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and many refugees whose homes are no longer in Bulgarian territory pass through it. A unanimous resolution was passed at the congress asking the two international women's alliances to take energetic action for the recognition of the rights of the minorities according to the peace treaties and special conventions for the minorities, and if this cannot be done (as it has not yet been done, twelve years after the war) to work wholeheartedly for the revision of the peace treaties.

At the Congress, Mrs. D. Ivanowa, who was one of the delegates at the Vienna Congress, spoke at a large public meeting and gave a report of the Vienna meeting and its resolutions.

The following work has been done in accordance with the resolutions passed at Vienna: with regard to equal moral standard, we long ago succeeded in abolishing licensed houses and brothels, but we cannot so far free ourselves from the registration of prostitutes which is carried out by the police authorities.

We have not yet got women police. The organization of this special service is expected to take place early next autumn, when a woman who was specially sent to Berlin for the purpose of studying the organization there will return and report.

With regard to the pros and cons of protective legislation for women, we have undertaken a survey into the whole question.

With regard to the nationality of married women, we still have the same law, according to which any woman of foreign birth marrying a Bulgarian accepts his nationality. If a Bulgarian woman marries a foreigner, she can retain her nationality if the law of his country allows it, if not, she accepts his nationality.

The unmarried wife and mother is not protected by the law, nor has her child any protection, because the law does not allow for the search of the father.

With regard to Women's Suffrage, we belong to that category of women who have not yet won their right to the vote. We have only a passive vote on the school boards (autonomous institutions in the municipalities, which are concerned with the organization of education in all towns and villages). This law has been in force since 1908.

The National Assembly has before it the draft of a new law for the municipal vote. Nothing is said in it about the municipal vote for women. Our organization has taken very strong action with regard to this law. It organized an enquiry in which all the leading politicians were asked to give their opinion—all resulted in favour of the municipal vote for women. A number of public lectures have been organized throughout the country on the same subject. We have succeeded in enlisting some members of the National Assembly, who have promised to bring up the question when the new law comes up for second reading, probably this month.

Women lawyers have not yet been given the right to practice their profession. More than a year ago, a new law was introduced before the National Assembly and it was passed on first reading, but it has not gone any further, because the present Minister of Justice is against it.

In general, under the present financial and economic strain prevalent throughout the country, women seem

to be affected much more than anybody else, and wherever staffs are being reduced the women are the first to be told to go.

This oppressed position of women draws more and more adherents to our movement. The number of organisations affiliated to the National Council of Women is constantly increasing, and the same applies to its total membership. The National Council of Women is being recognised more and more throughout the country as an important body.

With regard to peace—The National Council of Women, together with the League of Nations Union, celebrated May 18th as Peace Day. But our action towards peace as a country which has been much oppressed, disarmed, and treated with injustice is reduced to the following: to seek revision of the unjust Peace Treaties, because they are the worst enemies of peace, and to work for general disarmament. We have been disarmed, but all the countries which came out of the war victorious continue to arm themselves, which is a sign of another war. We expect the International Council of Women and the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship to exercise all their influence for the creation of a just peace on the basis of the principle of freedom for the nations and general disarmament.

D. IVANOVA.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF.

We are glad to record that a woman has held the seat at East Islington, which became vacant by the death of Dr. Ethel Bentham. Mrs. Manning (Soc.) was elected by East Islington to the House of Commons on February 19th last with a majority of 2,279.

A Bill, backed by the New York State Branch of the National League of Women Voters is being introduced by the Hon. Edward Jenks in the State Legislature which is designed to make the "man in the case" equally guilty with the woman in prostitution cases. Under this bill, both persons alleged to be parties to an indecent act are made parties to the misdemeanour. Prostitution is defined as the act of the male as well as the female.

An active campaign for votes for women is being carried out in Peru by the Woman Suffrage Society there under the energetic leadership of Mlle. Aurora Caceres, whom many will remember as a speaker at the Paris Congress of the Alliance in 1926. Experience in other countries has shown that during a period of political revolution public opinion is more easily converted to the practical advantages of allowing women to enter public life on a responsible footing. Many distinguished women have sent letters of support and encouragement to Mlle. Caceres, and she has the support of many enlightened ministers and public men. We hope it will be possible to announce at the next Congress of the Alliance that Peru has followed the example of Ecuador and enfranchised her women.

Miss Belle Sherwin, re-elected in April 1930, to her fourth term as president of the National League of Women Voters, and immediately afterwards granted an eight months' leave of absence in order that she might obtain a much needed and deserved rest has returned to her desk. During her absence Mrs. Roscoe Anderson and Miss Marguerite M. Wells, served as "acting presidents."

The Bill before the United States Congress to amend the Organic Act of Hawaii making it possible for the Hawaiian Legislature to pass legislation permitting women there to

serve on juries has been tabled in the Senate Committee to which it was referred. This action abolished all hopes for the passage of the bill during the present session of Congress. Introduced in the Congress in 1929 the bill passed the Lower House successfully but had been blocked in the Senate committee by its chairman, who has publicly voiced his opposition. The members of the Hawaiian League of Women Voters who have worked long and arduously to secure for their own territorial legislature the right to remove such an unjust discrimination have declared that they are not discouraged and will renew their efforts on behalf of the measure at the convening of the 72nd Congress next December.

Twenty-six of the forty-eight States in the United States still deny to their women citizens the right to serve on juries. The League of Women Voters in a great many of these States is attempting to have the situation remedied in the 1931 sessions of the State legislature.

In Northern Ireland, as in Great Britain, there is a Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The Act is permissive, not mandatory, and in far-off pre-enfranchisement days, years of agitation were required before the scheme could be put in force. That is all over now. It is, however, still necessary to press that in these times of increasing unemployment sufficient money should be spent to render the service really efficient. In Belfast especially, extension is needed, as the mothers still retain that terrible habit of saying mentally, if not out loud, "sure, a cup of tea'll do me," and for some years the tale of maternal and infant sickness and mortality grew. Then a new Medical Officer of Health was appointed. He asked for a largely increased expenditure, refused last year, on the plea of want of time for consideration. A small increase was, however, sanctioned, and a fall in the infant mortality rate followed. This winter a small further increase was asked for, and voted by the Corporation Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. The Government, however, while approving the scheme, refused to give the usual fifty per cent. grant towards the expenditure. The usual plea of financial stringency was raised in defence of this course. The only remaining hope was to ask that the expense should be met from the rates. For this purpose, the Belfast Women's Advisory Council organised a deputation in February, representing all sections of women ratepayers, to wait on the Corporation. About 130 women attended at the City Hall to back up the demand for increased expenditure. The speakers were Mrs. McMeekin, Chairman, Belfast Women Citizens' Union, and Mrs. McCoubrey, until last month a member of the Corporation, unfortunately no longer there to represent the needs of the mothers to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Both speakers recognised the urgent need for economy, but advanced the old plea, economy in life against economy in money, showing by statistics that more health visitors and more ante-natal work would mean better health figures. The Corporation is asking for an interview with the Government Department responsible, and it is hoped something may yet be done.

DORA MELLONE.

We regret to announce the death of Lady Frances Balfour. The daughter of the 8th Duke of Argyll, and sister-in-law to the late Lord Balfour, she was a woman of brilliant intellect and fascinating personality who was throughout her life a devoted champion of the feminist cause. She was for many years a member of the executive of the National Council of Women. One of the last social occasions at which she appeared was the Dinner which Lady Astor gave to celebrate the achievements of women during 1930.



Dr. Sacchi.

its devoted adherents, and our sympathy goes out in double measure to Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta, who has not only lost a sister but as President of the Italian Auxiliary, must also mourn the loss of an active member.

#### OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of the well-known Italian suffragist, Dr. Beatrice Sacchi, D.Sc. Only a month or two ago, we published a most interesting account by Dr. Sacchi of the new régime in Italy as it affects women; and later a letter dealing with M. Quartara's book on feminism. The woman's movement in Italy can ill afford to lose one of

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Madam,

I do not know who gave you the news that I have succeeded in getting a Bill passed by the Dutch Parliament to give a wife a legal right to a proportion of her husband's earnings for the benefit of the household.

This is not correct. The point is that there is a proposal for a new marriage law which contains a clause on those lines, sponsored by our Minister of Justice, a member of the Conservative Calvinist party. My being named in this connection may be caused by the fact that I am chairman of a committee with representatives from ten large organisations, whose object is to do propaganda work for the adoption of a new marriage law based upon equal rights for husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. We have published a scheme which advocates justice for the wife, and not only for the husband, as in the present state of the Dutch marriage law, and of course we have a clause to the effect that the wife should have a right to a proportional part of the husband's earnings for the upkeep of the household.

The Government Bill does not go as far as we should like, but if it is passed the position of the wife under Dutch law will be more reasonable than it is at present—however it has not yet been passed.

Yours, etc.,

B. BAKKER NORT, M.P.

(We regret that we were inaccurately informed in the notice which appeared on this subject in our December issue.—ED.)

Madam,

I regret to see in "Jus Suffragi" for January the statement that all Suffragists will be pleased if the law is passed in this country making wives responsible for their own torts, because it is not the case. We all know that a wife with separate estate is already made to pay for her own torts, debts, divorce, costs of both sides, etc. But what is to happen to the wife with no means? Is she to go to prison because of her complete lack of means to pay a fine? We know that not only the wife, but the entire family has to suffer when the man has to pay for his own torts or crimes with the money which would otherwise help to support them. And under the law lately made we have seen a wife sentenced to a year's imprisonment for a crime of her husband's, for which, as the Judge himself stated, she was not responsible, and could not prevent.



Is not the wife's unpaid labour—wife, mother, housekeeper, nurse, charwoman, washerwoman, etc.—of equal economic value to the man's paid wage in the support of their family? And yet we know that she is only entitled to her bare keep, and may not legally even buy herself a cigarette out of her husband's money. No, if the husband is now to be relieved from any pecuniary responsibility for his wife's torts, then there must be a law legally entitling her to a proportion of his income or wages. For she is his partner, not his drudge.

Yours, etc.,  
BLANCHE SMYTH-PIGOTT.

(While maintaining that in principle it is right for a wife to be made responsible for her own debts, we agree with our correspondent that the economic weakness of married women, who have in many cases neither the leisure nor the opportunity to earn money for themselves, means they may suffer under the new law more severely than men do, for the same fault—they may, being penniless, have to go to prison for an offence where a man, economically his own master, goes free because of his ability to pay a fine. The moral seems to be that the granting to the wife of a legal right to a share of her husband's earnings should have preceded the making of wives responsible for their torts.—ED.)

#### LEAGUE APPOINTMENTS.

The following letter has been addressed by the Joint Standing Committee to the Secretary General of the League of Nations.

Sir,  
On behalf of the Joint Standing Committee of Women's International Organisations I write to express our profound disappointment that on your recommendation, approved by the Council of the League of Nations, a man has been appointed to replace Dame Rachel Crowdy as head of the Section dealing with Opium and Social Questions with the title of Director.

It is not that we wish to make the slightest protest against the gentleman in question, nor that we wish to be understood as regarding this or any other Section as the special prerogative of women. Our protest is directed solely to the fact that by this appointment the Secretariat is without any woman member in a position of high authority.

It must be within your knowledge that the whole position of women in the Secretariat is not felt by women's organisations to be one of adequate equality with men, though at the same time we recognise in a reasonable spirit that there may be difficulties in finding a sufficient choice of women for the higher posts, owing to their comparatively recent accession to the public services and liberal professions. But when a vacancy occurs in a Section where a woman has long been in charge with general approbation, and the scope of which is in many ways identical with much work done by women in many countries, we cannot but regard the appointment of a man as showing a complete disregard for the just claims of women to increasing equality in the work of the League. The hope and desires of organised women have, as I think you must be aware, been very widely expressed with regard to this appointment, and we feel assured that the action taken will be criticised in every country.

We are conscious that questions relating to the staff are delicate matters on which to intrude an outside opinion; but when it is a matter of common knowledge (as evidenced by the official notices of vacancies) that the question of the balanced representation of nationals of the States Members is taken into consideration as well as that of the efficiency of the applicant, we cannot feel that the adequate representation of women is a

question on which it is unbecoming to express an opinion.

We may add that copies of this letter are being sent by us to all our nationally affiliated societies, as we feel that it is of importance that our protest should be widely known. Women form no small part of the public opinion in each country on which, in the final report, the authority of the League of Nations must rest. It is right therefore that when a matter which seems to us to call for criticism, arises, those who give their active support to the League should express their disappointment when action is taken which appears to them likely to alienate that support.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(Signed) EDITH M. BIGLAND,  
Hon. Secretary.

#### COMPULSORY REPATRIATION OF PROSTITUTES.

The following statement has been issued to the Press by Miss Neilans, British Representative of the Equal Moral Standard Commission. Its substance is approved by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mlle. Gourd, and Dr. Shaetzel, secretary of the Alliance Committee for Equal Moral Standard. The Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Pauline Luisi, has not yet been able to see it, as she is at present on the high seas.

Sir,

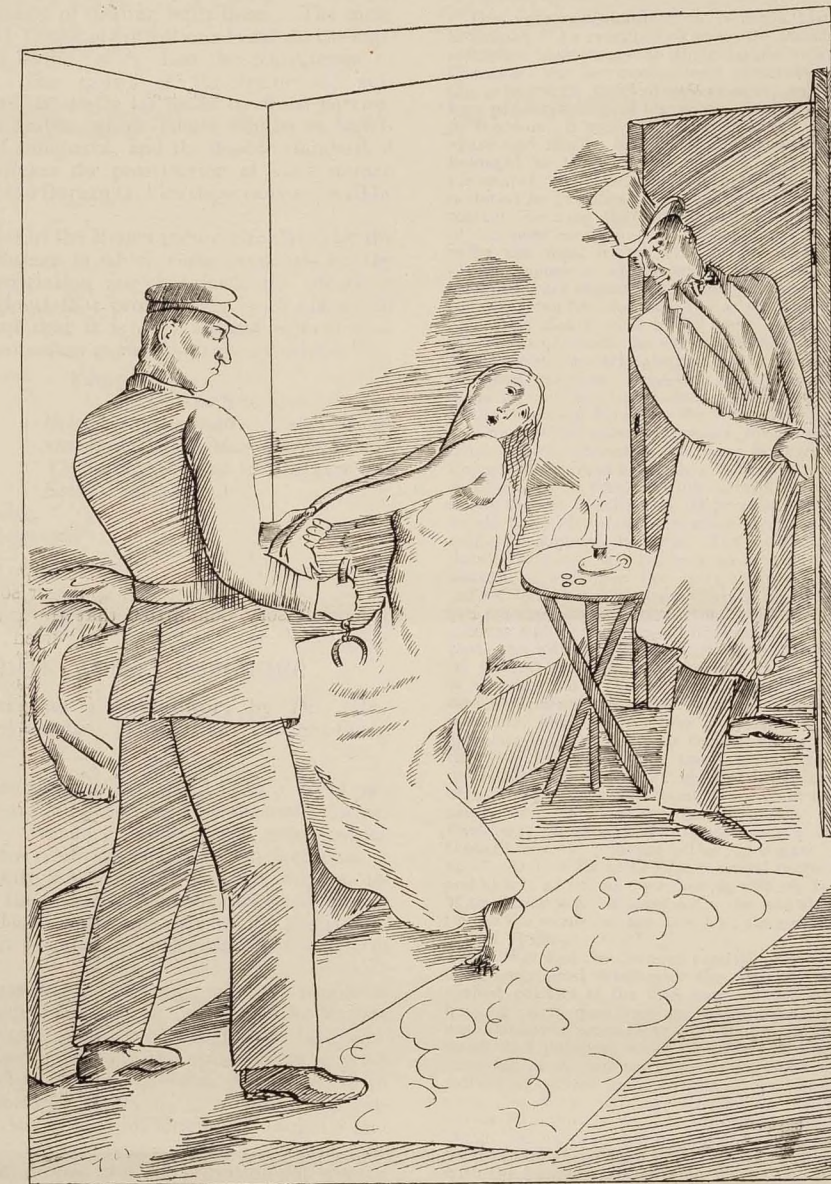
Certain proposals drawn up by the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women will be submitted this April to the League of Nations Advisory Committee dealing with this subject. These proposals are so wrong in principle that I hope all persons interested will take steps through their societies to inform the Advisory Committee that the proposals, in their present form, cannot be supported. Briefly stated, they are (1) to prevent "prostitutes" entering a foreign country to practise as such; (2) to repatriate compulsorily "prostitutes" guilty of a breach of the law, or of any municipal regulation dealing with prostitution; (3) to punish them if they return after repatriation.

It is a fundamental Abolitionist principle, which has been endorsed by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, that there shall be no special laws or regulations against prostitutes as such. These proposals are utterly contrary to that principle. I summarize the further reasons against them.

**Prevention of Entry.**—Governments already have power to prohibit entry of undesirable aliens, and can take such steps as they see fit to enforce such powers. There is no need of a special measure directed against "prostitutes" as such. Moreover, while such a measure could not be effectively enforced for the purpose intended it would undoubtedly result in hampering the free movement abroad of women in general, or of compelling them to have special passports, or of subjecting them to special enquiries into their moral character.

**Repatriation for Breaking Regulations.**—Such a measure would offer a free field for abuse in Regulationist countries by "police des mœurs" and create a situation favourable to the activities of all who prey upon and exploit women. It would encourage the blackmail of women who are not registered as prostitutes nor known as such, but may be living an irregular life or are in some equivocal position in their sex-relations. Such women are precisely the people who would come under the operation of the International Bureau's proposals, since they may be held to have broken municipal regulations dealing with prostitution if, in a Regulationist country, they do not register themselves as prostitutes and thereafter submit to a regular medical examination. The danger is the more

#### JUS CARTOONS: No. XII.



EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

The "Man in the Case" (as he goes), "The sin that ye do by two and two ye must pay for one by one—and you're the one."



obvious since in no country is the term "prostitute" clearly defined, e.g., it was stated in the League of Nations' Report that in some countries cabaret performers of the lower grades are registered as prostitutes, irrespective of whether or not they are such in fact.

**Punishment for Return.**—Here again there is no need to urge special penalties against these women. If foreigners return after deportation, each Government has its own method of dealing with them. The main work of the Anti-Traffic organizations is surely the suppression of the traffic rather than the punishment of "prostitutes." The causes of the traffic are well known; they are the desire for profit by third parties, the Regulation system which labels women as legitimate articles of commerce, and the double standard of morals which makes the prostitution of some women inevitable. If the Bureau tackles these causes it will be fully occupied.

I may add that in the Memorandum circulated by the International Bureau in which these proposals for the compulsory repatriation are contained, the theory is implicit throughout that prostitution is an offence of women only and that it is only against women that society needs protection in regard to prostitution!

I am, etc.,

ALISON NEILANS.  
British Representative Equal Moral  
Standard Commission (International  
Alliance of Women for Suffrage and  
Equal Citizenship.)

Livingstone House,  
Broadway, Westminster.

## REVIEWS.

### AN INDIAN WOMAN REFORMER.

**My Experiences as a Legislator**, by Dr. (Mrs) Muthulakshmi Reddy. (The Current Thought Press, Madras. Rs. 2.)

Dr. Reddy has given in this small book a vivid picture of the day-to-day activities of a woman reformer in India. The Women's Indian Association which worked for woman's suffrage in India, was fortunate in achieving not only a victory for suffrage, but as its Officers state in the preface, "had the rare good fortune of finding an ideal woman member for the position of the first woman member of a legislative Council of British India."

Dr. Reddy was nominated as the women's representative on the Madras Legislative Council by the Madras Government in 1926, and served until June of last year. She seems to have found time and opportunity to press for almost every feminine reform, beginning with urgent and successful efforts to have women nominated to the district Boards, Educational Councils and municipalities in the presidency. Time after time, she rose to press for proper medical provision for women and children, townswomen and the voiceless women of the villages, for travelling medical women, school doctors, clinics, midwives, research centres, V.D. centres, special hospitals for children, and specialized courses for men and women medical students—each and every practical form of help occurred to her mind.

Education shared with health her deepest and most constant attention, and her wide and catholic interests show clearly in her speeches on elementary, secondary, and university education, women's institutes, and homes for training widows as teachers. Again and again she drives home the terrible facts revealed by the statistics of illiteracy and mortality among women and girls.

Her attitude towards the British Government is dignified, courageous and friendly. Those who wish to supplement Miss Caton's admirable manual cannot do better than read Dr. Reddy's book.

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

SYLVIA PANKHURST.

**The Suffragette Movement**, by Sylvia Pankhurst. (Longmans Green. 21s.)

This very remarkable book is less a history than an autobiography. As everybody knows, the Pankhursts applied their relentless consistency to their family relationships, and, as Christabel and her mother were autocrats, in sympathy with the aristocratic ideal of government, and Sylvia, dominated by a passionate regard for the memory of her father, a democrat to the core, it was inevitable that they should at first drift apart and finally break completely with each other. They belonged to types as far opposed as it is possible to find: Christabel, the strategist, the brilliant general, using human material to gain her objective; Sylvia, the humanitarian, the martyr, desiring that the struggle should be won by means of her own sacrifice—"It is the party which is prepared to suffer the most which wins in the end." In consequence, all her memories of Christabel, even those relating to their childhood, are embittered, in spite of her efforts to be impartial; she mentions her less and less as the story proceeds, and one gets little idea from it of the place and power she held in the movement of which she was the founder; and so this immense book, which is particularly notable for the brilliance of its character sketches—conveyed for the most part, apparently casually, in a few lines—does not add much to our knowledge of the two main figures in the suffragette movement.

It reveals very clearly, however, the personality of its writer—if one had no interest in the cause in which she spent her youth, one would still read her book with absorption, for such sincerity in biography is rare, and her method, direct and almost naive, is as effective in achieving its purpose as the most finished art would be. Pity and admiration struggle in the mind of the reader throughout the book. The lot of Sylvia Pankhurst was peculiarly hard; she was born to be a painter—one bases this conviction less upon her early promise than upon the fact, indirectly revealed, that she retained throughout her vicissitudes the preoccupations of the artist, grudging, in spite of herself, the loss and waste of opportunity, and showing, every now and then, the bitterness of a spirit which has been wrenched from its natural purpose. Detachment is necessary to the artist; it is impossible to the reformer, even if there had been no militant movement, she would, with her artistic and humanitarian instincts, have had to face a difficult struggle between the opposing sides of her own temperament; what happened was that she sacrificed both these permanent interests for the temporary and violent struggle of militancy, fully conscious of what she did. She brought valuable contributions to the cause—her share of the family energy and audacity, the Pankhurst organising ability, the power swiftly to translate thought into the relevant action, obstinate courage and endurance. And, if she lacked the personal magnetism of her mother and sister, and their over-flowing vitality in her took the form of an almost morbid sensibility, she was able to hold the affection of the women of the East End among whom she lived when out of Holloway Gaol.

The War and the changed conditions of life resulting from it have lengthened artificially the distance between us and the violent politics of the first years of the century; in our time, burning party questions are extinguished under the universal wet blanket of unemployment, but in those days people were faced with political issues on which it was impossible not to have the most emphatic convictions, and to see the militant movement against its proper background it is necessary to have some idea of the political atmosphere of the times. For this, Sylvia Pankhurst's book is admirable; she has politics in her blood, and an immense amount of knowledge, particularly with regard to the then infant Labour Party, at first closely associated with the Suffrage Movement. Then, too, since she was in the militant struggle from its inception, and a full participator in it, she is able to give the most detailed and graphic account we have yet had of its arduous and endurances. Some of these pages make terrible reading, but, while the nerves wince at her revelations of the cruelty of frightened bureaucrats and the suffering of their enemies—for do not let us make any mistake, both Christabel and Sylvia should have been satisfied, the women were the aggressors in the struggle, but they were also its main victims—the heart rises in recognition of courage of the highest order.

It would be unbecoming in one who was not old enough to enrol under Mrs. Fawcett or Mrs. Pankhurst to attempt an estimate of the relative influence of their organisations in obtaining the vote for women; the time for an impartial history of the Suffrage Movement in Great Britain has not yet come, but in the meanwhile Sylvia Pankhurst's book will be read by all feminists with fascination and a mixture of horror and admiration.

A.M.R.



## SECTION FRANÇAISE.

AU B.I.T.

## La revision de la Convention de Washington sur le travail de nuit des femmes.

Les lectrices de JUS se souviennent que sur la proposition des gouvernements de Gde-Bretagne, de Belgique et de Suède, la demande avait été formulée l'été dernier au Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T. de reviser sur certains points la Convention Internationale qui interdit le travail de nuit aux femmes. Une consultation des gouvernements intéressés a eu lieu ensuite sur ce sujet, consultation dont les résultats ont été examinés par le Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T., lors de la session qu'il a tenue récemment à Genève.

Au cours de cette session, les deux décisions suivantes ont été prises:

Par 12 voix contre 11, le Conseil d'Administration a décidé d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail (mai 1931) la discussion sur l'insertion dans la Convention de Washington d'une disposition nouvelle stipulant que l'interdiction du travail de nuit ne s'applique pas aux femmes qui occupent des postes de surveillance ou de direction. C'est la proposition formulée par le gouvernement anglais, parce que le texte actuel de la Convention empêche des femmes ingénieurs surveillantes, contrôleuses dans une usine d'énergie électrique etc., d'être employées à ces postes qui comportent forcément du travail à exécuter la nuit.

Par 12 voix contre 10, le Conseil d'Administration a également décidé d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour de cette même Conférence la discussion sur l'insertion dans la Convention d'une clause autorisant un décalage des heures considérées comme travail de nuit, et pendant lesquelles le travail féminin est interdit, c'est à dire que cette période actuellement comprise entre 10 heures du soir et 5 heures du matin pourrait être, sur le désir des gouvernements, retardée d'une heure et s'étendre de 11 heures du soir à 6 heures du matin. Le gouvernement belge en effet avait signalé les difficultés que créait, dans la région de Verviers, cette rigidité des heures de travail, qui ne correspondait souvent pas aux horaires des trains locaux, amenant à la fabrique les ouvrières dans les filatures de laine ou les usines de peignage.

Enfin, par 14 voix contre 7 et 8 voix, le Conseil d'Administration a repoussé deux propositions du gouvernement suédois qui tendaient à une revision plus étendue de la Convention, dans le sens de l'extension de l'horaire de travail.

Que des lectrices trop pressées ne croient pas toutefois que ces propositions ont été déjà acceptées du fait de cette décision du Conseil d'Administration: la décision définitive appartient, insistons-y, à la prochaine session de la Conférence du Travail. Et nous estimons qu'il est de toute importance que les femmes intéressées puissent y faire entendre leur voix, et fassent par conséquent partie des délégations. Sans doute le B.I.T. attirera-t-il lui-même sur cette nécessité, prévue par le statut des Conférences du Travail, l'attention des gouvernements; mais il est de toute importance que les organisations féministes nationales interviennent elles-mêmes dans ce sens auprès des autorités compétentes de leur pays, et il n'est pas trop tôt pour le leur signaler dès maintenant.

Ajoutons que l'Open Door International, qui a tenu une session à Genève précisément à l'occasion de la discussion du Conseil d'Administration, a été reçu en délégation par le président et les deux vice-présidents de ce corps. Cette délégation, composée de Miss Macmillan, présidente, et de Mmes. van Beetzen Ostman (Finlande), Westergaard (Danemark), Andrée

Lehmann (France), Elisabeth Abbott (Gde Bretagne), Eugénie Meller (Hongrie), Dr. Welt-Strauss (Palestine), Alice Paul (Etats-Unis), et Edith Rodgers (représentante de l'O.D.I. à Genève) s'est opposée à la Convention et a demandé sa revision sur la base d'une réglementation suivant le travail et non pas suivant le sexe. Demande sans effet, comme on le voit d'après ce qui précède, la délégation n'ayant d'ailleurs pu être reçue qu'après que le Conseil eût pris les décisions mentionnées plus haut. E.Gd.

## LES ÉLECTIONS POLONAISES.

La Diète polonaise fut dissoute par décret présidentiel à la fin du mois d'août. Les nouvelles élections générales ont eu lieu en Pologne le 16 novembre. Par suite des circonstances elles revêtaient dans une certaine mesure le caractère d'un plebiscite populaire pour ou contre le Maréchal Pilsudski.

La victoire du bloc gouvernemental a été complète. Dans l'ancienne Diète il disposait seulement de 122 sièges sur 444. Il en aura désormais 247, c'est à dire plus de la majorité absolue. Parmi ces 247 députés il y a 9 femmes: Mmes. Marie Balaban, Sophie Berbecka, Halina Jaroszewicz, Marie Jaworska, Jeanne Kirtiklis, Casimire Marczynska, Sophie Moraczewska, Eugénie Wasniewska, Louise Wolska.

L'opposition de gauche est tombée de 160 à 82 députés et il y a une femme seulement parmi eux, Mme. Marguerite Szpryngier.

L'opposition de droite a porté son chiffre de 37 à 64 sièges dont trois occupés par des femmes: Mme. Gabrielle Balicka, Hélène Grossman, Eve Peplowska. Les autres sièges sont ainsi répartis: démocrates chrétiens 15, communistes 4, sionistes 3, juifs orthodoxes 4, nationalistes ukrainiens 22: parmi ces derniers une femme, Milena Rudnicka.

Les minorités allemandes qui détenaient 21 mandats n'en ont plus que 5. Pour la première fois une femme préside une commission: c'est Mlle. Marie Jaworska à la commission de l'instruction publique. Pour la première fois aussi une femme est un des secrétaires de la Diète: c'est Mme. Halina Jaroszewicz. Toutes les députées prennent une part active aux travaux des différentes commissions.

Le 23 novembre 1930 ont eu lieu les élections au Sénat. La victoire du Bloc gouvernemental a été encore plus complète: il a gagné 75 sièges, tandis que l'opposition de gauche est tombée de 26 à 13. L'opposition de droite a réalisé un gain de trois sièges, les nationalistes ukrainiens ont maintenant 4 sénateurs, au lieu de 13 dans le Sénat précédent, et les Allemands ont maintenant 3 sénateurs au lieu de 5. Les Juifs qui détenaient 6 sièges n'en n'ont plus aucun. Les démocrates chrétiens en ont 4.

Sur ces 111 sièges les femmes en disposent seulement de quatre.

Sont élues: Mme. Casimire Grunert et Hanna Hubicka du bloc gouvernemental, Mme. Dora Kluszyńska de l'opposition de gauche, et Mme. Hélène Kisiełowska du parti des nationalistes ukrainiens. Mme. Hanna Hubicka est un des secrétaires du Sénat.

Le nombre des femmes députées a augmenté en comparaison avec la Diète précédente, parce qu'il y en avait 8, tandis que maintenant il y en a 14; le nombre des femmes sénateurs n'a pas changé, il y en a 4 comme auparavant.

En somme ce ne sont que 18 femmes qui participent à la Diète et au Sénat, ce qui fait 3%—un pourcentage vraiment déplorable dans un pays comme la Pologne, où les femmes sont presque 53% de toute la population.

Espérons que les femmes feront tout leur possible pour mieux réussir la prochaine fois.

ANNA SZELAGOWSKA.

## NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES

## Grande Bretagne.

Nombre de féministes de l'étranger nous écrivent, implorant les femmes britanniques de s'employer à faire modifier la loi qui condamne à mort une femme enceinte, et retarde l'application de la sentence jusqu'après la naissance de l'enfant. L'affaire de Mrs. Wise a attiré l'attention d'autres pays sur la brutalité du code penal anglais, mais on ignore à l'étranger que depuis un demi-siècle la coutume a toujours été plus humaine que la lettre de la loi. Tout le monde savait que la sentence serait rapportée, comme à l'ordinaire, avant la naissance de l'enfant. Il n'en est pas moins vrai que judiciairement la peine de mort devait être prononcée. Miss Picton-Turberville, Membre du Parlement, a introduit un projet de loi modifiant un si déplorable état de choses, et il n'est pas douteux qu'il sera voté sans discussion.

Le siège de Islington (Londres) rendu vacant par la mort de Dr. Ethel Bentham a été conservé pour le Labour Party, par Mrs Manning qui est arrivée en tête de liste.

## Décès.

Nous regrettons d'annoncer la mort de notre correspondante italienne, la suffragiste bien connue: Dr. Beatrice Sacchi. Nous adressons nos sincères condoléances à sa famille, et à l'Auxiliaire italienne, particulièrement à sa sœur Dr. Ada Sacchi Simonetta, présidente de l'Association suffragiste.

## Etats-Unis

Les femmes d'Hawaii espèrent pouvoir être jurés. Un Bill qui amenderait l'Acte Organique d'Hawaii pour permettre à la Législature d'adopter une loi, ouvrant les jurys aux femmes, a été accepté par la Chambre des représentants mais se heurte à l'opposition du Sénat.

La Ligue des femmes électeurs hawaiiennes ne se décourage pas et recommencera sa propagande pour le prochain Congrès de Décembre.

Sur 48 Etats des Etats-Unis, vingt-six refusent aux femmes le droit d'être jurés. La Ligue des Femmes électeurs travaille dans le but de changer cet état de choses pour 1931.

## Japon.

Le Gouvernement a promis de présenter à la Diète un projet de loi qui donnerait aux femmes de plus de 25 ans la franchise et l'éligibilité municipale, abstraction faite toutefois du vote préfectoral.

Il se peut même que les conditions soit ramenées à 20 ans d'âge et un an de résidence comme pour les électeurs masculins.

Cette réforme ajouterait plus de 13 millions de femmes aux listes électorales.

## DAME RACHEL CROWDY.

La Commission permanente représentant les Associations féministes Internationales a adressé une lettre à Sir Eric Drummond protestant contre la nomination d'un homme au poste de directeur de la Section des Narcotiques et d'Hygiène Sociale, récemment occupé par Dame Rachel Crowdy.

Cette regrettable décision prive le Secrétariat de l'avantage de posséder une femme dans une position de haute responsabilité.

## CORRESPONDANCE.

Madame Bakker Nort nous écrit que Jus Suffragii a fait erreur en lui attribuant le mérite d'une loi qui aurait été passée par le Parlement hollandais et qui accorderait à l'épouse sa juste part dans les revenus du ménage.

Madame Bakker Nort est présidente d'un comité qui fait de la propagande en vue de l'adoption d'un projet de loi dont les intentions sont plus radicales que celles du Gouvernement, mais rien n'est encore voté.

La Rédaction regrette qu'un mot de la note ajoutée à la Traduction des "Religieuses Boudhistes" ait pu offenser certaines susceptibilités parmi les lectrices catholiques et s'en excuse auprès d'elles.

## LA CAMPAGNE PACIFISTE MONDIALE.

La Conférence de l'Alliance pour le Désarmement se réunit en Février. Ce fait ne doit pas manquer de stimuler les efforts de ceux qui ont foi en l'avenir de la paix. Nombre de Sociétés pacifistes et féministes projettent une campagne mondiale. Un effort a déjà été fait dans ce sens par la Grande Conférence sur les Causes et Remèdes de Guerre à Washington (U.S.A.) et par le Meeting du Queen's Hall à Londres où le Ministre des Affaires des Affaires Etrangères, Mr. Henderson, de retour de Genève, prononça un si remarquable discours.

L'Alliance projette une Conférence sur le Désarmement à Belgrade au mois de mai prochain.

Pouvons nous espérer que toutes nos auxiliaires nous aideront et organiseront chez elles de semblables manifestations?

Les femmes de Grande Bretagne ont pu amener un Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à se prononcer pour le désarmement. Dans 28 pays les femmes ont le même pouvoir politique qu'elles ont en Grande Bretagne. Elles peuvent faire la même chose. Nous ne voulons pas de faibles efforts isolés, mais une véritable union de forces nationales et internationales.

Nous pouvons prendre les résolutions de l'Union Interparlementaire comme base de discussion, ou réclamer des coupes hardies dans les programmes militaires, ce qui libérera des énergies constructives propres à remédier aux plaies politiques et sociales dont nous souffrons tous.

d'après M. CORBETT ASHBY.

[Le programme préliminaire de la Conférence convoquée pour le mois de mai à Belgrade nous est parvenu trop tard pour que nous puissions insérer la traduction dans le présent numéro de Jus Suffragii].

## LA CAMPAGNE POUR LE DROIT DE NATIONALITÉ.

Nos lectrices se rappellent que la question de nationalité fut un des sujets de discussion à la première Conférence de Codification à La Haye en Mars-Avril, 1930. La discussion n'aboutit pas, mais les délégués recommandèrent aux divers Gouvernements d'introduire le principe d'égalité dans la détermination de la nationalité des sexes et d'y respecter les droits de l'épouse en tant que personne.

Immédiatement après, une propagande organisée recommença, par le monde entier, et en Septembre, 1930, le représentant de Cuba rouvrit la question à Genève. Il était appuyé par notre présidente, Mrs. Corbett Ashby et les déléguées de quarante-deux nations. En Novembre, 1930, Miss Alice Paul, Présidente du Comité Américain rencontra à Paris Mme. van der Schalk et toutes deux se mirent d'accord sur le programme à suivre, au cas où le Conseil de la Société des Nations déciderait de remettre la question de Nationalité sur le tapis pour la session de 1931.

Madame van der Schalk suggéra la formation d'une Commission Consultative composée de femmes, et qui exposerait leur point de vue sur le sujet. Mr. Matos délégué de Guatemala, et éminent juriste, et



accepta avec enthousiasme de porter la question devant le Conseil à sa réunion de janvier. Toute latitude lui était laissée pour préparer le terrain et formuler sa résolution.

Cet appui était encourageant mais il fallait attendre le mois de janvier.

Les intéressées décidèrent de se réunir à Genève, pour le 17 janvier et de tout faire pour influencer les membres du Conseil. Malheureusement un secours vint à manquer en la personne de Mrs. Corbett Ashby, qui, malade, ne put se rendre à Genève; malheureusement aussi le programme du Conseil était très chargé et le 19 janvier il avait disposé de cette question de Codification avant même que Mr. Matos ait eu le temps de formuler sa résolution.

Pour qui ne connaît pas l'habileté et l'énergie de Miss Alice Paul, la cause semblait perdue. Elle manœuvra si bien qu'elle obtint l'impossible et le 24 janvier la question revint à nouveau devant le Conseil. Cette fois Mr. Matos, soutenu par les représentants du Venezuela et du Pérou put formuler sa résolution, et les membres du Conseil (préalablement travaillés par nos propagandistes) la votèrent à l'unanimité, comme suit:

"Le Conseil décide de placer sur l'Agenda de la prochaine session de l'Assemblée la continuation de l'étude sur la Nationalité de la femme mariée."

Les organisations féminines doivent toute leur reconnaissance aux trois représentants sud-américains dont l'initiative leur a valu ce succès. Elles se félicitent qu'un tel travail ait pu être accompli en six jours. Enfin leurs remerciements vont tout spécialement à Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, qui non seulement a inauguré la campagne en France et a persuadé Mr. Briand de l'intérêt qu'y portaient les Françaises, mais qui aussi leur a fourni les moyens matériels de réussite, d'une façon si noble et si généreuse que c'était plaisir d'en profiter.

d'après LILY VAN DER SCHALK.

NOTE.—Nous sommes heureux d'informer nos lectrices que la Commission consultative suggérée par Mme. van der Schalk a été agréée en principe par le Conseil. Le noyau en est le Comité de liaison des organisations féministes internationales, inauguré à Genève en Septembre dernier. Ce comité va s'adjoindre d'autres membres, de sorte qu'il pourra être véritablement représentatif des neuf organisations féministes mentionnées par le Conseil. Sa tâche sera de préparer un rapport pour le soumettre à l'Assemblée.

#### EN LISANT LES MAITRES DE LA PENSÉE MODERNE.

Demandez au Français moyen ce qu'il pense du féminisme. Il vous répondra qu'il n'y pense pas—Pressez-le de questions directes: "Sans aucun doute, Madame, vous dira-t-il, les capacités de la femme valent celles de l'homme, aussi ne mettons nous aucun obstacle à leur développement; voyez nos Ecoles, nos carrières commerciales, notre Industrie."

"Très bien, Monsieur, mais le Code assure-t-il l'égalité dans le mariage?"

"Non, mais la femme sait si bien le tourner que neuf fois sur dix les conflits se dénouent à son avantage—"

"Et la Constitution, la jugez-vous équitable?"

"Il est vrai que les femmes n'ont pas nos droits politiques, mais qu'y gagneraient-elles? leur influence occulte à ce point de vue est indéniable. Nous répugnerions à les voir entrer dans l'arène et dépouiller leur grâce, leur souplesse et leur charme pour les âpres luttes parlementaires."

"En somme, pour vous, tout est bien ainsi?"

"Tout est bien ainsi. La femme elle-même se plaint-elle? Demandez-t-elle le droit de suffrage à cor et à cri? Casse-t-elle des vitres, comme les suffragettes anglaises? Je ne vois vraiment pas, madame, pourquoi vous venez déranger sa quiétude et lui donner le regret de pouvoirs qu'elle n'aurait jamais, d'elle-même, songer à revendiquer."

Voilà l'opinion du Français moyen, et il faut avouer que la Française moyenne s'accorde à lui donner raison. Mais qu'une femme vienne à souffrir d'une injustice, alors ses yeux se dessillent et l'iniquité de sa condition lui apparaît. Tel jugement de tribunal nous apprend soudain que le mari a

droit de surveillance sur la correspondance de sa femme, même si les époux sont séparés. Dans les cas d'abandon et d'infanticide, la femme est seule responsable. C'est quand on met le doigt sur de telles iniquités que la propagande féministe apparaît courageuse et nécessaire.

L'apathie du public français, et même—ce qu'il y a de plus regrettable—du public intelligent, est d'autant plus incompréhensible que l'une après l'autre les nations d'Europe et même la Turquie octroient aux femmes la franchise électorale. Seuls trois pays latins: l'Italie, la France, et l'Espagne forment un irréductible bloc. Encore l'Espagne, aux temps pré-dictatoriaux a-t-elle fait l'essai du vote familial, et une correspondante italienne nous assurait récemment que l'éligibilité féminine est inscrite, en principe, dans les Statuts de l'Etat corporatif.

Il paraît cependant que ce qui, aux yeux des féministes, est une infériorité manifeste, constituée au dire de certains auteurs et non des moindres, le plus beau titre de gloire de la Française. Écoutons soit l'écrivain à la mode, soit l'illustre conférencier, qui par delà les mers ou les monts va porter à l'étranger le renom de la pensée et de l'esprit français:

"La Française, proclame M. Maurice Bedel, semble assister à l'avènement de la femme moderne en spectatrice plutôt qu'en ouvrière. Elle ne veut rien perdre de cette suprématie morale que sa subordination et la projection dont elle a toujours eu besoin lui ont garantie jusqu'ici. Elle tient moins à vaincre l'homme sur son propre terrain qu'à conserver les avantages que lui sont conquis sa grâce et sa tendresse."

Disons-le bien haut, à la gloire des féministes françaises: si celles-ci assistent à l'avènement de la femme moderne en spectatrice, c'est à leur corps défendant, et ce serait faire injure aux pionnières, depuis Pauline Roland jusqu'aux ardentes suffragistes contemporaines, que de méconnaître la portée internationale du Féminisme français. De cela M. Maurice Bedel n'a cure: le Féminisme n'est pas, pour lui, article d'exportation. Il s'en tient à la galanterie surannée de son Jérôme XXIème siècle qui, tout en minaudant, se rengorgeant, des compliments à lui adressés, se voitait la face, O pudeur masculine, devant les hardieses d'une Suédoise, hardieses qu'il lui a certainement plu d'exagérer, mais qui n'en témoignaient pas moins d'un merveilleux équilibre physique et d'une belle santé morale.

Et voilà que de Bucarest encore, nous arrivent les échos d'un autre conférencier, élégant et disert:

"La femme française occupe une situation privilégiée. Aussi longtemps qu'elle sera soumise à l'homme, elle déploiera pour le conquérir ces ressources naturelles qui finissent toujours par nous mettre à ses pieds. Quels avantages aurait-elle à nous disputer une égalité dont la première conséquence sera de la faire descendre de ce haut piédestal où nous l'avons placée?"

Qui parle ainsi? M. Gaston Rageot, un de ces "Amis des femmes" qui les connaît si peu, ou plutôt qui n'en connaît que deux espèces: celle avec qui il discute les comptes de semaine et celle qui partage les jeux d'alcôve. Leur combinaison forme l'être mythique qu'on place sur un piédestal et qu'on pare de toutes les grâces jusqu'au jour, où s'apercevant qu'il tombe de vétusté, on le remplace par une autre statue, plus élégante et plus aimable.

Il se peut qu'à côté il y ait des femmes qui travaillent et suffisent à leur besoins ou à ceux d'une famille. Il se peut que dans les Facultés, les laboratoires, les ateliers, des femmes contribuent, de concert avec l'homme, au développement de la pensée, de la science et de l'art. M. Rageot n'en a cure, car celles-là ne sont plus "femmes." Elles ont dédaigné cette situation privilégiée qui, "les soumettant à l'homme, le jette à leurs pieds." M. Rageot est optimiste: Il ne voit pas que les rangs de ces privilégiées se clarifient; car l'esclave a rompu sa chaîne d'or et les battues du Sultan ne ramènent plus au Harem qu'un maigre bétail.

Cette pensée superficielle d'auteurs dits intelligents ne reflète-t-elle pas trait pour trait, à part les enjolivements du style, l'opinion de notre Français moyen? Le Féminisme évidemment ne fait pas encore recette; mais, progrès sensible, on en parle, ne serait-ce que pour le dénigrer. Serait-il donc à craindre? O Hommes tranquillisez-vous! Car voilà un autre maître de la pensée moderne et celui-là de forte envergure—le Comte Henri de Kayserling—qui, tâchant de définir le charme inexplicable du doux pays de France, le trouve dans ce fait qu'il est "le dernier asile de l'amour."

"En Europe, dit-il, les sentiments agonisent." Dans la plupart des pays les femmes se transforment fatalement en Amazones. La femme du monde du type le plus moderne traite l'homme d'égal à égal. Mais en France l'amour joue exactement le même rôle qu'autrefois: "aussi sans doute, ceux qui sont encore capables d'aimer se rendront de plus en plus en pèlerinage en France. Puisse donc la France—à cet égard tout au moins—rester éternellement la vieille France!"

Touchant spectacle! Admirable destinée! A la Française est réservé l'honneur de sauver l'humanité. Elle seule demeure la Grande Prêtresse de l'amour—Mesdames! saluons—car s'il est un devoir auquel la Française ne failira pas, et qu'elle saura toujours parer des grâces millénaires, c'est celui d'aimer. Aimer avec passion, aimer avec tendresse, aimer avec intelligence. . . . Les vieux lambris d'une vieille demeure provinciale

se renvoient les échos du dernier comité suffragiste de la petite ville et le promeneur étranger qui flâne par les rues, voyant sortir ces femmes discrètes et souriantes, se réjouit dans son coeur. Ici, du moins, les anciennes coutumes persistent: la Française de 1931 n'est qu'une édition rajeunie de son aïeule romantique. Ici, le Forum communal, aux bancs moussus sous les ormes vénérables, ne retentira point du verbe haut des Amazones. La femme est gardienne du passé. . . . Mais un beau matin, à son réveil, M. Le Comte de Keyserling, jetant les regards sur son journal, lira avec stupeur que les Françaises ont obtenu le droit de vote, et, se frottant les yeux, il se demandera si la passante au gracieux sourire a soudain revêtu l'armure de l'Amazone. Mais il sait bien que c'est impossible. N'a-t-il pas lui-même remarqué que la France est le seul pays du monde où les contrastes se résolvent en harmonie? La Française aura accompli ce tour de force d'être devenue civiquement l'égale de l'homme sans que rien dans son attitude ou son langage ait manifestement changé!

Ce sont là propos innocents et bénins. "Le dernier asile de l'amour" du Comte de Keyserling nous fait sourire, et nous haussons les épaules devant les fadeurs de MM. Bedel et Rageot—mais nous nous attristons véritablement lorsqu'un grand maître de la pensée française, M. Julien Benda, prend amèrement les femmes à partie, à cause des traits mêmes qui leurs valent les suffrages de ses collègues. Ce sont elles les auteurs responsables de la réaction contre l'intellectualisme:

"Une des raisons cruciales selon nous pourquoi l'esthétique de la présente société française est ce que nous la voyons, c'est qu'elle est faite toute entière par les femmes. Maint auteur nous dira qu'il ne travaille que pour les femmes. . . qu'il n'y a plus qu'elles qui lisent. . . on peut dire qu'aujourd'hui, en raison de transformations économiques qui font que l'homme du monde se tue au travail et n'a de temps ni d'âme pour aucune activité de l'esprit, la direction des choses de l'esprit dans la bonne société appartient tout entière aux femmes. . . Au XVIIIème siècle, les femmes avaient le respect de la forme de l'âme masculine, et s'évaluaient dans la mesure où elles y tendaient. . . La prétention qu'ont les femmes d'aujourd'hui de valoir par les qualités propres à leur sexe et dont le mâle serait dénué s'accompagne chez elles d'une hauteur à l'égard des hommes, d'un mépris, d'une sorte de volonté de brimade qu'aucune société d'antan semble n'avoir connue."

Pauvre M. Benda! Il a dû avoir des amies, intelligentes sans doute, mais de caractère difficile. . . et cela lui faisait regretter les douceurs d'empirement d'une Grande Mademoiselle, l'humilité d'une Montespan et la spirituelle indulgence d'une Duchesse du Maine! Il est vrai que la volonté de brimade de ces dames du XVIIIème siècle avait pour excuse qu'elles "tendaient à réaliser la forme d'âme masculine." Aujourd'hui la femme non seulement s'abandonne à la perversité naturelle de son sexe, mais elle en tire orgueil et gloire, témoin la renommée littéraire d'une Colette ou d'une Madame de Noailles!

En marge de ces spirituelles femmes du monde, responsables du déclin de l'intellectualisme, il existe des travailleuses, qui aux côtés de Madame Curie ou prolongeant son oeuvre, se livrent aux travaux de laboratoire et aux calculs mathématiques. Leur nom ne passera pas à la postérité comme celui d'une Marquise du Châtelet—pour qui la Physique était un passe-temps de l'esprit. Femmes du XXème siècle où la division du travail s'impose, elles se contentent d'apporter leur part de labeur, au labeur continu des générations. Parcequ'elles sont obscures et modestes, et ne fréquentent guère les salons M. Benda les ignore ou en fait fi. . . Et pourtant elles font école.

Admettons après tout la justesse des reproches de M. Benda—lesquels, nous l'avons entendu par la bouche de MM. Bedel et Rageot constituent précisément nos mérites. A qui la faute? Que donnez-vous à la femme, Messieurs, comme aliment aux besoins de son esprit, de cet esprit que vous louez et maudissez à la fois? Tout juste, elle-même. C'est malgré vous que la femme s'est ouvert l'accès aux professions libérales et même aux lettres. Madame de la Fayette que vous appréciez si fort, n'osait au XVIIème siècle signer ses œuvres. Si vous blâmez les stériles effets de cette complaisance pour elle-même, osez donc l'en libérer en lui ouvrant, grandes, toutes les portes, y compris celles de la Politique. Pourquoi son esprit ne s'exercerait-il pas tout comme le vôtre aux mâles dessins des combinaisons parlementaires et aux tortueuses habiletés de la diplomatie? Et même, si nous osons formuler un souhait, pourquoi n'appor- terait-elle pas dans les affaires du pays cette simplicité droite et ce parfait désintéressement qui manquent hélas! par trop à votre République de Camarades. Vous objecterez qu'elle n'a pas de sens politique. Qu'à cela ne tienne! Mm. Bedel, Rageot, Kayserling, Benda, avec toutes vos galanteries, vos regrets, votre amertume il est un trait que vous n'avez pas reconnu à la Française et qu'elle possède abondamment: c'est le bon sens.

ALINE MARTIN REES.

\* Belphegor.

When ordering advertised goods, or writing for particulars of them, please mention that the advertisement was seen in "The International Women's News."

#### Business and Professional Women.

Will be interested to know of attractive, furnished flatlets for ladies only.

Moderate rentals. Every convenience.

CENTRAL LONDON CHAMBERS,

38 Doughty St.,

Tel: Terminus 3501.

W.C.1., London.

#### INDIVIDUALIST LUNCHEON.

MARCH 18th.

Speaker: Principal L. P. Jacks, M.A.

Subject: "The Menace of Social Incompetence."

Tickets from The Secretary, The Individualist Bookshop,

53, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Tel: Victoria 0850.

#### CHATEAU BIENVENUE

LUTRY N/LAUSANNE.

Boarding School for Girls.

Modern languages and preparation for French Examinations. Special section for full domestic course. Winter sports and Summer holidays in the Alps.

Principals: Mmes. RUFER.

#### HALL available for Private Meetings.

Seating accommodation for 240 on Ground Floor and 80 in Gallery.

TERMS:

Morning - - 10 a.m.— 2 p.m. - £1 1 0

Afternoon - 3 p.m.— 6 p.m. - £2 2 0

Evening - - 7 p.m.— 10 p.m. - £2 2 0

Whole Day - 10 a.m.— 6 p.m. - £3 3 0

Apply: THE SECRETARY, 3 DENISON HOUSE,

296, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1

(close to Victoria Station).

#### WADSWORTH & CO.

THE RYDAL PRESS

KEIGHLEY

MAGAZINE AND GENERAL PRINTERS

Reports, Catalogues and Pamphlets Specialised.

Estimates given for all kinds of Printing.

#### THE WORLD'S CHILDREN.

Illustrated Monthly Magazine. Edited by Edward Fuller.

FOURPENCE per issue. By post, 5s., \$1.25,

or 6 gold francs per year.

The Weardale Press, Ltd., 26, Gordon St., London,

W.C.1.

#### RECONCILIATION

A Magazine for all who seek to drive out the spirit of strife, whether between persons, classes, nations or races.

Monthly - Price 3d.

Specimen copy free from: The Secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation,

17, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1.



## SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To the Secretary, I. A. W. S. E. C., 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S. W. 1

\*I desire to become an Associate Member of the Alliance and enclose £1, for a year's subscription  
or

A subscriber to the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS and enclose 6s. for the yearly subscription, post free.

Name .....

Address .....

\*N. B. — Membership includes subscription to the paper.

Board of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, elected at the Eleventh Congress, Berlin, June 17-22, 1929.

**President:** MRS CORBETT ASHBY, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15, England  
**Hon. President and Founder:** MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, 171, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A.  
**First Vice-President:** ADELE SCHREIBER (Germany). **Members:** HODA CHARAOUTI (Egypt), SUZANNE GRINBERG-AUPOURRAIN (France), INGEBORG HANSEN (Denmark), PAULINA LUISI (Uruguay), RUTH MORGAN (U.S.A.), ALISON NEILANS (Great Britain), EUGENIE DE REUSS JANCULESCU (Roumania), BESSIE RISCHBIETH (Australia), JOSEPHINE SCHAIN (U.S.A.), LA MARQUESA DEL TER (Spain), AVRA THEODOROPoulos (Greece), DOROTHEE VON VELSEN (Germany), INGEBORG WALIN (Sweden).  
**Second Vice-President:** ROSA MANUS (Holland).  
**Vice-Presidents:** GERMAINE MALATERRE-SELLIER (France), FRANTISKA PLAMINKOVA (Czecho-Slovakia).  
**Treasurer:** FRANCES M. STERLING (England).  
**Corresponding Secretary:** EMLIE GOURD, Crets de Pregny, Geneva, Switzerland.  
**Assistant Secretary:** MILENA ATANATSKOVITCH (Jugoslavia).  
**AUXILIARIES IN:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Cuba, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jugo-Slavia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Peru, Porto Rico, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay.

**INTERNATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES.**—Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and Against the Traffic in Women: Chairman, Dr. Paulina Luisi. Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women: Chairman, Froken Ingeborg Walin. Committee on Illegitimate Children: Chairman, Frau Adele Schreiber Krieger. Committee for Peace: Chairman, Miss Ruth Morgan. Committee on Women Police: Chairman, Miss Manus. Committee on the Civil Status of Women: Chairman, Mme. Suzanne Grinberg. Committee for Suffrage and Elections: Chairman, Mme. Plaminkova.

By-Law of the I.A.W.S.E.C. Constitution.

"The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

Headquarters and EDITORIAL OFFICES of the I.W. News: 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Telegrams: "Vocorajto."

Telephone: Victoria 0285.

## TIME AND TIDE

The only weekly review in the world edited and controlled solely by women.

EVERY FRIDAY, 6d.

**A Weekly Review is not a luxury—**  
It is a necessity for everyone who wishes to be well informed upon current events.

### DIRECTORS

Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C. B. E., M. D. (Chairman)  
The Viscountess Rhondda (Vice-Chairman)  
Prof. Winifred Cullis, O. B. E., D. Sc. Miss Winifred Holtby, M. A.  
Miss E. M. Delafield Lady Llewellyn  
Miss Cicely Hamilton Miss Marion Jean Lyon  
Miss Rebecca West

Subscription Rates 26/- a year; 13/- six months;  
7/6 three months.

Specimen Copy free of  
The Circulation Manager, TIME AND TIDE,  
32, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

## THE VOTE

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE PAPER.

144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

## THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

(Organ of the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).

PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.

PRICE 2d. (Annual Subscription, post free, 2/6.)

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance,  
55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

2d. WEEKLY.

WOMEN in different parts of the world interested in the Woman's Movement in Great Britain should read this paper every week. SHORT, CHEAP, UP-TO-DATE.

10/10 post free at home or abroad.

Write for a specimen copy to

The Manager, THE WOMAN'S LEADER,  
4, Tufton Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—All communications respecting ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to:—

The Advertisement Manager,  
190, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

### ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Full page facing editorial matter . . . . £8 0 0  
Half and quarter page pro rata.  
Full page not facing matter . . . . £6 0 0  
Half and quarter page pro rata.

### Series Discounts:

3 insertions 5%      6 insertions 10%  
12 insertions 15%

### SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

Small advertisements 5s. an inch, and 2d. per word over.

NOTICE TO READERS.—All communications respecting Subscriptions and Editorial contributions should be addressed to:—THE EDITOR, I.W. NEWS, 190, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1.