

WOMEN'S SERVICE .

FILE COPY

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

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

JVS SVFFRAGII.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



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SUFFRAGISTS AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

By DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.

AS the "International Woman Suffrage Alliance News" penetrates to many countries, I take this opportunity of asking the readers if their experience has been the same as mine in finding that the foremost friends of the woman's suffrage in days gone by are now the best and most active friends of the League of Nations, comprehending its spirit and understanding its methods and aims far better than those who have had little sympathy with, and less active participation in, the work of advancing the political emancipation of women.

I have made enquiries on this point of several of my chief colleagues in suffrage work here, and they have invariably confirmed my own strong impression on this point; and, *per contra*, those politicians who opposed woman's suffrage up to the last and bowed with probable reluctance to the inevitable when it succeeded, are very apt to be, even when they mean well, but blunder-



DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E.

ing supporters of the League of Nations.

What is true of individuals is true also of the societies which form the strength of our League of Nations Union over here. Almost invariably a really strong League of Nations Union Society is organised and worked by women who had their training in our suffrage work; and its constitutional societies are very frequently led and inspired by one, or perhaps by a small group of suffrage experts.

The membership roll of the League of Nations Union, published every month in "Headway," has increased steadily and rapidly from 3,800 in January, 1919, to 514,789 in January, 1926. To give some idea of how it has been done, I give one example of one of the League of Nations Union Societies, of which, however, I withhold the name. In its third annual report, this society reached a growth of membership, within the year, from 6,700 to 10,000,

with 65 properly constituted branches and ten more waiting to be definitely formed; 315 meetings had been held in its area, an income of £1,158 had been raised and spent, leaving a small balance in hand. The name of the chief leader and organiser of this society is tucked away in an inconspicuous part of the report, so that no one who did not see behind the scenes could possibly tell what she had done; but she was a mainstay of the suffrage cause in the district where she lived and is mainstay of the League of Nations Union now.

May I appeal to readers in the United States, Scandinavia and other countries where women's suffrage is in actual operation, to let the Editor of this paper know whether their experience has resembled ours.

In the United States we certainly know that Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Anna Shaw have been ardent workers for the League of Nations' principle. In fact our dear Anna Shaw literally killed herself by her exertions to promote world peace. She joined ex-President Taft in one of those terrible speaking tours which have killed so many people in the United States. The victims travel all night and every night and speak all day and every day; I hear that they are expected to speak six or seven times each day. No wonder that strong men in the prime of life frequently collapse under the strain. There is really some comfort in belonging to compact little countries such as we have in Europe.

I ought to know more than I do of the degree to which feminism and League of Nations' principles are represented in Scandinavia by the same persons: but, of course, we all know that Mrs. Wicksell was one of our chief helpers in suffrage work in Norway and Sweden, and is now greatly honoured in Geneva as a permanent member of the Mandates Commission. I think also we may claim the late Mr. Branting as a foremost representative in his own country of the two great movements I have been endeavouring to compare.

I hope France, Germany, Italy, and other countries will give us further information on the point I have been discussing.

Over here a great peace demonstration is to be held on June 19th. It is modelled on our Suffrage Pilgrimage which was held in 1913. From north, south, east and west peace-loving men and women of England will be walking towards London holding meetings in the towns and villages they pass through, and telling people what they can do to organise for peace rather than for war. They will start in May, urging the necessity of settling international differences which will inevitably arise by taking them to a Court of Justice or a Court of Conciliation instead of killing one another, or, worse still, making a holocaust of the youth of the country.

CONGRESS NEWS.

We are glad to say that Dame Millicent Fawcett, whose article we print above, is coming to the Paris Congress, where a good deal will be heard of the I.W.S.A.'s relations with the League of Nations. We hope some of our auxiliaries will answer Dame Millicent Fawcett's query.

Action Féminine, Luxembourg.

The Action Féminine of Luxembourg, a society of Catholic women, has been admitted provisionally to affiliation, which we hope will be ratified at Paris.

A Representative Congress.

Delegates and visitors are coming to the Congress from every quarter of the globe. Over forty countries will be represented. Every class, every creed, every race, every profession will have their representatives.

A glance at the programme will show the varied work of the I.W.S.A. It likewise shows, as does Mme. Malaterre-Sellier's article (p. 119) the many interesting and delightful entertainments and expeditions being prepared by our hospitable French hostesses.

Peace Meeting.

The meeting for World Peace promises to be so popular that the Trocadéro has been taken for the purpose. Besides the speeches there will be a choir, and artists from the celebrated Odéon will present an allegorical play. No one who can possibly manage to get

to Paris should miss the Congress. It will be a strenuous week, but one of lasting memories.

RESOLUTION ON WOMEN POLICE.

The Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein requests the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to adopt the following resolutions on the question of women police:—

The I.W.S.A. calls for the establishment of women police, believing it to be essential in the interest of the whole population that police forces should be composed of both men and women.

The I.W.S.A. requests its affiliated societies to devote great attention to this question and to ensure that in no country are women included in the police force without the co-operation of the organised women of the country.

Women's organisations in their propaganda for the inclusion of women in the police should lay stress on the following points:—

- Women police should especially be employed in welfare and preventive work, more particularly in cases in which women, children and young persons are concerned.
- The use of women police as agents provocateurs, secret police agents or "Morals" police (police des mœurs), should be absolutely prohibited.
- The training of policewomen should be both in actual police work and in social welfare work. Special emphasis should be laid on thorough theoretical and practical instruction. It follows that it is preferable to build up an efficient force by degrees rather than to engage a large number of women at the expense of quality.
- In order to ensure their proper status with the public and for their own protection, policewomen should wear uniform, but should not be armed.
- A central organisation under the direction of women is much to be desired.
- Close co-operation with organisations concerned in social welfare work is desirable.

LETTER FROM THE FRENCH AUXILIARY. Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes:

Paris, le 25 mars, 1926.

Madame et chère Présidente,

Dans deux mois s'ouvrira le Dixième Congrès International pour le suffrage des femmes.

C'est pour nous, suffragistes françaises, un grand plaisir de recevoir à Paris des femmes de tous les pays du monde. Nous nous réjouissons de les accueillir, et nous ferons tout ce qui sera en notre pouvoir pour qu'elles conservent de leur séjour parmi nous un agréable souvenir.

Nous souhaitons, chère Madame, qu'à côté des travaux si intéressants préparés par l'Alliance Internationale pour le Congrès, vous puissiez jouir aussi de quelques moments de détente: promenades, réceptions, spectacles, etc.; et nous nous efforçons d'organiser ces distractions sans nuire aux séances de travail.

Nous espérons que les femmes, et aussi les hommes de votre pays viendront en grand nombre au Congrès de Paris. Nous souhaitons ardemment que celui-ci soit un très grand succès pour notre cause, et une nouvelle occasion de resserrer les liens d'amitié et de solidarité entre les femmes de toutes les nations.

Au moment même, où à Genève la Société des Nations semble avoir encore besoin de toute la force de l'opinion publique pour continuer son oeuvre, nous aurons une merveilleuse occasion de prouver la volonté des femmes de tous les pays de se grouper étroitement pour maintenir l'union et la paix entre les peuples.

C'est donc avec l'espoir que vous répondrez nombreuses à l'appel de l'Alliance et à notre affectueuse insistance, que nous vous envoyons, chère Madame, nos sentiments de cordiale amitié.

C. BRUNSCHVICG,

Présidente de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

G. MALATERRE-SELLIER,

Secrétaire Générale.

PARIS CONGRESS.

PROGRAMME, PARIS, MAY 30th-June 6th, 1926.

SUNDAY, MAY 30th.

Morning:

Delegations meet their Presidents.

Afternoon:

2 p.m.—Open meeting of Commission on Family Endowment.

Chairman: MISS RATHBONE. Report on the schemes at work in Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, etc., both in public services and through Equalisation Funds (Caisse de Compensation), or by compulsory contributory insurance or State endowment; followed by discussion on the principle in its bearing on the status of wives and mothers, the problems of equal pay for equal work, the payment of a living wage, and the well-being of children.

Evening:

8.30 p.m.—OPENING OF CONGRESS.

Greeting from the French Government, the Municipality of Paris, the French Auxiliary; President's opening speech; tribute to the late Mme. de Witt Schlumberger; speeches from the Women of Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and from the Marchioness of Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women.

MONDAY, MAY 31st.

9 a.m.—Seating of Delegates, report of Admissions Committee, report of Board on Conduct of Congress, appointment of Congress committees.

10.30 a.m.—Presentation of report and resolutions from the Equal Moral Standard Commission.

2 p.m.—Presentation of report and resolutions from Like Conditions of Work Commission.

4 p.m.—General resolutions (Women in Diplomacy).

Evening:

8.30 p.m.—Public meeting: Messages from women of all nations. Chairman Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1st.

9.30 a.m.—Presentation of report and resolutions from Commission on the Unmarried Mother and her Child.

11.30 a.m.—Presentation of report and resolutions from Commission on Nationality of Married Women.

2 p.m.—Presentation of report and resolutions from Family Endowment Commission.

4 p.m.—General resolutions.

5.15 p.m.—Reception by the Municipality of Paris at the Hôtel de Ville.

Evening:

Gala Performance at the Opera.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2nd.

9.30 a.m.—Resolutions arising from reports of Board, on *Jus Suffragii* and from affiliated societies (all circulated).

10 a.m.—Amendments to Constitution. Nominations for President and Board.

2 p.m.—Conference on methods of work in unenfranchised countries.

At 11 a.m. it is proposed that members of the Congress should take part in a suffrage demonstration by means of a tour of motor cars through Paris.

Evening:

8.45 p.m.—Public meeting in the Hall of the "Sociétés Savantes," 28 rue Serpente: Women against the Code Napoleon (Civil Rights of Women under different Systems of Law). Chairman: Mme. GRINBERG.

ALL meetings will be held at the Sorbonne unless otherwise stated. The sessions of the Congress will be from 9.30-12.30 and from 2-5, except on Monday, May 31st, when the morning session begins at 9.0.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26th.

Morning and Afternoon:

10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—Preliminary meeting of Board, and Presidents' Council (simultaneous meetings).

12.30 p.m.—Mrs. Ashby's lunch to Board and Presidents in the Salon of the Sorbonne.

THURSDAY, MAY 27th.

Morning and Afternoon:

10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—Meeting of International Committee (Board and Presidents) for discussion of programme, appointment of Congress Committees, ballot for seats, etc.

Evening:

Continuation of Board meeting if necessary.

FRIDAY, MAY 28th.

Morning:

9.30 a.m.—Simultaneous private meetings of committees on:—

(1) The Situation of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

(2) The Nationality of the Married Woman.

Chairman: MISS CHRYSYAL MACMILLAN. The new laws in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway; measures discussed in the legislatures of Finland, France, Germany, and the British Empire; the League of Nations and nationality; proposed International Conference and International Draft Convention.

(3) Enfranchised Women.

Chairman: MISS ANNIE FURUHJELM. Problems of the woman voter.

Afternoon:

2 p.m.—Open meeting of the Commission on the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

Chairman: FRAU ADELE SCHREIBER. A review of the progress in laws, welfare work, and ideas.

Evening:

7.30 p.m.—Simultaneous private meetings of committees on:—

(1) Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women.

(2) Equal Moral Standard and Against Traffic in Women.

(3) Family Endowment.

During the morning and evening, Mrs. Ashby will be prepared to receive delegates in the Salon.

SATURDAY, MAY 29th.

Morning:

9.30 a.m.—Open meeting of the Commission on the Equal Moral Standard.

Chairman: DR. PAULINA LUISI. Crude efforts at ensuring safety in vice directed by the police have given way to health measures under medical direction, which, unless carefully controlled, may lead to a worse exploitation of women.

Afternoon:

2 p.m.—Open meeting of the Commission on Like Conditions of Work.

Chairman: FRU ARENHOLT. This question of work and sex is perhaps the centre of the women's fight for equality. Political and social equality may be gained, but the hard conditions of the after-war period have intensified in many lands women's desire for equality in work and pay.

Evening:

8.30 p.m.—Presidents' and Board's reception to Delegates at the Hôtel Lutetia.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd.

Morning and Afternoon :
Free for excursion to Fontainebleau.

Evening :

8.30 p.m.—Public meeting. Chairman: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY. The Man's view on Woman Suffrage.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4th.

9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.—Conference on Problems of Women Voters.

4 p.m.—Treasurer's Speech.

4.30 p.m.—Full session of Congress to consider any resolutions from enfranchised and unenfranchised women's conferences.

Elections during stated hours.

Evening :

8.30 p.m.—Public meeting. Chairman: Miss ANNIE FURUHJELM. Women members of Parliament.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5th.

9.30 a.m.—Finance: Amendments to Constitution (continued).

2 p.m.—General resolutions (women police).

4 p.m.—Result of ballot, inauguration of new Board, place of next Congress.

Evening :

9 p.m.—Public meeting at the Trocadéro. Women for World Peace. Chairman: Mrs. CHAPMAN CATT. Speakers from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy and Portugal. Actors from the Odéon will present an allegorical play.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6th.

Morning :

Free for emergency business.

Afternoon :

League of Nations.

Evening :

Reception by French Auxiliary.

MONDAY, JUNE 7th.

Morning and Afternoon :

Final Board Meeting.

The Duchesse d'Usès will entertain a limited number of delegates at the Château Bonnelle.

NEWS FROM MANY LANDS.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Our readers will be interested in the following letter from Queenstown, South Africa:—

Dear President,

Will you allow an octogenarian in this distant land to thank you most heartily for your inspiring New Year's greeting in "Jus Suffragii"? The teachings of a long life make me endorse every word of it, and I hope it will be a trumpet call to the younger women who will be attending the Conference in Paris.

Yours gratefully,
ELIZABETH LOUISA WHITE.

8th February, 1926.

PERU.

A new review entitled "Lima" comes to us from Peru. It is edited by Señora Martínez Pineda, and a page is devoted to Feminism, and is edited by Dra. Miguelina Acosta Cárdenas. Dra. Cárdenas is a lawyer, and on her professional card we are glad to note the following points:—The Rights of Women; the Rights of the Native; the Rights of the Worker.

The second number of "Lima" contains the I.W.S.A. call to the Paris Congress, and we hope that Peruvian feminists will hasten to Paris.

BOMBAY.

Suppression of Brothels.

The women of Bombay held a fine meeting on the 30th of January to demand that brothels should be suppressed in Bombay. Not long ago a Bill was passed to remedy the evil of prostitution, but though it had many very good points, it has permitted a definite area of segregated, disorderly houses to exist in the city, whither the brothels are concentrated, therefore known to and permitted by the police. This area has been the centre of a great residential district of Bombay, and still is, so the boys and girls in thousands of families have to grow up surrounded by the tainted atmosphere that inevitably exists in these districts where brothels are permitted. It is a moral plague spot, spreading infection of dissipation, lack of control, drunkenness, disease, and the misery of the unhappy women who are slaves to man's lust. Fortunately the women of Bombay have awakened to the evil and the need for pressing for an immediate reform. The meeting was well attended by a large number of representative women, and the following resolution was passed:—

"That this meeting of the women of Bombay, held under the joint auspices of the Bombay Branch of the Women's Indian Association, the Gujarati Hindu Stri Mandal, the Bombay Presidency Women's Council, the Ladies' Branch of the National Indian Association, the Arya Mahila Samaj, the Jain Mahila Sahaj, the Pathare Parbhu Mahila Samaj, the Beni Israel Stri Mandal, the Shrivika Ashrama, is strongly of opinion that the continuance of the system of brothels in the Presidency and the City of Bombay is highly undesirable and is conducive to the moral degeneration of the young and calls upon the Government and the members of the Legislative Councils to frame and enforce laws making the continuance and existence of brothels illegal."

Stri Dharma.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The International Council of Women has issued an excellent leaflet entitled: "The League of Nations: Its Activities from 1920 to 1925." The leaflet explains the composition of the League; gives a brief account of its political activities; the work of its technical organisations, etc. It should be very useful for propaganda, and can be obtained from the Secretary, International Council of Women, 25 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

SPAIN.

Mundo Femenino announces that Señora Doña Maria Espinosa has been elected Councillor of the Municipality of Segovia. Señora Espinosa was formerly President of the National Association of Spanish Women, a post now held by the distinguished writer and lecturer, Señora Palencia. The same number of *Mundo Femenino* gives a résumé of the programme of the Paris Congress, and says that it is hoped that Spanish feminists will be officially represented as at former Congresses.

PORTUGAL.

We have received from Lisbon the report of the first Feminist Congress held last May in Lisbon, organised by the National Council of Portuguese Women. The report is compiled by Dr. Arnaldo Brazao, and is prefaced by a brief account and definition of feminism. The writer says that the first woman who came forward to seek means of earning her livelihood was the first feminist, even if unconscious of the fact. Feminism is not an end in itself, but a means of realising human perfection.

The Congress was presided over by the President of the Republic, who, in his opening speech, spoke of the great fight in Great Britain, of which he had seen something. He spoke of the great victory women had achieved, and said that Great Britain had gained strength by the participation of her women in public life. We recommend this interesting volume to any of our readers who may have a knowledge of Portuguese.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

WE must leave to the general Press, criticism of the proceedings at Geneva in March. All friends of the League unite in hoping that September will make amends for March, a notoriously mad month.

Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

At its meeting in January the above committee passed the following resolution:—"The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation duly appreciates the value and importance of the invitation addressed to it by the Sixth Assembly to participate in any steps which may be taken with the object of acquainting children and youth with the aims and work of the League of Nations. The Committee is fully aware of the importance of this task, and of the difficulties which may arise in its execution. It accepts the suggestion of the Assembly to convene a Sub-Committee of Experts in order to discuss the means likely to spread as widely as possible the conviction that the nations must be organised in order to settle their differences by the method of peaceful understanding.

"This Sub-Committee will examine, among other matters, whether it would not be useful—

1. To propose to the Council of the League to convene an international conference, which may become periodical, for the purpose of a mutual exchange of information concerning what has been done in the desired direction, and concerning the results achieved and for the purpose of examining suggestions to be recommended;

2. To publish one or two small works giving precise information concerning the Covenant and activities of the League of Nations.

"The Committee on Intellectual Co-operation proposes to the Council to fix the number of the members of the Sub-Committee at ten or twelve. It wishes that three of its members may form part of the Sub-Committee, and it appoints for this purpose Professor Gilbert Murray, M. Destrée and M. Casares. It expresses the desire that the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation may also be represented in the Sub-Committee."

The experts will have to consider in the first place, with their experience of educational work, or as officials of education authorities, how much can be done, and the methods to be adopted.

Women societies are asking that experienced women should be included in this new Sub-Committee.

Health Committee.

The Health Committee has added to its many activities an enquiry into infant mortality, and has requested the Medical Director to prepare a preliminary report from documents already available. The Committee approved the suggestion made by Dr. Tsurumi that he should "pursue certain enquiries, with the aid of the Health Section, to enable questions affecting the hygiene of school children to be considered from an international aspect, at a subsequent session."

The Committee has also called the attention of the competent services and organisations of the League of Nations to the value, in connection with health questions, of collecting documentation relating to legislation concerning illegitimate children and the welfare measures adopted on their behalf.

We remind our readers that only one woman sits on the Health Committee—Dr. Alice Hamilton (U.S.A.).

Other Committees which are in contemplation include a Committee of Press Experts, and a Sub-Committee for Science, in connection with the Committee for Intellectual Co-operation.

L. de A.

AMERICAN WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

This article was written by Miss Mollie Ray Carroll, Professor of Economics at Goucher College, and a widely known educator and author. She is also chairman of the Women in Industry Committee of the National League of Women Voters.

MORE than eight and one-half million women in the United States are working outside their homes for wages and salaries, according to a recent bulletin entitled "Facts about Working Women," published by the United States Women's Bureau in Washington. This Bureau, headed by Miss Mary Anderson, formerly a boot and shoe worker, gives us much interesting information about these eight and one-half million women wage-earners.

The number of women engaged in gainful occupations outside their own homes more than trebled between the census periods of 1880 and 1920. Their percentage grew from 14.7 per cent. of all the women of the United States in 1880 to 21 per cent. in 1920. Of these, 43 per cent. were native white of native parents. Nearly a quarter of them were native white of foreign parents. Foreign-born white women and girls over ten years of age comprised another 13 per cent. of the total. Not quite one in every five of these eight and one-half million were negroes.

Nearly two-fifths of these women enumerated in the 1920 census were between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four. Five per cent., however, were under sixteen and 8 per cent. were sixty-five or over.

The native-born white women of native parents are mainly in manufacturing, professional service, domestic and personal service and clerical work. The native-born white of foreign or mixed parentage are found mostly in manufacture and clerical work, with domestic and personal service a close third. Manufacture and domestic and personal service claim nearly three-fourths of the foreign-born whites. Half of the negro wage-earning women are in domestic and personal service; while another 39 per cent. are to be found in agriculture.

Of the wage-earning women in 1920 who were fifteen years of age and over, 23 per cent. were married. The census classification, "Single, widowed, divorced and unknown," gives no indication as to how many of the other 77 per cent. are helping in the support of their families or of dependent relatives. An earlier study of the Women's Bureau on "The Share of Wage-Earning Women in Family Support," however, states that of those coming within the scope of the investigation, married women, like married men, contributed practically all of their earnings to the family; that in the two groups of men and women who were alike in the size of their earnings and their family relationship, the women contributed all of their earnings to a greater extent than did the men; and that contributing all of their earnings seemed to be a more permanent condition among women than among men.

Wage-earning among women seems to be an established fact, with a decided tendency toward numerical and proportional increase. The trend of industry and home life is in that direction. The old saying that women are following their domestic occupations into the factory was never more true. They are doing that and also are entering a vast number of industries and occupations developed by the increasing variety and complexity of modern production.

Safeguards for these eight and one-half million women vary according to the provisions of the forty-eight different States in which they work, or of the Federal Government, which employs a large number. It is difficult, therefore, to give one answer to questions of standards of wages, hours or conditions. Some States are progressive, some backward; some focus their attention upon one problem of women in industry and some upon another. The National League of Women Voters includes in its platform the programme of its committee on women in industry, of which more will be told in a subsequent article.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

BERMUDA.

THE gathering in the Chamber of Commerce which took place on February 10th, when the members and Executive of the Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society were afforded an opportunity of meeting the Parliamentary Delegation, was an interesting one and will enable our visitors to carry away from Bermuda, as Lord Peel said, a very much clearer impression of the part played by the women in the life of the country than that which they would have obtained without this meeting.

A number of the women interested in the furtherance of the Suffrage movement in Bermuda were present, including Mrs. St. George Butterfield, Miss Helen Rees, Mrs. W. D. Wilkinson, Mrs. North, Miss Julia Eve, Miss Winifred Smith, Mrs. S. H. A. Greet, Mrs. A. J. Darrell, Mrs. P. Card, Mrs. Abbott.

The Mayor of Hamilton, Captain F. O. Misick, the Hon. J. P. Hand and the Hon. the Colonial Secretary were also present as members of the Reception Committee.

The Hon. Secretary, Miss J. de C. Misick, gave an account of the Woman Suffrage movement in Bermuda, and said that women were desirous of taking their share in the colony's work; they were as patriotic and loyal as any of the men.

Miss Misick's opening evidently keenly interested her hearers, and Lord Peel, who acted as the spokesman of the party, put her through a rather searching cross-examination, which, although entirely extempore and unexpected, was met by the representative of the Woman's Society with an ease and readiness that it would have been difficult to match elsewhere in the island.

The questions elicited the information that the Bill of 1925 was not the first or only Bill for the inclusion of women as voters, that the 1894 Bill was only killed by one vote (that was the casting vote of the then Chief Justice), that the committee placed in charge of a later Bill, after months of delay, had never reported, and that the Bill of 1925 was never spoken against but only met with a policy of absolute silence from all the dissenting members in the House.

In answer to a question from Lord Peel, Miss Misick said that the race question was not discussed in the House but was much used for leverage against the Bill by members outside, and it was a point with which the women of the Colony were quite as familiar as the men.

If the experiment made by the men of 1834, in the extension of the franchise, has been justified, said Miss Misick, the women claimed that the further extension asked for would also be for the benefit of the life of the Colony.

In reply to another question, the speaker said that the women made no criticism in regard to the basis of the present franchise, they simply asked for it now and at any other time on the same terms on which it had been granted to men in Bermuda.

In regard to the question whether the women would not prefer to have the restricted franchise to begin with and vote on the municipal and parochial affairs until they had proved themselves, the quick reply came that the women here had the same social experience as the men, and while paying a very high tribute to the management of the business affairs of the Colony by their men, they yet felt that the conditions revealed in Dr. Balfour's Report, and others relating to the social well-being of the islands were partly due to the absorption of the men of Bermuda in the trade and commerce of the islands to which, with most excellent results, their time was devoted, leaving them none to spare for the acute problems, many of which arose from the exclusion of women from the civic life.

Miss Edith Heyl, the next speaker, touched upon the earnest desire of many women in Bermuda for more opportunities for public service, showing that they had,

in all parts of the island "made good" in various ways and by their management of affairs, either their own, or jointly with their husbands or in civic service voluntarily undertaken, had proved their fitness to have the franchise bestowed on them on equal terms with the men of their country.

Viscount Peel, in replying, said that it would be impossible for his delegation, naturally, to take part or to express an opinion on the purely internal affairs of the island. They were extremely pleased to have met and heard the representatives of the Woman Suffrage Society of Bermuda, and felt that had they not been given this opportunity they would have missed a very important side of the life of Bermuda.

The delegates fully realised the importance of the occasion and admitted frankly that they should have gone away unconscious of a very vital element if they had omitted it.

Mrs. Allan F. Smith thanked the members of the delegation for their visit.

The occasion was altogether a most pleasing and memorable one, marking, as it does, the acknowledgment by the authorities of the work and the standing of the women of Bermuda in this, their own Colony.

—The Royal Gazette Journal.

GERMANY.

New Facts and Old Ideas.

The old truth that, as a rule, facts will change sooner than ideas, finds, perhaps, its most frequent confirmation in the woman's movement. Our fellow workers in many lands will have had the same experience as we in Germany, in this respect. Regarding our constitution, German women have, in fact, gained full citizenship and equality with men in rights and duties, and special legislation in all directions must, by and by, secure the practical application of this theoretical recognition. It seems, however, as if never before were the most antiquated ideas on genuine womanliness, and all the well-known nonsense about woman's nature and sphere and proper place, etc., more vivid with the average man than they are at present. This may be observed especially, and most significantly, in two directions.

In all instances when a prominent public post is claimed by or for a woman possessing the necessary or even extraordinary qualifications, the whole chorus of these people of the old ideas will unite in voicing the old proven wisdom that woman is, once and for all, unfit for a leading position, especially when men are amongst her subordinates. A hard fight with the authorities is now being waged on this matter, very often resulting in a defeat for the woman. This is, of course, most regrettable, when such leading-post is connected with girls' education, and when even women colleagues will succumb to the deep-rooted idea of man's superiority, even in this field of work. No wonder that general satisfaction is felt in our circle whenever another prominent woman throws down these barriers, as for instance has been the case with the distinguished President of the National Association of Women Teachers, Frau Emmy Beckmann, who was recently elected as director of a Lycée and Girls' College in Hamburg. It is to be hoped that facts of this kind will in time make an end of antiquated ideas and prejudices.

In the other direction this seems rather unlikely, as here we have to deal with pure anti-feminist theories, which no correction by facts will ever change. In several recently-published books and pamphlets, pretending to be psychological studies, we meet with views and opinions which can only be regarded as significant reactionary symptoms, and raging, helpless protests against women's intrusion into human culture. The effect upon the reader is, therefore, very often the opposite to the author's intentions. As, for instance,

when in a voluminous book, "Woman's Emancipation and its Sexual Foundation," is denounced as "devil's work," and as the cause of all the misery of our time—or when another expert declares woman's labour in the economic world as absolutely unwanted, and demonstrates in all earnestness that the whole women's question would be solved by the reduction of their dress budget.

A medical doctor who pretends to be women's friend, states with Rousseau (*La femme est faite spécialement pour plaire à l'homme*) that woman's only aim is to please man. Therefore she will lie and deceive all her life. All women are vain without exception. Man alone can be woman's teacher, and her only virtue is to adapt herself to her husband opinions and habits. A keen woman-hater, walking in Nietzsche's paths, proclaims: Woman only exists through man, man exists in spite of woman. Woman is sex, nothing else; man only can make her a human being. It is against nature that you will work like man who is the worker "by nature, a fighter, a hero, a creator." Women have no intellect, so they cannot be blamed for their incapacities. By their perverse efforts they are entirely corrupted; men must make them women again, women with a genuine dependence on man, with all its social consequences, especially in sexual relations. A woman who loves more than the man becomes a harlot; but she is not permitted to claim any restrictions in this respect of the man. Marriage binds only woman, so she alone commits adultery. Prostitution is indispensable, etc., etc. From another point of view, and a somewhat higher standing, another author—a woman, I am sorry to say—comes to the same conclusions, when in bombastic language, she proclaims that woman is made, not for the world, not for God, not for eternity, but only for the poor, short span of temporal life, i.e., for *its costliest good, the man*, that she may become his rib again, and so may save him!

This small collection will suffice to show the untamed vehemence with which antiquated ideas, in old and new versions, rebel, not against new ideas, as hitherto, but against new facts. In my opinion it seems not worth while to refute them in earnest, as Frau Meta Corssen has done in an impressive article in "Sozialistische Monatshefte," paying, at all events, too much honour to sheer nonsense. The best way to get rid of it seems to me the one recommended by Frederic the Great, when a caricature of him was placed on the wall before his window: "Hang it lower!" Submitted to the sound judgment and criticism of commonsense, those ideas will surely not stand any longer.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, 18th March.

PROGRESS IN GERMANY SINCE 1922.

IN April, 1922 a law was passed for the admission of women to jury service. In July, 1922, laws were passed for the admission of women to the office of Judge, and also to permit a woman to act as guardian without obtaining the permission of her husband.

In June, 1922, a Bill for Child Welfare was passed with the support of women of all parties in the Reichstag.

In January, 1923, a Bill for establishing Children's Courts was passed, which showed differences of opinion among women, especially over Article 40, which provided for the participation of Child Welfare organisations.

In 1924 the Child Protection Law was amended. In May, 1922, a law was passed for the institution of weekly help and welfare centres. This law has already proved inadequate, and an amendment to incorporate essential improvement is expected shortly.

In April, 1922, women home workers were included in the National Insurance Act under the title: Law for

the Insurance of those employed in home industries (at the instance of Frau Behm, member of the Reichstag).

In January, 1923, a law was passed for the protection of persons of small income.

In July, 1923, an amendment was passed to the National Insurance Acts in favour of women, to the effect that an insured woman who marries shall have a claim to compensation within three years after the marriage.

In July, 1923, an amendment was passed to the Insurance Act, extending the payment of sickness insurance in connection with a child, and orphan allowances up to the age of 19 years (formerly 15) equally to illegitimate children.

Reforms in municipal matters mostly took the shape of carrying out the provision of State laws, as, for example, the provision of nursing organisations and measures for child centres to serve as auxiliaries to the Reich law for Child Protection. Some regulations dealing with the hotel and drink trade were issued by the municipalities themselves and carried out, but nothing of great importance.

In October, 1925, in the whole of Germany there was about 1,038 women serving on committees or other bodies in municipalities. In 1923 there were altogether 32 women members; in the Prussian Landtag in 1925, 41, and in the other German Parliaments, 74.

Women M.P.'s have been concerned with questions of welfare, unemployment, girls' education, Civil Service matters. On these questions committees were formed on which women co-operated.

There is a woman Ministerialrat in the Ministry of the Interior, a woman Overpostat in the Ministry of Posts; also in State Departments women hold important posts: in Prussia in the Ministries of Education and Commerce, and the Ministry of Public Welfare; Bavaria, in the Ministry of Education; Baden, in the Ministry of the Interior; Wurtemberg, in the same, etc.

The first Prussian General Synod under the new régime (the great Evangelical Church Parliament of Germany) counts eight women among its members. The method of election of these members is indirect. Some congregations have appointed women theological students as curates or as social parish workers.

The appointment of women in the higher posts of the Reich and States Ministries has increased, and women police are being organised.

There is a woman assessor in the office of the Film Examiner in Berlin.

There is an increase in the number of recognised women teachers in the Universities.

There is an increase in the number of inventions and patents taken out by women, especially in matters of health and nursing, and protection against accidents.

GREAT BRITAIN.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. was more than usually successful this year. Over 200 delegates attended from all parts of the country. There was a large attendance at each session, keen interest and enthusiasm were maintained throughout. The most important results were a vigorous re-affirmation of the Council's policy against restrictive legislation, and the re-arrangement of the Programme, bringing the most urgent reform to the front, i.e., Family Allowances, while those reforms which have in the main been won, i.e., equal guardianship, widows' pensions, will take their place as reforms requiring amendment and improvement as opportunity arises. The Council further decided to consider in detail the important question of Social Insurance. Both Lady Astor and Major Hills took part in the Council Meetings. Lady Astor moved a resolution on the Paris Congress, and Major Hills one on the need for more women in Parliament.

I.W.S.A. Congress.

Great interest was shown in the arrangements for the Paris Congress, and the following delegates and substitute delegates were elected:—Miss Rathbone, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Stocks, Miss Courtney, Miss Neilans, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Picton-Turbervill (delegates), and Commandant Allen, Mrs. Abbott, Viscountess Rhondda, Miss Fraser, Miss Merrifield, Miss Bury, Dr. Olive Watson, Mrs. Van Gruisen, Miss Buchanan (substitute delegates). Many others of our delegates have decided to go as visitors.

Many resolutions were passed dealing with Equal Pay in Industry and the Professions, and the employment of married women. Other important resolutions were also passed on Housing, Solicitation Laws, Women Police, Women Jurors, Reform of the Poor Law, Lunacy Reform, Women in the Public Health Services, Maternal Mortality, Provision of Nursing Services, Legitimacy and Bastardy Bills, etc.

The large room of the Holborn Restaurant was packed on the occasion of the luncheon, and Lady Astor's reception was greatly enjoyed; crowds flowed through her large rooms all the evening. The mass meeting on Equal Franchise on Friday night was an enormous success, the admirable speeches from Dame Millicent Fawcett, Lady Astor, Miss Wilkinson and Miss Royden were enthusiastically received, and Mme. Malaterre-Sellier made a most eloquent and interesting speech which greatly pleased the audience. A vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by two young and voteless women. This meeting was an important step in the big campaign which must now be waged until the goal is reached.

Promised Conference on Equal Franchise.

It looks as though the Government will not set up the promised Conference this year. It is, therefore, all the more important that women's and other organisations interested, should make a very strong and sustained effort, not only this summer, but all through the autumn and winter, so that continuous pressure may be brought to bear on Parliament.

Social Insurance.

A Committee is being set up by the N.U.S.E.C. to study this question, on which some prominent authorities are being asked to serve.

Summer Schools.

The success of our Summer School was such that the Council felt that a school or schools on these lines should again be arranged this year. In order to meet the demands from very distant Societies it may be found preferable to organise several short schools rather than one long one. Final arrangements will be announced later.

Peacemakers' Pilgrimage.

We are asking all our Societies to take part in the Pilgrimage and are preparing a panel of speakers to help in this great undertaking.

League of Nations.

The National Union deplors the events which have just taken place at Geneva, by which it was made impossible for Germany to enter the League in March. Attached is the resolution on the subject passed at the Annual Council Meeting. We earnestly hope that by September the atmosphere will have cleared and that the welcome to Germany will be all the warmer because it could not be achieved now.

Urgency Resolution passed at the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, February, 1926.

GERMANY AND THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

That this Annual Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C., representing 89 Societies from all parts of the country, urges the Government to insist that at all the special meetings of the Council and Assembly of the League, con-

vened for the purpose of admitting Germany to the League and Council in accordance with the understanding at Locarno, no alteration of the constitution of the League shall be considered.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The 14th annual meeting of our Alliance was held on March 13th at St. Patrick's Club-room, Soho Square. Mrs. Crawford was re-elected chairman for the coming year.

The chairman urged the necessity of concentrating on the Equal Franchise campaign and the Paris Congress. Besides our official delegates, several of our members are hoping to attend as visitors.

Resolutions were passed urging the Government to introduce and pass without delay a Bill giving votes to women at the age of 21 and on the same terms as to men; to further legislation to enable peeresses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords; to recommend to the coming Imperial Conference the adoption throughout the British Empire of legislation giving effect to the resolution adopted by the House of Commons on February 18th, 1925, "that a British woman should not lose her nationality on marriage with a foreigner"; to introduce a Bill to legitimate children on the subsequent marriage of their parents; to further legislation making it compulsory on Watch Committees and Standing Joint Committees to appoint a sufficient number of women police.

Other resolutions were passed in support of equal pay and opportunities for men and women; against restrictive legislation for women in industry; in support of a married woman's right to decide whether or not she shall engage in paid employment after marriage; asking for the abolition of all regulations restricting such right whether issued by State or Local Authorities; urging the Government to raise the legal age of marriage for girls (12 being still the legal age in Great Britain), etc., etc.

PROGRESS IN HOLLAND SINCE 1922.

THERE has been one definite improvement in the legal position of women by the change in the Constitution in 1922, which gives women eligibility for both the First and Second Chambers and all Municipal Councils. The first woman member of the Chamber of Commerce was elected in Amsterdam in 1922.

The setbacks in the position of women were very numerous. On January 1st, 1924, married women employees of the State were—with few exceptions only—dismissed, "as a measure to save the State's money," when having over seven years of service, with a pension of 30 per cent. of the salary; when having less than seven years of service, only with three months' salary extra.

The majority were employed in the post, telegraph and interlocal telephone offices. When, later on, in 1925, a shortage of interlocal telephone operators occurred, a great number of dismissed post office, telegraph, and telephone employees were summoned to come back (at worse conditions than before their dismissal).

By Royal Decree of March 13th, 1924, dismissal on the day of their marriage was prescribed for all married women employees of the State under 45 years of age and not performing their duties as a part-day task or in their own home.

By Act of May 28th, 1925, a new clause was inserted in Article 38 of the Elementary School Law, 1920, giving the Municipalities a right (not forcing them, however) to prescribe dismissal on the day of their marriage for female teachers at Municipal elementary schools, when under 45 years of age.

There is one improvement in the economic position of women. On January 1st, 1924, a law on sick nursing came into force, which institutes a nurses' register, a State's nurses' diploma, and which protects the nursing diploma.

The setbacks in women's economic position have been numerous.

Amongst these we must count the revised salary scales for 1925 for male and female State employees, which are all much lower than before (saving the State's money), and, what was formerly an exception, concerning only teachers at public elementary schools, has become now a rule with all sorts of employees; the maximum salary can only be reached by married employees. Unmarried men and all women (except, perhaps, a very small number of married women still in service and counted as family supporters—dismissal on marriage being prescribed now) do not reach the maximum.

For vacancies as accountants in the State's service, women were excluded, if not by order, then in practice, by the Minister of Finance. (Several women were employed as State's accountants during and since the war.)

It is also a setback in women's economic position that the (semi-official) railways followed the State's example, dismissing married female employees.

An Act instituting Juvenile Courts and Family Guardianships was carried and came into force. (Women can be and are nominated as family guardians; but women cannot be nominated judge in a Juvenile Court—just as they hitherto cannot be nominated judges in other Courts.)

Many Municipal Councils have used the right to dismiss their women teachers on marriage; and in some cases they made regulations to dismiss also other female employees on marriage. When such proposals were under discussion, often female (as well as male) Town Councillors protested and voted against, but there were also female Town Councillors who approved of such forced dismissals and gave their vote in favour.

Whether those proposals are carried or dropped does not depend on the fact of their being one of more women Town Councillors, but on the strength of the parties (the parties of "the right" being generally in favour of dismissal on marriage, the parties of "the left" being against it).

WOMEN M.P.'s.

In the Elections of 1925 six women members were elected to our Second Chamber—one woman sits in our First Chamber, Mrs. C. Pothuis-Smit (a Social Democrat). The names of the six members of the Second Chamber are as follows:—Mrs. B. Bakker-Nort (Doctor in Law, Barrister, Radical Party), Miss Suze Groeneweg (Teacher, Social Democratic Party), Miss C. Frida Katz (Doctor in Law, Barrister, Christian Historic Party), Miss A. Meyer (Member of the Provincial States, Roman Catholic Party), Mrs. A. E. J. de Vries-Bruins (Physician, Social Democratic Party), Miss Johanna Westerman (Headmistress of a girls' school, Liberal Party).

In general, the position of women in our country has deteriorated in the last years; this is due in great part to the economic crisis and to the fact that the majority in Parliament now belongs to the "right" parties (anti-revolutionary party, Christian Historic Party, both Protestant and Roman Catholic Party), who have strong Conservative tendencies. The one slight improvement—that women got the vote (not eligibility, except for the function of "elector") and can be examined and nominated as assistant parsons in our largest Protestant Congregation (Nederlandsch Hervormde Kerk)—is much over-weighted by the closing or reduction of many other fields of labour for our women.

OUR STRUGGLE IN HOLLAND FOR FREEDOM TO WORK FOR MARRIED WOMEN.

FOR some years in Holland, as in other countries, circumstances have compelled economy to be practised on all sides. Everywhere, in factories, offices and counting houses, many employees are being discharged.

In the schools more children are compressed in one class, so that many teachers have become superfluous. And out of all this follows in the first place that women, and especially married women, fall a victim to this economy. Moreover, it happens that our country is still ruled by the "Coalitie," a union of parties which believe that married women should live at home and that it is contrary to the laws of God that a married woman should work outside her home.

The Government dismisses all the married women, and the Minister has given to all Councils the competence to dismiss the woman employees and the women teachers who marry before their 45th year, without a pension or half-pay, of course.

The "Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen" and other organisations of women, too, do their utmost to prevent this dismissal of women on marriage. They send petitions to the Councils; they wait upon members of the Councils; they hold meetings; write articles in the local Press, etc.

In some places we were fortunate enough to prevent this injustice, and in the towns or villages where a clerical majority reigns, and that is in most places where it is proposed to dismiss married women, we obtained at least that the matter was discussed.

When the crisis is over, and when Holland is ruled by a more liberal-minded Government, perhaps there will come better days for women, especially for the married women.

S. VANDER HOEVE-BAKKER.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

The Belfast Women Citizens' Union held its annual meeting in February and reported steady progress in membership and increasing public interest in its work, but at the same time a disappointing record as regards Parliamentary work. The Widows' and Orphans' (Contributory Pensions) Act, though marking a great step in advance, failed in some important respects; as for instance in the absence of any provision for the wife with a permanently disabled husband, where the children are under school-leaving age. The other legislative proposals of the B.W.C.U., regarding adaptation of the English measures amending Separation and Maintenance Orders and the law on Guardianship of Infants, failed even to reach the floor of the House, as did other suggested amendments of the Infant Life Protection Act.

It is gratifying to report that for the first time women have been included among the visiting magistrates for the woman's prison. The number of women J.P.'s still remains lamentably deficient.

Increasing interest among women citizens is shown by the growing attendance at all the meetings, and the greater space given in the Press to all questions affecting women. No progress can be made in the return of women either to local authorities or to the Northern Parliament until the cost of elections has been drastically reduced. Few women are in the position to go forward as independent candidates and still fewer women will consent to limit their activities by the requirements of parties or groups.

A public meeting was held on March 16th, addressed by Miss Helen Ward. Miss Ward dealt with the fundamentals of the feminist movement, the questions of Equal Franchise, the position of women in industry, commerce, and the professions, and the work of the International Labour Organisation. The tour included meetings in Dublin and Londonderry, and general interest was aroused. The need for renewed pressure to secure Equal Franchise in Northern Ireland rendered this work of especial importance. The temporary defeat of the Irish Free State Government in its effort to exclude women from certain posts in the Civil Service has drawn attention to the need for constant vigilance, lest the equal citizenship guaranteed in theory by the Free State Constitution be relaxed in administration. Miss Ward's visit has been of the greatest assistance to the women's organisations both in North and South.

Arrangements for the Irish delegation to the Paris Conference are now complete. The delegation will include Senator Mrs. Wyse Power, Mrs. Cosgrave (Dublin County Council), Miss Haire Foster (first women officer Department of Industry and Commerce), Mrs. Kettle (Urban District Council), Hon. Ethel Macnaghten (hon. secretary Irish Women Citizens' Association), Miss Story, M.A. (hon. secretary National Council of Women from the Irish Free State), and Mrs. Aird (hon. treasurer Belfast Women Citizens' Union), Miss Montgomery (hon. secretary Belfast Women Citizens' Union and Belfast Women's Advisory Council, committee member League of Nations Union), Miss Mellone (hon. organiser and hon. press secretary, Belfast, Women's Advisory Council, hon. press secretary National Council of Women), and others.

PALESTINE JEWISH WOMEN.

OUR fight to retain the vote had its ups and downs. However, we won ultimately, as you know. The women of our Society organised into a Women's Party. Women's Party? we were asked. Have women a platform differing from the platforms of their various parties? No; but women as such—irrespective of party—were attacked, and the women banded together for their own defence. You know that the elections for the Jewish National Assembly are based on proportional representation. It was decided to limit the number of delegates to 201, against the unlimited number of the first assembly. A certain number of delegates were allotted to the various cities, villages and hamlets. Jerusalem was entitled to 45 delegates. Each party put up a list of nominees who were elected in rotation. The working men's associations put their women nominees on their lists together with the men nominees.

We—the Women's Association for Equal Rights—had our own ticket, the same all over the country, with the motto, "Equal Duties; Equal Rights," and we elected fourteen out of the twenty-six women delegates to the present assembly. Our victory was a complete surprise to everybody, excepting ourselves. Many men voted for us as a protest against the reactionary element. The fight was a lively one, and I witnessed many interesting manifestations as I made the rounds from polling place to polling place on the day of election. The ultra orthodox had emissaries stationed at the vulnerable points, that is, in the orthodox districts. They used every possible means, not always the most edifying, to frighten the women away. Some of these women asked for permission to vote in a district not their own. The result was, however, as said before, most gratifying. Twenty-six strong, the women sat as the assembly met, a gain of 12 compared with the first assembly, and, more than that, 26 women in a total of 201 delegates, compared to 14 women in the first assembly with its 335 delegates.

The resolution demanding equal rights for men and women was unanimously accepted by the assembly.

What now remains is to work for more equal rights, as we are as far as ever from our goal.

I want to state again that the Jewish National Assembly has no executive power of any kind, but acts as a medium through which the Jewish population of the country express their wishes, aims and aspirations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NATIONALLY and internationally, there are two meetings which will command the major attention of members of the League of Women Voters in the next few months. Nationally, it is the League's seventh annual convention in St. Louis, April 14th-20th. Internationally, it is the tenth meeting of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance in Paris, May 30th-June 6th.

A wealth of unusually interesting and instructive features may be expected at the St. Louis gathering of the League, judging by the arrangements which are now receiving the finishing touches. There are to be the usual mass meetings, one of which will be on international relations, a special week-end for new voters, particularly those from schools and colleges, an even-

ing with the Press, and more than the usual provision for organisation and finance matters.

Interesting discussions will centre around action on the proposed 1926-1927 programme, which recommends a few additions to the subjects listed for study. There will be particular interest also in the report of the get-out-the-vote committee, which will outline the work to be undertaken by the League to get out the vote in the 1926 elections. The brilliant success of New Voters' days at the League's 1925 convention will be repeated, it is believed, at St. Louis, when scores of young women from the leading colleges of the country will be special guests. The many events will culminate in an evening meeting, with "Practical Politics and the New Voter" as the subject, with Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt, the only woman assistant U.S. Attorney-General, as one of the principal speakers.

Delegates attending the convention will be asked to consider holding League conventions every two years, instead of annually. They also will be asked to ratify a proposal for the addition of two vice-presidents to its list of officers. Suggestions for nominations for the national officers are in the hands of a committee of seven.

Twelve delegates and twelve alternates will make up the representation from the United States to the Suffrage Alliance Meeting in Paris. Formation of the delegation is now being made by the National League of Women Voters, the American auxiliary, and will include several of those who represented the United States auxiliary at the 1923 meeting in Rome. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is expected to attend the gathering in her capacity as honorary president.

The American delegation is to make a special effort, according to those making up the membership, to represent not only the sentiment of their organisation, but also to indicate to the women of other lands the American woman's great interest in the achievements and difficulties of other national groups. It will be particularly concerned, it is said, in two points: the opportunity to "learn" in Europe, and the opportunity to contribute whatever American women may offer in the field of child welfare, women in industry, social hygiene and world peace.

Women's national organisations are particularly concerned with the outcome of a Bill pending in Congress, which provides for the extension of time during which Federal funds will be authorised for aid to States under the Maternity and Infancy Act (Sheppard-Towner). Under the present Act, funds are only available until June, 1927. The first legislative hearing was held before the House Inter-State and Foreign Commerce Committee. Mrs. Maud Wood Park, counsellor on legislation for the National League, and a former president for four years, presided over the hearing for the proponents.

"In State Leagues of Women Voters there is naturally little legislative work this winter, as only ten State legislatures are in session," Miss Sherwin said recently. Before three legislatures the League is supporting Bills to make women eligible for service on juries, but in most of the State Leagues political education has the field. Since the first of November there have been 45 citizenship schools in 15 States, and there are many others being planned. The League has made a worthwhile contribution to eight conferences (in New York, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin) on the cause and cure of war, similar to the national conference called early in 1925 in Washington under the direction of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

"The out-cropping of educational activities shows a revival of interest in election laws and a new appreciation of the fine points of registration systems. The latter interest makes timely the new pamphlet on registration laws published by the National Department of Efficiency in Government. On the other hand, there is a marked turn of interest toward more general questions, the theory and powers of Government, State rights, Federal aid, the Constitution, and the control of public opinion." ANNE WILLIAMS WHEATON.

LEADERSHIP.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

(From the first number of the Organ of the International Council of Nurses.)

DURING the great war many men refused promotion from the ranks to positions of greater responsibility. Perhaps they felt themselves deficient in the qualities necessary for good leadership, more probably they had never contemplated such a call and therefore dared not undertake it. Women seem even more diffident than men as to their powers, and yet the world of to-day badly needs their help. Women have been trained in obedience, gentleness and self-sacrifice; working, generally in isolation, in their households they did not realise their capacity for quick decisions and initiative which controlling a household composed of members of all ages and both sexes must develop. Gradually we are learning to place our gifts at the service of a wider circle, and our responsibility and power in public life to-day are very great. Other centuries have been greater in literature and art, none have been so conscious of the value of human life as our own.

We must realise that gentleness and self-sacrifice, even self-effacement, are necessary to a leader who must far oftener persuade than command, sacrifice self that she may fairly demand sacrifice of others, and efface herself on occasion so that others may share both work and its reward.

Nurses represent the first body of women to grasp the ideal of public service; in all branches of their work obedience and discipline are vital, but to-day we seek for more from our nurses—constructive leadership in the great domain of the public health services.

The practical realisation of the State's responsibility for the general level of health has given rise to vast and complicated machinery; notification of births, prevention of blindness in the newborn, notification of infectious diseases, welfare work among mothers and babies, pre-natal care, prevention of maternal mortality, school nursing, district nursing, hospitals and homes for the insane, the incurable and the dying. Yet as the stream cannot rise higher than its source, so the whole value of this machinery must depend upon the initiative, resource and leadership of the personnel entrusted with its working. Nurses must make the rules of ministries of health and the theories of doctors live in the homes of the people.

The old system of training tended to isolate the nurse as a nun, exalted in the self-sacrifice of her calling, ignorant of most outside it. Nowadays less rigidity and greater leisure are demanded. This will be all to the good if nurses realise they are powerful members of the community, powerful to serve and to lead. We need their special knowledge in sanitation and hygiene, in education of the facts of sex, questions of population, incidence of disease and maternal mortality; but we need their help not as nurses but as women citizens whose special training has made them nurses, whose interest and knowledge and sympathy are both wide and deep, who are quick to obey but alert to lead.

The evils around us to-day are largely due to ignorance and apathy. Patience with other people's misfortunes is a crime. Nurses must help us to prevent as well as to cure. In twenty-nine countries women are fully responsible voting citizens. As such, whatever our type of work, we must be qualified by sound training, by reasonable discipline and obedience, by wide sympathy and understanding; then and then only can we lead with soft hearts, steady nerves and hard heads.

The International Council of Nurses was founded by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Its headquarters are at 1 Place du Lac, Geneva. The Council will be represented at the Paris Congress. The Journal of the I.C.N., from which we have taken the above article, bears on its front page the following words:—

"The essential idea for which the International Council of Nurses stands is self-government of nurses in their associations, with the aim of raising ever higher the standards of education and professional ethics,

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE FIRST AMERICAN HEALTH CONGRESS.

FOR the first time in the history of public health in America those who are doing the work itself will have a chance to meet together and view it as a whole when the American Health Congress convenes in Atlantic City, May 17th-22nd. This Congress has been the dream of the National Health Council, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, since its formation in 1921, and will reveal the vast strides in co-ordination of effort and co-operation that the Council has brought about for its member organisations during the last five years.

Included in the membership and on the staffs of these participating organisations are the leading authorities of the country in every phase of public health—tuberculosis and cancer control, prevention of blindness, social and mental hygiene, public health nursing, the control of preventable diseases, the study and care of heart disease, and positive health education for both children and adults. This means that the programmes will not only show the accomplishments of public health workers up to the present, but will also forecast the plans for the future. It is possible that a public health programme for a decade may result from the meeting of specialists in so many fields.

To address the opening session of the American Health Congress, Sir Arthur Newsholme, who has been highly influential in the development of public health work in England, and who also has a close knowledge of the American public health situation, is visiting this country. Professor C. E. A. Winslow, President of the American Public Health Association, will address one of the general sessions of the Congress. "Is Public Health Improving the Race?" is the piquant title of the address to be delivered by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President of Stanford University. It is especially fortunate that this American Health Congress will hear of the international phases of health work from Dr. George E. Vincent, President of the Rockefeller Foundation. Many other renowned speakers will complete the well-arranged programme.

Meeting at the same time, in Atlantic City, the three national nursing organisations—the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education, and the National Organisation of Public Health Nursing—will hold their biennial convention; the American Child Health Association and the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America will gather at this time for their annual meetings. The member organisations taking part are:—American Child Health Association; American Heart Association; American Public Health Association; American Red Cross; American Social Hygiene Association; American Society for the Control of Cancer; Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; National Committee for Mental Hygiene; National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness; National Organisation for Public Health Nursing; National Tuberculosis Association; United States Children's Bureau; United States Public Health Service; Women's Foundation for Health. This means that the field of public health is completely covered in the general and special sessions. It is of special interest that the General Federation of Women's Clubs will hold its meeting immediately following the American Health Congress.

Exhibit space has already been taken by commercial and non-commercial groups, forming one of the most educational health displays that this country has ever seen.

Special railroad rates from all parts of the country have been secured, and already the assurance is that there will be at least 7,000 in attendance.

public usefulness, and civic spirit of their members. The International Council of Nurses does not stand for a narrow professionalism, but for that full development of the human being and citizen in every nurse, which shall best enable her to bring her professional knowledge and skill to the many-sided service that modern society demands of her."

PAGEANTRY AND POLITICS IN LONDON.

PLANS FOR A WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION.

Processions seem rather to have gone out of fashion since the war, though most people remember the picturesque displays of the years before 1914. This summer, however, it seems that Londoners may look forward to a series of free pageants in their streets and parks. The latest to be arranged is a demonstration in support of Equal Political Rights for men and women, to be held on July 3rd, in which over 20 women's organisations have already agreed to take part. They include social and political groups like the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Six Point Group, the Women's International League, the League of the British Commonwealth, Saint Joan's Social and Political Alliance, the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Co-operative Guild and the Women's Guild of Empire, as well as professional associations like those of the Women Engineers, the Women Teachers, the Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors, and others. The International Suffrage Alliance has expressed its support for the movement. Among individual supporters are Lady Rhondda, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pankhurst.

The demonstration will take the form of a procession from the Embankment through Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park, where a mass meeting will be held. Seven of the most prominent women's organisations have agreed to take platforms, and some of the leading women speakers will be present to put the case for votes for women at 21 and equal franchise qualifications at all ages. The question is one which especially concerns women under 30, and special efforts are being made amongst the younger women to rally in force to the support of the demonstration.

IN DARKEST LONDON.

By Mrs. CECIL CHESTERTON (Stanley Paul, London, 5/- nett). This book is useful inasmuch as it calls attention to the crying need of decent lodging-houses where derelict women may obtain shelter, such as can be obtained by homeless men. The author also states that women's casual wards of the workhouses have been taken from them to provide for destitute men. In order to discover how the outcast lives, Mrs. Chesterton masqueraded as one of them, and earned a precarious livelihood by selling matches and such like. She wished to prove that it is impossible for a woman to get employment in any recognised calling without reference or status of some sort.

Frankly, one has sympathy for the mistress of a household, who has many responsibilities, if she hesitates to take into the bosom of her family a bedraggled woman, who can give no account of her antecedents. It must be rare that a really honest, capable and respectable woman, or man either, reaches maturity without being able to refer to a single person who would say a good word for them. After all, if the persons who refused to engage Mrs. Chesterton as a cook thought there was something strange about her position, they were amply justified, since she was a journalist masquerading. Mrs. Chesterton's faith in the outcast is only equalled by her distrust of her sex, when in more comfortable circumstances. She seems to be quite ignorant of what women have been trying to do to improve the lot of their poorer sisters, since they have gained some political power. This does not alter the fact that we are in full sympathy with her demand for more hostels for women, and realise the urgent need for cheap housing accommodation for the workers.

L. de ALBERTI.

CANADA.

(From Mrs. Geggie, President of the Franchise Committee of the World's Christian Temperance Union, Canada.)

The British Commonwealth League gives the following report:—

"Two interesting events have marked what promises to be a forward step in the matter of Municipal Franchise for married women in Montreal. First, the Executive Committee of the City Council received the Franchise Committee of the Montreal Women's Club, on which were representatives of the W.C.T.U., and informed the deputation that they had voted unanimously for a change in the Charter of the City, which will give a vote in future municipal elections to married women qualified as to property and separate as to property. Secondly, Mr. J. H. Dillon, M.L.A., who had arranged this interview, secured for the Municipal Franchise Delegation an interview with Premier Taschereau in Quebec. Premier Taschereau himself moved the adoption of the measure in the Legislative Assembly. That body was unanimous in passing the amendment to the Charter of the City of Montreal. Ratification by the Legislative Council is still required at the time of writing. It is certainly a step forward to have got the measure through the Legislative Assembly. Mrs. Geggie reports that the French-speaking women, Madame Gérin-Lajoie and Madame Gautier Leemann, took a prominent part in organising the delegation, and Madame Gérin-Lajoie, Mrs. John Scott and Mrs. Sampson were the speakers. Under this amendment, which will not come into effect till 1928, unless on a by-election married women are put on an equality at last with spinners and widows."

The reason for delay is that election papers are now out, and an immediate change would cause considerable dislocation.

As we go to press we hear that the Legislative Council has rejected the Bill of which Mrs. Geggie speaks.

A VISIT TO GENEVA

A party of employers, Trade Unionists and others will leave London for Geneva on May 29th to study the work of the Eighth International Labour Conference.

The chief item on the agenda of the Conference is emigration—the study of regulations for the welfare of emigrants when passing from country to country. The party will also have opportunities of listening to the director's annual report—a survey of the progress of international labour legislation during the past year. Lectures by experts of the staff of the office have been arranged and will be followed by discussions among members of the group. Visits to the Secretariats of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office will also be made.

The party will leave London on Saturday, May 29th, reaching Geneva on Sunday, the 30th. The fee for the party will be nine and a half guineas for one week (including second-class return fare to Geneva and good hotel accommodation and thirteen guineas for a fortnight.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

Madame Maltop, our correspondent in Roumania, writes that on April 25th there will be a Festival at the "Athenée Roumain" in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Marie of Roumania. In the first place there will be a conference under the auspices of the League of the Rights and Duties of Women (president, Mme. Reuss Januculesco) when Mr. Tataresco will speak on the work of the peasant women of Roumania during the war.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LE DIXIÈME CONGRÈS DE L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

Nous sommes heureuses de pouvoir indiquer dès maintenant, qu'en dehors des travaux des Commissions, des Assemblées plénières et des réunions publiques, le Congrès comprendra des manifestations de tous genres.

C'est ainsi que des œuvres sociales les plus intéressantes seront visitées, sous la direction de personnes particulièrement compétentes (hospitales, maternités, écoles sociales, centres d'élevage, etc., etc.).

Le Vieux Paris, et tout particulièrement le Quartier Latin, sera montré aux Congressistes et ces visites seront accompagnées de causeries explicatives.

Les Déléguées seront reçues par le Conseil Municipal de Paris et d'autres réceptions, également officielles, auront lieu, mais il est trop tôt encore pour que nous puissions dès aujourd'hui donner le détail.

Les Congressistes pourront, dans des conditions particulièrement avantageuses, assister le Mardi, 1er Juin, à une soirée de Gala à l'Opéra.

Le Jeudi, 3 Juin, sera une journée de détente et de repos. Les Congressistes Déléguées la passeront dans l'admirable forêt de Fontainebleau et elles visiteront le Château où un lunch leur sera servi.

Un thé sera offert aux Femmes universitaires du Congrès par le American University Club.

Disons aussi que Mrs Corbett Ashby, Présidente, et les membres du Bureau de l'Alliance Internationale, donneront, le Samedi, 20 Mai, à 20 heures 1/2 dans les salons de l'Hotel Lutétia, une réception qui permettra aux déléguées de se bien connaître avant de se remettre au travail.

Et l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes recevra le Dimanche, 6 Juin, de 5 heures à 8 heures, dans les salons et les jardins de l'Hotel Rotschild, 5 rue Berryer, toutes les déléguées, et ce sera l'occasion des adieux fraternels, qu'échangeront les Femmes de tous les pays qui auront répondu à l'appel de l'Alliance Internationale.

GERMAINE MALATERRE SELLIER,
Présidente du groupe de Paris de l'U.F.S.F.

SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Commission de Co-opération Intellectuelle.

La Commission de Coopération Intellectuelle s'est réunie à Paris du 14 au 18 Janvier, 1926. Elle a siégé non seulement pour elle-même, mais aussi en tant que Conseil d'Administration de l'Institut international de Coopération Intellectuelle. Ses séances ont été précédées d'une réunion de sa Sous-Commission des lettres et des arts.

Les travaux de la Commission ont coïncidé avec la remise solennelle par le Gouvernement français au Président du Conseil de la Société des Nations des locaux destinés à l'Institut international de Coopération Intellectuelle. Le Président de la République française en acceptant la présidence de cette cérémonie, et les grandes institutions ayant leur siège à Paris, en se faisant représenter, ont voulu donner toute la signification qu'elle comporte à l'inauguration de cet organisme, destiné, à faciliter l'oeuvre de la Commission et à hâter l'exécution de ses décisions.

La Commission, sur l'invitation du Conseil devait examiner "la possibilité de réunir un sous-comité d'experts qui aurait à rechercher quelles seraient les méthodes les mieux appropriées pour coordonner les efforts officiels ou résultant d'initiatives privées, faits, aussi bien dans les Etats Membres de la Société des Nations que dans les autres Etats, en vue de faire connaître les principes et l'oeuvre de la Société des Nations, et d'habituer les jeunes générations à considérer la coopération internationale comme la méthode normale de conduire les affaires du monde."

Le Conseil se rappelle les phases par lesquelles cette question est passée depuis que la 5ème Assemblée "convaincue de l'importance fondamentale qu'il y a à familiariser la jeunesse du monde entier avec les principes et le travail de la Société des Nations, et à habituer les jeunes générations à considérer la coopération internationale comme la méthode normale de conduire les affaires du monde," avait prié le Secrétariat de rechercher les moyens les plus propres à développer et coordonner les efforts destinés à favoriser les relations entre les jeunes gens des différentes nationalités, et à instruire la jeunesse de tous les pays dans les idéals de la Société des Nations. Elle l'avait chargé aussi de faire un rapport sur ce sujet et de le présenter à la 6ème Assemblée.

La 6ème Assemblée, considérant la publication de ce rapport (A.10 et A.10 (a)) comme un point de départ, avait chargé la Commission internationale de Coopération Intellectuelle de prendre en mains cette question et de coordonner tous les efforts faits actuellement et qui pourront être faits à l'avenir en vue d'obtenir les meilleurs résultats.

En exécution de cette décision, la Commission internationale de Coopération Intellectuelle a examiné la possibilité de réunir le Comité d'experts dont il a été question ci-dessus. Après une étude très approfondie, la Commission a pris la décision suivante:

"La Commission internationale de Coopération Intellectuelle apprécie hautement l'invitation qui lui a été faite par la 6ème Assemblée de participer aux initiatives destinées à faire connaître à la jeunesse les buts et l'oeuvre de la Société des Nations. La Commission a pleine conscience de l'importance de cette tâche, ainsi que des difficultés qui peuvent se présenter dans l'exécution. Elle accepte la suggestion de l'Assemblée de convoquer un sous-comité d'experts afin de discuter les moyens susceptibles de répandre aussi largement que possible la conviction que les nations doivent s'organiser pour résoudre leurs conflits par la voie d'entente pacifique.

"Le dit sous-comité examinera, entr'autres, s'il ne serait pas utile:

- 1° de proposer au Conseil de la Société des Nations la convocation d'une Conférence internationale, qui pourrait devenir périodique, ayant pour objet l'information mutuelle sur ce qui a été fait dans le sens désiré et sur les résultats obtenus ainsi que l'examen des suggestions à recommander;
- 2° de publier un ou deux ouvrages résumés donnant des renseignements précis sur le Pacte et l'oeuvre de la Société des Nations.

"La Commission internationale de Coopération Intellectuelle propose au Conseil de fixer le nombre des membres du Sous-Comité à dix ou douze. Elle souhaite que trois de ses membres fassent partie de ce sous-comité. Elle désigne à cet effet MM. Gilbert Murray, Destrée et Casarès. Elle exprime le voeu que l'Institut international de Coopération Intellectuelle soit également représenté dans la Sous-Commission."

LUXEMBOURG.

ACTION FÉMININE.

Lettre adressée à la Chambre des Députés.

Madame, Messieurs,
L'Action Féminine d'Esch sur Alzette a l'honneur de vous soumettre une demande.

Considérant:
que les lois civiles actuellement en vigueur ont été codifiées il y a plus de cent ans,
que ces lois maintiennent la femme mariée dans un état d'infériorité humiliante et indigne,
que, pour parler avec M.M. Ambroise Colin et H. Capitan, professeurs de droit civil à la Faculté de droit à Paris (Traité de droit civil P. 601)

"l'incapacité de la femme mariée est une institution batarde, une règle vieillie, en désaccord avec nos mœurs et notre état social... elle peut être considérée, aujourd'hui comme une survivance attardée de conceptions sociales à jamais disparues,"

que c'est injuste, voire même révoltant d'assimiler— au point de vue civil—les épouses et les mères aux aliénés,

que par la loi électorale, accordant le suffrage actif et passif à toutes les femmes, le législateur a dérogé au principe de l'incapacité et établi l'égalité politique entre hommes et femmes,

que dans presque tous les pays, notamment en Belgique et en Uruguay, des modifications importantes ont été apportées au Code civil ou sont sur le point d'y être apportées :

L'ACTION FEMININE

dans son assemblée du 3 février, se ralliant à la proposition de sa secrétaire

Est d'avis :

que le Code civil dans ses dispositions relatives à la femme mariée doit être révisé et remanié.

Emet le vœu :

que la Chambre des Députés veuille bien nommer ou intervenir auprès du Gouvernement en vue de faire nommer une Commission de Revision, se composant de juristes et d'une ou de deux femmes, aux fins d'étudier la revision du Code civil dans le sens indiqué et de proposer les modifications qui s'imposent, aux articles afférents (Art. 19; 37; 108; 213; 214; 215; 217; 373; 776; 1421; 1428 du Code civil et autres).

Espérant que la Chambre des Députés veuille bien accéder à nos propositions, nous vous prions, Madame et Messieurs, d'agréer l'expression de notre très haute considération.

La Présidente : S. PIERRAR.

La Secrétaire : C. SCHLEIMER KILLE.

ROUMANIE.

La Ligue pour les Droits et les Devoirs de la Femme a tenue une grande réunion publique dans la salle Dacia, réunion à laquelle ont été invités tous les partis politiques, en dehors des partis libéral et du peuple, étant connue l'attitude de ces deux partis coalisés contre le suffrage universel.

A cette réunion ont pris part beaucoup de citoyens et de citoyennes de la capitale, ainsi que des nombreuses délégations de femmes de la province et des villages. Mme. Jancoulescu de Reuss présida. M. le Colonel Lascar, membre du parti nationaliste, a parlé contre le gouvernement qui s'oppose à la demande des féministes. Il fut suivi par M. Stefan Tatarescu, membre du parti agricole. Mme. Rosa Freud Bucureanu décrit la rôle de la femme dans la vie sociale du peuple. M. le docteur Aurel Lazar résuma le programme du parti nationaliste qui accorde tous ses droits à la femme. M. Pomp Joanitescu du parti des paysans et M. G. Cristescu du parti socialiste ont prêté leur concours ainsi que M. Schain du parti syndicaliste.

Quand Mme. l'Avocate Gavrilcescu a parlé au nom des femmes juives il y eut quelques interruptions, mais Mme. de Reuss de Jancoulescu, la Présidente, avec son tact en son savoir habituel a terminé la réunion avec un beau discours qui en combla le succès.

La Ligue a pris l'initiative de fonder un asile pour les filles des paysannes, veuves de guerre, dénommé : "Caminul Iulia Hajdau."

La maison, louée dans ce but, située Prel.B-d Ferdinand No. 31 n'a que 3 pièces et une cuisine, ce qui est assez insuffisant, mais l'on y pourra abriter tout de même 15 jeunes filles. Mme M. Popenaur, présidente des paysannes, qui sera logée dans cette maison, apprendra aux jeunes filles le ménage. Une autre dame leur apprendra à filer, tordre, tisser et teindre la laine, faire et réparer des tapis, etc., à lire, à écrire et à compter.

Etant donné que la ligue n'a pas l'argent nécessaire pour subvenir à la dépense, on fera appel aux personnes charitables, en vue de ramasser des fonds qui serviront à couvrir les frais de : loyer, entretien, nourriture des élèves, bois de chauffage, mobilier, éclairage, etc. On organisera également des bals, des soirées et des matinées dansantes en vue d'augmenter les recettes. Pour payer les deux professeurs, dont il est fait mention ci-dessus, on sollicitera l'appui du Ministère du Travail.

LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

Au mois de juin prochain, se tiendra, à Paris, le 10^e Congrès de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes. De tous les pays du monde, de par-delà les mers et les continents, des centaines de femmes vont venir, guidées par un idéal commun de justice et de liberté, pour travailler non seulement à la cause des femmes, mais à des questions d'intérêt social et d'intérêt humain. Tous les trois ans, elles se réunissent ainsi dans une grande capitale; le premier Congrès eut lieu en 1902, à Washington; puis d'autres suivirent, à Berlin, à Copenhague, à Amsterdam, à Londres, à Stockholm et à Budapest. Depuis la guerre, les féministes se réunirent à Genève en 1920 et en 1923 à Rome.

Toutes celles d'entre nous qui assistèrent à de précédents Congrès, qui savent l'importance des questions qu'on y traite, et l'intérêt que suscitent les séances et les meetings, se réjouissent de ce que le prochain ait lieu à Paris. Parmi les déléguées, beaucoup seront ministres, sénateurs, députés conseillers; elles diront tout ce que, grâce au droit de vote, elles ont pu faire pour leur pays, et leur venue, qui ne saurait manquer d'émouvoir l'opinion, nous aidera à prouver la justesse de nos revendications, et peut-être à obtenir le succès de notre cause.

La présidente de l'Alliance Internationale, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, de Londres, vient fréquemment à Paris pour aider le Comité de l'Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes dans l'organisation du prochain Congrès. Le jeudi 4 mars, elle avait convié à un déjeuner, au Cercle de la Renaissance, un certain nombre de personnalités appartenant au monde du journalisme, ainsi que des représentants de toute la presse française et étrangère.

Plus de soixante convives avaient répondu à son appel. Avec la grâce et l'affabilité qui lui sont coutumières, Mrs. Corbett Ashby les recevait, assistée de Mlle Rosa Manus, une éminente féministe hollandaise, déléguée générale du Congrès, de Mme Brunswicg, présidente de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, et de Mme la duchesse d'Uzès, présidente d'honneur.

Au dessert, Mme Brunswicg dit aux représentants de la presse tout l'espoir que les féministes fondaient sur leur collaboration, sur les articles qu'ils consacreront au Congrès, et comment, en servant la cause des femmes, ils feraient œuvre utile au point de vue international. Elle affirma aussi la joie des féministes françaises d'accueillir à Paris les déléguées étrangères, qui toutes nous reçoivent si cordialement. Puis, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, qui possède admirablement notre langue, exprima sa surprise de ce que les femmes françaises, "si parfaites et si intelligentes," n'aient pas encore obtenu leurs droits politiques, et émit le vœu que le Congrès aiderait à leur affranchissement. Elle demanda à la presse de suivre avec sympathie l'activité du Congrès. En terminant, elle déclara : "Nous venons pour travailler à la paix du monde et au bonheur de nos enfants."

ODETTE SIMON, *Avocat à la Cour.*
La Renaissance Politique Littéraire, Artistique.

On page 101 we publish an interesting article on "American Women in Industry," by Miss Mollie Ray Carroll, Professor of Economics, who kindly promises another article on the same subject.

ALLIANCE NATIONALE DE SOCIÉTÉS FÉMININES SUISSES. ASSOCIATION SUISSE POUR LE SUFFRAGE FÉMININ. FÉDÉRATION SUISSE DES SOCIÉTÉS D'EMPLOYÉES.

Bâle, Genève et Zurich, le 1^{er} mars 1926.
Aux membres de la Commission du Conseil National pour la loi sur le statut des fonctionnaires de la Confédération suisse.

Monsieur le Conseiller national,

C'est avec un profond regret et une vive surprise que les Associations féminines soussignées ont pris connaissance de quelques-unes des décisions de votre Commission chargée d'étudier le statut des fonctionnaires fédéraux, décisions dont la portée risque de nuire gravement à la situation économique de la femme.

Nous tenons d'abord à relever en premier lieu l'adjonction proposée à l'article 4 (Nomination), d'après laquelle, lors de la nomination d'un fonctionnaire, le sexe pourrait être pris en considération. Comment, en un temps où le Pacte de la Société des Nations stipule à son article 7 que "toutes les fonctions de la Société et des services qui s'y rattachent sont également accessibles aux hommes et aux femmes"; en un temps où tous les pays du monde font appel à la collaboration féminine sur la base de l'égalité des sexes; comment est-il possible qu'une loi fédérale suisse pose en principe pareille limitation du droit de la femme, alors que seules les capacités et la préparation professionnelle doivent entrer en ligne de compte? C'est ce que nous ne parvenons pas à comprendre. Et, en dehors de la question de principe ainsi soulevée, nous pensons que c'est bien plutôt du jeu de la libre concurrence sur le marché du travail que l'employeur, donc en ce cas la Confédération, retire avantage, que du monopole artificiellement créé des privilèges de sexe.

En second lieu, nous relevons l'adjonction proposée à l'art. 55 (modification ou résiliation des rapports de service pour justes motifs), d'après laquelle le mariage de la femme fonctionnaire serait considéré comme motif de résiliation. Car nous craignons beaucoup que cette mesure, en portant un grave préjudice au travail des femmes en général, ne constitue d'autre part une atteinte à l'institution du mariage.

Il importe, en effet, de se rendre compte que les mesures prises par la Confédération servent souvent d'exemple à d'autres administrations, cantonales ou locales, ou à des organisations privées, et que, ainsi généralisées, elles peuvent avoir des répercussions sur l'activité professionnelle des femmes. Il est évident que les nombreuses jeunes filles, qui nourrissent le désir très légitime de se marier, ne considéreront plus le temps qu'elles consacrent à leur travail que comme un épisode passager de leur vie, du moment qu'elles devront abandonner ce travail sitôt mariées, et par conséquent qu'elles n'y apporteront plus l'intérêt et le zèle que l'on est en droit d'attendre de tout fonctionnaire. Il est évident aussi que beaucoup seront découragés d'embrasser une profession, puisqu'elles ne pourront plus l'exercer en se mariant, et que ce fait s'augmentera, malgré les efforts faits pour munir toute femme d'un gagne-pain, le nombre des femmes seules qui, n'ayant appris aucun métier, désorganisent le marché du travail, et sont ainsi vouées aux salaires de famine avec toutes leurs lamentables conséquences.

D'autre part, cette adjonction à l'article 53 porte atteinte à l'institution du mariage et de la famille, qui est pourtant la cellule sociale de l'Etat actuel. Car il est bien évident que, dans les circonstances économiques que nous traversons, bien des jeunes gens ne pourront pas fonder un foyer avec le gain du mari seulement, et qu'ils renonceraient à sanctionner légalement leur vie en commun, si la femme doit abandonner son travail une fois mariée. Et enfin, nous estimons que les dispositions prises au chapitre VI de la même loi sur le statut des fonctionnaires sont suffisantes pour rassurer ceux qui craindraient que la femme fonctionnaire mariée ne pût plus, du fait de ses devoirs domestiques, accomplir son travail de façon satisfaisante.

Nous osons espérer, Monsieur le Conseiller national, que nos autorités législatives, conscientes de leurs res-

ponsabilités envers toute la partie féminine laborieuse de notre population, ne voudront pas sanctionner ces mesures d'exception. C'est pourquoi nous prenons la liberté de recommander chaudement notre requête à votre bienveillante attention, espérant que la Commission voudra bien en tenir compte dans ses prochaines délibérations.

Veillez agréer, etc.

Pour l'Alliance nationale de Sociétés féminines suisses :

La Présidente : ELISABETH ZELLWEGER.

Pour l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin :

La Présidente : EMILIE GOURD.

Pour la Fédération suisse des Sociétés d'Employées :

La Présidente : GERTRUDE MEYLAN.

—Mouvement Féministe.

VOEU ADOPTE.

par le Ve Congrès International démocratique pour la Paix tenu à Luembourg les 9-14 septembre, 1925.

Le V^e Congrès International démocratique pour la Paix;

Convaincu qu'il n'y aura pas de justice entre les peuples tant que subsistera, au sein de chaque nation, un régime d'injustice et de violence entre les classes et entre les sexes;

Considérant que l'une des tares sociales les plus déshonorantes pour nos sociétés modernes est le régime de la réglementation officielle de la prostitution et l'existence de maisons de débauche tolérées par les pouvoirs publics et placées sous leur surveillance;

Considérant que ce régime réduit les femmes qui y sont soumises au plus odieux de tous les esclavages; que les maisons de prostitution officielles sont un centre actif de traite des blanches et, par les facilités qu'elles offrent à la débauche masculine, constituent le facteur principal de la corruption de la jeunesse;

Considérant que ce régime a déjà été rejeté par la plupart des grands pays d'Europe (Angleterre, Suisse, Hollande, Danemark, Norvège, Suède, Tcheco-Slovaquie, Pologne) et a été supprimé dans plusieurs grandes villes d'Allemagne et de Belgique;

Emet le vœu que les pays qui ont encore conservé ce régime qui constitue un défi à la morale, à la justice et à l'hygiène, l'abolissent résolument et qu'en particulier la France, suivant l'exemple donné par Colmar et par Strasbourg, réalise au plus tôt cette œuvre de civilisation;

Félicite la Société des Nations de la lutte qu'elle poursuit contre la traite des blanches et des enfants.

Résolution du Conseil de direction de l'Union internationale contre le péril vénérien, réuni à Paris, octobre 1925.

Considérant que la réglementation de la prostitution n'a à aucune époque, et en aucun pays, permis de limiter les dégâts causés par les affections vénériennes, que d'autre part, elle est contraire à toute justice et à toute idée de morale sociale,

Le Conseil de direction recommande :

1. La suppression de la réglementation de la prostitution.

2. L'application de mesures visant la totalité de la population et s'inspirant dans la plus large mesure, du principe de la liberté individuelle.

3. Que les gouvernements prennent des mesures contre les causes sociales qui provoquent et entretiennent la prostitution.

4. Que la population entière soit mise, par une vaste propagande, au courant de l'existence du péril vénérien, et que tout individu atteint d'une maladie vénérienne puisse recevoir, gratuitement si c'est nécessaire, les soins que nécessite son état.

—Bulletin Abolitionniste.

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