

Women's International League

(British Section of the Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)

WILPF 2/17



Thirty-Second Annual Report

MARCH, 1947 — FEBRUARY, 1948

Address: 104, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, W.C.1

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM

Head Office:

10, Rue de la Madeleine, Geneva, Switzerland.

International President—Miss Emily Greene Balch.

Formed at the Hague Congress of Women in 1915 to bind together women in every country who desire to promote the following objects:—

- I. The Settlement of Disputes by some means other than War.
- II. The Emancipation of Women.

At present we have National Sections or Correspondents in Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, U.S.A. and Yugoslavia.

The BRITISH SECTION of the LEAGUE is known as

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Address: 104, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

President—Mrs. Barbara Duncan Harris, J.P.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1947-1948.

Chairman—Mrs. Mignon Castle (from January: Mrs. McGregor Wood).

Miss M. Anderson, Mrs. E. Ballinger, Mrs. G. Bedford, Miss Kay Bourne, Miss H. M. Burton, Mrs. Phoebe Cusden, J.P., Miss M. Dickinson, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. M. Grindley, Miss A. Harrison, Miss E. Hayler, Mrs. M. E. Hughes, Mrs. C. M. Kemp, Miss McAra, Mrs. G. R. McGregor Wood, Mrs. G. Malcomson, Mrs. G. Needham, Mrs. M. Nuttall, Mrs. M. Phillips, Mrs. M. Schlossmann, Miss M. Stansfield, Mrs. L. de Swiet, Miss M. Wright.

Hon. Secretary—Mrs. E. F. Ineson.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Olaf Stapledon.

Hon. Press Secretary—Miss A. Houghton.

Vice-Presidents—Miss B. M. Baker, Miss Vera Brittain, Mrs. de Bunsen, Miss Grace Colman, M.P., Hon. Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Mary Graham White, Mrs. K. E. Innes, Lady Mayer, Mrs. McGregor Ross, Lady Parmoor, Lady Pethick Lawrence, Miss Edith Pye, Lady Unwin.

MEMBERSHIP is open to all women who are BRITISH SUBJECTS, who desire to work for the above objects. Associate membership is open to women and men of any nationality resident in Great Britain. Minimum subscription to Headquarters, 5s. per annum. *Monthly News Sheet* 2d., 3s. per annum, post free.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

March, 1947—February, 1948

The work of the Women's International League throughout the year has been carried on in the midst of growing international unrest and ever-increasing tension between the Great Powers. The world family is crying out for help, with 400 million of its children hungry and in need, while governments are pursuing their power politics, and the rift between East and West grows wider every day. War psychosis has become widespread and ominous during the year.

At home, peace-time military conscription has become law, followed by industrial direction—which is a measure of conscription—and preparations for possible war under the title of Civil Defence.

Good intentions and efforts to preserve the freedom of the individual are frustrated by a deep-rooted reliance on military might to keep the peace.

The challenge to the Women's International League has become more insistent—to keep before the world its belief in tolerance, understanding and non-violent methods as the only means of achieving a peaceful world community.

The British Section has taken stock of its resources and under the new chairmanship of Mrs. McGregor Wood has resolved to aim at doubling its membership in 1948. Nation-wide publicity was gained for the W.I.L. when Miss Vera Brittain spoke over the air during Woman's Hour, and valuable contacts have been made during the year with other Sections. These have been an inspiration to Branches and individual members in this difficult year, which has made increasing demands on all those who care for the future of humanity.

Executive Committee

This year has seen a change in the Chairmanship. Mrs. Castle, after serving with great efficiency and earning the gratitude of all, resigned in December, and was followed by Mrs. McGregor Wood, who was welcomed into the chair with warmth of feeling, and with high hopes for the future of the British Section.

There were eleven Executive Committee meetings during the year, one of which was held at Elfinward, Haywards Heath, and one at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire (at the close of the International Autumn School). This latter was attended by visitors from overseas, who had an opportunity of comparing their own methods of Executive organisation with those of the British Section.

A new departure at meetings of the Executive, which is proving most helpful, is a regular visit from Mrs. Dorothy Warner, Information Officer of the National Peace Council, who speaks on current affairs, both national and international.

The Work of the Executive Sub-Committees

Finance and Organisation.—This Committee was responsible for the planning and arrangement of the International Autumn School held in October. During the year it has organised several meetings in London, also the annual Christmas Sale.

In the New Year a new London sub-committee was formed to deal with local activities.

In December arrangements were made for Miss Vera Brittain to broadcast in the Woman's Hour programme of the B.B.C. In the very short time at her disposal she discussed what peace and freedom mean to women all over the world, and the responsibility of women for bringing them about.

Publicity.—During the year there have been four publications:—

“Germany Today”—a report by Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Mary Phillips of their visit to Germany in May. Price 6d., post free.

An appeal for subscriptions to the Penny-a-Week Fund—giving an account of the way in which the fund has been used in forging international links.

“Calling All Women”—a short history of the W.I.L. by Miss Amy Haughton, reprinted with additional information to date. A copy should be in the hands of every member. Price 4d., post free.

“Would You Gamble with Their Future?”—a leaflet designed by Ethel Hayward and Kay Bourne, which has been printed in large numbers for free distribution—available at 2s. 6d. per 100.

Colonies.—The Committee in Liverpool have continued their valuable work on colonial questions during the year, considering the large amount of material which has come into our hands, and submitting their opinions to the Executive for action wherever necessary. Among interesting contacts made was that with the delegation from the National Council for Nigeria and the Cameroons, and in particular with the woman member of the delegation, Mrs. Ransome Kuti; we strongly supported the request of the Nigerian women for further education.

Affiliations, etc.

Organisations to which we are affiliated or to which we send observers, and the names of our representatives:—

Abyssinia Association—Miss Dickinson.

British Commonwealth League—Mrs. de Swiet.

Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee—Miss Edith Hayler.

Liaison Group of Women's Organisations interested in Indian Affairs—Miss Harrison and Miss Dickinson.

National Peace Council—Mrs. Duncan Harris, Miss Harrison, Miss Haughton, Mrs. Longson.

No Conscription Council—Miss Hayler and Mrs. Nuttall.

Status of Women Committee—Mrs. Nuttall.

U.N.A. Women's Advisory Council—Miss Dickinson.

Women's Group on Public Welfare—Mrs. Ineson (deputy Mrs. McGregor Wood).

World Government Campaign—Miss Hayward and Mrs. McGregor Wood.

Groups Affiliated to Our Headquarters

East Hull Branch, N.B.W.T.A.U.

London Diocesan Board of Women's Church Work.

Hendon Central Women's Co-operative Guild.

Holiday Fellowship Limited.

Ipswich Women's Liberal Association.

Knighton Fields Women's Co-operative Guild.

New Malden Congregational Women's League.

Moreton and Leasowe Women's Section, Labour Party.

Ross-on-Wye Women's Co-operative Guild.

Peckham Women's Co-operative Guild.

Winchmore Hill Women's Adult School.

Wallasey B.W.T.A.U.

Women's League of the London Congregational Union.

Women's Permanent Peace League.

Autumn School—“Searchlight on the W.I.L.P.F.”

This was held at the Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire, in lovely country surroundings and to the accompaniment of golden autumn sunshine. The purpose of the week-end was to discuss the whole organisation of the W.I.L.P.F.—membership, branches, publicity, propaganda and finance. It was the first occasion since the war on which members from Sections outside Britain were present in conference and, out of a total attendance of eighty-three, there were three Danish, two French, five German, two Norwegian and two Swiss members. There was about the whole conference an atmosphere of informality and friendliness, and an enthusiasm for the exchange of ideas. The slight language difficulties only added to the opportunities for friendly co-operation. The choice of a week-end was obviously a successful innovation, and we were happy to welcome several husbands and even whole families.

The main speakers were:—

Miss Grace Colman, M.P.—“The Age of the Common Man.”

Mrs. Mignon Castle—“Can the W.I.L. recruit a new Generation?”

Miss B. M. Baker and Miss Kay Bourne—“Should the work of the W.I.L. be educational or political?”

Mrs. A. Z. Stapledon—“How can we balance our budget?”

Members from overseas—“How does the W.I.L. work in other Sections?”

Members taking part came from Acock's Green, Birmingham, Brighton, Cambridge, Childwall, Coventry, Croydon, Edinburgh, Farnborough, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, North Wales, Nottingham, North London, and Reading Branches, and there were also numerous Headquarter members.

A useful document based on the findings of the Planning Committee set up at the Autumn School has since been circulated to all Branches. It contains suggestions on how to recruit new members and how to organise and work a successful Branch.

Action taken by the Executive on Vital Issues

United Nations.—During the year we have had frequent correspondence with Miss Gertrude Baer, who is acting as the liaison officer to the United Nations at Lake Success. By means of a circular letter we are kept in touch with activities there and value this means of direct contact. We are very glad indeed to learn that, at last, consultative status has been granted to the W.I.L.P.F.

Following up our correspondence with the Foreign Secretary in 1946 concerning the absence of women from the United Kingdom delegation, we wrote in June a further letter expressing the hope that at the General Assembly in 1947 this omission would be remedied. We were gratified to learn of the appointment, as an alternate, of Mrs. Florence Paton, M.P., who is one of our members.

It gave us great pleasure to send a letter of congratulation to Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, who led the delegation from India. She was the only woman to occupy so important a position.

When, owing to the dollar shortage, the second British delegate to the Status of Women Commission was withdrawn, we protested to the Foreign Office, in co-operation with other members of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations.

Two communications have been sent to Mrs. Roosevelt, as Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, calling her attention to the urgent need to include in the Bill of Rights then being drafted provision for the safeguarding of the rights of the illegitimate child at the international level, irrespective of national frontiers and citizenship.

The fact that His Majesty's Government had refused to make any contribution to the International Children's Emergency Fund came as a shock to the Committee, and a letter of protest was sent urging reconsideration of the decision. Branches were also asked to take appropriate action by writing to local M.P.s, etc. An announcement was subsequently made by the Government promising a limited measure of financial support for the fund.

The International Executive asked all National Sections to campaign for signatures of important people in support of two documents drafted by Miss Balch—the one proposing International Control of uninhabited Polar Regions, and the other a plan for United Nations control of all International Waters. A small number of eminent scientists and others likely to be interested was approached and the signatures of Professor Oliphant and Commander Stephen King-Hall were obtained. The documents were then sent to the Secretary-General of United Nations and also to the United Kingdom delegates. In the light of developments in the Antarctic the first of these documents assumed a major importance, and steps were taken to urge the Government to have the proposals for international control put on the agenda of the next General Assembly.

While protesting against the action of the Government in directing Jewish refugee ships to Germany, the Committee urged that the strongest possible support should be given to the recommendation included in the report of the United Nations Palestine Inquiry Committee—to be presented to the General Assembly—that “The alleviation of the plight of 250,000 Jewish refugees, now gathered in European assembly centres, is of extreme urgency and shall be undertaken by immediate international action.”

Germany.—Following the visit of Frau Hoppstock Huth to this country, Mrs. Duncan Harris and Mrs. Mary Phillips went to Germany in May, as representatives of the British Section, to renew contact with groups in the British Zone which have been revived. They visited Hamburg, Lubeck, Hanover and Bremen, speaking at meetings of two hundred to five hundred enthusiastic people. A full account of the visit and the impression received is published in the pamphlet “Germany Today.”

During the year we have arranged for several German members to visit this country, with the support and encouragement of the Foreign Office. Frau Hommes of Hamburg, Frau Oschatz of Oberhausen and Frau Rodemann of Hanover were present at the Autumn School, from which they proceeded to a fortnight's study of social services and voluntary institutions, visiting Birmingham, Croydon, Oxford and Reading. Branch officials and members co-operated whole-heartedly to make the visits a complete success. We have since received, through Norfolk House, an expression of thanks and appreciation from the Foreign Secretary and a request that we will continue to play a part in arranging further visits on a growing scale. In view of the political and economic situation in Germany we agree that such visits are more than ever necessary and valuable.

Two further W.I.L. members from Hanover were included in a group brought over by the Government for a six-week course at Wilton Park, Beaconsfield—Frau Kühl Lorenzen and Frau Fuechsel, and we were glad they received permission to attend our Autumn School before returning to Germany. Frau Niemann, of Bremen, was unfortunately held up by difficulties in the necessary formalities in the American Zone, and also by illness, but we were glad to welcome her at the end of December. She visited Brighton, Leicester and Coventry Branches. A further young German member, Margot Schiller, of Hamburg, came to England under the auspices of the Women's Permanent Peace League; she visited Manchester Branch, and paid many visits to Headquarters and also gave valuable help in the office.

With the kind assistance of Mr. Reginald Sorensen, M.P., two small conferences were organised in the House of Commons, attended by interested M.P.s and representatives of other organisations which had been co-operating with the W.I.L. Subsequently a deputation waited on Mr. J. B. Hynd to bring to his notice the following points:—

- (1) The position of illegitimate children of British personnel in Germany.
- (2) The regulations for combatting V.D. now in force in Germany.
- (3) Possible international action through the Commission of Human Rights of the United Nations.

The deputation was very sympathetically received.

Early in the year we protested to the Government on the question of the dismantling of industrial plant in Germany, in view of the conditions, both material and psychological, existing in the British Zone. To this letter we received a detailed reply, with which we were not entirely satisfied, and in view of the urgency of the situation, and of the breakdown of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, the following letter was subsequently sent to the Foreign Secretary:—

“Sir,

“I am directed by my Committee to thank you for your detailed reply to our letter of November 7th, 1947.

“In view of the apparent breakdown of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, we feel that an entirely new situation has arisen and that it would, therefore, be proper to reconsider the dismantling programme, *inter alia*, in the light of the new circumstances.

“The observations of our own members in Germany, together with representations that have been received from unimpeachable German sources, convince us that the dismantling programme has induced in the German people such bitterness and such a sense of hopelessness as to constitute a real menace to the establishment of democratic government and to the restoration of a tolerable existence.

“No body of people is more anxious to see Germany's war-making potential controlled than the Women's International League, and, moreover, we would agree that some equitable balance of productive capacity should be achieved on an international basis. We feel strongly, however, that a dismantling programme which gives the German people the impression, however erroneous, that it is motivated by revenge and a desire permanently to cripple Germany and which will prevent her from becoming self-supporting, can only discredit the democratic nations, add to the general depression and despair and, as after the 1914-1918 war, will have exactly the reverse effect of that which is intended.

“Among the points which, in our view, demand earnest consideration are the following:—

“(1) *Rumours regarding motives for dismantling.* The persistent belief that the dismantling programme is being pursued in the interests of rival industrialists in the victor countries, and the widespread rumours regarding it, may be the result of hostile propaganda, but if so, it is important that they should be refuted.

“(2) *The threat of the recurrence of totalitarianism* cannot be ignored. The most effective antidote would be to demonstrate beyond doubt the will and ability of democratic agencies to re-establish a workable German economy. We who know something of the good work of your Department in spreading a knowledge of democratic forms of government, and in encouraging their adoption in Germany, appreciate these efforts, but we fear that the dismantling of industrial plants will neutralise their good effect.

“(3) *The doubtful morality or economic expediency of reparations.* We refrain at this juncture from pressing our view that reparations are of very doubtful morality. We would only say that experience of the post 1914 war period should be sufficient to demonstrate the economic inexpediency of reparations.

“In conclusion, we venture to urge that the new situation does render possible a more constructive and positive approach to the problems involved, and we would beg you to use your great influence in a further attempt to achieve an aim which we hope and believe you share with us.

“Yours faithfully,

(Signed) E. F. INESON,

Hon. Secretary.”

India and Pakistan.—During this vital year in Indo-British history, W.I.L. members have been following the rapid sequence of events with anxiety but also with hope.

In February, 1947, a letter was sent to Lord Pethick Lawrence congratulating him on the decision to fix a date for the transfer of power from British to Indian hands.

In March, 1947, Mrs. Lankester and her daughter returned from their visit to India as representatives of the Liaison Group (on which the W.I.L. serves) to the All India Women's Conference.

At the June Executive it was suggested that each Branch should appoint a member to undertake responsibility for watching the swiftly developing situation in India.

On August 15th the British Government transferred power to the Dominions of India and Pakistan. The Moslem League attained its dream of a separate Moslem

State; the major political party—the Congress—saw its hopes of a united India temporarily shattered. After the boundary lines were drawn between the two Dominions, widespread violence broke out in the Punjab, and would have done so also in Bengal save for the presence and power of Mr. Gandhi. When appeals for relief were made in this country for the thousands of refugees in the Punjab the Liaison Group and several W.I.L. members were associated in a special appeal for women and children in India and Pakistan. The Executive sent a small donation towards the expenses of launching this appeal, and asked the Branches to assist with publicity.

From the Autumn School letters of sympathy and good wishes were sent to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health to the Government of India, and to Miss Jinnah, sister of the Governor-General of Pakistan.

The momentous happenings of the year were overshadowed by the tragic assassination of India's beloved leader—Mahatma Gandhi. The comments made when he died serve to show the place this man had in the minds of men all over the world, and how his message of non-violence had penetrated their thought. The Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, wrote: ". . . It was from every point of view a fitting climax to the man and to the life he had lived. He died in the fulness of his powers, and as he would no doubt have liked to die, at the moment of prayer. He died a martyr to the cause of unity to which he had worked unceasingly. He died suddenly as all men should wish to die. . . . We shall associate no failing powers with him of mind or body. He lived and died at the top of his strength and powers, leaving a picture in our minds and in the mind of the age that we live in that can never fade away. That picture will not fade. But he did something more than that, for he entered into the very stuff of our minds and spirits and changed them and moulded them. The Gandhi generation will pass away, but that stuff will remain and will affect each succeeding generation, for it has become a part of India's spirit . . . the strength he gave us was not for a moment or a day or a year, but it was something added on to our national inheritance. Bapu (Father) has done a giant's work for India and the world. . . . And now it is our turn not to fail him or his memory but to carry on the work to the best of our ability and to fulfil the pledges we have so often taken."

Anti-Semitism.—From time to time the Executive Committee have considered what steps could be taken to combat the growth of anti-semitism in this country, and have co-operated whenever possible with the Council of Christians and Jews. They were represented at a Conference on Human Rights called by the National Council for Civil Liberties, at which a considerable time was devoted to the problem of anti-semitism.

Visitors from Abroad

During the year we have welcomed the following friends from overseas:—

- From Denmark—Mrs. Risegaard Jakobsen, Mrs. Nielsen, and Miss Nielsen.
- From France.—Middle. Pontheil, and Middle. Travaillé.
- From Germany—Frau Fuechsel, Frau Hommes, Frau Kuhl-Lorenzon, Frau Niemann, Frau Oschatz, Frau Rodemann, and Fraulein Schiller.
- From Norway—one of our International Chairmen—Miss Marie Lous Mohr, Mrs. Alnaes, and Miss Nan Paus Knudsen.
- From Sweden—Fru Signe Höjer, and Miss Märta Nordin.
- From Switzerland—Miss Helen Kremos, and Dr. B. Wicke.

The Branches

There are now twenty-four branches in the British Section:—

- Acocks Green, Birmingham.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Aldridge, 17, Marsh Lane, Solihull, Birmingham.
- Birmingham.—Hon. Secretary: Miss D. Robinson, 651, Shirley Road, Birmingham, 28.
- Brighton.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. E. Hughes, 16, Tongdean Avenue, Hove, 4.
- Cambridge.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Schlossmann, 8, Latham Road, Cambridge.

- Childwall.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. B. Scott, 51, Childwall Mount Road, Liverpool, 16.
- Coventry.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. T. A. Twyman, 17, Cannon Hill Road, Coventry.
- Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. Holland, 8, Birdwood Close, Selsdon, Surrey.
- Edinburgh.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. D. McLaren, 1, Spylaw Park, Colinton, Edinburgh, 13.
- Farnborough.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. O. Sutherst, 8, Clarendon Way, Marlings Park, Chislehurst, Kent.
- Folkestone.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Sussams, St. Stephens Hall, Cooling Lane, Folkestone.
- Glasgow.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. A. Shanks, 32, Crompton Avenue, Glasgow, S.4.
- Harrow.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Skinner, Upper Longridge, London Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.
- Leicester.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Lund, 98, Curzon Avenue, Birstall, Leicester.
- Liverpool.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Holmes, 33, Vernon Avenue, Hooton, Cheshire.
- Manchester.—Organising Secretary: Mrs. G. Needham, W.I.L. Office, 1, Princess Street, Albert Square, Manchester, 2. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Turkie, 25, Danesmoor Road, Withington.
- North London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. Dayan, 13, Womersley Road, London, N.8.
- North Wales.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. D. Pritchard, Bron Llwyn, Menai Bridge, Anglesey.
- Nottingham.—Joint Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. Beard, 140, Derby Road, Long Eaton, Notts., Mrs. B. Wilde, The White House, Lambley, Notts.
- Oxford.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Napier, 24, Upland Park Road, Oxford.
- Peterborough.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Fishbourne, 63, Exeter Road, Peterborough.
- Reading.—Hon. Secretary: Miss M. S. Stansfield, 70, Northcourt Avenue, Reading.
- Sheffield.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Wood, 10, Norwood Road, Sheffield, 8.
- Warrington.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Davies, Bleak House, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington.
- Worthing.—Hon. Secretary: Miss G. M. Camfield, 71, Church Walk, Worthing.

Branch activities have been reported in the *News Sheet* throughout the year, but the Annual Report would not be complete without a reference to the splendid way in which the Branches have supported Headquarters—in political work, by writing to local Members of Parliament and to the Press; on the Executive Committee, where we are happy to welcome representatives from several Branches; and particularly in the organisation of study courses in social services and voluntary institutions for several of our German visitors. Branches also offered hospitality to French, Norwegian and Swiss visitors to the Autumn School. During June the Organising Secretary visited Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, North Wales, Warrington, Manchester, Acocks Green and Coventry Branches, to discuss with Branch Committees ways and means of bringing about closer contact and co-operation with Headquarters. One new Branch has been formed at Folkestone, and Childwall Branch have formed a new group in West Derby, Liverpool. We much regret that six branches have been disbanded during the year—Bury St. Edmunds, Golders Green, Marazion, Saffron Walden, Stockport and South West London.

The Office

The office has remained in charge of Miss Ethel Hayward, Organising Secretary, and Miss Moriggia, Assistant Secretary. Our accommodation at 104, Southampton Row is most inadequate, and London members have been urged to do all possible to find a more spacious and suitable home for the Headquarters of the British Section.

Voluntary Workers

Our thanks are due to the voluntary workers who have continued to give their help in the office throughout the year—Miss Kay Bourne, Miss G. Crocker, Miss M. Gill, Miss Ruth Harrison, Miss Orr Paterson and Mrs. Spielman.

News Sheet

The Editorship of the *News Sheet* changed hands at the end of 1947. The resignation of Mrs. Innes was accepted with the greatest possible regret and warm appreciation of her long and valuable services. Miss Amy Haughton, our Press Secretary, kindly undertook to carry on the work and her offer was gratefully accepted.

Obituary

The Executive Committee learned with regret of the death of Dr. Ethel Williams, one of the early members of the League and of the Women's Suffrage Movement. One of the first women to enter the medical profession, she opened up the path for many who have followed in her footsteps, and in the numerous forms of public and social work to which she gave her unfailing interest and energy, her enthusiasm and foresight stimulated women to go forward and take their part.

The Hon. Treasurer's Report

There are some encouraging features in the Balance Sheet for the year ending December 31st, 1947, which lead a Treasurer of a naturally optimistic turn of mind to hope that, at last, we are beginning to turn the corner.

Notably among these features stands out the fact that the Branches have taken a bigger share in financing the movement than they have ever done before. Indeed, they have contributed almost half as much again as they did in the previous year. This represents a very real effort on the part of a large number of members, and I should like to record my warm appreciation of it.

The *News Sheet*, already in 1946 showing a small profit since the raising of the selling price, has now increased its profit through increased sales. This is to be welcomed not only from the Treasurer's point of view, but because it is one of our best means of propaganda.

Lest anyone read only the Treasurer's Report, without studying also the Balance Sheet, I must make it quite clear that our expenses for 1947 exceeded our income for 1947 by £158 18s. 4d., and that, with the debt which we carried forward from 1946, our total indebtedness on December 31st, 1947, was £244 16s. 3d. Where then, you may ask, is there cause for optimism and encouragement? It is in the knowledge that the seed of responsibility has been well sown, and in the belief that it will go on bearing fruit. The Executive Committee has agreed to draw from the Thanksgiving Fund a sum large enough to cancel this debt and enable us to start the year with a clean sheet. This act implies confidence in our members and in our movement, and I am convinced that we shall rise to the occasion. That there existed such a fund from which to draw is one of the things for which I go on being grateful to my predecessor. I shall remember, and I shall make it my business to remind my fellow members, that once our little treasure has been tipped out of the stocking we cannot hope to find it there any more. We must learn to stand on our own feet.

My most sincere thanks are again due to Miss Hayward and the office staff for the carrying on of the actual day to day financial work, which my great distance from town, as well as my own lack of experience, prevent me from undertaking in person.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED, DECEMBER 31, 1947

To	EXPENDITURE	£	s.	d.	By	INCOME	£	s.	d.
Rent		130	0	0	Subscriptions		217	16	6
Lighting and Heating		14	4	0	Donations		96	12	5
Office Expenses		58	7	6	Branch Quotas		210	18	4
Insurance		1	14	2	Affiliation Fees		28	15	1
Salaries and State Insurance		450	12	0	Sale of Literature		48	2	2
Travelling Expenses		47	18	10	Sale of <i>News Sheets</i>		108	15	9
Affiliation Fees		10	17	6	Meetings		19	9	5
Postage less Refunds		60	11	4	Proceeds of Christmas Fair		91	4	7
Telephone		26	7	10	" " Autumn School		29	9	9
Stationery		47	12	5	" " Christmas Appeal		32	5	0
Literature		99	11	11	Sale of Furniture		12	12	6
News Sheets		84	11	0	Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income		158	18	4
Meetings and Hire of Rooms		16	5	4					
Audit Fee		6	6	0					
		£1054 19 10					£1054 19 10		

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1947

LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS	£	s.	d.
SPECIAL FUNDS:—							Cash at Bank	211	19	8
Congress		66	5	1			Cash in Hand	10	10	
Czech Refugees		5	5	6			Co-operative Permanent Building Soc.			601 14 6
Ford Memorial		80	9	8			Electricity Deposit			3 0 0
India		3	6	1						
Shrewsbury Branch		7	0	0			INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:—			
Penny-a-Week:—							Balance, January 1, 1947	85	17	11
International Contacts	£211	7	9				Add Excess of Expenditure over Income			
Less Expended	111	4	2				for the Year	158	18	4
		100	3	7						244 16 3
Headquarters Quota		86	0	0						
Thanksgiving		285	6	11						
		633 16 10								
RESERVE FUND:—										
Balance, January 1, 1947		380	13	8						
Add Building Society Interest		13	0	10						
		393 14 6								
SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE				7						
SUNDRY CREDITORS				26						
		£1062 1 3								£1062 1 3

I have examined the books and vouchers of the League for the year 1947, and certify that, in my opinion, the foregoing accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit the position of affairs in accordance with the information given me and as shown by the Books.

M. E. ROBINS, (Certified Accountant)
Auditor

Chigston, Selby & Robins, 25, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

March 18, 1948

Printed by
H. G. MATHER LTD.
(T.U. throughout)
Lower Green
Mitcham, Surrey