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WOMEN'S SERVICE

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International Federation of University Women.

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There are two natural and inevitable questions which occur to everyone who hears of the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN. The first is: What is it? The second: What does it do?

The answer to the first question is really given in the title, which sacrifices grace and brevity to accuracy. The Federation is a league of those women, scattered throughout many different countries, who have had the common experience of a university education. There are already national associations of university women, linked together through the International, in eighteen countries:—

United States	India	Czecho-Slovakia
Great Britain	Norway	Denmark
Canada	Sweden	Finland
France	Australia	Italy
Spain	Austria	New Zealand
Holland	Belgium	South Africa

Others are being formed in various parts of the world—China, Japan, Greece, Ireland and Switzerland. The day is in sight when the educated women of the entire world will be members of this great society.

The organisation of the Federation is simple. A Conference of delegates from all the branches is held in alternate years, when the Officers for the succeeding two years are appointed, reports of work received, the programme

for the future mapped out and questions of general interest discussed. Between the Conferences, meetings are held by a Council on which each branch is represented. The detail of the work is left, for the most part, to the national associations themselves, with the assistance of a central office to act as a sort of clearing-house.

WHAT THE FEDERATION DOES.

The aim of the International Federation is to promote understanding and friendship between the University women of the nations of the world, and by this means to further their common interests and develop between their countries sympathy and mutual helpfulness. With this end in view, several kinds of active work have been undertaken, among which the following may be cited:

(1) **Assistance for Travelling Members**, who are provided with information about the countries they wish to visit and given introductions which enable them to meet people they will be interested in meeting, to see the things they want to see and generally to enjoy the immediate privilege of friendly acquaintance with representatives of the Universities and other educational centres in any country where a branch of the Federation exists.

(2) **The Establishment of International Clubhouses.** In this work the American Association of University Women has taken the lead, not only by offering to foreign members the privileges of clubhouses in Washington, New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, but by opening a large clubhouse in the university quarter of Paris, which is already well-known as a friendly centre of international hospitality. Further plans for clubs in Rome and Athens are being actively promoted. The University Women of Great Britain are hard at work raising funds for building an International Clubhouse on Chelsea Embankment, incorporating the magnificent mediæval banqueting chamber

known as Crosby Hall. These houses are primarily planned as residences where university women can live and work and meet their colleagues of other nationalities under pleasant and easy conditions. They are proving their value many times over in the centres where they have been opened.

(3) **The Endowment of International Fellowships.**

This is a most vital and important branch of the work of the Federation. International Fellowships are urgently needed not only for the encouragement of scholarship but also for spreading knowledge, improving educational methods and ideals, and actively promoting that friendship and sympathy which is the object of the Federation. The Fellowships offered are not all of one kind. Some, like those recently given by the British and the American University Women, make it a condition that the holder shall spend at least a year working in a foreign country. One such Fellowship was awarded to a Swedish archæologist, Dr. Hanna Rydh, who decided to study for a year in France; a second has been awarded to a Viennese biologist, Dr. Leonore Brecher, a third to a Norwegian, Fröken Gudrun Ruud. Others, like the Rose Sidgwick Memorial Fellowship, specify the country in which the Fellow shall work. Others, again, are given unconditionally as Prizes for research. One of these, recently obtained by Dr. Cecilia Dentice di Accadia, a brilliant young Italian philosopher, was competed for by many women of different nationalities, several of whom were of such outstanding scholarly distinction that it has been a matter of great regret that funds were not available for further awards, each of which would have served not only to reward exceptional merit but also to ensure the production of further valuable and original work which cannot be undertaken without assistance. The admirable effect of these Fellowships in promoting good international relations is well expressed in the words of one of the competitors, a Doctor of the University of Vienna. "Reading the report of the

award," she writes, "I felt that the International Federation knows no difference and no hostility between nations; every one of the women who were entrusted with the award of the Fellowship had no other ideal than the unity of knowledge throughout the world."

(4) **Co-operation with other International Organisations.** The Federation has its special field of action, but in many directions it is able to co-operate, to their mutual advantage, with other organisations seeking to promote international understanding. The advice and assistance of a body representing the majority of the university women of eighteen countries is of very real value, and the Federation is working in close relation with the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations, with the Institute of International Education, and various national bureaux for international education as well as unions of students.

WHAT THE FEDERATION NEEDS.

The Federation needs the active support and co-operation of everyone interested in its aims and its work. University women should associate themselves with it by joining the national association of their own country. Other sympathisers are invited to support either the general work of the Federation or such special branches as Clubhouses or Fellowships. It is reckoned that £100 is sufficient for a Prize Fellowship and £300 for a Travelling Fellowship. Donations to the principal of the Central Fund for International Fellowships, or annual subscriptions enabling a certain number of these Fellowships to be awarded yearly, are urgently needed and will be warmly welcomed.

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