

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

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In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

**CONTENTS.**

	Page.
Features of the Month .....	1
Nationality of Married Women, by Marie Stritt .....	2
Nationality of Australian Married Women, by Chrystal Macmillan .....	3
Neo-Malthusianism, by Dr. Alice D. Vickery .....	3
Austria: National Council of Women .....	4
Germany: Woman Suffrage in the Reichstag .....	5
Great Britain: National Council of Women .....	6
"    "    Women's International Socialist Council .....	6
Ireland .....	7
Australia: Women's Political Association Report .....	7
Canada: Woman M.P. ....	9
"    Federal Franchise .....	9
South Africa: Women's Enfranchisement Association Conference and Report .....	10
India: Women's Emancipation .....	11
Italy: The Woman of New Italy .....	11
Russia: First Woman Professor .....	12
Sweden: Great Summer Meeting .....	12
Switzerland .....	12
United States: Action by Congress .....	12
Reviews .....	13
Correspondence: The Austrian Letter—Neo-Malthusianism .....	14
"    Nationality .....	15

**Features of the Month.**

Another British woman has been elected member of Parliament. Miss Roberta Catherine McAdams has been elected one of the two representatives of the Canadian Overseas Forces to the Alberta Legislature, for which there were twenty candidates. She is the second woman member of the Alberta Parliament, and, with her experience in the women's agricultural institutes and as dietetic expert at the Canadian Military Hospital, will be very suitable to safeguard the interests of returned soldiers and nurses after the war, and to take an active and responsible part in resettlement and reconstruction. She will receive a salary of £300 a year. Our August number contained Miss McAdams' portrait and some account of her candidature.

The promised Canadian Federal Franchise Bill is disappointing, limiting Woman Suffrage to relations of soldiers. It is meeting with considerable opposition, and attempts are being made to widen it in the direction of universal Suffrage.

The vicious principle of according a right which is based on justice and freedom for the individual, and should be given to women on the same terms as men, to a selected group of women, and on the ground of their male relations having performed some service to the State, is one that cannot be too strongly condemned, and whose very absurdity should surely be self-evident.

Strangely enough, even democratic Australia witnesses another exhibition, though not such a flagrant one, of the same impertinence. Soldiers' women relatives are to receive medals! Women have had reason to complain that in their case State service did not meet with the recognition given to men in the bestowal of honours, but this topsy-turvy award to women on account of their men relations' services has no basis in common-sense or fairness. One only has to imagine the boot on the other leg, and *men* given enfranchisement or medals if their *women* relatives are deserving, to see how that would strike the public.

In the United States women have succeeded in securing the appointment of a Suffrage Committee in the House of Representatives, which they have long worked for, and which they hope will facilitate the passage of Federal Suffrage. Meanwhile, Suffrage has suffered a defeat in Maine, and attempts are being made to rescind Presidential Suffrage in Nebraska by a referendum.



## THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

By MARIE STRITT.

In all civilised countries there have been severe struggles to gain recognition by the civil law of the married woman's independence, and, in spite of undeniable progress, this right is nowhere fully acknowledged. The German Civil Code of 1900 abolished previous restrictions on women as a sex, but has still not done justice to the married woman. Looked upon by the legislator as a minor in relation to her husband, she is bound legally to submit to him in regard to her person, her property, and her children. Some protection, albeit inadequate, is afforded her against possible misuse of marital authority, especially with regard to property, and a certain recognition is given of the personality of the married woman. In another sphere, that of nationality, no protection is afforded, and the standpoint adopted is the naively brutal one of the extinction of woman's individuality in marriage. Nowhere does the principle that a married woman is the property of her husband appear more clearly than in the law obtaining in almost all countries that a woman who marries a foreigner loses her nationality from that moment, even if she retains her domicile in her native land. The States in which that is not the case, or only to a limited extent, are Spain, Venezuela, New Zealand, and Australia: the two former possibly because women were altogether forgotten, as they so often are; the two latter because women had a voice in legislation.

That even the organised women's movement has paid so little attention to the subject is explicable by the fact that in normal times the women adversely affected are comparatively few. Nevertheless, the International Council of Women took up the question at the Berlin meeting in 1904, and urged the affiliated national societies to work for legislation to meet the case.

A questionnaire carried out by the President of the International Committee on Legislation, Baroness Olga von Beschwitz, was to serve as basis for a unified action in an international matter of the first importance. The result, which was published in the annual report for 1905-6 of the International Council of Women, does not include all the affiliated countries, but gives in brief form a picture of the circumstances in the various countries, which, with slight exceptions, is true to-day. To the question, *Does a foreigner gain the nationality of a given country by marrying one of its nationals?* 13 out of 14 countries answered simply "Yes," while the Australian Society replied: "She can, but she is not bound to adopt her husband's nationality." Similarly, the answer to the question, *Does a woman who marries a foreigner lose her nationality?* was in the affirmative from all countries except Australia, which replied: "No, a British (*i.e.*, Australian) born woman retains all her national rights quite independent of her husband's nationality." France showed the possibility of exceptions. A Frenchwoman marrying a foreigner retains her French nationality if her husband has renounced his nationality.

The answers to the question, *Under what conditions (separation or husband's death) can a married woman reacquire her former nationality?* showed a certain variety of conditions. Two usually progressive countries, the United States and Denmark, reported that no change of nationality was permissible for a married woman even after her marriage had come to an end, and Sweden reported that a woman can resume her own nationality after divorce, but not on widowhood. Other States provide for the re-assumption of her original nationality by the divorced wife or widow; but, whereas Germany, Great Britain, and Canada permit it at the request of the widow, and on observance of certain formalities, the Netherlands and Switzerland make it a condition that the demand should be made within a year of divorce or within 10 years of the husband's death. In France, Austria, Hungary, and Norway, a widow or divorced woman can only reacquire her original nationality if she binds herself to reside permanently in her own country. Australia replied: "Every woman is free to reacquire her former nationality when she desires."

The question, *Can a woman during her husband's lifetime claim another nationality?* was answered with a plain negative by the United States, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, France, Norway, Austria, and Hungary. In Sweden and Denmark the wife can, under certain conditions, if she and her husband are both foreigners, be naturalised independently.

The answer from Australia on this question of principle was again "Yes, on her own demand," and the Secretary, Miss Rose Scott, added: "I was accidentally in Melbourne

when the naturalisation law was being debated in the Commonwealth Parliament. I went to the Parliament with Miss Vida Goldstein, and we interviewed as many members as we could, and protested against a woman's nationality being dependent on her husband's, and we found support everywhere. The law is better than that of any other State, and in this respect we may say we are really a free people. The fact that every adult man or woman has a vote in the Commonwealth as well as in the separate States gives a natural weight to our demands—we are a power to be reckoned with."

Since this inquiry various changes have taken place in the different countries, but on the old lines, and show no progress, but rather the contrary, where women are concerned. This is, *e.g.*, the case in England, where Parliament passed a new nationality law which applied the law of the United Kingdom of 1870 to the British Dominions, some of which had previously better laws. The representatives of the women's movement only heard of the threatened danger at the last moment, but they succeeded by dint of energetic protest in gaining valuable concessions; besides a facilitation of the reacquisition of British nationality by divorced women and widows, the most important in principle, because recognising a different nationality for the husband, was the permission to a married woman to retain her own nationality if her husband changes his after marriage. British women also hope that, although Canada and Newfoundland have adopted this law without alteration, the women voters of Australia and New Zealand will oppose its adoption unless amended to suit them.

In the United States a retrograde tendency is still more evident. In the first nationality law of 1855 the principle (which holds good in New Zealand) was preserved that a foreign woman who marries an American becomes an American citizen, but that an American woman marrying a foreigner did not lose her American rights, even any political rights she might have, according to the Supreme Court. But by degrees another conception has entered legislation. At first a woman married to a foreigner was considered to have voluntarily forfeited her American rights if she took up residence abroad. Then in 1907 Congress passed a law that every American woman marrying a foreigner is to be counted a foreigner. It is curious that the Anglo-Saxon countries, otherwise the most progressive where the women's movement is concerned, show themselves reactionary in this particular question, and it would not be uninteresting to investigate the psychological explanation.

Conditions in Germany are no better. In 1912-13 the Reichstag considered a new nationality law, and the German National Council of Women and some other women's societies made certain demands—*e.g.*, that the wife should share her husband's nationality, but should also retain her own, or that she herself should be free to decide whether she should retain her own or adopt that of her husband. The German Woman Suffrage Society supported the latter alternative, and added (as in certain circumstances the mother might be in a painful dilemma) that the minor children should share their mother's German nationality if they are living with the mother who is separated from the father. The German women's movement even then was fully aware of the extraordinary importance and bearing of the law, and studied carefully and thoroughly the difficult material and the problems arising out of it, as is shown by the argument in the petitions (mostly drawn up by Frau Camilla Jellinek).

But in spite of the irrefutable logic and unquestionable justice of the women's demands, they met with not the slightest consideration, and were not even mentioned in the discussion in the Reichstag. The Committee which threw the petitions in the waste-paper basket did so on the pretext of the "unity of the family," for which, always and everywhere, the wife and mother has to pay the reckoning.

As Frau Jellinek truly said: "Women's demands may in themselves have not been entirely unacceptable to some of the gentlemen. In particular, the consequences of the unavoidable loss of nationality for a German woman on marriage with a foreigner may have appeared utterly unjust. And if in spite of that they could not make up their minds to abolish that ordinance, the reason was—although perhaps unconsciously in some cases—the feeling that no breach must be made in the sacred edifice of man's supremacy in marriage. And this was what was involved—not 'the unity of the family.' Where this is threatened even the national question sinks into insignificance besides the international question of men's rights. It is more important that the foreign man should have the satisfaction that his German wife must give up her nationality for him, even when living in her own country, and can thus be banished from her own country, than that a German woman

should not be deprived of her nationality against her will, which public opinion would otherwise insist upon. The pretexts of 'unity of the family' and 'sacredness of marriage' were used against giving a married woman control of her own property, and that the children she bore were only subject to her husband's control."

The war should open men's eyes to the suffering inflicted on women by the present laws of nationality. After the experiences of these terrible years their eyes should be opened to the cruel contradiction of appealing to women's patriotism as woman's most sacred duty and banishing women abroad who are bound to their home by birth and the deepest ties.

—MARIE STRITT (in *Frauenfrage*).

## NATIONALITY OF AUSTRALIAN MARRIED WOMEN.

An interesting situation has arisen in Australia with regard to the position of the Australian-born woman married to an alien, which indicates that the Government there is interpreting the law as giving the Australian woman certain rights of nationality independently of her husband. Should the law continue there to be interpreted in the same sense, it might have an important influence on the whole development of the question of the independent nationality of the married woman throughout the world.

The new points are brought out in the *Woman Voter*, the organ of the Women's Political Association, which has consistently opposed the limitation of the independent right of the married woman to her nationality. To make these clear it has to be remembered that the Australian Parliament, under the Act of the British Parliament by which the Commonwealth was established, has the right to pass legislation dealing with the question of naturalisation and aliens. In virtue of the powers so conferred, it passed the Naturalisation Act of 1903, of which Miss Rose Scott, of New South Wales, wrote to the International Council of Women in 1905 as follows: "I happened to be in Melbourne when the Naturalisation Act was being discussed in the Federal Parliament. I went with Miss Vida Goldstein to the Parliament one night: we made it our business to see all the members we could about the matter. We went to the Labour Party's room; we saw the Prime Minister; we protested against a woman's nationality being dependent upon that of her husband; we found much sympathy, and the Act was passed on the broad basis—far better than any of the States had it. So now, in this respect, we are a very free people." Miss Scott at the same time interpreted the form of the Act thus passed as securing for Australian women the right to retain their nationality on marriage with aliens, and for all women the right to naturalise independently of their husbands.

In 1914 the British Parliament passed the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, which contained a proviso that Part II., dealing with the general question of nationality and naturalisation, should not be applicable to Australia unless adopted by the Commonwealth Parliament. There was no corresponding proviso with regard to Part III. of the Act, which contained the provisions with reference to married women. It would thus appear to have been the intention of the British Parliament that this Part III. of the Act was to be applicable in Australia without a similar ratification, were it not that such an interpretation would be inconsistent with the powers to legislate for naturalisation and aliens conferred on Australia by the Commonwealth Act.

It is the interpretation of the Act in these two different ways that has brought about the interesting situation in Australia. The *Woman Voter* reports that "a protest has been made against the Government of Australia introducing regulations under the War Precautions Act to compel a natural-born British woman married to an alien to obtain exemption from the regulations which require persons of enemy origin to transfer their shares in Australian companies to the Public Trustee, if she wished to transfer her shares to any other person than the Public Trustee. The Attorney-General (Mr. Mahon) quoted the British law that a married woman is deemed to be the subject of the country of which her husband is for the time being a subject," as if it were applicable. The *Woman Voter* goes on: "Later, Mr. Mahon, apparently having given further consideration to the matter, said that the regulations did not touch any Australian-born man or woman. Although we resent this being applied to other British women, the importance of Mr. Mahon's statement cannot be over-emphasised as far as Australian women are concerned, for it

entirely cuts the ground from under the feet of the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes), who, when Attorney-General, ruled that the Imperial Naturalisation Act, which makes a wife a mere appendage to her husband, applied to Australian women, in spite of Parliament having declared the contrary in the Commonwealth Naturalisation Act of 1903. If Australian women cannot be deprived of their property under the regulations referred to, then the Imperial Naturalisation Act cannot touch married Australian women in any respect. The question will be gone fully into by the Women's Political Association with the Commonwealth Government and with the members of Parliament when the Naturalisation Act comes up for amendment, with the object of bringing it into line with the recently amended Imperial Naturalisation Act."

It is to be hoped that the Australian women will be able to retain their existing rights as Australians, and that, instead of Australia bringing itself into line with the United Kingdom by depriving its married women of their existing nationality rights, it will be the means of bringing the nationality laws of the whole Empire into line with its more enlightened practice.

The National Union of Women Workers—*i.e.*, the National Council of Women—of Great Britain and Ireland has also taken up the subject as it affects the British Empire, and is organising a memorial to the next Imperial Conference, to be signed by prominent women's organisations throughout the Empire, urging that a British woman should have the right to retain her nationality on marriage with an alien, and that women shall be given the same choice of nationality as men. The memorial has already been signed by twenty British societies, and is now in course of circulation throughout the Empire.

CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.

September 17th, 1917.

## NEO-MALTHUSIANISM.

By DR. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY, President of the Malthusian League.

It is extraordinary that a woman holding the position of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger as President of the Union Française should not have taken the trouble to ascertain the truth of the assertions she has made in the article entitled "Neo-Malthusianism Criticised," which appeared in your September number. One would like to ask where can be found the evidence for her statement that "Neo-Malthusianism is a destructor of life," and that "it regards the child as a trouble and a scourge." On the contrary, Neo-Malthusianism is a preserver of life, since child-mortality has lessened enormously since the principle of regulating the number of births in the family has been adopted. Neo-Malthusianism does not "regard the child as a trouble and a scourge." Some children may possibly be so regarded by the writer of the above-mentioned article herself, since she states that "a country will not be enriched by a host of children of beggars, of drunkards, and wretched people."

Also, Neo-Malthusians deny the truth of the statement that it "subordinates the transmission of life—the higher question—to considerations of a lower order, when they are not ruled solely by a desire for enjoyment and a really cruel selfishness." On the contrary, it is through the adoption of the Neo-Malthusian principle of birth-control that a true science of eugenic betterment is rendered practicable.

There exists in this country a Malthusian League, which has been Neo-Malthusian in its policy from its inception. Had Mme. Schlumberger cared to place herself in communication with this League, and had perused its literature, it is unthinkable that she should have appended her name to the statement that "the Neo-Malthusian doctrine is not supported by any high sentiment." Prudence and national (not selfish) interest do certainly come under this heading.

It is through the writings of Malthus himself that we have become aware of the prolificacy of life and life-germs—the enormous power of reproduction of the human race, as of all forms of animal life. His "serious thought" on this question led him to the conclusion that if the human race were ever to be delivered from poverty, with its horrors of slumdom, of semi-starvation, of premature (infantile) mortality; from wars, with their attendant horrors,—it could only be by the restriction of births, a restriction which he calculated might be brought about by a great increase in the proportion of life-long celibataires in any community, and by very late marriage among those who did marry.

This advice of Malthus brings us face to face with the struggle waged by the "Association to Promote Moral and



Social Hygiene," and its predecessors, in their 50-years war against the C.D. Acts and the double standard of morality.

In our midst there are hosts of celibate women robbed of their share of physiological completeness, and of the experience and joys of wifehood and maternity. Side by side with these there are women driven into promiscuity by economic stress, by physiological sex-hunger, and by the pressure of slanderous tongues. Also, side by side with these are women held in the bonds of slave-marriage, upon whom unregulated maternity inflicts its intolerable burden of excessive breeding, with its drain upon maternal vitality, and leading to the birth of defectives and degenerates, and to a persistent lowering of the racial physique.

These are some of the evils which Neo-Malthusianism strives to combat.

It combats the evils of the double standard of morals, of the claims of men for sex-gratification at the expense of women, by advocating early marriage at the age of 22 or 23, and self-restraint up to that period, and equal fidelity within the conjugal relationship.

It combats the evil of large families, and the slum-creation and poverty thus brought about, by the recommendations that no children should be born before the mother has reached the age of 25; that three children should be the average number of children to the family; that an interval of three years should elapse between each successive pregnancy—one year for the suckling of the infant, and one year for recovery of maternal strength before entering upon a new conception, thus practically completing the three years' interval.

It combats the sapping of the independence of the relatively poorer classes by enabling them to practise thrift and forethought: to learn how they may owe no man anything. If, with an income of something between 25s. and 30s. per week, they produce one baby, let them wait until another pound has been added to their weekly income before they produce a second, and still another pound before they produce a third infant. Who shall say that, with three children, born under decent conditions, healthy, and enjoying the mother's care and supervision throughout infancy and adolescent life, a woman has not contributed sufficiently to the future life of the country; that a married couple have not deserved well of the society amidst which they live in setting an example of prudent forethought and of sturdy independence, seeking no charity, but only demanding in return for good work efficiently performed that return in income which such social and economic conditions as would thus be brought about could readily afford?

Efficiency in physical development, in educational, economic, and industrial training, would gradually revolutionise our social and industrial conditions, and make of our democracy something upon which reliance could be placed, which it is far from being at present.

To return, it is of the essence of Neo-Malthusianism that maternity should be consented to and not imposed upon the woman. It is of the essence of Neo-Malthusianism that women shall regard themselves as responsible guardians of the health and well-being of the children they produce; that no unworthy husband shall be allowed the privilege of paternity.

The Neo-Malthusian does not urge selfishness and enjoyment without responsibility. The Neo-Malthusian does not urge "the only child" nor "the childless union," save in cases where the health of the conjoints makes them unfit for parentage.

We are told that "the duty of the transmission of life is the most important of patriotic duties." Should not this duty be conditional on the child being a eugenic asset? And all children at present are far from being either an economic or a eugenic asset.

Again, we are told that for the next two or three years we shall be face to face with a world shortage of food. Is a high birth-rate desirable under these conditions? But your correspondent has herself in some measure answered her own objections, since she admits that quality is of importance, and that a country will not be enriched by a host of children of undesirable parentage.

Why, then, abuse Neo-Malthusians, since that is equally their desire? There are many other points, but this reply is already sufficiently long. Those who are interested in this question might like to read "The Small Family System: Is It Injurious or Immoral?" by Dr. C. V. Drysdale, published by Fifeild, 13, Clifford's Inn, E.C.; or "The Malthusian," obtainable at Queen Anne's Chambers, Tetchill Street, Westminster.

## AUSTRIA.

### Women Refused on Juries.

The Austrian National Council of Women had petitioned the Parliamentary Judicial Committee for admission of women to juries. Dr. Ofner supported their application, and brought forward a motion in committee. This was adopted by 7 votes to 6, but later rescinded by 11 to 8. The reason given for refusal was that women are actuated by feeling and not by cold reasonable considerations. The National Council of Women thereupon held a highly successful meeting of protest, which passed this resolution unanimously: "In view of the erroneous judgment and want of appreciation of women's achievements lately shown in the House of Representatives, the National Council of Women begs both Houses of the Reichsrat, when discussing and passing legislation, to bear in mind the present social and economic position and the work accomplished by women, and to decide in accordance with justice and public welfare."

### Illegitimate Children.

The Emperor has commissioned the Minister of Justice to present him with a memorial for the legitimisation of the illegitimate children of men fallen in the war. The Minister of Justice has referred the matter to the courts. At the same time, the Ministry of the Interior has given permission to the affianced brides of men fallen in war to assume the name and address of "Frau."

### Local Government.

In one of the last sittings of the Prague Town Council the Bürgermeister, Dr. Gros, requested the Municipal Council to work out a new local government franchise, with universal, direct, secret, and equal franchise, to include women. This was agreed to, and a committee of members of all parties appointed to draw up a scheme.

### National Council of Women.

The National Council of Women held a demonstration in May in connection with the proposed reform in the local government franchise. The large audience testified to the intense interest taken by women in this question. The President, Frau Marianne Hainisch, said that the local government vote for women would be no innovation, as it was granted them in 1849, and from 1861 to 1888 women had the vote for the Diet. Both rights were taken away from them.

Frau Karoline von Niebauer expressed the thanks of the women for the Government's peace move. Frau Ernestine von Fürth claimed the right of women to take part in local government, and pointed out that by general admission women had shown themselves specially suitable for this work since the war. Frau Marie Schwarz, the well-known girls' school director, treated the question from the standpoint of the teachers, whose position is much less favourable than the men's, who have full political rights.

Frau Fanni Freund-Marcus, President of the Austrian Housewives, urged that if women had the power they could solve many of the victualling problems. Finally, Dr. Dorn, Municipal Councillor, spoke on the prospects of women's local government vote. In his opinion, the majority of the town council were more favourably disposed than before. A resolution in favour of equal municipal franchise for women was passed with enthusiasm.

### Polish Women and the Franchise.

Under the leadership of Sophie de Moraczewska, a deputation of the Women's League of the Polish National Committee appeared in the Polish Club, and requested, in the name of their own and of other women's organisations, that, in view of the independent and eminent services rendered by women during the war, in the case of separate treatment of Galicia, women may be granted universal suffrage and eligibility. The deputation was received by Excellence Bilinski, who informed them of the provisions for the separate treatment of Galicia, according to which women in independent professions should receive the Suffrage. Further developments must depend on political events.

The legislation which Hawaii asked of Congress last year in order that Woman Suffrage might be voted on has finally this month been favourably reported from the committee of the U.S. Senate to which it was referred.

## GERMANY.

N.B.—The following notes are taken from the *Frauenfrage*.

### Woman Suffrage in the Reichstag.

On July 6th the Reichstag discussed the report of the Constitution Committee on proposed changes in the franchise.

The Socialist parties demanded Woman Suffrage, which was voted against by a majority of the Committee. Dr. Gradnauer (Socialist) declared that his party stood for the full social and political equality of women, which they considered not as a demand for women's rights but a demand of civilisation. Conservative objectors may declare that women are too good for politics, but whatever trivialities and unpleasantnesses there may be in politics, they do deal with the great realities of national life, and to co-operate in them is not unworthy of women. Now is not the time to shrink from the new and unaccustomed. Now that woman is working actively in factory and office, in agriculture and in Government employ, she is always subject to laws in which she has no voice. In the family, too, she needs to go beyond it to the municipality, to the State, to the Empire. As full citizens they would be better mothers. The three years of war have brought greater changes than previous decades; millions of women have become independent wage-earners, and will be forced to remain so in future. Not only in light trades but in heavy trades, in transport, behind the plough, women have proved their worth, as also in all branches of war relief. In all this they have shown great organising ability and capacity to work for the general good. If the country issues well out of the war it will be largely due to women. How, then, can their exclusion from all participation in legislation and administration be justified? In local government their work has greatly increased in war time; from that it must develop towards full political rights. Germany is obtaining the dubious distinction of being behind other countries. [The speaker then referred to the various countries having Woman Suffrage.] Woman Suffrage is marching triumphant through all countries. Political parties are too apt to consider party benefit in electoral reform; the Socialists do not stand to gain from Woman Suffrage, but make the demand because they consider it just and necessary for women to have the power to protect their own social and economic interests, and because the nation needs the help of all capacities and powers in the people. The Chancellor has claimed that career should be open to talents; why not to women's talents? Perhaps with women's help the nations will be able to guard against such endless misery as this war has brought.

BECKER, on behalf of the Centre party (Catholics) opposed Woman Suffrage.

LIST (National Liberals) admitted that the cause of Woman Suffrage had progressed since the war, but was not yet ripe for legislation, and needed further consideration in peace times before it should be introduced.

WALDSTEIN (Progressive People's Party) objected to a decision being come to yet on Woman Suffrage, although it was clear that woman's position after the war would not be the same as before. To give women their proper place in public life would be one of the most important after-war tasks, but one not to be undertaken now.

MERTIN (Deutsche Frakt.), although conceding the value of women's work as substitutes for men, objected to their enfranchisement, because as mothers they had no time for politics (!), and only as mothers would they have anything valuable to contribute to politics different from men. The women in the women's movement were not housewives, and would contribute nothing beyond what men already give.

STADTHAGEN (Independent Socialists), in answer to the last speaker, contended that women were not to be measured merely as substitutes for men, but as human beings. Before the war a third of the wage-earners were women, now there are more women than men. It is an absurdity to consider them only as mothers, and a slight on their worth as human beings and their right to equality. It is a kind of slave-holding to say to women, "You are to work, to sweat as much as, and more than, men, but you get no rights." In all civilised countries Woman Suffrage is either in force or on the way; only in Germany is it blocked.

At the conclusion of the debate Woman Suffrage was defeated.

### Special Laws for Domestic Servants.

The Prussian Lower House has requested the Government to abrogate the present special laws for servants, and to prepare new ones as an addition to the civil code.

### Women Demand Equal Pay in Army Service.

The Union of Women Economists (President, Dr. Elisabeth Altmann-Gottheiner) and the women lawyers have petitioned the Prussian War Office that women who are appointed in the army auxiliary services, according to the ordinance of March 17th, 1917, to occupations necessitating a previous university education and independent work, should receive the same pay as men with similar education and of the same age, instead of, as at present, two-thirds of the salary given men for the same work. Women have devoted the same time and money to training, work the same hours, and with the same devotion. It is a mistake to suppose that upper-class women can live cheaper than men.

### Women's National Socialist Conference.

The first Women's National Socialist Conference since the war met in Berlin in July. Subjects discussed were: "Women and War Work," by Frau Juchacz and Frau Hanna; "Woman Suffrage," Frau Zepler.

Resolutions were passed placing on record and approving the work done by thousands of Social Democratic women in war relief, in co-operation with the authorities and with organised women of other classes and parties: through this co-operation it was possible to represent properly the interests of working women.

The Conference claimed with greater urgency than ever full political rights for women and their admittance to all public bodies, and in particular it demanded Suffrage and eligibility as claimed by the Socialist motion in the Reichstag.

A resolution on the international situation urged the authorities to initiate peace negotiations, and emphasised the need for peace by the working-classes of all nations; it expressed sympathy with the working mothers and wives in enemy countries, and urged them to work for a speedy peace. The Conference hoped for an early peace without oppression or humiliation of the nations concerned, a peace based on conciliation, and a revival and improvement of international relations between the working-classes, and especially the women of all countries.

### Saxon Suffragists' Petition.

The Saxon Woman Suffrage Society petitioned the Constitution Committee of the Second Chamber to include Suffrage for women on equal terms with men in the reform proposals on the composition of the Diet, and of local government bodies. The petition emphasised the fact that such a reform would be no innovation in Saxony, but only an extension of existing rights. "It is well known that single women and widows in Saxony, and according to the law of 1912 in some cases also married women as landed proprietors, have a vote for certain rural local bodies. The introduction of municipal franchise in small towns and towns with a revised constitution, the granting of eligibility and of the vote and eligibility for the Diet, would be no experiment but only historic development."

### Woman Suffrage and the Drink Evil.

At the conference on the temperance problem held in Dresden, June 22nd and 23rd, Frau Marie Stritt spoke on the economic aspects of the alcohol question, and emphasised the need for the women's municipal vote as a means of limiting the number of drink shops and checking the waste of national resources. Frau Katherina Scheven described the ultimate connection between drink and prostitution, and the necessity for women to get political power in order to combat tolerated prostitution and clandestine prostitution in the "Animierkneipen" (drinking places where barmaids drink with the customers). It was particularly noteworthy that Church Councillor Kober demanded women's co-operation in all departments of social life, with full political rights, and closed the conference with a demand for Woman Suffrage. The following resolution was passed, among others: "This women's conference is convinced that all measures for social welfare will be carried out all the more surely and thoroughly the sooner women have full political rights in State and municipality, and can exercise direct influence as wives and mothers on legislation and administration."

### Women in the Law Courts.

The German Association of Women Lawyers (Juristinnenverein) petitioned the Prussian Ministry of Justice a few months ago to appoint women with legal qualifications as law clerks. Three ladies with theoretical and practical legal training are now to be appointed in the Central Berlin Law Courts, at a salary of 125 marks a month. This is the first appointment of women in the law courts.



## GREAT BRITAIN.

**National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.  
Scottish Women's Hospitals.**

## ROYAUMONT.

The French President has presented Dr. Frances Ivens, C.M.O., of the Abbaye de Royaumont and Villers Cotterets, with the Legion of Honour. The Advance Hospital at Villers Cotterets is now open, and has received a number of patients.

In connection with the French Red Cross, canteen work will be undertaken shortly in various places.

## CORSICA.

The large General Hospital at Ajaccio receives a great variety of patients for both medical and surgical work among men, women, and children. There are many tubercular patients amongst the refugee students, and beds have been arranged for them at the Lazaret, from which the convalescents are moved to a special camp now at Sart d'Orcini.

In addition to this work the two doctors of this Unit have medical charge of the various Refugee Colonies established by the Serbian Relief Fund in different parts of Corsica.

The Serbs still need all the assistance that can be given to them, and interesting developments of the work are anticipated in the near future.

## SALONIKA.

In Salonika, Dr. Louise McIlroy's hospitals will shortly open orthopedic workshops, which will undertake this class of work for the whole district. This undertaking, which is very costly, has been financed by a large grant of money from the City of Calcutta.

## LONDON UNITS.

Hospital B received orders to form a dressing station with part of its staff. These left Tecuci when it was under fire, and proceeded to Varnitza, where they encamped two miles from the German lines. Orders were received to dig in and prepare for a big battle, and enemy shelling was momentarily expected. However, Rumanian artillery was extremely active, and the enemy made little reply. After a few weeks at this camp the work at the dressing station rapidly diminished, and was brought to a close. The staff and equipment rejoined Dr. Inglis and Hospital A at Reni. This hospital had a sudden rush of work in August, with 230 wounded. Since then it has received orders to rejoin the Serbian Division, and has moved to Odessa, where Dr. Inglis awaits orders.

**National Council of Women.**

The National Council of Women Federated to the International will be held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Tottenham Court Road, on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th. It will deal with various subjects of interest to women, and particularly so at present in view of the fact that, if the Representation of the People Bill reaches the Statute Book, a large number of women will be able, as citizens, to enforce their views on subjects on which they have a definite point of view.

One of the resolutions to be put forward deals with the education of women citizens for their new voting powers and responsibilities, and urges the N.U.W.W. to endeavour to make widely known the industrial and economic position of women as modified by, and dependent on, war conditions; and to prepare women for careful consideration of the national and international issues involved in the problems of post-war reconstruction.

With regard to Solicitation Laws, a long-needed reform is urged in a resolution pressing for the substitution for the present unjust and ineffective laws, of a law on an equal basis for men and women with regard to administration, evidence, and penalties.

The establishment of a Ministry of Health is the subject of another resolution, to deal, among other things, with housing reform and maternity grants.

A fourth resolution deals with Reformatory Agencies, and presses for a Government Commission to inquire into the working of present methods of prisons, courts, and police, and to see how the laws of their administration can be improved.

Other resolutions deal with the better safeguarding of illegitimate and adopted children, poor law nursing, and the formation after the war of a League of Nations.

**Food Control.**

The new Food Control scheme has now been issued. It offers a great opportunity for women to help in the work of

ensuring national economy. The Food Controller has decided to work through the local authorities, and they are empowered to appoint Food Control Committees, either singly or in combination, throughout the country. The Committees are to consist of not more than twelve members, of whom one must be a woman and one a representative of Labour. Sub-committees may be appointed, and here again a woman and a representative of Labour must be on each.

Where the Government makes room for one woman, women themselves may make room for more. A real effort should be made to ensure working women being placed on local Food Committees. It is, after all, the woman who has difficulty in making both ends meet, who knows what is a luxury and what a necessity. It is also imperative, since local authorities are to have the appointment of Food Control Committees, that women should make a determined effort to get on to the borough and county councils.

**Women on the Railway.**

The position of women on the British railways constitutes at present one of the most difficult of labour problems. Prior to the war comparatively few women were employed by railway companies. When the numbers increased, men's railway trade unions opened their doors to women, on the understanding, however, that women's railway work was temporary, and that the inclusion of women in unions should not be prejudicial to the re-establishment of men in their pre-war positions. On this understanding railway trade unions held out for equal wages for men and women. Their aim was to prevent women from underselling men's labour in work which they only held pending men's return from service. In August, 1915, the Executive Council of the National Union of Railwaymen sent a resolution to this effect to the Government, making a Government assurance of equal rates of pay for men and women the condition of the unions keeping the Labour truce. The Government gave the necessary assurance.

Technically the flat-rate is now the same for men and women on the railway—they have the same minimum wage. Actually railway employers have evaded the Government regulation by differentiating largely between the bonuses paid to men and to women. In April, 1916, the National Union of Railwaymen protested against the increased bonus being withheld from women, since it resulted in the women's minimum wage being virtually 4s. less than the men's. The case was referred to arbitration, but the trade union lost its point. The result is that by this time the women's weekly wage has fallen roughly 7s. 6d. below the men's. This means that through the differential bonus system there has occurred precisely what railway unions foresaw from the outset and endeavoured to prevent—women are being forced against their own interests to undersell men's labour.

It makes an appreciable difference to the worker whether or not his or her bonus is reckoned as war wages. If it is, holiday and overtime pay rates are based on it; otherwise only upon the flat-rate. All men working in any capacity on the railway have their bonus reckoned as war wages, and all women working on the railway proper. But the overtime scale of pay for women in the railway workshops is still based on the flat-rate. A new railway agreement of August 17th for workshop pay, while raising the bonus for all classes of workers, expressly states that in the case of men and boys it shall be reckoned as war wages, but for women the increases granted are to be regarded as war advances, to be recognised as due to the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing. That is to say, they are not considered when overtime pay is fixed.

In practice this regulation does not affect a large number of women, as most women in railway workshops come under the provisions of the Munitions of War Regulations, but the principle is highly injurious, and one which demands thorough investigation. In view of the enormous increase in the employment of women in industry—an increase, according to latest figures, of 1,240,000 since July, 1914—it is all-important that equal pay for equal work should be assured, particularly in all industries where men and women compete.

**Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations (British Section).**

At a meeting of the Council held at 1, Victoria Street, Westminster, on Thursday, August 30th, 1917—a special conference adjourned from August 9th,—the two subjoined resolutions (numbered I. and II. respectively) were unanimously carried. No. I. relates to the holding of the Stockholm Congress and to the question of passports. No. II. is a manifesto-resolution on policy for the guidance of the delegate, Miss

Margaret Bondfield, accredited by the Council to the Congress of the Women's Socialist International, which is to precede the Socialist International Congress at Stockholm:—

I.—This Council endorses the resolution in favour of holding an International Socialist Congress at Stockholm, which was carried by a large majority at the Inter-Allied Socialist Conference held in London on August 21st and 22nd. The Council joins with that Conference in its protest against the withholding of passports to the Stockholm Congress.

II.—This Conference of the British Section of the Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations declares itself in favour of, and undertakes to work for, an agreement between the peoples of the world for the establishment of a general peace which shall not tend to domination either by or over any nation or to seizure of national possessions—a peace without forcible annexations or penal indemnities, based upon the right of nations to decide their own affairs. It therefore calls upon the British Government to express its willingness to conclude peace on these lines. For the Conference is convinced—

First, that the desire for such a peace is gaining greater and greater strength among the peoples of every nation;

Secondly, that an explicit declaration of willingness, by either group of belligerents or by any one powerful belligerent, to make peace upon such terms would induce the peoples in the other countries at war to exercise pressure upon their Governments in favour of the acceptance of the same formula; that this pressure would speedily become irresistible; and that it would greatly facilitate the opening and the rapid success of peace negotiations;

Thirdly, that on no other basis is peace likely to be lasting; on no other basis can the interests of the smaller nationalities be safeguarded and the right to self-government assured; on no other basis is there any reasonable prospect of averting the dangers of that armed peace which leads up to war, and is only one degree less disastrous than war, of averting that permanent militarisation of the nations which the experience of the past century, and, above all, the experience of the past three years, has shown to be the gravest of all obstacles to progress in democracy and civilisation.

**The Workers' Suffrage Federation.**

The Adult Suffrage Demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, August 19th, for which the W.S.F. was mainly enfranchisement in Ireland, was not entirely correct. The Carter, W.U.R.; Alderman Davies; Mrs. Butler, Tottenham Trades Council; Mrs. Bouvier, W.S.F.; Mrs. Drake, W.S.F.; Mrs. Montefiore, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst were among the speakers. There was a little gang of disturbers, who seemed to resent any idea of national reconstruction, but the huge crowd, in which were many men in khaki, wished to listen to the speakers, and the attempts of the disturbers failed.

The resolution calling upon the Government to introduce a complete measure of Adult Suffrage was carried, with few dissentients.

The W.S.F. is conducting a Referendum in the four North Wards of Bow on the questions of Adult Suffrage, the People's Representation Bill, Initiative, Referendum, and Recall. Although many people seem incapable of thinking of anything but the war, a great number are beginning to realise the urgency of Parliamentary reform.

## IRELAND.

**Joint Committee of Irish Women's Suffrage Societies.**

The following letter has been sent by the Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies to the Chief Secretary for Ireland:—

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies, representing the Belfast Suffrage Society, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Association, the Irishwomen's Reform League, and the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, to ask you to receive a deputation with regard to the Food Committees. You will remember that in England it is enacted that at least one member of every Local Food Committee shall be a woman. We wish to urge the importance of applying the same rule in this country, and we ask that a woman be co-opted on the Central Committee, which consists at present only of men. The experience of women in the matter of buying and preparing food is of great value

in dealing with questions of food control, and it is most undesirable that the community should be prevented from utilising their services.—Yours faithfully,

M. GWYNN, Hon. Sec. Joint Committee,  
Irish Suffrage Societies.

The Joint Committee has been informed that the Irish Convention has not power to co-opt members, this being the business of the Government. As the Government was approached by the Joint Committee at a much earlier stage, it seems impossible to make any further attempt to secure inclusion of women in the Convention. The question of the future government of the country will therefore be decided without reference to the women.

The following letter has been sent by the Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies to the Trades Councils of Dublin, Belfast, and Cork:—

Dear Sir,—I have been instructed by the Joint Standing Committee, representing the Belfast Suffrage Society, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Suffrage Association, the Church League for Woman Suffrage, the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Association, the Irishwomen's Reform League, and the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, to draw your attention to the qualification for municipal franchise established under Clause 3, Sub-section (a), of the Representation of the People Bill. Under this clause men and women occupying furnished rooms lose their municipal vote. This narrowing of the franchise will render the municipal electorate less democratic in basis, and will deprive a large number of Irishwomen of the Parliamentary franchise, the qualification for which depends on the municipal vote. It involves a grave injustice to Ireland, since in Scotland a promise has been given by the Government that the municipal qualification shall remain unaltered.—Yours faithfully,  
MARY L. GWYNN, Hon. Sec., Joint Committee.

Similar letters have been sent to the Irish Party leaders, and to Mr. H. T. Barrie, M.P., who raised the point in the House of Commons.

**Belfast Suffrage Society.**

The statement under this heading in the issue of *Jus Suffragii* for August, with reference to the conditions of enfranchisement in Ireland, was not entirely correct. The municipal register in Ireland only includes married women when they have a qualification in respect of property or occupation of premises distinct from that of the husband. Under the Representation of the People Bill the married woman will be able to qualify as a Parliamentary elector if her husband is entitled to be registered as a local government elector in a constituency, and will thus possess the Parliamentary, though not the municipal, franchise. Further, under clause 3, sub-section (a) of the Bill, as amended in Committee, women lodgers occupying furnished rooms will not only remain without the Parliamentary franchise, but will lose the municipal vote which they at present possess—a fate shared by men occupying furnished rooms as far as the municipal vote is concerned, though in their case the Parliamentary franchise, being based on residence, not occupation, will be safeguarded. Women living in furnished rooms have possessed the municipal franchise since the Urban District Councils in Ireland were formed, and the matter is serious. A letter has been sent by the Belfast Suffrage Society to the local Parliamentary representatives and to the Irish party leaders, calling their attention to the matter, and expressing the hope that they will support any action which may be taken when the application of the Bill to Ireland is considered. In view of the statement by the Government that the matter should be dealt with if raised by Irish Members there should be no difficulty in securing amendment of the Bill in both directions.

DORA MELLONE,

Hon. Press Secretary, Belfast Suffrage Society.

## AUSTRALIA.

**Women J.P.'s.**

Fourteen more women have been appointed Justices of the Peace in South Australia.

**Women Police.**

Three women police have been appointed in Victoria, and two in West Australia.



**Medals for Relations!**

The Governor-General of Australia has approved the issue of a medal to the wife, mother, or nearest female relative of any member of the Australian Imperial Forces, including the army nurses.

**Women's Reform League of New South Wales.**

The following resolution was passed unanimously at the July Council meeting of the Women's Reform League of New South Wales (founded by Mrs. Molyneux Parkes, 1902):—

"That the members of the Women's Reform League of New South Wales offer their sincere and hearty congratulations to their sisters over the sea on their having obtained the franchise. The noble manner in which the women of England have responded to the nation's call in war-time affords assurance that the Suffrage will be exercised by them with judgment and discretion."

Assuring you of our warm sympathy in the woman's cause,

L. BOGUE LUFFMAN,  
Organising Secretary, W.R.L., Sydney.

**Women's Political Association Annual Report, 1916.**

Although the work of the W.P.A. during the past year was mainly along the lines of Peace and Anti-Militarism, in co-operation with the Women's Peace Army, the general platform of the Association has been considerably advanced by educational effort amongst the people, and by legislative effort on the few occasions that the Commonwealth and State Parliaments, absorbed almost entirely in business arising out of the war, afforded us opportunities of furthering the woman movement.

The planks dealt with were:—

1. Retention of a Married Woman's Nationality and Political Status Throughout the Empire.—A protest was made against the Hughes Government introducing regulations under the War Precautions Act to compel a natural-born British woman married to an alien to obtain exemption from the regulations which require persons of enemy origin to transfer their shares in Australian companies to a public trustee if she wished to dispose of her shares to any person other than a public trustee. The Attorney-General (Mr. Mahon) quoted the British law that a married woman is deemed to be a subject of the country of which her husband is, for the time being, a subject.

This interpretation of the regulations was particularly offensive to women. It is outrageous to say that, because British women are married to Germans or Austrians, they are therefore a danger to their country. Mr. Mahon did not argue that a British man married to a German woman is a menace to the community and should be deprived of his property.

\* Later Mr. Mahon, apparently having given further consideration to the matter, said the regulations did not touch any Australian-born man or woman. Although we resent their being applied to other British women, the importance of Mr. Mahon's statement cannot be over-emphasised as far as Australian women are concerned, for it entirely cuts the ground from under the feet of the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes), who, when Attorney-General, ruled that the Imperial Naturalisation Act, which makes a wife a mere appendage to her husband, applied to Australian women, in spite of Parliament having declared to the contrary in the Commonwealth Naturalisation Act of 1903. If Australian-born women married to aliens cannot be deprived of their property under the regulations referred to, then the Imperial Naturalisation Act cannot touch married Australian women in any other respect. This question will be gone into fully by the W.P.A. with the Commonwealth Government and with the members of Parliament, when the Naturalisation Act comes up for amendment, with the object of bringing it into line with the recently amended Imperial Naturalisation Act.

2. Equal Pay for Men and Women.—Equal pay was obtained in Victoria for commercial clerks largely through the activity of the Clerks' Union, whose new banner is inscribed with the words, "Equal Pay for the Sexes." The Federated Clerks' Union is endeavouring to secure Equal Pay for all men and women clerks throughout the Commonwealth, a reform that grows more pressing every day, owing to the increas-

\* Vide *Herald*, February 10th, 1916.

ing number of women clerks who are taking the place of men who have become soldiers.

In May, 1916, Mr. Justice Powers, dealing in Sydney with the question of equal pay in the clerical division of the Federal Public Service, sought to re-establish the old injustices from which women public servants had suffered before federation. The W.P.A. set to work at once, and, with the co-operation of Mr. Balfour, secretary of the Commonwealth Clerical Association, was successful in obtaining the award to apply to women clerks.

3. Equal Property Rights.—For many years the W.P.A. has endeavoured to secure an amendment of the intestacy laws, which have pressed heavily on women in regard to the deaths of children under 21. The Statute of Distribution of 1670 provided that if a person under 21, possessed of property, died unmarried, the father took the whole estate, or if the intestate left a wife but no child, the father took half the estate in excess of £1,000. The mother got nothing. In the case of a widowed mother, she had to share her intestate child's estate equally with his brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces. This law, which meant great injustice and hardship in many cases, has always gone unchallenged by men. Often at public meetings lawyers have denied the accuracy of Miss Goldstein's statements as to the law, and in all probability it would have remained unaltered until women got into the State Parliament had not the deaths of a number of young unmarried men on active service giving prominence to the unjust law. Mr. Blackburn, M.L.A., had the law forced upon his attention by the death of a young soldier who left neither wife, child, nor father, but left a mother, who had to share her son's small estate with his brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces, some of whom were not of age. Consequently the mother could get only a trifle of what she was entitled to. Mr. Blackburn drafted a Bill to apply equally to fathers and mothers in connection with the whole estate of intestate minors. The Bill was accepted by the Lower House, but in the Upper House it was amended to provide that the mother should get the whole estate of £500 net value where the intestate left neither wife, child, nor father. If the father were living, he was, as before, to get the whole estate!

When the Bill returned to the Assembly, Mr. Blackburn, owing to the lateness of the session, agreed to accept the amendment as an addition to the original clause, but not as a substitute for it. And so the law, which for 247 years has done gross injustice to women, was thus far amended.

4. Equality in Measures for Suppression of Vice.—The great increase in venereal diseases caused by the war so alarmed the Commonwealth and State Governments and medical authorities that an era of panic set in, and every effort was made to introduce legislation providing for the worst features of the discredited C.D. Acts—compulsory notification, examination, treatment, and detention. Ostensibly the aim was to make the law equal for men and women, but women knew that, in practice, if such legislation did not altogether break down, it would operate chiefly against prostitute women. West Australia had already passed the obnoxious legislation as a health measure, thus disguising its main object. In order to try and prevent a similar law being passed in other States, the W.P.A. summoned a convention, which was composed of those most representative of the woman movement in this State, and which was supported by the Woman's Progressive Association and the Feminist Club of New South Wales, the Women's Service Guild of West Australia, and which was attended by the late Mrs. Emma Miller, of Queensland, and Miss Kathleen Hotson, of South Australia. The convention held seven lengthy sessions, and the following resolutions were agreed to:—

1. That education showing the physical, moral, and spiritual value of purity of thought, word, and deed, should be the chief agent in combating venereal disease.

2. That a Royal Commission composed of men and women be appointed to inquire into the causes and extent of venereal disease.

3. That this Convention pledges itself to oppose all forms of State regulation of vice, compulsory examination, notification, treatment, and detention, believing that such measures are morally wrong, tending to make vice appear safe for men at the expense of women, and this Convention considers that men and women suffering from venereal disease should not be treated as criminals, but as patients, for whom free and adequate treatment shall be provided.

6. That equal pay for men and women be made law, starting with a minimum of 10s. per day at the age of 21.

**CANADA.****A Second Woman M.P. for Alberta.**

The August number of the *International Woman Suffrage News* contained a notice of the candidature for the Alberta Legislature of Miss Roberta Catherine McAdams. Miss McAdams has now been elected, and will take her seat as M.P. representing soldiers and nurses on service in Europe. There were twenty candidates, and the two elected were Captain Pearson and Miss McAdams. Miss McAdams is on the staff of the Canadian Military Hospital at Orpington as dietetic expert. She received one-third of the votes cast. Her main task in Parliament will be to work in the interest of returned soldiers.

**The New Franchise Bill.**

No direct reports have come as to the Canadian Franchise Bill, but London newspapers report that it was introduced on September 6th, and provides for the enfranchisement of the near female relatives of soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, including wife or widow, mothers, daughters, and sisters of all soldiers. Mr. Meighan, Secretary of State, who introduced the Bill, said it was hoped that later on full Woman Suffrage might be granted. The central purpose of the Bill was that the franchise should be based on war service. Aliens are disfranchised, even if naturalised since 1902. All army nurses will be enfranchised. Subsequent reports show that strong opposition is being offered to the Bill by Liberals and Socialists. An amendment is proposed extending the franchise to all women.

Sir Robert Borden, the Premier, defends the Bill as it stands, and maintains that to give the vote to female relatives of soldiers is only fair, as they are making the largest sacrifice, but in a letter to a correspondent he said:—

In case I am returned to power it is my purpose to place upon the Statute Book a measure granting the franchise to all women of British birth, and conferring upon women of foreign birth the right to seek and obtain naturalisation, so that they may thus become endowed with the same privilege after suitable residence in the country, and, perhaps, after suitable educational tests. The same measure should provide that a woman of British citizenship shall not lose her citizenship upon marriage, except with her own consent.

The Labour Congress meeting at Toronto on September 18th demanded the enfranchisement of all women, instead of only the relatives of soldiers.

**The General Elections.**

There is to be a general election in October, and so we sent a letter to Sir Robert Borden, "courteously to remind him of his promise to bring in Woman Suffrage for the Dominion House before going to the country." We also suggested that, in order to expedite registration and so allow women to vote, registration booths should be opened for one week in every polling subdivision, to be "manned" by returned soldiers and women. This was done with great success in Manitoba. Registration usually takes two to three months in this country. It is interesting to note how quickly such cumbersome business is simplified when women get a look in.

I told you in my last letter that a Food Controller had been appointed. He is calling Provincial conventions of the women. The Government pays all expenses. The Ontario convention was certainly a triumph of what women can and will do. It was grillingly hot (98°-100° in the shade), but the meetings were packed. The delegates were of every class, creed, and political party, and yet they met on the common ground of the need of the moment: increased production and conservation. They spoke well and to the point, and always from the platform. Leading women occupied the chair for most of the meeting. It was amusing to watch the Food Controller and other Government officials. They never had so many straight truths told them in a short time before. Practical suggestions just "bristled," but through it all there was an element of "We will do our best"—"but" or "if," etc., etc., Government extravagance must cease, war profiteering must be stopped, alcohol must not be manufactured for beverages, and so on. There were also scientific addresses on exactly what substitutes to use for the three things of which we are asked to reduce the consumption—viz., wheat, meat, and bacon.

The last session took the form of organisation for further work, and was the only one at which a man—a representative of the Government—took the chair. He started on the old tack of trying to impose the Government's ideas on the women,

13. That a Royal Commission composed of men and women be appointed to inquire into the causes and extent of the white slave traffic and commercialised vice.

15. That work for unemployed women be provided by the Government.

18. That this Convention pledges itself to oppose every form of militarism, which is founded on the degradation of womanhood.

19. That this Convention, while favouring the palliative measures embodied in resolutions 2-18, pledges itself to assist in bettering the social, industrial, and political emancipation of the workers, as being of fundamental importance in producing a happy and truly moral community. The W.P.A. is more than ever convinced, from the information imparted to the convention and gathered from all recognised authorities for and against compulsory methods in dealing with venereal diseases, that compulsion will defeat its own ends. It draws special attention to the following statement made by the committee appointed by the Commonwealth Government to inquire into the causes of death and invalidity:—

The various provisions are inter-related and more or less dependent on one another. Compulsory notification alone, even impersonal, would drive the patients into the hands of unqualified practitioners, and would encourage all kinds of baneful advertisement. (Page 16.)

A deputation waited on the Minister of Trade and Customs (Mr. Tudor) to place before him the resolutions of the convention, but their representations were of no avail; the Minister said "the mind of the Government was made up in the matter"—that is, it had decided, without calling expert opinion against, as well as for, compulsion, to accept the compulsory principle and assist the State Governments financially if they would pass into law a measure similar to that in West Australia.

5. Protection of Neglected, Delinquent, and Wage-earning Children.—The W.P.A. Probation Officers—Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. Larcher, Mrs. Reynolds, and Mrs. Singleton—have done good work at their respective courts—Northcote, Fitzroy, Prahran, City. The young people in their care are making very good progress, but the Probation Officers are unanimous in their opinion that the whole system needs altering from top to bottom.

6. WOMEN POLICE.—Although the Chief Secretary (Mr. McLeod) promised to appoint women police in August, 1916, the appointments are not yet completed. The W.P.A. protested against the conditions under which it is proposed to appoint women police, and sent the following notice of motion to the National Council of Women:—

That the National Council of Women of Victoria strongly protest against the proposal of the Chief Secretary to appoint women police at the grossly sweated wage of 35s. a week, as being most unfair to the women to be appointed, and tending to making conditions worse for the men police, who are already paid only a sweated wage. That this Council protest also against women police being given only limited powers, and demands equal pay and equal powers with the men police.

A visit to the W.P.A. offices by Miss Rhodes, one of the women police in Sydney, was greatly appreciated. Miss Rhodes gave an interesting account of her work to those members who were fortunate enough to be at the hall when she called.

TWO NEW PLANKS.—Two new planks—the Industrial Organisation of Women and Public Control of Means of Production—were added to our platform, and our speakers have, by means of public, home, and factory meetings, helped to bring home to women and girls the need for a changed social system, and of joining trade unions, that they may protect their interests as workers, and that as organised industrialists they may be drawn more easily into the ranks of those who are striving to maintain the international ideal which tends to prevent war. A resolution to this effect was brought before the Peace Conference of the Australian Peace Alliance by the W.P.A. and carried. Special work was done amongst the women in the confectionery, jam, tobacco, white workers, rope and cordage trade.

**International Conference Postponed.**

It has been decided to postpone the Conference of women of belligerent and neutral countries which was arranged to be held simultaneously with the Stockholm Conference.



and to rule out of order certain resolutions calling upon the Government to give pledges that it would do its share of retrenchment and to allow the importation of certain foodstuffs (such, for instance, as oleomargarine) which are prohibited in Canada. The meeting was at once in an uproar. It really was an object-lesson of the distance the women of Ontario have travelled since the war began, and especially since they became enfranchised citizens. Long may it continue! It did the hearts good of those of us who have long tried to arouse in women this attitude of rebellion against being treated like children.

EDITH LANG,

National Equal Franchise Union, Toronto.  
August 12th, 1917.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

#### Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union.

Amended resolutions passed at the Conference, 1917:—

##### WOMAN SUFFRAGE POLICY OF THE W.E.A.U.

(1) This Conference of the W.E.A.U. urges Government to bring in as early as possible next session a Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women on the same terms as it is or may be given to men. We feel strongly the need of woman's influence and point of view in the legislation of the country bearing on the new economic conditions after the war.

(2) Since the only point of contact of many of the societies affiliated to the W.E.A.U. is their common aim of attaining for women full franchise rights, this Conference resolves that the W.E.A.U. should as a body undertake no work except that tending directly to this end, and improving the legal and economic position of women.

(3) This Conference shall formulate a plan of action for the ensuing year for the purpose of securing votes for women on the same terms as men, and that a special committee be appointed to carry out the plan of action agreed upon, and that sub-committees be formed in each province.

(4) That in view of the universal co-operation of women and men in this crisis of the British Empire, and the identity of interests of both sexes, this Conference calls upon Parliament for the immediate granting of full rights of citizenship to women in South Africa. This resolution to be forwarded to the Prime Minister for the purpose of giving effect thereto.

(5) That the Prime Minister be asked to receive a deputation from this Conference, the early enfranchisement of women to be its object; the time and membership of the deputation to be decided by the W.E.L., Bloemfontein.

(6) That this Conference of the W.E.A.U. affirms:—

(1) That the object of the W.E. Leagues, Societies, Unions, etc., is to secure the Municipal, Parliamentary, and other franchise for women, and to place women citizens at no disadvantage in the State as compared with men citizens.

(2) That the use to which women will put the vote and other similar rights when finally secured is not a proper subject for other than academical discussion, for the following reasons:—

(a) Because when successive sections of male citizens were enfranchised, the use they would make of the vote was not made a condition of enfranchisement, and very properly so.

(b) Because when any citizen is put on the register he is not asked, nor should he be asked, which way he will vote, or what use he will make of the vote.

(c) Because such discussions tend to divide Suffragists and divert their attention and energies from the sole object before them.

(d) Because such discussions are used by enemies of the movement to poison public opinion against it.

(3) That no official of the League, Society, or Union should express as authoritative any opinion which binds or appears to bind the Union and affiliated Societies or Leagues to any conclusion not directly concerned with obtaining the vote for women.

##### RECOMMENDATION.

That the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, in Conference assembled, affirms the principle of withholding support from candidates for any public position whatsoever whose party has not Woman

Suffrage on its platform, and strongly recommends this course to its affiliated Leagues and their members.

##### POLICY OF THE W.E.A.U.

###### CRIMINAL CODE RE INFANTICIDE.

That this meeting of the W.E.A.U. in Conference assembled learns with great satisfaction that in the New Criminal Code of the Union the penalty of death for infanticide is left to the discretion of the presiding judge, and earnestly trusts that such cases will meet with justice tempered with mercy. Furthermore, it sincerely hopes that in any future amendments to this code provision will be made for the bringing to justice and punishment of the partner in the offence.

###### CHILD'S PROTECTION ACT.

That the W.E.A.U. urge that a clause be inserted in the Children's Protection Act asking the Government to make provision for all children whose parents or guardians are in prison for any offence.

###### CHILDBIRTH IN PRISON.

That this meeting of the W.E.A.U. assembled in Conference respectfully requests the Minister of Justice to make in future such arrangements as will enable female prisoners who are pregnant to be delivered of their offspring outside the precincts of the prison, thus removing the stigma which is attached to a child so born.

###### MUNICIPAL COUNCILS OF THE CAPE PROVINCE.

That this Conference urge the Cape Provincial Council to introduce legislation that will enable women to sit upon Municipal Councils in order to fall in line with the other Provinces of the Union.

###### FRATERNAL DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE.

It was decided that fraternal delegates to Conference may debate, and may neither vote nor introduce resolutions.

###### AGENDA OF CONFERENCE.

That whatever agenda is drawn up by the Executive of the W.E.A.U. to be submitted for approval and discussion to the Leagues before the Conference should be, after the necessary amending involved, as far as possible adhered to at the Conference, both as to substance and rotation of items.

Agreed to as a recommendation to be observed as far as possible.

###### ADHERENCE TO CLAUSE 18 OF THE CONSTITUTION.

That in view of the fact that the circular letter to Women's Societies issued by the Secretary on February 2nd committed the W.E.A.U. to approval of a policy which had not been submitted to the Leagues through the Advisory Board (vide Recommendation C of aforementioned letter), this Conference directs the attention of the Executive Council to Clause 18 of the Constitution, with request that it be strictly adhered to in future.

(For copy of letter see *Woman's Outlook*, April, 1917.)

###### "WOMAN'S OUTLOOK."

That non-affiliated Leagues which advertise in the *Woman's Outlook* should pay full advertisement rates.

###### AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, CONFERENCE, 1917.

That no discussion or alteration of the Constitution take place at this Conference of the W.E.A.U. We feel it to be a waste of time, as doubtless in the near future, when, as we hope, the war will be over and women enfranchised, a new Constitution embracing a much wider sphere of labour for the women of South Africa will be necessary.

###### EDUCATION IN SEX AND MORAL HYGIENE.

It was decided as a recommendation to all Women's Societies from this Conference of the W.E.A.U. that they work to establish classes for the education of mothers in sex and moral hygiene through their respective organisations.

N.B.—In accordance with Resolution 2, all resolutions passed at the Conference of 1916 are binding upon the Association in its forthcoming year's work.

LAURA RUXTON, Secretary.

7, Cullinan Buildings, Johannesburg,  
July 15th, 1917.

##### REPORT OF W.E.A.U. EXECUTIVE FOR 1916-17.

The Association's work during the past year has been the carrying out of the resolutions passed at the last Conference in 1916.

##### SUFFRAGE.

The Association worked actively through its societies in support of Mr. Roche's amendment to the Electoral Bill on February 21st, to consider the expediency of making provision

in the Bill for the enfranchisement of women. All candidates for the Transvaal Provincial Council were asked: (1) Whether they would introduce or vote for a motion urging the Union Parliament to grant the provincial suffrage to women. (2) Whether they would support a Bill to give women the right to elect members of School Boards.

##### VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Association has worked to avert the threatened application of Part I. of the Contagious Diseases Act of the Cape Province to the rest of the Union. A Consolidating Health Bill, recommended by a Government Commission, had been drawn up and circulated to municipalities and to medical officers of health, constituting an imminent danger to the rest of the Union unless Part I. of the Act were immediately repealed. The Capetown Suffragists, on realising this danger, organised a campaign for repeal. A deputation interviewed the Minister of the Interior, and laid the women's case before him, and other deputations and meetings were held. It is hoped that Parliament will repeal the Act.

##### WOMEN POLICE.

The Association supported Mr. Wyndham's motion to provide women police, which was, however, unsuccessful.

##### CINEMATOGRAF DANGERS.

Many Societies have worked for restriction of performances attended by children to the afternoon, and for a film censorship.

##### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

All candidates for the Transvaal Provincial Council were asked whether they would support the principle of equal pay for equal work. Support was given to Mr. Duncan's Regulation of Wages Bill for Women and Young Persons, which aims at establishing a minimum wage.

##### LETTER TO GENERAL BOTHA.

A letter of protest was sent to General Botha on the proposed employment of a Native Labour Contingent in the port towns of Europe, constituting a danger to the natives themselves and to the white women of Europe, and ultimately to the women of Africa.

##### REPRESENTATIVES IN EUROPE.

Lady Selborne and Mrs. Auerbach, both resident in London, were appointed to represent South African Suffragists on deputations to British Ministers.

##### WAR WORK.

Suffragists have run employment bureaux, have trained women for agriculture, worked for the Red Cross, promoted thrift, cared for maternity and infancy, and worked for health.

### INDIA.

#### Madras Municipal Vote.

The mixed committee on the District Municipalities Amendment Bill has pressed for the grant of the municipal franchise to women possessing the necessary property qualification.

#### Women's Emancipation.

The West does not expect perhaps that Indian women are allowed or are able to take free part in public affairs. Perhaps it expects much less that they will have their own say, and will play their own part in national concerns. There might be reasons, perhaps—or, perhaps, there might have been reasons—for that expectation of the West. Nevertheless, the West is wrong.

There are two incidents, recently occurred, which have taken a keen hold of Indian imagination at present: the death of Dr. Dadabhoi Naoroji, the first Indian to command the united homage of his countrymen; and the internment of Mrs. Annie Besant, that Western woman whose name during the last generation has been a magic one to the Indian mind, and whose conduct has been a marvel to the Indian imagination. Both incidents have called forth a widespread demonstration of popular fervour, the first by way of sympathy and affectionate homage for the dead, the second by way of admiration for the interned, and solemn, decided protest against the Government. The grand ladies of Bombay, Anglo-Indian and Indian, are meeting to commemorate the name of Dadabhoi. Several mofussil stations of Madras have held ladies' gatherings of protest. One young woman of Bombay, a University scholar, an undergraduate at Grant Medical College, a Theosophist, and Home Ruler, has written the following farewell to her principal, and gone over to Madras to take up propagandist work on behalf of the Home Rule League:—

Dear Sir,—I am a member of both the Home Rule Leagues in Bombay, and after the Government order concerning

politics in general, and Home Rule in particular, I feel it inconsistent with one's self-respect and sense of national duty to continue to be a member of a Government college. I therefore beg to withdraw my name from the rolls of the college.—I remain, yours obediently,

N. SIVAKAMU ANMAL.

Three days ago, Sir Subramanier presiding, she was welcomed by the public of Madras in meeting assembled.

These do not seem to be light things for orthodox India, which has been for 700 years under Mohammedan rule and zenana civilisation.

Even in the Hindu State of Mysore there are suprising signs of social awakening. Ten years ago a Brahmin young lady graduated from the Madras University from the local Maharani's College. Now she officiates as the Superintendent of that College. Women have no municipal franchise here, nor do they sit in the Representative Assembly or Legislative Council. But ten days ago this lady was nominated by the State Government a member of the Economic Conference and a Senator of the new Mysore University.

The Indian sun seems now, indeed, a genial friend of women's advancement.

August 15th, 1917.

G. R. JOSYER (Mysore).

#### A Mohammedan Mother.

An elderly Mohammedan lady, Abadi Bano Abdul Ali Begam, mother of Mahomed Ali, has taken a step unusual for ladies of her race and religion in India. She has voluntarily shared the internment of her son, and has written a long letter to the Home Rule League of India explaining her action and setting forth her political principles. As she says: "The writer is a Muslim woman, brought up in the old orthodox ways, according to which women are seldom supposed to address any communication to strangers, and never to men. But these are extraordinary times, and things are changing so fast that no one should feel astonished if an old woman like myself addressed at the sacrifice of a little orthodoxy a letter on a subject which fills at present the minds of all." The writer than praises the work done by Mrs. Annie Besant for Home Rule, and says: "I have noted with pride that it is one of my own sex and age that has worked so earnestly."

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Miss Alice Sergeant to the Indian Educational Service to be Inspector of Schools in Madras.

### ITALY.

LA DONNA DELLA NUOVA ITALIA. Documenti del Contributo Femminile alla Guerra (Maggio 1915—Maggio 1917). Reccoli e Ordinati da Donna Paola (Signora Baronchelli-Grosson). Editor: Dott Riccardo Quintieri, Milan.

"The Woman of New Italy" is the title of a book of 300 pages, consisting of documents relating to the part taken by Italian women in the war from 1915 to 1917, collected and arranged by a well-known Italian authoress, who writes under the name of Donna Paola, and who has succeeded in rendering what would otherwise be a dry list of facts into a most delightful book, showing the Italian woman in her individual home life, as an active member in political, social, philanthropic, and official life, and her status in society before the war, and what her position will be after the war.

As the title shows, the writer's chief object is to tell of the important part taken by Italian women in the war: as nurses for the wounded; in giving moral and material aid to the soldiers; in organising assistance of all kinds for the civil population; in patriotic, intellectual, political, and economic propaganda; and, last but not least, their valuable contribution in labour at all the public offices, in the public traffic, in munition work, in agriculture, and in every branch of manual labour.

What, however, will be of great interest to women readers is the effect that this great social revolutionary evolution, the war, will have upon the position of women in Italy, where the movement for Women's Rights has lain more or less dormant, and this position has been very fully and capably portrayed by the authoress in her excellent book, an English translation of which will shortly be published.

In the chapter relating especially to Women's Rights are the names of the women who in 1916 made an official request for the right to vote, which was rejected. In 1912, when Giolitti was at the head of the Italian Government, and universal



Suffrage was established, another movement was made by women to the same intent, but in vain.

The social evolution brought about by the war, and the most capable position taken in public life by Italian women, are well portrayed in the closing chapter, in which the verdicts passed by the first political men in Italy all point to the granting of Women's Rights in every social position in life, including the political vote.

We can but recommend this highly interesting publication, and trust that it may meet, in its English rendering also, with the appreciation it deserves.

Milan, August 27th, 1917.

L. PIOVANELLI.

## RUSSIA.

### First Woman Professor at Moscow University.

The first woman professor at Moscow is the Pole, Marya Szylkarska, who received her school education in Moscow, and then studied Romance literature in Paris, and later at the British Museum. She will begin her lectures in the autumn on French literature of the second half of the 18th century.

## SWEDEN.

### Great Summer Meeting at Ronneby.

On June 11th and 12th the National Society for Woman Suffrage held its fifth summer meeting in the little country town of Ronneby, situated on the south coast of Sweden. In spite of long distances and the few and slow trains that are running now, more than 170 women had assembled. The meeting also counted as its guests a few men, among them the Rev. A. Bruhn, President of the Men's Society for Woman Suffrage.

The Vice-President of the National Society for Woman Suffrage, Dr. Widerström, opened the meeting, after which she read aloud the resignation of our President, Miss Signe Bergman, who, for want of time, has been obliged to retire from her post. The meeting expressed its deep regret at the loss, and offered, in a telegram to Miss Bergman, its warmest thanks for her many years of devoted Suffrage work.

The chief part of the morning programme was given to a discussion about the present situation. Though our Suffrage Bill was rejected last June, it was stated that the Conservative opposition now is less strong than before. A resolution was moved and carried in which the meeting expressed its deep indignation at the refusal of the First Chamber to pass our Bill this year. "We demand," it ended, "to have it passed next year. Our Parliament ought not to keep the women waiting any longer for this act of justice."

We had two great open-air meetings. The speakers were Miss Frederikke Morck (from Norway), the Rev. A. Bruhn, Mrs. Anna Wicksell, and Dr. Gulli Petrini.

The fifth summer meeting may be considered a great success. It has inspired the women with new hope and new faith and new courage to work.

In connection with the meeting we celebrated the 60th birthday of one of our bravest pioneers, Mrs. Augusta Fønning, President of the Blekinje Association for Woman Suffrage, which had invited us to hold the meeting at Ronneby. She has toured our country from north to south, and formed a number of local societies. Still active and persevering, she gives all her great, warm interest to the cause.

August, 1917.

JENNY WALLERSTEDT.

## SWITZERLAND.

Mlle. Gourd draws our attention to an omission in the French report on equal pay for equal work, published in our September number. The Swiss Suffrage Association unanimously passed a resolution at its General Assembly at Lausanne, May 13th and 14th, in support of the French proposals for an international agreement for equal pay for equal work.

### Suffrage Meetings Prohibited in Germany.

The military authorities in Stettin forbade all women's meetings of any kind on May 6, and in the Mark, in Magdeburg, and Kassel Suffrage meetings have been forbidden.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Letters to the *International News* must be written so far in advance these days that the "news" is old when it reaches the readers. The month of August has been given to quiet educational and campaign work, the Suffragists throughout the States giving the larger part of their time to various forms of military service requested by the Government. The greatest of these are the Red Cross and food conservation. The latter has consisted in raising fruits and vegetables; in canning, drying, and preserving them in various ways; and in conducting classes in thrift, economy, etc. A resumé of this work will be sent to the *News*.

Before this letter is read the election will have taken place in Maine, and the *News* will have received the result by cable. Mrs. Catt will go into the State for the third time September 1st, and remain until the election on the 10th. We do not feel hopeful. The National Association has done everything possible, and the leaders in the State have given able and devoted service, but there has been much apathy among the women in general. They do not suffer from unjust laws, nor from the hard conditions that prevail where there are big cities, and much of the New England conservatism still remains. As said in my last letter, it is largely a struggle of the liquor interests to prevent Woman Suffrage so that they may repeal the Prohibition Law, and no amount of money would be too great for them to pay. Their work is being done *sub rosa*, and the open fight is being made by the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association. It has only a little society in Maine, and the campaign is conducted by the Massachusetts and New York Associations. They say frankly that this is the biggest contest they have ever made. The president of the Men's Anti-Suffrage League has been there making speeches, and their ablest women speakers have been canvassing the State all summer. They seem to have money without limit, and are publishing a weekly paper filled with the false statements that are their stock-in-trade. The National Suffrage Association is now preparing a "special edition" of a paper to answer these, and it has been supplying its weekly magazine, the *Woman Citizen*, and has sent thousands of pieces of literature. In addition it has furnished a number of speakers and organisers. If the amendment is carried, it will be well worth all it has cost.

### AN OHIO VICTORY.

There is one victory to record for August—the winning of the municipal franchise in Columbus, the State capital of Ohio. This may seem a small gain, but it opens the door for the women to get from their cities what it is impossible to get from the State under its present corrupt political conditions. Some months ago the Council of East Cleveland, a city of 15,000 inhabitants, submitted to the electors the question of giving women a vote on all municipal officers and affairs, and a considerable majority declared in favour of it. The opponents at once took the case through the courts, and the Supreme Court of the State rendered a decision that any city could amend its charter in this way without permission of the Legislature. Immediately the Council of Columbus submitted a Woman Suffrage amendment, which has received a substantial majority. This example will be followed by other cities.

The Ohio women are continuing to take into the courts of the various counties the referendum petitions referred to in my last letter. In one county the court ordered over a thousand fraudulent names to be erased. In other counties it is believed that the whole petition will be thrown out. It is not expected that it will be possible to accomplish this in enough of the more than a hundred counties to prevent having a referendum of the Presidential Suffrage Law enacted by the Legislature last winter. But it is believed that the exposure of the character of the opposition to Woman Suffrage and the methods used to defeat it will influence thousands of voters to give it their support.

### SITUATION IN NEBRASKA.

In my last letter I said that enough signatures had been obtained to the initiative petitions in Nebraska to obtain a referendum to the voters of the law enacted by the last Legislature which gave county and municipal suffrage to women. These petitions were filed with the Secretary of State in the name of the Women's Anti-Suffrage Association by its president, who then issued an official bulletin beginning: "We have now by proper and dignified methods secured enough signers," etc. The Suffragists have commenced an investigation, and

find the same conditions as prevailed in Ohio. Over three-fifths of the signatures were obtained in Omaha and its environs, where the big breweries and distilleries are located. Many of them were illegible; others had been erased and names written over them; some of the names were fictitious. The petitions had been circulated almost entirely by saloon-keepers and others connected with the liquor business, and some of them were so dirty and worn that they could hardly be handled. And yet the women of the Anti-Suffrage Association filed these petitions in their own name, and took full credit for them!

In some counties not one signature had been obtained; in a number of others, one, four, six, and ten only; but these petitions will be sufficient probably to deprive the women of Nebraska of the victory they worked so hard to gain. It can readily be seen that the forces that could secure these petitions, which had to be done openly, could defeat an amendment at an election where the ballot and the count are secret. Nebraska has recently adopted a Prohibition Law, in spite of all attempts to defeat it, and the liquor interests are determined that women shall not have a vote on the officials who will be elected this fall to enforce it. They have also succeeded in having submitted to the voters what is known as the "Near Beer" or "Two-per-cent" Bill, which would be a wedge in the Prohibition Law, and they are equally determined that women shall not vote on this. The referendum of the Suffrage Law will not take place until next year, and in the meantime the women are enjoined from voting.

### DIFFICULTIES IN INDIANA.

In my last letter I related how one court in Indiana had declared that the Legislature had no right to give women a vote for delegates to a convention to make a new constitution, and another court had decided that it had no right to order such a convention held, but could only submit to the voters the question whether they wanted one. As the Legislature does not meet in regular session again for two years, I said the Suffragists had petitioned the Governor to call an "extra" session in order to get the mandate of the voters at once. Other pressing interests also have demanded this "extra" session, and it is probable the Governor will call it at an early date.

Mrs. Catt is now in Indiana attending a convention. The women had still retained the municipal and primary franchise rights granted them by the last Legislature, but this month the opponents brought suit to have these annulled also, because it had not the legal authority to grant them. The court has not yet rendered a decision.

### ACTION BY CONGRESS.

The women of other countries should be profoundly thankful that they have only one Parliamentary body to deal with, instead of forty-eight, as in the United States; and if they understand the situation here they will know why we make our Congress the chief objective point of our effort. This struggle that has been carried on for two generations in the various States has been for the sole purpose of securing through them enough pressure to persuade Congress to act. Our main dependence there is on the influence of the eleven equal Suffrage States.

In all our long experience we never have had to meet anything so exasperating as the action of the "militants" in Washington. This does not have to be explained to the Suffragists of Great Britain, and, indeed, it is well known that the movement throughout Europe suffered from the exploits of British "militants." It was a satisfaction that when the hour of victory came, the leaders in the House of Commons recognised only Mrs. Fawcett and the old National Union. It will be the same here, but the "militants" are making the way harder. They did more actual damage to the cause by their "fight on the Democratic party" in the equal Suffrage States in the Congressional campaign in 1914 and the Presidential campaign in 1916 than they have done by their "picketing" of the President's house. During those campaigns they worked to defeat the re-election of the best friends we had in Congress if they happened to be Democrats, and to defeat President Wilson. While both campaigns were a failure, they created a bitterness and hostility in the Congressmen and in the party that the National Association has not yet been entirely able to overcome.

The newspapers have really made a mountain out of a mole-hill in regard to their "picketing" in Washington, as less than a hundred have been engaged in it recently. The police force have been handicapped by the President's desire that they should not be allowed to assume their desired rôle of

martyrs. When at last they received the excessive sentence of sixty days in the workhouse, and public sentiment threatened to veer round in their favour, President Wilson forestalled this by pardoning them. And when they accepted their pardon instead of suffering for their cause, public sympathy turned to ridicule. Now a second lot have been sent to the workhouse for thirty days, and apparently they will be allowed to remain there, with the approval of public opinion. Their work is for the most part in the garden. They are not in "cells," but have light, air, and cleanliness, and, while the life is hard, there is no mistreatment or actual suffering.

The newspapers are making a distinction between the small group of "militants" and the National Association with its two million members, but their actions undoubtedly give an excuse to many men for voting against the Suffrage amendments in Maine and New York. Their adverse influence on Congress will be transient, as the Senators and Representatives are on the spot and can size up the situation. The leaders of the National Association have not at any time expected action from this "extra" or "war" session of Congress beyond the appointment of a Special Committee on Woman Suffrage by the Lower House. Although adjournment seems near, they have reason to think that it will not take place before this much-desired Committee is appointed.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,  
Chairman, Editorial Correspondence, Leslie  
Suffrage Bureau.

A telegram from Washington to the *Daily Chronicle*, September 25th, says: The Suffragists won the fight in the House of Representatives yesterday by 181 votes to 107 for the creation of a Special Committee to consider all matters relating to Woman's Suffrage.

## REVIEWS.

WOMEN'S WORK IN WAR TIME. By H. M. Osborne. Werner Laurie. 2s. A Handbook of Employments.

This useful little book gives information to girls and women on professional, business, and social work, the training needed and where it is given, conditions of work and payment, and where to apply for employment. The occupations described are by no means limited to war-time, as the title might perhaps imply, but cover old and new employments. Part II, consists of articles by competent authorities on various branches of work. Thus Miss Dorothy Zimmern writes on the university woman, Miss L. K. Yates on munitions, and Miss Ruth Young on clerical work. The book should prove of great value, and should be in all girls' club and school libraries, and should be consulted by those who advise girls on the adoption of a career.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE YEAR BOOK. Published by the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, 171, Madison Avenue, New York.

This admirable compilation includes a mass of information on Woman Suffrage; the greater part is devoted to the United States, but chronological tables give Suffrage events in all countries, and details are given of the extent and working of Suffrage wherever it exists. A brief history is given of the movement in the United States, and full details as to the history in each State legislature and in Congress. Particulars are given of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The effect of Woman Suffrage upon legislation in equal Suffrage States is given, and there are many testimonies from eminent men and women as to its success.

Some space is given to an account of legislation affecting women, especially industrial legislation affecting employment, and married women's property laws in the U.S.A. An important omission is any account of the laws on marriage, divorce, and age of consent, which are of special importance to women. Several chapters are devoted to information for Suffrage workers.

A list of Suffrage publications and bibliography completes a most thorough and useful piece of work, invaluable to Suffrage workers.

### International Roman Catholic Women.

The Bureau International de l'Union des Lignes Catholiques Féminines, comprising about twenty leagues and some hundred thousands of women, proposes to hold a Conference in Switzerland to discuss the part the affiliated leagues should play in a peace movement.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE AUSTRIAN LETTER.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

It will be remembered that in our August number a letter was published from the Austrian Committee affiliated to the Alliance suggesting that the Suffrage Societies in all the countries forming the Alliance "should take steps to have simultaneous meetings to express the unanimous desire for peace of the women of all countries, and their agreement in wishing for a peace without victors or vanquished."

It is hardly necessary to say that while probably both men and women in all the belligerent countries earnestly desire peace, there is no unanimity between the two groups of belligerents, or even amongst neutrals, as to a satisfactory peace being possible without victory. Letters have been received by us from France and Italy warmly repudiating the suggestion of the Austrian Committee that they could severally be satisfied by a peace without victory. The Swedish Committee also consider the expression as too vague, ambitious, and negative.

We do not propose to publish these letters, and others on the same subject which may reach us, because they lead us away from subjects on which we can act together, and to promote which the Alliance was formed, and introduce topics on which the most vehement differences of opinion exist between us. The Constitution of the I.W.S.A. was drawn up with great care, and gives us definite guidance on this point. Article 2 runs thus:—

"The object of this Alliance shall be to secure enfranchisement for women of all countries, and unite the friends of Woman Suffrage throughout the world in organised co-operation and mutual helpfulness."

Article 3 defines the conditions under which Suffrage Societies may affiliate to the Alliance. Condition (a) is: "They must make the demand for the enfranchisement of women their sole object, except where local circumstances prevent such organisation, or where Woman Suffrage is already granted."

On October 15th, 1915, a resolution emphasising these points was unanimously passed by Headquarters Committee, and sent round to the whole Board of Officers. It runs thus:—

"That the I.W.S.A. and its organ, *Jus Suffragii*, having been formed to promote the enfranchisement of women, and for no other object, Headquarters Committee is of opinion that during the war other controversial political subjects, such as pacifism, on which Suffragists are divided in opinion, should not be advocated in the paper. This resolution is not intended to rule out brief statements of fact."

(Signed) MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.  
CHRISTAL MACMILLAN.  
ADELA STANTON COIT.

## NEO-MALTHUSIANISM.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Madam,—Will you please allow one who has taken an active part in both the International Woman Suffrage and the Neo-Malthusian movements to reply to some of the points raised in the criticism of Neo-Malthusianism by Mme. de Witt Schlumberger and her associates of the French Union for Woman Suffrage in your issue for September. Other prominent members of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance who have espoused the Neo-Malthusian cause, as, for example, the leaders of the Dutch, German, and Hungarian Societies, will no doubt show their appreciation of the suggestion that they have assisted to "urge selfishness and enjoyment without responsibilities." The key-note of the Neo-Malthusian movement, as was so eloquently urged by Frau Marie Stritt at the International Neo-Malthusian Congress at Dresden in 1911, is parental responsibility—the responsibility which free women can assume towards the children they have borne by their own free will, and not as the passive victims of their animal fecundity. It is clear from the whole of the criticism that the writers have not taken the slightest trouble to ascertain the tenets of the movement they are criticising, which is rigidly based on the "theories of Malthus," and has been the pioneer in economic and eugenic reform for human betterment.

My principal object in writing, however, is to point out that in their patriotic zeal for repopulation, Mme. Schlumberger and her associates seem no less ignorant of some of the most vital facts concerning their own country, and which profoundly affect the whole question. As an ardent lover of France, I can fully sympathise with her heroic women who are willing to face the pangs of motherhood and make every sacrifice to maintain her military strength against aggression. But heroic self-sacrifice is not always wise, as women have surely learned to their cost, and there are a few questions to which satisfactory answers ought to be given by Mme. Schlumberger and those who support her before the women of France or of any other country consent to launch children into the world regardless of their own sufferings or of those prudential considerations which every unselfish mother must have for the future welfare of her children. These questions are as follows:—

(a) Are they aware that the term "depopulation" as applied to France is a misnomer? In the ten years from 1901 to 1910 the average birth-rate was 20.6, and death-rate 19.4 per thousand, giving an average excess of births over deaths of 1.2 per thousand, or of about 47,000 individuals per year apart from migration.

(b) Are they aware that the above rate of increase is about twice as great as that during the previous ten years (1891-1900), when the birth-rate was higher (22.2 per thousand), and that it is very little lower than that given in the French *Annuaire* for the five pre-Revolution years 1781-84, when the birth-rate was 38.9 and death-rate 37 per thousand? If so, why do they assume that an increase of the French birth-rate now would result in accelerating the increase of the French population?

(c) Are they aware that in the various arrondissements of Paris the poorer quarters have birth-rates of twice that of the Ellysée quarter, but with no advantage as regards survival rate? Also, that Dr. J. Bertillon, in his strongly anti-Malthusian "La Depopulation de la France," gives instances of cantons where the birth-rate has risen, and admits not only that these have shown progressive moral deterioration, but that the death-rates have risen—in Lillebonne "at least as much" as the birth-rate?

(d) Are they aware that Ontario, in Canada, has had an equally low birth-rate to that of France—less than 19 per thousand in 1895,—but that its death-rate was then only just over 10 per thousand, against the 18 or so of France? If so, do they not think that the cause of the slow increase of population in France is its high death-rate instead of its low birth-rate, and should they not find some method of saving the people they have instead of asking their sisters to bear more?

(e) They admit the importance of the Malthusian doctrine that population is limited by food, and that "the daily bread must be assured." Have they, then, considered how much food France can obtain from her agriculture and by the exchange of her manufactures for foreign food? We are given to understand that her agriculture has nearly reached its limit, and France does not seem to have sufficient coal and iron, etc., to enable her successfully to compete with the great manufacturing nations. How, then, is she to get the food for a rapidly expanding population? It is noticeable that the only part of France where a high birth-rate produces a high survival rate is Brittany, which derives its existence from the relatively illimitable sea instead of the limited land.

(f) Have they observed that all civilised countries, and, above all, Germany, have been hastening to follow the example of France in the reduction of their birth-rates? In Germany recently the fall has been phenomenal, and the principal German towns had very nearly come down to the level of Paris before the war.

In view of these facts, it appears that France has only been a pioneer in a movement which is rapidly becoming appreciated by the whole of civilisation. At first sight it appears as if she has suffered from being too early in the field, but her own statistics do not give the slightest justification for claiming that she would have had more or even as good soldiers for this war had she retained her previous high birth-rates. And consider what she has gained. She has shown to the world how a nation once dominated by aggressive militarism has learned to be peaceful, content, and self-sufficing within her own borders; she has won the respect, sympathy, friendship, and help of all democratic nations. Would she have gained this if she had maintained her high birth-rate and been forced into strong rivalry for markets and colonies in the attempt to maintain her surplus population? As it is, France has shown the world how war may be ended, and the world is ready to accept her lesson. Let each nation limit its birth-rate to its resources, and rivalries will disappear and the bonds of international union can be tightened until we have "the parliament of men (and women) and federation of the world." It is to women, with their natural care for the race, that we have to look for this consummation, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the French Suffragists in their noble but mistaken patriotism will not play into the hands of reaction and militarism. Let us be able to cry: "Vive la France, our deliverer from poverty, travail, and war!"—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES V. DRYSDALE,

Late Hon. Sec. of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage and President of the International Neo-Malthusian Bureau of Correspondence and Defence.

Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—Mme. Schlumberger's presentation of the aims and teaching of British—Neo-Malthusianism is grotesquely false to anyone who knows those aims and teaching, and to drag in a condemnation of the "preaching of abortion" and of "abortions" in an article entitled "Neo-Malthusianism Criticised" seems to show an inexcusable lack of reasoning on the part of the writer. I hope there will be an article on the subject from a British or an American Neo-Malthusian.—Yours faithfully,

LOUISE M. THOMPSON.

43, Rosebery Gardens, Crouch End, N. 8.  
September 25th, 1917.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

MADAM,—The article on Neo-Malthusianism by Madame de Witt Schlumberger in your September issue expresses opinions so greatly at variance with the conclusions to which many serious thinkers have been forced during the past quarter of a century, that a few words of explanation and protest seem called for.

There are two principal points upon which the writer appears to have been misled. One of these is so elementary as to be almost inexcusable—namely, the confusion of preventive methods of regulating the number of births with the practice of abortion. It cannot be too clearly understood that the prevention of conception by any of the methods described as harmless in the evidence submitted to the recent Royal Commission on the Declining Birth Rate, or by such reputable bodies as the Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, S.W. 1, differs so absolutely from every form of abortion that even the most unscrupulous opponents of the new knowledge no longer dare to trade on ignorance of these facts.

Secondly, it is essential to realise that the feminists who see in birth-control the main hope both of their own emancipation and independence and of the progress of society as a whole, are convinced that by this means alone can their children be adequately equipped to take their share in the complicated life of the modern world. It is absurd to put forward the charge of selfishness when

## The Hungarian Franchise.

According to a report in the *Morning Post*, M. Vazsonyi, the Hungarian Minister in charge of the Franchise Reform Bill, will introduce his measure in the coming session. It will add over three million new electors to the Parliamentary register. Among them will be 300,000 women. Delighted as we are to see the introduction of Women's Suffrage in any form into Hungary, we cannot but comment upon the haphazard way in which it is being conferred. The women to be enfranchised are women passing examinations, women having independent businesses—and war widows! What about women who had the misfortune to lose their husbands before the war? The vote has been endowed with many attributes, and been made the subject of many curious comparisons. It is now appearing in its famous new rôle—"a war medal"!

## British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

The fourth two-monthly luncheon of the B.D.W.S.U. was held in London on September 24th, Mrs. Hitchcock, of New Zealand, in the chair.

The guest of honour was Miss Nina Boyle, of South Africa and the Women's Freedom League, who had recently returned from hospital work in Salonica, and spoke on "Women and Political Parties." Miss Newcomb gave an account of recent successes, and Miss Margaret Hodge described the proposed scheme for bringing Indian women into the movement and enabling British women to understand Indian women's problems. Amongst others present were Miss Olive Schreiner, Mrs. Bage (Australia), Miss Dorothy Pethick, in police-sergeant's uniform, Dr. Champion, Mrs. Kirkby, Mrs. Ussher, Mrs. Hornabrook (all Australia), Mrs. Faulkner and Miss Spencer (New Zealand), Miss Brenda Fairbridge (South Africa), Mrs. Keith Adam and Mrs. W. J. Turner, of the Australian Red Cross.

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every economist of note is castigating the indifference and lack of foresight displayed by prolific pairs, and every social worker is deploring the appalling wastage of child life which is the inevitable outcome of their fecundity.

Over-population, indeed, as has been so brilliantly shown in "Fecundity versus Civilisation," by Adelyne More, is the chief cause not only of the subjection of women, with its disastrous effect on the welfare of the youth of every nation, but also of poverty, crime, and war. As Mr. Arnold Bennett says in his preface to this little book, which women would do well to study and ponder: "This preposterous state of affairs can only be altered by rendering public opinion articulate—that is to say, by talking openly and writing plainly about a matter which in modern social politics transcends nearly every other in importance: the matter of birth-control and the physical methods of birth-control." It is surely the duty of feminist leaders to lend the weight of their authority to the enlightenment of their less instructed followers, rather than to the darkening of counsel by unreasoning abuse.—Yours, etc., C. K. OGDEN.

Magdalene College, Cambridge.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—Surely Mme. de Witt Schlumberger states clearly and succinctly the Neo-Malthusian point of view when she says: "One of the most important principles from a woman's point of view is that maternity should be consented to and not imposed. It is not admissible, from a moral point of view, that one who is to bring the child into the world in terrible suffering, and carry it for nine months, should submit to a pregnancy which she has not desired."

As a convinced Neo-Malthusian of many years' standing, I could not wish for a better statement of my views.

Abortion must not be confused with prevention of conception. They are totally distinct. All the Neo-Malthusians I know are as far from advocating abortion as Mme. de Witt Schlumberger herself.

A right solution of the population question is very closely bound up with the peace of the world. If during and after this war all countries are exhorting their people to increase, it will not be long before the race for numbers will again call into action one of the crudest and cruellest of direct checks—war.

A frank consideration by each country, alone and in international conference, of the numbers which the resources of each country can support in peace, happiness, and plenty, followed by the action of the central and local governments to keep their populations within these limits, is a better ideal for civilised people than the natural checks of war, disease, and famine.—Yours truly,

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

38, Hogarth Hill, N.W. 4.

## NATIONALITY.

To the Editor of *Jus Suffragii*.

Dear Madam,—*Jus Suffragii*, to which I am a subscriber, having lately published an article on "The Nationality of the Married Woman," followed by a questionnaire on proposed modifications of existing laws, I wish to reply on one point.

I am a Pole, from Warsaw, since the war studying law in Paris, and I regret that I do not know the opinion of feminists in my own country. It is not necessary for me to answer the first questions in the questionnaire as regards France; others have done so better.

I only reply to Question 14: Yes, a married woman ought to have the right to choose her nationality. It would be equitable that the question of the nationality of the married woman should be decided by a special clause in her marriage contract; the married woman would then have a choice between her nationality by birth and that of her husband. Facilities should be accorded to the husband who might wish to acquire the nationality of his wife.—Yours, etc.,

WENCESLAW GUTMAN-DOBROWLSKA.

5, Rue Nouvelle Stanislas, Paris.

## The Grand Cross.

On Thursday last the first investiture of the Order of the British Empire took place at Buckingham Palace. A large crowd collected to see the recipients leave wearing their insignia. Khaki was the predominant note, a note which women did their share in striking! Dr. Flora Murray and Dr. Garrett Anderson arrived with a khaki-clad guard of Endell Street nurses. The guard waited for them and escorted them back to Endell Street, where nurses and patients lined up and presented them with bouquets, and, better still, with a £50 cheque for the purchase of an operating table for the children's hospital in Harrow Road.

Lady Londonderry and Mrs. Chalmers Watson were also in khaki—the khaki of the Women's Legion and the Women's Army. Dame Katherine Furze wore the dark blue of the V.A.D., and Sister Pauline the nuns' uniform of the Italian Hospital.

The insignia of the new Order is a broad purple ribbon and a silver star. It is interesting to know that the insignia of the Women's Order was appropriately designed by a woman—Miss E. Hallé.



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