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EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Germany. The recent German elections show a large increase in the radical parties, communists on the left and "national-socialist," fascist, on the right. They should be taken as a popular expression of feeling due to a catastrophic increase in unemployment, and the stringent taxation necessary to meet the sudden enormous rise in the cost of unemployment benefit, and general depression. They will not mean any change in German foreign policy nor any violent internal upheavals. The Republic is in no danger. The Republican parties in the new Reichstag will still outnumber the opposition by a substantial majority. It is the sudden change for the worse in the general economic situation which has driven hundreds of thousands into the ranks of the extreme radicals. The economic situation is felt equally by other nations, but in Germany the masses are goaded into despair by the knowledge that while unemployment and starvation are immediate menaces, milliards of money goes out of the country in the form of reparations. People have come to the end of their tether, and there is a general feeling that the violent rise in the radical vote is due more to psychological causes than to any definite political tendencies. The radical leaders have no programme, they have no positive plans for bettering the situation, but they have found support by stating more categorically than anybody else that the present state of things is intolerable and that something must be done. They will obstruct but not paralyse the Reichstag. It is expected that the Government will remain and form a Coalition of the moderate parties strong enough to carry out the very heavy programme of reforms, financial, administrative, political and social, which everybody recognises as urgent, but which found no majority in the last Reichstag. The pressure of the radical oppositions may induce the moderate and progressive parties to get to business.

The poll was very heavy, on an average 85% and in some places as much as 95% of the population voting. The heavy poll means a large increase in the membership of the Reichstag. There will be 575 members as against 491 in the last Reichstag. There will be 39 women as against 35 in the last Reichstag. The fascists do not put up women candidates. The women's vote was heaviest in the moderate parties, Social Democrats Centre, People's Party and Constitutional, Christian Social Service. For statistical purposes women voted on coloured slips of paper and men on white ones.

Geneva. The Eleventh Assembly of the League of Nations is still in full session as this number of the paper goes to Press. We publish a preliminary article by a special correspondent who is following the debates. There will be another next month, dealing fully with the work done and summing up results. The President of the Alliance contributes a column on Women at Geneva, an account of the notable women who were present, either as delegates or sympathisers, and of the feminist work done there. We notice with pleasure that the text of the Appeal to the League of Nations by the International Associations working for Peace which Mrs. Ashby mentions and of which the Alliance is a signatory, contains a clause advocating the admittance of women to political life.

The Indian Round Table Conference. A few months ago the Women's Freedom League secured signatures from women's organisations to a letter to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for India, petitioning them to appoint representatives of the women of both India and Great Britain to the Conference. Two Indian women have now been

appointed—Mrs. Shah Nawaz and Mrs. Subbarayan. Mrs. Shah Nawaz is a Punjabi who has done some educational work and is well known as a woman of wide interests and liberal culture. Mrs. Subbarayan, who was educated at Oxford, is the wife of the Chief Minister, Madras.

The *Manchester Guardian*, commenting on their appointment, which it describes as "an imaginative stroke of statesmanship," remarks that it would have been difficult to have left Indian women out of the Conference after the Commission's generous acknowledgment of the great influence wielded by the Indian women, both in public and in private spheres.

In the Commission's Report, development of the women of India was described as 'the key to progress.' A handbook on India, bearing this title and giving an account of the various Indian social services, will shortly be issued by the Oxford University Press, on behalf of our British National Auxiliary. The *Manchester Guardian* asks whether the British Government will "now dare to appoint two British women" to join the Conference. It is very much to be hoped that they will. In the meantime, the Indian women may be congratulated as being the first women ever called upon by a paramount Power to discuss a new Constitution.

Women in Industry. Statements regarding women in Industry made by Professor Sargent-Florence, at a meeting of the British Association, have attracted the attention of the general Press. Two points have been especially selected for comment: firstly, that Professor Sargent-Florence claims a very high standard of efficiency for women workers, maintaining that, in work which requires manual dexterity, the output of women is higher than that of men; and, secondly, that he has given the ratio of women's wages to men's as from 50% to 61% less. Feminists find nothing startlingly new in either of Professor Sargent-Florence's assertions, but the general tone of the comments in the general Press is, we think, significant and encouraging, for it shows that public opinion is becoming educated in the ideas that lie behind our movement, and that unfairness to women is no longer regarded as being in the natural order of an inscrutable destiny, but a state which can and should be altered. "Let us say at once," says the leading paper of a large industrial town, "that to pay wages fifty to sixty-one per cent. lower for women than for men in similar occupations for similar output is unfair. We know the old excuse that men have families to provide for, and women have only themselves to keep, but, apart from the fact that this distinction very often does not exist in actual life, the bad principle of unequal pay for equal work is based on the desire for cheap labour, which makes men suffer by competition and women by exploitation."

Turkey. Turkish women are to be given the Parliamentary vote. One of two important measures to be submitted by the Government to the Grand National Assembly in the extraordinary session that has just been called will grant them this privilege, and will establish direct universal suffrage in place of the present indirect electoral system.

Ecuador. The women of Ecuador have won equal citizenship rights. Article 13 of the Constitution as promulgated last year lays down that "Every Ecuadorean man or woman who knows how to read and write is a citizen." Women had the right to the State vote in the Province of San Juan in Argentina, but this has unfortunately been rescinded; they have it in the Province of Rio Grande del Norte (Brazil), but Ecuador is the first of the South and Central American States to recognise the principle of equal citizenship.

THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY.

It is too early as yet to attempt to forecast the achievements of this Assembly, for the serious work is done round the tables of the six Commissions which begin their work to-day. But the week of preliminary discussion, nominally on the Secretary-General's Report on the work of the League during the past year, actually on any questions of international policy with which delegates may be preoccupied, serves to indicate fairly clearly the attitude of the various member-States to the main questions before it.

The three large new subjects before this Assembly, are M. Briand's scheme for a European Federation, the draft amendments to the Covenant which were prepared by a Committee in the Spring with a view to harmonising its provisions with those of the Pact of Paris, and the reform of the constitution of the Secretariat. The first of these has received by far the most attention up to now. A special meeting of representatives of the European States was invited by M. Briand to discuss the scheme two days before the Assembly met, and his speech, which for practical purposes opened its debates, dealt with the results of that meeting. Those results were fatal to his scheme in its original form, which implied a separate organisation with its own Council and Secretariat; opinion both in the special meeting and later at the Assembly, was overwhelmingly in favour of keeping the proposed Federation, whatever form it might take, within the framework of the League. The general view of the Assembly seems to be that the time for such close co-operation as would require a definite organisation, a customs union, for example, is still far away, and that in the meantime such purely European questions as may arise can best be handled by means of special conferences under the auspices of the League, at which only European States would be represented. Such conferences have already been held on technical subjects such as Communications and Transit. Several non-European delegates blessed the scheme and expressed a benevolent interest in it. M. Motta (Switzerland) pointed out that there might be danger in creating a purely European organisation at a time when even problems which seem at the outset to affect only one continent tend more and more to have world-wide significance. Among many speakers who dealt with the economic situation, Herr Curtius, the German Foreign Minister, was the only one explicitly to suggest closer economic co-operation between European States. There was a unanimous conviction that the proposed union must not even appear to constitute a grouping hostile either to other members of the League or to the United States. It was finally decided to appoint a special commission to study the plan, "with the collaboration of non-European and non-member Governments" and report to the next Assembly.

Mr. Henderson was the only speaker to refer definitely to the draft amendments to the Covenant, which will undergo serious scrutiny in the First Commission (on Legal Questions). He declared that Great Britain would ratify them as she would ratify the Convention on Financial Assistance to States Victims of Aggression and any other scheme for the promotion of security provided that they were linked up with measures of real disarmament. Two opinions exist with regard to the proposed amendments. One might be called the Continental, or logical, view; the members of the League are now bound, by the Kellogg Pact, not to go to war even in the circumstances in which the Covenant left them free to do so; the Covenant provides for the application of "sanctions" (or repressive measures) in the case of wars which it does not permit; now that no wars are permissible (1) sanctions must be extended to cover all wars, (2) the powers of the Council must

be increased so that a final decision of all disputes submitted to it may be provided for. The Anglo-Saxon, or "practical" view is that the "gaps" in the Covenant are useful safety valves; that unless sanctions are regarded as penal, and not merely repressive, measures, there is no inconsistency in applying them only to certain wars even though all wars are illegal; that it is dangerous to give the power of life and death over nations, in disputes which, *ex hypothesi*, are extremely difficult to settle, to a body like the Council whose members might be actuated by interested motives. It will be interesting to see what turn the discussion takes.

The reform of the Secretariat might be thought to be a matter of minor importance. A great part of the report of the Committee which has been studying the subject during the last year deals with questions of pensions and promotion; but the theme of its first chapter is of the greatest international interest. It concerns the preservation of the international character of the Secretariat. In the original Constitution of this body it was stated that its members were appointed for their individual qualifications, not as nationals of a particular State, and on appointment renounced all allegiance to any authority outside the League. Nevertheless, a demand for what might be called a "rotation of nationalities" has constantly been made, particularly by the smaller nations. It was alleged that the Secretariat contained far too high a proportion of British and French officials, and that this not only gave undue influence to British and French interests, but also enabled these two countries to take out of the League in salaries sums which considerably mitigated the weight of their contributions to its expenses. Consequently, it is now impossible for British subjects, and almost impossible for French subjects, to enter the Secretariat. Then, when Germany entered the League, it was felt—with some justice—that a number of posts ought to be given to Germans. This is only slightly harmful provided the principle of internationality is really followed. But we find the Italian Government passing a law directed against Italian subjects who do not serve the interests of Italy when employed in foreign institutions, and the Italian and German members of the Committee of Thirteen signing a minority report to the effect that countries with "general interests" are entitled to claim for their nationals high posts in the Secretariat. But, as Señor Madariaga points out, these countries already have their "general interests" recognised by the attribution of permanent seats on the Council. Here again there should be an interesting discussion.

The General Discussion dwelt on the present economic situation, without suggesting practical conclusions. Mr. Graham announced that Great Britain would sign the Tariff Truce Convention, though she might have to denounce it if other countries did not follow, and suggested that the further concerted communication fore-shadowed in the Conference held last March might begin with an attempt at an agreement to reduce tariffs on textiles and machinery. The Baltic and Scandinavian States recommended the conclusion of a treaty defining most-favoured-nation treatment. Much dissatisfaction was expressed at the comparative failure of all the League conferences held during the last year.

The three retiring members of the Council were replaced by Guatemala, Norway and Ireland. China asked for a special vote declaring her re-eligible after an absence of only two years from the Council; she received sufficient votes to satisfy national *amour-propre* but not the requisite two-thirds majority. Mr. Frank B. Kellogg was elected a Judge of the Permanent Court in succession to Mr. Charles Evans Hughes.

LUCY MAIR.

WOMEN AT GENEVA.

Co-operation of the Women's International Organisations.

Our readers know that for several years past the most important of the women's international organisations have met under the name of the Joint Standing Committee to consult as to opportunities for women to serve on Commissions and other bodies set up by the League and to send forward agreed names.

This co-operation has proved so valuable that at a meeting in Geneva the Members of the Committee decided to recommend to their association the appointment of a similar liaison committee less restricted in its terms of reference, to exchange information, take joint action in a crisis, lay down a common programme or co-operate on a definite item of policy, as was done by the Alliance and the International Council of Women over Nationality.

Statelessness.

The thanks of all women are due to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for their Conference on Statelessness organised on Sept. 8th at Geneva.

Miss Sterling represented the Alliance, and after many speakers had given instances of the daily hardships to which individuals without nationality were exposed it was decided that we should all unite to press on the Assembly a request for a Commission of Enquiry.

It was felt that the League could not be asked to take action except on information for which it was definitely responsible. Dr. Nansen's passports gave relief to many stateless people who wished to travel, but they could do nothing for those who, born and bred in a country, as a result of the war are denied its citizenship.

Peace Societies at Geneva.

Under the leadership of those veteran pacifists, M. La Fontaine and M. Golay, seventeen associations which work exclusively for peace or, like the Alliance, include peace in their active programme, met in Conference at Geneva on Sept. 9th. The business was to present to the League on the completion of ten years' work our congratulations and our criticisms.

The Alliance was represented by the President and Miss Sterling, and after a hard day's work the terms of the Address were agreed on.

The next day the same societies held a magnificent peace demonstration in the Victoria Hall.

Of many admirable speeches the most impressive were those of the M. Marsh (Switzerland) and of our colleague, Madame Malaterre Sellier, whose eloquence is equally at the service of peace and feminism. Her appeal for the granting of civic rights to women in order that they may be enabled to serve the cause of peace was enthusiastically applauded.

The Alliance of Geneva.

The new Bureau of the Alliance at Geneva has proved most successful. Women delegates to the League, leaders of other organisations, feminists from many lands have found its hospitality refreshing and stimulating. The Alliance has been represented by three Board members in addition to the President, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary, namely, Senator Plaminkova, Mme. Malaterre Sellier and Mlle. Atanatskovitch, who is occupying a temporary post in the Secretariat.

The President and Board were at home to many friends on the afternoon of Thursday, 11th September, and on Saturday evening, the 13th. The guests were

specially invited to meet members of the I.L.O. Secretariat. Frau Mundt was unfortunately absent owing to the German elections, but Mme. Thibert and many others gave great pleasure by their presence.

Dinner to the Women Delegates.

This year the usual dinner in honour of the women delegates to the League was again a brilliant success under the able presidency of Mme. Avril de Ste. Croix, who represents the Women's International Organisations on the League Commission against Traffic in Women.

Though the number of women sent to the Assembly hardly grows, it is noteworthy that their interests become less exclusively social, and this year there were two Ministers: The Hon. Mrs. Mary Irene Parlbly, from Canada, member of the Legislature of Alberta, Minister without Portfolio, and Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health of Great Britain. Great Britain also sent Mrs. Hamilton, M.P., lecturer and writer, who was in the delegation last year, and who is known as widely in the U.S.A. as in England. On the departure of Mr. Graham, Miss Lawrence will become full delegate.

Miss Henni Forchhammer, who has represented Denmark since the first Assembly, was with us, and Mlle. Helene Vacaresco, who has for many years represented Roumania. Among others present were Mme. Tilma Hainari, former M.P. for Finland, Mme. Ciurlionis (Lithuania), Dr. Clas (Norway), Mrs. Kluyver (Holland) and Senator Hesselgren (Sweden), the two latter appointed as experts, not delegates.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

During the last few years there has been a great increase in the incidence of Venereal Disease; this was noted even before the War, but owing to the movements of large bodies of troops and of refugees during and immediately after the War the number of cases increased with alarming rapidity. In 1924 and 1925 Mr. Weissweiler, the Secretary-General of the International Union to Combat Venereal Disease, undertook a world enquiry into the number of cases found in various countries. Taking some of his results, we find that in Austria during the period 1918 to 1921, 2.35 per cent. of all children were suffering from hereditary syphilis; in Belgium 22 per cent. of all hospital patients are syphilitics; in France one-tenth of the total population and 40 per cent. of all hospital patients are syphilitics, while in Great Britain there are said to be 190,000 fresh cases of syphilis per annum.

These examples, picked at random from Mr. Weissweiler's long list of statistics, are enough to show what a grave problem confronts the world. In spite of the recent advances in knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases, their incidence is rising steadily. If the cause were mainly due to the War and its legacies, we should expect to find an abrupt rise for the War period and for some years afterwards, followed by a gradual decrease—not the steady increase which is actually found. In part, of course, the rise may be explained by the improved methods of diagnosis, causing a larger number of cases to be notified; also by the fact that sufferers, realizing the danger of these diseases and that cure is possible, are more ready to present themselves for treatment than they were in the past.

But these facts cannot account entirely for the rise. The greater sexual latitude and lack of moral responsibility and control which, whether they be due to the War or are a result of modern civilisation, are undoubtedly found everywhere, lead to increased exposure to infection, and modern accelerated transport helps to spread these diseases.

The gravity of the situation calls for international measures,—isolated action by a nation is, under modern conditions, of little use for obvious reasons,—and in no direction is such action more needed than in the attempt to control Venereal Disease amongst seamen. Owing to their unnatural life, one of long periods of hard work, and often privation, under strict discipline, alternating with short periods of uncontrolled freedom in various ports, cut off from home and decent environment, these men are particularly liable to contract disease, and in their wanderings to spread it. In addition it is extremely difficult for those who have contracted disease to obtain treatment.

The International Labour Office, collaborating with the International Office of Public Hygiene, the Health Committee of the League of Nations, and with any official or private institutions engaged in the campaign against venereal disease, collected information from all countries possessing maritime or river ports as to the steps each had taken for the prevention and control of such disease, with special reference to facilities for the treatment of seamen, with a view to establishing an international agreement on the matter. Based on the information thus obtained, a draft agreement was brought out in 1921, which had, up to 1926, been signed by 18 States.

The gist of the agreement is, very briefly, this:—

1. Each signatory undertakes to establish and maintain venereal treatment centres open to seamen of all nationalities in all the chief sea and river ports.
2. Medical treatment and drugs, with hospital treatment where necessary, are to be given free, also a supply of drugs sufficient to last until the next port of call.
3. Each patient is to have a personal card on which the diagnosis, treatment, etc., is recorded.
4. Information about such treatment centres is to be given freely to the crew by the master and by the port sanitary officers.

Although these are the main points, perhaps the most important measures to be taken in this campaign are not embodied in the agreement, but only appear as recommendations, since, by their very nature, they are best undertaken by private initiative, supported where possible by the public authorities.

The measures referred to are those of an educational and moral character and should follow two main directions:—

1. Propaganda work, to inform the men of the grave nature of venereal disease, and to lay stress on its evil effect on the individual and on the community; also to emphasize the importance of early and sustained treatment.
2. The provision of suitable amusements for seamen in ports, particularly opportunities for healthy games, excursions, and the establishment of libraries both on board and on land.

It is in this direction that hope lies, and this is beginning to be realised, since much has already been done to establish seamen's homes and missions in the big ports, but great efforts are still needed.

Up to date, in the campaign against venereal disease, most stress has been laid upon the necessity for self-disinfection immediately after exposure, and for early treatment if and when the disease appears.

But this tends rather to increase the dangers of infection, since a false sense of security is established. It is true that "certain antiseptics applied early and thoroughly to the right spot may prevent the occurrence of disease," but there is no absolute certainty; carelessness, hurry, the influence of drink, all may nullify the effect. Even when precautions have been taken promptly and thoroughly, infection has been known to occur.

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in its paper, "The Shield," draws attention to this danger. Figures are given of the incidence of venereal disease amongst the men of the British Navy on the Africa Station. Here there is a small number of men (1,570) in small units, under strict discipline and constant observation, conditions particularly favourable for the use of prophylactic packets (self-disinfection) and ablation centres, since the men can be practically individually instructed in their use. Yet it is found that, in spite of the energetic use of these measures, the incidence of venereal disease rose from 174 per 1,000 in 1925 to 230 per 1,000 in 1928.

As "The Shield" says, "These young men . . . are removed from the social inhibitions and public opinion of their own groups and are at a most impressionable age. They find that they are not expected to keep straight, but only to exercise caution. It is a demoralising doctrine. Moreover, it seems to be medically useless."

The official Report on the health of the British naval forces in China for 1925 contains these words: "Factors which probably play a larger part in the prevention of venereal disease are facilities for games and evening entertainments for the men, the importance of which is obtaining increasing recognition. It is likely that boredom is the primary cause of a good deal of venereal disease."

This last sentence is very suggestive, and the provision of decent centres with healthy interests and amusements for soldiers, sailors and seamen, together with unceasing propaganda, will do more towards helping to combat these diseases than mere insistence on cautionary measures after exposure.

D. M. ANNING, M.B.

REVIEWS.

EDUCATION.

The New Education in Europe, by FREDERICK WILLIAM ROMAN. (George Routledge & Sons, Ltd., 1930. 18s. net. Second Edition, revised, enlarged, and reset.)

The author of this admirable book is an American who has studied education in Europe both before and after the War. In the first seven parts he gives exhaustive facts and statistics about the schools of Great Britain and Ireland, France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries, Austria, Italy and Russia. These facts and statistics are of course necessary, and without them such a large subject could only be treated superficially. Incidentally, it must be observed that their value would have been greatly increased if we had been given a more detailed and more comprehensive index. For many readers the greatest interest of the book will be found in the writer's first-hand observations of life in the schools and in the countries which he has visited and studied. These occur in every chapter, and, combined with facts and figures, give the reader a remarkably clear picture of things as they were, and as they are. The eighth and final part compares some educational developments, and in it we find the author's reasoned and mature views as to whether the different countries are heading. He tells us that several times on going back to his own country after study tours in Europe he has been met by the question, "Are we warranted in believing in the endurance of our present civilization, based on the happenings in Europe?" He points out that the questioners take it for granted that, in the main, America is leading in most of the things that are worth

while, and that the American citizen never hears more astounding a piece of news than that in their own opinion English, French, Germans, Italians, and Russians are all leading present-day civilization. But what is Mr. Roman's answer to the question? With all his experience and intuition he finds the problem difficult to solve, though he believes the best place to get the answer is in the schools. He reviews the weaknesses and strength of the various school systems, and in spite of progress has to admit that the prospect for the immediate future is not bright. However, in most of the countries there are hopeful elements. England, he finds, has advanced ideas on international politics; from France's foremost statesman has come the outstanding achievement of European politics since the war, the idea of a future United States of Europe; Germany is not a danger to Europe; the strongest reasons for faith in a stable and cultured Europe lie with the Northern Countries where the masses are taking hold of their own internal problems. The Swedish School Peace League is specially mentioned. Italy presents the enigma of our times and Russia is a land of contradictions; in both these countries the school system is being developed into a powerful instrument to foster opportunist doctrines of government and economic life.

Two sources of danger for Europe and the world lie in the Balkans and in Poland. In the former, at best several decades would need to elapse before an effective school system could be counted upon to furnish a collective responsible social control of the peoples. As it is, war smoulders on every frontier. In Poland, the schools are dominated by an intense nationalism which makes the hope of peaceful adjustment of the territorial and cultural differences appear quite remote. The forecast for this part of Europe is peril.

Summing up his evidence, the author concludes that the European outlook is one of extreme anxiety, in spite of the magnificent work of some of the school systems in cultivating attitudes of tolerance and harmonious living. Political independence and territorial integrity are essential for great and small states alike. So also is economic independence within the nations. He acknowledges himself to be, in spite of admitting progress along the whole line, something of a pessimist about the democracy of the near future. Even where the masses have power and exercise it, they are too ignorant or uninstructed to exercise it wisely. In all countries the educational systems are appallingly inadequate to meet the needs of democracy. Two of the respects in which the writer considers progress urgent are education between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years, and instruction on social and economic questions such as land, rent, tariffs, taxation, money, causes of poverty and concentration of wealth, stabilization of exchange, the significance of trade with foreign countries, and the dependence of the modern State upon all other countries of the world. The author, as an American, concludes by reminding us that even America cannot view her own internal affairs without grave concern. A closer unity of world liberalism is needed. The light that illuminates all is the League of Nations, while if a world without war is not an impossible ideal, and if Justice is to reign, the schools are indicated for the front line of attack.

Even those who agree with this general conclusion will find much in this book to provoke thought and discussion. Moreover, the writer presents his facts in a manner which will commend his work to the general reader as well as to the specialist, and though he deals with weighty matters his style mitigates any feeling of oppression which they might cause.

A few misprints occur. Professor T. P. Munn for

Professor T. P. (now Sir Percy) Nunn on page 81 is regrettable, as is also the variation in the title of the book by Basil Yeaxlee mentioned on pp. 51, 53, &c. The footnotes and references in the text are adequate, and there is a good bibliography at the end. The book as a whole can be cordially recommended to all who wish to understand something not only of the present state of education in Europe but also of the social and economic conditions with which European education is bound up.

FRANCES M. AUSTIN.

A PRACTICAL GUIDE BOOK.

Great Britain.—(The Blue Guides) edited by FINDLAY MUIRHEAD. (Macmillan 15s.)

Increased transport facilities have brought increased travel and the would-be traveller, whether on business or on pleasure bent, is confronted with an "embarras de richesses" in the way of guide books of all styles, sizes and prices—from the "Wanderer" type written in contemplative, almost philosophical strain, to the more severely practical work which in some cases is little more than a glorified Bradshaw.

Here we have a production which strikes a mean between these types and is worthy to be compared with its famous German counterpart. To have compressed the whole of England, Wales and Scotland into less than seven hundred pages with copious and excellent maps and town and cathedral plans—and this at a very moderate price—is no mean achievement in itself. To have packed these pages with matter not only well arranged and readable but of definite value to the traveller, is a still greater one. The editor, following the transport developments of the last decade, gives much useful information both to the private motorist and to the traveller in motor coaches, and unlike the old fashioned guide book, the scheme of this work is not conceived from a purely railway angle.

To anyone, whether native or foreign, proposing to tour Great Britain who does not wish the expense and trouble of acquiring and carrying a number of local guide books this book will prove invaluable.

K. M. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"An Italian Feminist."

Madam,

The criticism in last month's number, of *Les Lois du Libre Amour*, by Giorgio Quartara, seems to call for comment, and perhaps an Italian may be able to clear up for your reviewer and other readers some points in the book which they would otherwise find puzzling.

Above all, it is necessary to remember that the author is an Italian, and that when he proclaims that marriage must be the principal profession of women he is expressing an idea which is deeply rooted in Italy, not only in men, but also in many women. On the other hand, in no country is it more necessary for all people to work who can than it is in Italy, a country which is wanting in raw materials, where wages and salaries are low, and where what a man gains is not usually enough in itself to support a family. Too often, however, the noble pride in individual independence which is gained by one's work is in women condemned as vanity and love of luxury, for the satisfaction of which men assert feminine gains are usually applied, especially married women's. That this idea is injurious to the economic welfare of

the country was clearly seen by our Premier, who, after a complaint had been made to him by various women's organisations, obliged a Minister, who had excluded women from his offices, to reinstate them. But there is still much prejudice against the idea of married women working. M. Quartara's idea that men should be made more responsible, economically, than they now are towards their legal or natural wives meets less hostility in Italy among men than the declaration that women should have the right to occupy every sort of position, and to have the same reward as men get, if their work is the same. Also, there is no denying that the bearing, nursing and bringing up of children does seriously hamper women in the struggle of economic life. These difficulties are even greater in the case of the unmarried mother, for economic independence does not give women the same sexual freedom as men have who are in the same economic position; the social stigma exists for women alone, and prejudices their future careers. Also, most normal women wish to have a child; they are not satisfied to have the pleasures of love without exercising the functions of maternity, that is, the sexual feminine necessities are more extensive than those of men, and, further, repeated maternity diminishes in women the desire and capacity for outside work, while paternity does not diminish either the desire or capacity for it.

Therefore, M. Quartara is not proposing an unfairly privileged position for women when he suggests that they should have the same right as men to devote themselves without opposition and for an equal reward to whatever work they wish, and that they should have, in addition, the right to be supported by their husbands or lovers, during their life together, and to be indemnified later, whatever the cause of separation may be. This is the only means, in fact, to make them equal with men, supplying in this way an economic advantage to counteract the heavier burden which nature has laid upon women.

Italian women feminists have, in general, pursued an ideal, not of abstract equality between the sexes, but of concrete justice, and therefore, fundamentally, they agree with M. Quartara's conceptions, although his suggestions as to their application are open to discussion. He is of opinion that the question in its economic aspect cannot be solved simply by giving women freedom to enter without restriction any career for which they are qualified—to which argument he has devoted a whole chapter of his book—but also by giving State aid to poor mothers. On the legal side, he thinks the problem should be solved by the passage of new laws dealing with divorce, for which facilities should be given, and with marriage and illegitimacy, giving the unofficial wife and unmarried mother equal rights with the legitimately married woman. These conceptions (which advocate the practice of an absolute and salutary chastity for both sexes up to the age of twenty-one or possibly twenty-five) may be summarised as follows:—Men, who have for their own sexual satisfaction created the filthy turpitude of the brothels, must be brought to realise that the sexual needs of the maternal sex are of far greater social importance, and that every healthy woman has the right to become a mother in economic security, and without shame. Therefore, a man who possesses a woman must be prepared to shoulder all the consequent moral, legal and economic responsibilities for his act. If men find this a hard restriction on their freedom, let them reflect that motherhood is for women an equally hard natural restriction; love will make the restrictions sweet to both.

If the few laws which are already passed towards establishing equality between men and women are not to remain mere theories, and in order to realise the many others we wish for, a secure economic basis is

certainly necessary, and I think that the Alliance ought to further in every possible way the study of family endowment, with a wide, practical vision, and with larger ideas; I also think it would be convenient if the two International Standing Committees, the one on Family Endowment and the other on Equality of Women under the Law were formed into a single Committee called the Committee on Family Rights.

Yours, etc.,

BEATRICE SACCHI.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

WOMEN IN THE REICHSTAG.

| | 1930. | | 1928. | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|----------------|-------|
| | Members | Women | Members | Women |
| Social Democrats | 143 | 16 | 153 | 20 |
| Communists† | 76 | 13 | 54 | 4 |
| Centre (R. Catholic) | 68 | 4 | 61 | 4 |
| Nationalists | 41 | 2 | 75 | 2 |
| German People's Party | 29 | 1 | 45 | 2 |
| Constitutional Party* | 20 | 1 | (Democrats) 25 | 2 |
| Bavar. People's Party | 19 | 1 | 17 | 1 |
| Christian Social Service | 14 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| National Socialists | 107 | 0 | 22 | 0 |
| German Economic Party | 23 | 0 | 23 | 0 |
| German Rural Party | 18 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| German Peasants Party | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Land party | 3 | 0 | — | — |
| Conservative People's Party | 5 | 0 | — | — |
| People's Rights Party | — | — | 8 | 0 |
| Total : | 575 | 39 | 491 | 35 |
| | =6.78% | | =7.12% | |

*"The Constitutional Party" are the former *Democrats* plus several groups of republican and democratic people who joined together and formed this new Party just before the Elections. They have not had time to make themselves felt, but are a very progressive group containing some of the best-known parliamentarians and democratic women leaders such as Dr. Gertrud Bäumer, Dr. Marie Elisabeth Lüders, etc.

Names of Women elected to the new Reichstag.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nationalists. | |
| Frau Lehmann. | Dr. Paula Müller-Ottfried. |
| | Dr. von Tiling. |
| Constitutional Party. | |
| | Dr. Gertrud Bäumer. |
| German People's Party. | |
| | Dr. Elsa Matz. |
| Centre (Roman Catholic Party). | |
| Dr. Helene Weber. | Frau Christine Teusch. |
| Frau Zilkken. | Dr. Peerenbom. |
| Christian Social Service. | |
| | Frau Eitner. |
| Social Democrats. | |
| Frau Schreiber-Krieger. | Frau Bohm-Schuch. |
| " Juchacz. | " Nemitz. |
| " Ansoerge. | " Wurm. |
| " Schultze. | " Zamert. |
| " Schröder. | " Agnes. |
| " Weich. | " Pfülf. |
| " Toni Sender. | " Kurfürst. |
| " Reitze. | " Kuhnert. |
| Bavarian People's Party. | |
| | Frau Lang-Brumann. |

† Names of Communist women not yet available.

I. A. W. S. E. C. CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.



This Committee has recently been formed to do systematic propaganda work in order to raise a large capital sum to set the Alliance permanently on a satisfactory financial basis, and to enable it to meet the urgent demands for extension of its field of work with which the Board is faced.

The rapid development of the feminist movement in the Near East and in Persia, China, and Japan makes new and costly claims on the Alliance, claims which must not be ignored. Never has the Alliance been in a position to do more useful and important work, and never has its financial position been so precarious. The Leslie Commission of the United States has up to the present been able and generously willing to contribute the greater part of our income, but gifts from this source must come to an end at the next Congress, by which time the Fund will be exhausted. A great effort, therefore, must be made to collect enough money before that time to save the Alliance from the danger of extinction or want.

Announcements will shortly be made about the plan of campaign. In the meantime, here is a simple way in which supporters can begin to show their sympathy. An attractive stamp, or seal, in blue and gold, a copy of which, in black and white, heads this notice, has been designed, to be sold in packets of fifty, and also a postcard suitable for a greeting card. Auxiliaries will be invited to retail these cards and stamps, or they may be obtained at once by sending a postal order to:—

Mrs. Hartog Plaut,
7, Emmalaan, Amsterdam, Holland.

Prices:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stamps in packets of 50 for | 2/- English. |
| " " " | 2 fr. Swiss. |
| " " " | 10 fr. French. |
| " " " | 2 m. German. |
| " " " | 1 fl. Dutch. |
| " " " | 50 cents U.S.A. |
| Post-cards each | 2½d. or six for 1/- English. |
| " " " | 20 cen. " " 1 fr. Swiss. |
| " " " | 1fr. " " 5 fr. French. |
| " " " | 20 pf. " " 1 m. German. |
| " " " | 10 cents. " " 50 cents Dutch. |
| " " " | 5 cents " " 25 cents U.S.A. |

A THEATRE CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.

The Grafton Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W.1, of which Miss Judith Wogan is Managing Director, is entirely controlled by women—not, Miss Wogan explained, in an interview, for doctrinaire reasons, but because the people whom she knew with executive powers happened to be of her own sex. This theatre should have a double appeal for our readers, because it is international in its scope and work by young writers of different nationalities will be produced during the present season.

It is good to know that a theatre whose directors are women is courageous enough to be taking the lead in giving youth an outlet on the stage, providing the opportunity for it to unfurl the banner of a new dramatic era. The present programme includes items by Katherine Mansfield, F. Molnar, F. van Hengelaar, and Geoffrey Dunn.

Our Cartoon is unavoidably held over this month.

COMMITTEE FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

SUFFRAGE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The following is the text of the questionnaire addressed by the Committee to the Auxiliaries and the Alliance. We shall publish the replies to it in the order in which they are received.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

- I. What is the position of women in your country in electoral matters? Have you parliamentary suffrage? Municipal suffrage? The right to vote? including eligibility?
- II. If so, have the women already taken part in elections? Give the percentage of women actually voting in elections. Are women as a rule members of political parties or are they largely outside the parties? Give the numbers of women elected and indicate if they occupy important positions such as mayor, deputy-mayor, chairman of Council or Committees, etc. (give a few names as examples).
- III. Are all the members of the various public bodies in your country elected or are some appointed by the Government? Or co-opted? Or appointed or elected by corporations? What is your electoral system? The direct vote? Ballot by list? (either majority or proportional voting)? Indicate if the lists may be modified by the voters and in what way. How are candidates adopted and what conditions must they fulfil?
- IV. Can women in your country become members of municipal, cantonal or communal committees dealing with education, poor law, health, etc? even though they have not the right to vote? If so, are there many women members? Are they appointed by the political parties or otherwise?

N.B.—We should particularly like to know what has happened in your country with regard to women on Committees, as, in the unenfranchised countries especially, this would seem to be an excellent method of preparation for political life and a way of accustoming men to women's co-operation.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The German Staatsbürgerinnenverband will meet at Frankfurt-on-Main from the 11—14 October to hold a Conference on Local Government questions in connection with its General Council Meeting. The programme is devoted to the question of how to intensify the political activities of women, a subject the urgency of which has been demonstrated by the recent elections. The main interest will centre around the speech of the President of the German National Council of Municipalities on the adjusting of financial burdens amongst the Reichs (Federal) Government, the German States and the communes.

The Dansk Kvindesamfund (Danish Women's Association) held its first Summer School this year at Danebod High School. It was an unqualified success, and will probably become one of the Association's regular annual fixtures.

CAMBRIDGE REVISITED.

I had thought at such a distance of time and circumstance—the ten packed years between twenty and thirty—that I might risk it, and ventured to go back. (One cares for oneself very tenderly in these matters, being almost morbidly anxious not to rub the bloom off the past). I had now my roots well planted in marriage, and my companion was to be a cheerful undergraduate fresh from school; there could not be a note of sentimental evocation anywhere; it was bound to be painless and detached.

And yet, by reason of my very detachment, it was not painless. It was raining when I arrived, and we took a bus. A bus in Cambridge! I had not known they existed. One was not wealthy in my day, heaven knows, but one took a taxi, or rode a crazy bicycle, or walked. Not a bus. I was ashamed to be seen on a bus. But nobody else was ashamed. There was the rub. No one said, 'Fancy! There goes the distinguished Miss H. from Newnham, riding in a bus . . .'

The town was the same as ever but in the rain looked languid and shut against us. The shops were the same, but like childhood's shops revisited looked insignificant, and the wares in cake-shops (though we thought ourselves by no means children when we patronised them) looked wildly indigestible. Out of the passages debouching into the market place came no familiar figures. The architecture about King's Parade looked spruce and much restored. Deep in woe, I was guided by my cheerful boy to lunch.

I said to him afterwards, 'I have been debating all the time whether I will go back to my old haunts. In order to end debating I had better go.' We walked up Silver Street and the long brick-lined avenue. The college itself, of course, had not noticed the ten years. The endless corridors still exuded their frigidity; passionate intimacy still seemed to lurk behind the closed doors and in the innumerable folded notes on the rack. We wandered down a passage, hopelessly at a loss. Suddenly a face, that of a mere acquaintance, but familiar, was before my eyes.

'Oh,' I cried uncontrollably, 'Good afternoon! Do you remember me?'

She conjured up my name. A spark fell on the piled up bonfire of my sentimentality. 'It's ten years. . . . I excitedly began.

She gave me a little close smile. 'I know,' she said. 'We never mention it.'

We laughed and went out into the garden. I daresay the smoke from the bonfire was pouring before my eyes, but everything seemed suddenly beautiful. No, I swear it was actually beautiful. The garden was deep in the fresh greenness of early summer. In the orchard the hammocks hung with a sweet air of desertion under the trees. Flowers were everywhere. Beyond it all the great playing field stretched, empty and brilliant, before our eyes. And once more, by being recognised, I had a stake in it all.

Throwing caution to the winds, I said we would go to Grantchester. We took a boat on the upper river. It had barely stopped raining and was getting on for evening. The river was brimming and not a soul afloat on it. It was all still, willowy, greeny-aquaeous, under a grey sky. We sped up-stream, swinging round the corner into each fresh reach. I paddled and laughed and exclaimed and paddled a little again. My tolerant boy in the stern paddled and paddled. I was mad, but I was also old, so he would kindly let me be.

When we had wandered round Grantchester and driven our boat home again it was dark. The boat-house loomed up black out of the bank. I levered myself up stiffly, with aching arms. My exaltation

The Bishops of the Church of England, at the recent Lambeth Conference, refused to admit women to the priesthood. At the same time they made a strong appeal to young men to come forward as candidates.

Between thirty and forty women scientists took part this year at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Frau Fleischmann, the President of the Berlin section of the Deutsche Staatsbürgerinnenverband, is organising an Exhibition of Women's Work in Berlin, which will be held from October 17th to November 5th. Different sections will show work in Architecture, Music, Painting, Sculpture, etc.

The Pan-Pacific Women's Conference recently held in Honolulu resulted, we understand, in the formation of a permanent Women's Pacific Association. Details of the new organisation are not yet available, but we hear with pleasure that the Conference passed a resolution thanking the Alliance for their greeting on the occasion of the Berlin Conference in 1929, reciprocating the friendly feeling, and expressing the hope that a time may come when closer co-operation is possible between the pioneer international organisations and those of the Pacific regions.

Policewomen were employed for the first time in Spain during the Barcelona Exhibition. The result of the experiment more than justified expectations, and it is hoped that now that a trial has been made women may receive permanent appointments.

The Alliance owes sincere gratitude to Mme. Helene Vacaresco, the famous Roumanian poetess, who gave a public reading of her own works, at Geneva, in aid of our funds.

GRAFTON THEATRE,
TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD.

NIGHTLY — AT 8-30.
Wednesday and Friday 2-30

Unusual Variety

Plays, Opera, Sketches,
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2/4 (1/2 standing).
CAFÉ open at 6-30 daily
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Seating accommodation for 240 on Ground Floor and 80 in Gallery.

TERMS:
Morning - - 10 a.m.— 2 p.m. - £1 1 0
Afternoon - 3 p.m.— 6 p.m. - £2 2 0
Evening - - 7 p.m.— 10 p.m. - £2 2 0
Whole Day - 10 a.m.— 6 p.m. - £3 3 0

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296, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1
(close to Victoria Station).

escaped me as we walked home. If my boy noticed it (but he did not notice it) he must have thought himself a marvellous host.

The benediction was still there next morning. It was a brilliant summer day, the first of the races. I walked about the smiling town and in ten minutes had fallen in with two acquaintances and one authentic friend.

"Hallo!"

"Hallo! What brings you here?"

"A holiday. How are you? Are you married?"

"Yes. Are you?"

"Yes."

"Tamed by matrimony?"

"Yes."

We laughed and set off together, hugging Cambridge, that like so few things in life was marriage-proof.

In the afternoon we went early to the races, and hung about in our boat above the clear, weedy stream. The balloon-man was out, rowing his wares over the water, while they flew out like flags against the high blue sky. We moved down below the bustle of the fair and the crowds in the meadows. Were ever trees so green, sky so pure, grass so deep and tender, buttercups so piercingly gold? Willow and water. Willow and water. More than any other the scene held the pure distilled sweetness of youth.

We drew into the bank, and the race, mildly thrilling, went by. When it was over we were conscious of a slight stir on the bank behind us. From a mixed family party a donnish father had sorted out four little boys. He had them lined up on the bank and was pointing out his returning college boat to them. As it came up he gave a signal, and four skinny little arms waved, and four skinny little voices cried in unison, "Well rowed!" Immediately beside us the cox held up his boat. Huge and smiling young men sat still above their oars on the bright water. Their stroke bowed gravely to the children. "Thank you," he said. Then they thrust on, a marvellously brilliant and gentle human team. How silly and charming, and how like Cambridge!

One would not be so mad of course as to attempt to decide anything for one's own children, but, if there was a single thing one could choose, it might well be this.

ADA HARRISON.

Six Point Group. OCTOBER PROGRAMME, 1930.

Drawing Room Meeting on OCTOBER 7th, 5 p.m., 10, BATH RD., BEDFORD PARK, W.4. By kind permission of Miss Bensusan. Admission free. Chairman: MISS BENSUSAN. Collection. Come and hear all about Geneva.

Jumble Sale 14th and 15th OCTOBER, 11 a.m.—7 p.m. 92, VICTORIA ST., S.W.1.

Suffrage Exhibition at the same address on OCTOBER 20th, 21st & 22nd, 11 a.m.—7 p.m. Admission 6d. Speakers at 5 p.m. each day. Tea 4—5 p.m. 6d.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Minerva Club, 56, Hunter St., Brunswick Sq., W.C.1
Tea and Politics (4-0 p.m.)
 Thursday, 16th Oct., speakers to include Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence ("The Autumn Session of Parliament.")
 Friday, Oct. 31st, 7-30 p.m., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, W.C.1, "The Vote's" Coming-of-Age Party.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

COMMISSION DU SUFFRAGE ET DES ELECTIONS.

Sous-Commission du Suffrage.

La texte qui suit est le questionnaire qu'adresse la Commission du Suffrage aux Auxiliaires de l'Alliance. Nous publierons les réponses au fur et à mesure que nous les recevrons.

QUESTIONNAIRE.

- I. Quelle est la situation de la femme dans votre pays au point de vue électoral? Avez-vous le suffrage législatif? Le suffrage municipal? L'électorat? l'éligibilité?
- II. Si oui, les femmes ont-elles déjà voté? Donner le pourcentage des femmes qui ont pris part aux élections. Les femmes sont-elles généralement inscrites dans les partis? ou bien se sont-elles tenues en dehors d'eux? Donner le nombre des femmes élues et indiquer si elles occupent des postes importants: maires, adjoints, président d'Assemblée ou de commission, etc. (donner quelques noms en exemple).
- III. Tous les membres des diverses assemblées de votre pays sont-ils élus ou bien en est-il qui sont nommés par le gouvernement? Ou bien nommés par cooption? Ou bien désignés ou élus par les corporations? Quel est votre système électoral? Scrutin uninominal? Scrutin de liste? (scrutin de liste majoritaire ou proportionnel?) Indiquer également si les listes peuvent être modifiées par les électeurs et de quelle manière? Comment se font les déclarations de candidature et quelles sont les conditions à remplir?
- IV. Les femmes de votre pays peuvent-elles faire partie des commissions permanentes communales, cantonales ou départementales s'occupant d'enseignement, d'assistance ou d'hygiène, etc.? même si elles n'ont pas le vote? Y sont-elles nombreuses? Sont-elles désignées par les partis politiques ou en dehors d'eux?

N.B.—Nous serons particulièrement heureuses de savoir ce qui se fait dans votre pays sous le rapport de la présence des femmes dans les commissions. Nous estimons que pour les pays non affranchis surtout, c'est là une excellente manière de les préparer à la vie politique et d'habituer les hommes à la coopération féminine.

LES ASSURANCES SOCIALES EN FRANCE.

La loi dite des "Assurances Sociales," promulguée par le Parlement français le 30 avril 1930, a pour but d'assurer à ceux qui vivent du produit de leur travail, et sont "économiquement faibles," une aide contre les risques matériels susceptibles de provoquer la misère: maladie, revers, maternité, vieillesse. Elle s'inspire, non pas de l'idée d'assistance, mais de celle de prévoyance, car elle oblige le travailleur à une épargne forcée: c'est la retenue de 4% sur le montant de son salaire, destinée à alimenter une Caisse d'assurance, où une somme de valeur égale sera versée 1° par son patron, 2° par l'Etat.

Ce principe d'obligation s'applique à tous ceux qui

touchent un salaire. Malgré l'utilité qu'il présente pour le fonctionnement général de la loi, il a été l'objet de critiques violentes, surtout dans certains milieux industriels, tant de la part des ouvriers que de celle des patrons. Car ceux-ci sont tenus de prélever le pourcentage légal dû par le travailleur au moment où ils le rémunèrent, et ils en sont responsables. Aussi l'on prévoit de nouvelles discussions parlementaires au sujet du maintien ou de la suppression de cette obligation de cotiser, tant il y a de protestations dans le pays.

Il est évident que ce principe "d'épargne forcée" se trouve en contradiction avec celui qui est à la base des Mutualités, sociétés de Secours mutuels constituées librement entre travailleurs, et administrées par eux. Elles sont en France au nombre de 29.000, qui réunissent environ six millions et demi d'adhérents. Mais ce chiffre ne comporte que la moitié de ceux auxquels s'applique la loi nouvelle. C'est la population laborieuse des deux sexes dont le gain annuel ne dépasse pas 19 à 18000 francs, selon les cas, et même 25.000, si la famille comporte des enfants. Il faudrait l'acceptation de ce principe *par tous*, pour obtenir que la loi joue pleinement en faveur de tous. Le travailleur à l'avenir incertain trouverait une garantie de sécurité contre les risques sociaux, pour lui et les siens. Il sera aidé en cas de maladie, ou si son état de santé ne lui permet plus d'exercer sa profession, et pourvu d'une retraite après l'âge de soixante ans. Quant à la mère ouvrière, on l'assistera avant et après la naissance de son enfant, on la secourra avec ses enfants au cas où le chef de famille viendrait à disparaître.

Une assurance facultative existe pour les petits artisans, employés, métayers, etc., qui ne dépendent pas d'un patron, lequel est toujours tenu de faire la déclaration concernant ceux qu'il emploie. Ces assurés facultatifs peuvent se garantir contre un ou plusieurs des risques prévus, et leur cotisation sera fixée par eux mêmes. Ils toucheront des sommes proportionnelles à leurs versements. La loi permet aux étrangers domiciliés en France de participer aux avantages qu'elle offre.

Fonctionnement de la loi.—Pour simplifier les calculs afférents aux cotisations, les assujettis ont été classés en cinq catégories pour les salaires, qui s'échelonnent entre 4500 frs. et 25000 frs.

En cas de chômage de l'assuré, la loi prévoit un service de garantie de ses droits à l'assurance, mais ne verse pas de secours de chômage. Un régime spécial destiné à parer à la désertion des campagnes, est organisé pour l'agriculture. Les ruraux profiteront de la loi comme les autres assujettis, particulièrement pour les retraites. Mais ils n'auront qu'à verser 2% du salaire, dont 1% à leur charge et 1% à celle de leur employeur. Le déficit produit dans la Caisse générale sera comblé par l'Etat. On l'évalue à 750 millions, chiffre qui dépasse la moitié de celui qui représente les charges totales occasionnées par le fonctionnement de la loi au Trésor public, car il se monte à environ 1400 millions.

Il convient de faire ressortir qu'en cas de maladie de l'assuré, de sa femme ou de ses enfants, l'assurance prend à sa charge 85% des frais de médecin, de pharmacie et de traitement, même chirurgical. Le versement de la moitié du salaire est effectué, si le chef de famille est encore malade après six jours de repos.

Pour la maternité, le rapporteur de la loi a déclaré qu'elle doit être considérée, non comme un risque et à éviter, mais comme un fait désirable à encourager. Pendant la grossesse et les six mois qui suivent, les mères (assurées et femmes d'assurés) ont droit aux soins de maladie et de traitement dans les conditions déjà indiquées. Le libre choix du médecin, de la sage-femme et du dentiste, est autorisé. Six semaines avant et six semaines après la naissance, la

mère bénéficie de l'indemnité journalière accordée en cas de maladie, à la condition de cesser tout travail salarié pendant cette période.

Des primes d'allaitement sont attribuées: pendant les 4 premiers mois, de 150 frs. par mois, 100 frs. par mois pendant le 5^e et le 6^e, 50 francs pour les mois suivants. Les épouses non salariées des assurés obligatoires ou facultatifs peuvent en outre contracter une assurance facultative spéciale. Moyennant une contribution annuelle de dix francs, elles sont assimilées aux assurés touchant un salaire annuel de douze cents francs. Si elles n'ont pas droit aux indemnités journalières prévues en cas de maladie elles reçoivent, par contre, toutes les prestations en argent, en cas de maternité.

Un amendement à la loi permet aux femmes mariées de contracter cette assurance spéciale facultative sans l'assistance de leur mari, ce qui leur confère, à cet égard, la pleine capacité juridique.

Pour les veuves des assurés, elles ont droit, si elles ont à leur charge au moins trois enfants vivants de moins de 13 ans, à une pension minimum de 120 francs par enfant et par an.

L'intérêt de la loi réside en ce qu'elle tendra à favoriser la prévention des maladies plus encore même que leur guérison, par la création d'œuvres d'intérêt social: sanatoria, maisons de cure, et autres organisations de défense contre les maladies sociales. C'est donc une loi de haute valeur éducative pour les travailleurs.

Les Mutualités ont déjà obtenu, à cet égard, des résultats de mise en application pratique tels, que la loi paraît contenir les promesses les plus encourageantes, si l'on arrive à en expliquer et en démontrer les bienfaits. En faisant naître un sentiment de solidarité entre patrons et ouvriers, on obtiendrait la généralisation du principe autre fois émis par Dolfus le créateur à Mulhouse des maisons ouvrières: Le patron doit à l'ouvrier plus que son salaire.

Cette réforme empreinte d'un généreux esprit de justice, pourrait exercer l'influence la plus heureuse sur la santé publique, d'une part, sur la paix sociale, de l'autre. Grâce à elle, on obtiendra l'organisation intégrale d'un régime de prévoyance et d'entraide, favorable au mieux-être de tous les salariés modestes qui vivent du produit de leur travail. La femme isolée, comme la mère ouvrière, en bénéficiera largement, pour le plus grand bien de la collectivité.

A. HENRY NATHAN,

Vice-présidente de la Section d'Assistance et de Prévoyance Sociale du Conseil national des femmes françaises.

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UNE LETTRE D'ITALIE.

Une réponse faite à la critique anglaise du livre de M. Quartara: "Les lois du Libre Amour" nous est adressée en Anglais par Madame Beatrice Sacchi et nous n'en pouvons donner ici que la teneur. Madame B. Sacchi précise la différence entre le point de vue britannique et la conception italienne du rôle de la femme. En Italie, il est universellement reçu que la femme est faite pour le mariage. Si elle travaille c'est le plus souvent par nécessité et non point comme quelques hommes le prétendent pour ajouter à son superflu. En Italie la vie est dure, les salaires bas, chacun se sent obligé de prendre sa part du labeur nécessaire à l'économie de la nation. M. Mussolini lui-même a reconnu la légitimité du travail des femmes mariées puisqu'il a ordonné leur réintégration dans les services d'où un ministre les avaient exclues. Il n'en est pas moins vrai que le travail de la femme mariée sous les mêmes conditions que le travail masculin est encore un fait assez rare et que l'opinion italienne ne désire pas voir se généraliser. C'est pourquoi l'idée de M. Quartara que l'homme devrait être rendu plus responsable économiquement, de la femme et des enfants de celle-ci, légitimes ou non, rencontre moins d'opposition parmi le public masculin en Italie que le principe de l'égalité dans le travail et le salaire. Il faut bien reconnaître aussi que la femme elle-même conçoit, sauf de rares exceptions, l'amour, la maternité et le soin de la famille comme son rôle primordial. Elle remplit ainsi une fonction, à la fois individuelle et sociale, suffisante, pour qu'elle s'en interdise toute autre, et pour qu'elle réclame de la part de l'homme et de l'Etat, un traitement favorable et généreux, dont le sexe masculin doit assumer toute la responsabilité. Avouons aussi, dit Madame Sacchi, que les femmes mariées ne désirent guère prendre leur part de la lutte économique. Leurs facultés de résistance sont amoindries tandis que la paternité ne diminue pas l'activité masculine.

Madame Sacchi signale aussi la position difficile de la fille-mère, toujours victime et que l'opinion publique n'absout pas. Elle souhaite que le livre de M. Quartara crée un mouvement d'opinion en sa faveur. Il est de toute justice que l'amant soit responsable, puisque, dans l'état actuel de la société, la femme illégitime peut difficilement gagner sa vie et élever ses enfants.

M. Quartara ne demande point une position de faveur pour les femmes, mais la justice qui leur a jusqu'ici été refusée, et qui serait en définitive à l'avantage de la société tout entière. Madame Sacchi termine en souhaitant que l'Alliance propage l'étude du système des Dotations familiales et suggère qu'il serait bon de fusionner les deux Comités Internationaux l'un des Allocations familiales, l'autre de l'Egalité des Sexes en un seul Comité qui serait celui des Droits de la famille.

QUESTION FINANCIERE.

Le Comité de l'Alliance rappelle à ses associées que le secours financier de la Commission Leslie des Etats-Unis, qui jusqu'à maintenant fournissait la plus grande part de nos crédits, prendra fin au prochain Congrès. Un grand effort doit donc être accompli si nous ne voulons pas que l'Alliance périsse par extinction.

Nous annoncerons bientôt notre plan de campagne. En attendant voici un moyen simple et pratique de nous montrer votre sympathie.

Nous délivrons des timbres artistiques en paquets de 50, et aussi des cartes postales. Nous espérons que nos auxiliaires voudront bien se charger de vendre au

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SOCIETE DES NATIONS.

LA ONZIEME ASSEMBLEE.

Il est encore trop tôt pour prédire quel sera le résultat des délibérations de cette Assemblée mais les discussions préliminaires sur le Rapport du Secrétaire résumant le travail de l'an passé nous donnent des indications suffisantes sur l'attitude des divers états en ce qui concerne 1°. le projet de Fédération européenne; 2°. les amendements au Pacte; 3°. la Réforme du Secrétariat.

Le projet de M. Briand n'a pas été accepté dans son intégrité par la réunion spéciale de représentants auxquels le ministre français l'avait exposé. M. Briand désirait une Fédération européenne ayant son propre conseil et secrétariat, et comme telle, les représentants jugèrent qu'elle serait une reprise au petit pied de la Société des Nations elle-même. La Fédération européenne selon eux, et c'est là le point de vue de Mr. Henderson, doit s'intégrer dans le cadre de la Société des Nations. Le temps n'est pas encore mûr pour une Union douanière par exemple et dans l'intervalle toute question paraissant affecter un ou plusieurs Etats Européens peut fort bien être discutée par une Assemblée spéciale sous les auspices de la Société des Nations. Herr Curtius fut le seul à préconiser une entente économique plus étroite entre les nations européennes. La conviction existe que si l'union proposée aboutit, elle doit se garder en fait et en apparence d'être un groupement hostile à quelque autre membre de la Société des Nations, ou aux Etats-Unis.

Mr. Henderson se déclara prêt à amender le Pacte au point de vue légal en ce qui concerne les secours financiers aux Etats victimes d'une agression ou pour toute autre question ayant trait à leur sécurité, *pourvu que* il y eût de part et d'autre un pas réel de fait dans la voie du désarmement. A ce propos deux théories sont en présence. L'une, la théorie continentale, dite "logique," est que—les membres de la Société des Nations étant désormais liés par le pacte Kellogg—aucune guerre n'est permise. Tout fauteur de troubles doit être puni et un système de sanctions sera donc prévu par le Pacte et applicable par le Conseil. La théorie anglo-saxonne dite "pratique" est qu'il est difficile au Conseil de discriminer entre les sujets de dispute et dangereux pour lui d'assumer un pouvoir arbitral et punitif, quand certains de ses membres pourraient être animés de sentiments pas toujours impartiaux.

Nous verrons plus tard le tour que prendra la discussion à ce sujet.

La réforme du Secrétariat n'a qu'une importance secondaire et a pourtant soulevé maintes discussions. On demande le maintien du caractère purement international du personnel et des critiques se sont élevées à propos du nombre excessif des secrétaires français ou britanniques. Les autres nations obtiendront désormais d'être plus largement représentées au Secrétariat.

La discussion générale aborda la situation économique mais sans arriver à une conclusion pratique. Mr. Graham annonça que la Grande Bretagne était prête à signer une trêve douanière sous condition que les

autres pays s'engageraient à suivre le mouvement. Les Etats scandinaves demandèrent la définition du traitement de la nation la plus favorisée. Plusieurs membres ne cachèrent pas leur mécontentement du fait qu'aucune conférence de la Société des Nations n'a, l'année passée, abouti à un résultat pratique.
d'après LUCY MAIR.

LES MALADIES VENERIENNES.

Depuis la guerre l'extension des maladies vénériennes a pris des proportions alarmantes et la courbe ascendante du fléau ne semble pas devoir s'arrêter, ni descendre. Des statistiques réunies par Mr. Weisswiller, Secrétaire général de l'union internationale pour combattre les maladies vénériennes, il ressort qu'en Autriche par exemple, de 1918 à 1921, 2.35% des enfants souffraient de syphilis héréditaire—qu'en Belgique 22% et en France 40% des malades hospitalisés sont syphilitiques et qu'en Grande Bretagne les nouveaux cas de syphilis sont de 190,000 par année.

La plupart des cas de syphilis sont maintenant déclarés et soumis à un traitement médical et c'est là sans doute une des raisons de leur nombre en apparence croissant, mais il n'y a aucun doute que le relâchement des mœurs et le manque de responsabilité de la jeunesse sont une des causes de ce triste tableau.

Le traitement médical même efficace n'intervient en aucune façon pour la prévention des maladies vénériennes: au contraire, car il donne aux individus un sentiment de fausse sécurité et les incite à une indulgence coupable envers eux-mêmes. C'est surtout parmi ceux qui du fait de leur occupation ou métier sont forcés à une longue continence, que la syphilis fait le plus de ravages. Tel est le cas des marins, vivant pendant des mois entrés hommes, sous la plus stricte discipline et soudainement lâchés dans un port de débarquement, à la merci de toutes les tentations et de toutes les folies.

Le Bureau international du Travail s'est justement ému de cette situation, et collaborant avec l'Office international d'Hygiène publique a entrepris une campagne contre la syphilis et est arrivé à un règlement international pour la protection des marins dans les ports, dont dix-huit états sont signataires.

Les dispositions essentielles de ce règlement sont les suivantes:

- 1° Chaque signataire maintiendra une clinique anti-syphilitique dans les ports de mer internationaux et dans tous les ports fluviaux importants.
- 2° Le traitement et la médication sont gratuits.
- 3° Tout patient doit posséder une carte avec son diagnostic.

D'autre part des mesures d'un caractère moral et éducatif sont recommandées:

- 1° Une propagande raisonnée qui fera sentir aux intéressés leur responsabilité morale à l'égard d'eux-mêmes et de la société s'ils sont victimes de ce terrible fléau.
- 2° La création de centres de récréation, d'exercices sportifs, d'excursions agréables, de Foyers propres au développement de la bonne camaraderie et de la culture intellectuelle dont plusieurs sont privés. L'ennui, le manque de direction sont une des principales causes de cette anarchie morale qui conduit à de si terribles conséquences physiologiques.

Des passe-temps intéressants, des amusements sains, c'est là surtout que réside le grand remède et vers quoi doivent se porter nos efforts.

Une éducation préventive peut seule enrayer le mal, qu'un traitement médical, tout salutaire soit-il est impuissant à combattre.

d'après D. M. ANNING, M.B.

LES ELECTIONS AU REISCHTAG.

Faites dans des temps troublés, avec le chômage qui prend des proportions inquiétantes, elles ont naturellement résulté en une aggravation du radicalisme. La situation économique alarme le peuple qui s'irrite de voir des milliards grossir la caisse des réparations, tandis que la misère les guette. Le scrutin s'est élevé cette année jusqu'à 90% de l'électorat et comme les élections sont proportionnelles le nombre des députés a augmenté, passant de 491 à 575. 39 femmes ont été élues contre 35 dans la dernière Assemblée. On ne s'attend pas cependant à ce qu'il y ait un changement dans la politique étrangère et la République n'est point en danger.

Le plus large contingent de femmes députés est celui des Social Democrats qui en comptent 16. Puis viennent les Communistes avec 13—les Centraux en ont 4, les Nationalistes 2. Dr. Gertrud Bäumer est la seule représentante féminine au "Parti Constitutionnel."

LES FEMMES A GENEVE.

Le Comité permanent international en session à Genève dont le but est de proposer des collaboratrices aux travaux de la Société des Nations et dont les conseils ont été fréquemment suivis, vient de décider la formation d'une Commission de liaison qui aura pleins pouvoirs pour l'échange de renseignements, pour l'action décisive en période de crise possible et pour l'établissement d'un programme de coopération constante avec les divers bureaux des Sociétés.

Les Sans-Patrie. La Ligue internationale pour la Paix et la Liberté a organisé à Genève le 8 Septembre une conférence de protestation contre l'état de milliers d'individus sans nationalité reconnue et qui n'ont même le secours des passeports Nansen accordés aux réfugiés. Miss Sterling représentait l'Alliance.

Les Sociétés pour la Paix en Conférence à Genève. le 9 septembre offrirent à la Société des Nations leurs félicitations pour 10 années de travail et aussi leurs critiques. L'Alliance y était représentée par la Présidente et Miss Sterling.

Le vibrant discours de Madame Malaterre-Sellier qui réclama tous les droits civiques pour les femmes afin qu'elles puissent mieux servir la cause de la paix fut applaudi avec enthousiasme.

Le nouveau bureau de l'Alliance à Genève a déjà prouvé son utilité. Son hospitalité s'étend aux femmes déléguées et à toutes les féministes de passage à Genève.

L'Alliance a été représentée par trois membres du Conseil (Board) en plus de la présidente, de la Trésorière et de la Secrétaire.

Un dîner fut offert aux déléguées femmes sous la présidence de Mme. Avril de Sainte Croix. Bien que le nombre des femmes à la Société demeure le même, leur importance croît de jour en jour. Cette année deux femmes ministres prirent part aux séances: Mrs. Mary Irene Parlyby du Canada et Miss Susan Lawrence Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat au ministère de la Santé de Grande Bretagne.

CHRONIQUE MENSUELLE.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Les femmes de Turquie vont obtenir le suffrage législatif qui d'après l'amendement promis par le Gouvernement se fera par le scrutin direct.

Les évêques de l'Eglise d'Angleterre à leur récent congrès de Lambeth ont refusé d'admettre les femmes à la prêtrise nonobstant le fait que le nombre des candidats mâles diminue d'année en année.

Trente à quarante femmes ont pris part cette année à la réunion de l'Association britannique pour l'avancement des Sciences.

Le Congrès Panpacifique de Honolulu a été suivi par la formation d'une Association féministe du Pacifique à titre permanent. La nouvelle Association espère pouvoir collaborer dans l'avenir avec notre Alliance internationale.

Des policières ont été employées pour la première fois cette année à Barcelone, à l'Exposition. Cette tentative ayant donné d'heureux résultats, on espère que des femmes pourront être nommées dans la Police de façon permanente.

Les Clubs féminins de Cuba ont formé une Association suffragiste en vue de la propagande pour l'obtention du vote.

The Women's Freedom League, il y a quelques mois, adressa une pétition au Premier Ministre et au Secrétaire général de l'Inde, les priant de ne pas oublier les femmes dans leurs nominations pour la Conférence Anglo-Hindoue qui doit se réunir prochainement à Londres. Nous apprenons que deux femmes viennent d'être désignées: Madame Shah Nawaz une personnalité très connue du Punjab qui se recommande par son esprit libéral et sa haute culture—puis Madame Subbarayan, ancienne étudiante d'Oxford femme du Ministre Chef, de Madras.

On espère que deux femmes britanniques seront également priées de participer aux travaux de la Conférence. On se rappelle que la Commission Simon avait justement loué la part prépondérante prise par certains groupes de femmes dans l'éducation libérale des habitants de l'Inde.

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