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THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

"RING OUT THE OLD; RING IN THE NEW."

As the bells ring out the passing of 1929, and we look back over twelve months of work and play together, our minds naturally linger on our wonderful Congress of Berlin, when the radiant sunshine seemed to glow in sympathy with the pride glowing in our hearts.

We cannot sufficiently thank our many friends in Germany, known and unknown, who contributed so much to the inspiring whole.

Actual Suffrage victories have been few but notable, as in Roumania and in Cooch Behar; but the resolutions of Berlin are evidence that women, even where they are not yet considered worthy of citizenship rights, are contributing thought and constructive leadership to problems which baffle the world: peace and the economic freedom of peoples as well as of individual men and women.

We are sometimes criticised for enlarging our programme beyond the old limits of the suffrage movement, but surely the answer is simple. It is an essential part of our work for real equality between men and women to require the breaking-down of all prejudice and every bar against women, but it is equally our duty to claim for women the right and the duty of expressing their considered judgment on world problems.

Our constructive work for peace has its value because, by our fight for the vote and the abolition of the Code

Napoléon, and the double standard of morality, we can now work as free citizens, self-reliant, educated and responsible.

Our work for the removal of economic barriers is based on the same understanding of justice which makes us protest against the linking of the adult woman with the young person or the child, and against the unjust differences in pay, status and conditions of the woman worker.

The more keenly we work for equality for women, the more keenly must we work to secure that the counsels of women are made more effective at all times and everywhere.

1929 has robbed us of two of our great leaders, Dr. Aletta Jacobs and Dame Millicent Fawcett, the greater because, though they never for one moment faltered in the stern fight for suffrage and equality, they yet gave their time and strength unsparingly to the welfare of the community. We miss them sorely.

We look to 1930 to give us the pleasure of closer co-operation with our dear Honorary President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has promised us a visit.

1930 brings to each of us new tasks, national and international. Our first duty is to insure that, following the admirable example of Belgium in nominating Madem-

oiselle Marcelle Renson, we secure a woman lawyer in each delegation to the Hague Conference on Nationality. Secondly, to secure a woman in each national delegation to the Assembly of the League, and thirdly to inspire our younger women to fit themselves for the ever widening opportunities for service.

A happy, successful New Year to all friends, old and new, and especially to my fellow officers, to my colleagues on the Board, and to the Presidents of the National Associations who carry the responsibility of our Alliance, and to Mrs. Bompas, my right hand.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

WHAT PART DOES REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS PLAY IN THE COMING OF WORLD PEACE?

For four years, the organized women of America in ten national groups have been studying each year the Cause and Cure of war under the leadership of Mrs. Catt.

They have considered trade rivalries, national and race prejudices, over-population, industrial conflicts, etc. They have ranged the whole gamut of a competitive international world. And a few women (notably Mrs. Catt herself), have reached two definite conclusions. One is that if the world must wait until the Causes of war are abolished, then war as an institution is eternal. The other decision is that as war is a method of settling international disputes, those differences may still arise and yet another method be found for their solution.

From this angle, a reduction of naval armaments by peaceful treaties is only less important than the actual settlement of great international difficulties by agreed arbitration. The latter represents an effective use of peace machinery instead of the trial by force, and the former indicates the will to dismantle the outworn machinery of war. That great powers come together to do this is significant of promise for the future.

Many American women rejoiced to realize that the meeting of their President and of the great English Prime Minister to discuss the ways of peace—the calm abandonment of old arguments about national prestige, the clear open air, moral and physical, in which they exchanged views—implied nothing less than the abandonment of ideas which make war necessary. I say ideas were abandoned before battleships.

The archduke who drove down the streets of Sarajevo to his doom was symbolic. Did civilization risk suicide for the death of a prince? No, but as long as any international difficulty had to be settled by war alone, everything that followed was inevitable. From the first telegram exchanged by the authorities to the last good-bye of an Iowa lad to his mother, the machinery of war, once started, simply continued to operate until exhaustion compelled its pause.

This is the reason the war system must not only be abandoned by treaty, but scrapped in fact—and this is the reason for woman's prejudice against the symbols of war. She believes that the League of Nations, the World Court, the Hague Arbitration Tribunal, the Kellogg Anti-War Pact, the Pan American Treaties of Arbitration and Conciliation, are so many parts of the newer machinery of peace, and that they must be strengthened by use. But the immense power of the old appeal? How can we measure it? Once men fought for religion, for political successions, for spoils and titles, and in these areas they have given way before freedom of conscience and peaceful elections. But the sacrificial fire of patriotism still burns on an altar dedicated to the preservation of war.

Some American women yearn for the success of the

Naval Disarmament Conference, not because they are deceived as to the value of battleships or the necessity of cruisers, not because they believe ships cannot be rapidly replaced by newer weapons, but because they know that when "the captains and the kings depart," they leave room for a new way.

RUTH MORGAN

EVENTS OF 1929.

Belgium. A woman, Mlle. Lucie Dejardin, was elected to the Chamber, the first woman deputy, though there has been a woman in the Senate. This calls attention to the curious position in Belgium, where a woman may sit in a Parliament for whose members she cannot vote.

Bermuda. A retrograde step was taken by the passing of a consolidating Act which inserts the word "male" as a qualifying word before "voters."

Canada. On Appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that women could not be summoned to sit in the Senate was reversed.

Chile. The new Chilean Code now before Congress would give the municipal franchise. It had not been actually adopted when the Report reached us in October.

Cuba. A law has been passed by which a Cuban woman does not lose her Cuban nationality on marriage with a foreigner.

France. Under the aegis of Mme. Avril de St. Croix, women's organisations held a three-day conference—"Les Etats-généraux du féminisme"—which presented a petition to M. Poincaré. He wrote in reply saying that the Government would support the giving of the municipal vote and eligibility to women. Ten days later the Senate extended the term of office of municipal councils from four to six years. Perhaps a coincidence, but it would usefully delay the participation of women, even had the Government taken the first steps to bring in women's municipal franchise, which it has not done. However, it did at least ask Parliament to discuss it. The Senate refused to discuss it.

Great Britain. Women exercised their Equal Rights for the first time in the General Election.

Greece. In January, M. Venizelos promised a deputation of women's societies that he would discuss with his Cabinet the actual grant of the municipal vote. Nothing appears to have happened, however!

India. The Child Marriage Protection Bill, raising the age of marriage to 14 for girls and 18 for boys, was passed in September. The Province of Behar adopted woman's suffrage, and thus the last remaining British Province of India has come into line with the rest. Nothing is said as to eligibility.

Ireland. (Northern). The Equal Rights Act may be claimed in part as an event of 1929, as it actually came into force on the 31st December, 1928.

Italy. In the new Electoral Law women are excluded as electors and as candidates.

Porto Rico. Both Houses of the legislature passed a measure granting the vote to women, and this appears now to have been signed by the Governor. It imposes a literacy qualification on women voters, but this also applies to male new voters.

REVIEWS.

Die Krisis der Ehe, by Rosa Mayreder. Verlag Eugen Diederich, Jena.

Rosa Mayreder, who has an incomparable gift for revealing the secrets of the human heart, especially as regards the relations between the sexes, has followed up her thoughtful and delightful work, "Ideas of Love," published last year, by a little book called "The Marriage Crisis." Much has been spoken and written recently on this "crisis," and proposed remedies have been discussed all over the world, especially by the young. Two new forms of marriage, "companionate marriage," proposed by Judge Ben Lindsey, and "trial or temporary marriage," proposed by different reformers, have been approved and advocated by those who object to the dogma of a binding marriage as it exists to-day. Rosa Mayreder undertook to clear up the problem in the light of unprejudiced consideration, and to this resolve we owe a work which may be called a masterpiece, not only because of the concentration of a wealth of fundamental ideas in the limited space of barely 70 pages, but also because of the splendour of the style and the compelling power of the language.

Rosa Mayreder shows her philosophical grasp first in the way in which she introduces the problem, then by her treatment of the opinions of men in former times, and last of those of the present day (Keyserling, Van de Velde, etc.). First she makes us realise that marriage is made responsible for many things which are really faults of human nature. She freely admits that marriage is not well fitted to the conditions of modern life, as it limits freedom and demands the renunciation of numerous possibilities and changes in personal life. Formerly, marriage was merely a simple relationship dominated by the desire to secure the interests and the continuation of the family, and gradually complicated by economic questions. The present-day ideal of a love-marriage was created by the elevation of sexual love to something higher. This idea is based on personal factors, which, however, have not, and cannot, eliminate the factor of procreation, in which the State is mainly interested, and the economic factor, which is where the interests of the family come in. Thus marriage has become an institution full of contradictory elements.

The ideal of the love-marriage, whose foundation is not only sexual love but the desire for a communion of interests which calls for sacrifice and for the sharing of life as a whole, is wonderfully depicted by Rosa Mayreder. But she shows also how the ideal is undermined by the facts of life. Moreover, marriage has not developed as an institution to protect love; it has remained an institution for the protection of children and of family interests. This obsolete form tends still more to act in contradiction to the ideal of the love-marriage, as the position of women alters. By the economic independence of women and still more by the legal equality of the sexes, grave problems are being imported into the married state. Thus out of the contradictory elements in marriage and out of the impossibility of combining the different forces which rule it, a crisis in marriage has arisen.

What is the remedy? Rosa Mayreder examines the different proposals for reform. She rejects the idea of a return to the "marriage de convenance," advocated by Keyserling, and she acknowledges that the idea of companionate-marriage stresses the personal factor at the expense of the social factor. And is marriage without children ideal, and is it possible to make it lasting without consideration of the economic interests of the family?

Rosa Mayreder forces us to reflect on the present chaos in ideas on marriage, and finally convinces us that

Roumania. Women have obtained suffrage and eligibility for the communes, municipalities and departments, subject to certain educational and other qualifications, such as being in Government or municipal service, holding war decorations, or as war widows, etc.

U.S.A. In the elections to Congress, eight women were elected, a larger number than ever before.

ARAB WOMEN IN CONGRESS.

Arab women to the number of about a hundred met in Conference on the invitation of one of the leaders of the Arab Moslem-Christian Executive (a politico-nationalistic body of men) at his house last October.

The Arab Christian women took the lead, as they are better prepared by education and personal freedom for such an occasion. All the women who attended were members of the upper classes, the women of the people were not represented.

A delegation consisting of prominent Moslem and Christian women from the Conference was received by the High Commissioner, to whom it presented a copy of the resolutions of the Arab Moslem-Christian Executive. The Moslem women unveiled. (The Christian women do not veil and wear the European dress). The delegation also called on the Mufti—the religious head of the Palestine Moslems and on the Latin Patriarch, Barlasona. Afterwards they passed through the main streets of Jerusalem in closed cars, the Moslem women again being veiled. (With regard to the unveiling of Arab women I may say that only the upper class Moslem woman is veiled).

The Congress closed in the evening, after passing resolutions in the spirit of their representations to the High Commissioner, and calling upon Arab women to organize themselves and to improve their position. An Executive Committee was elected.

It may be difficult to believe in such great and sudden feministic progress among an illiterate people, and indeed, it seems that, among the Moslem women, about 95% to 98% are illiterate, but the Arab Christian women have reached a higher standard, and about 40% of them are literate. The Moslem population takes small advantage of the opportunities for schooling afforded by the Government. It appears from the official report of the school year 1927-1928 that out of a Moslem population of 6,000,000 only 4,743 were sent to school. This includes schools of all grades, government and missionary as well as private establishments. This is a question well worth the attention of the Executive, of whose activities since the Conference no news has so far reached us.

The Conference marks a decided improvement in the status of Arab women in this country, and especially of the Moslem women who have hitherto been rigorously confined to the harems.

ROSA WELT-STRAUSS,
President of the Palestine Jewish
Women Equal Rights Association.

BIRTHDAY OF A PIONEER.

Annie Furuhjelm.

On December 11th, Annie Furuhjelm celebrated her seventieth birthday, and every member of the Alliance and every reader of "Jus Suffragii" will wish her many happy returns of the day. A glance at the old files of our paper show for how many years Miss Furuhjelm has been a contributor, and how faithfully she has served the woman's movement both nationally and internationally. She needs no introduction to our readers, every one knows her and her work, and it is with one voice that we send her congratulations and express the hope that she will for many years give us her help and contribute her vast experience to our cause.

marriage, however much it may be personal, must be, and must remain, a social affair, but the focus of the problem does not lie in external conditions, but in the mutual relations of the married couple. Superficial people make use of the easier divorce of the present-day, but deeper natures with a richer inner life find marriage one of the most intense experiences of the soul. If such people forcibly sever the marriage-bond, an incurable wound is left. Thus, for them, marriage may become a torturing problem.

GISELA URBAN.

LAWS RELATING TO THE WORK OF WOMEN.

A comparative study of the legislation relating to the employment of women in the States Members and the International Labour Organisation.

This publication of the International Labour Organisation is an invaluable reference book for those who are studying the question of Protective Legislation. Its aim is to give a general view of the laws by which the principal aspects of women's employment are regulated, and to enable these laws to be compared with each other and with relevant conventions. The study is confined to the States Members of the International Labour Organisation, but the United States laws are dealt with in an Appendix from material prepared by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labour.

National laws have been searched for provisions relating to every kind of employment outside of agriculture and domestic service. This examination was not limited to provisions relating to women as distinct from other workers; the provisions relating to hours, for example, in most cases apply to both women and men. The study is not of discriminating legislation in favour of women, though that aspect was not overlooked, and the work can be used to ascertain which laws are discriminatory and which are not.

The following features of employment are considered: hours, rest intervals, overtime, night work, weekly rest, dangerous and unhealthy occupations, industrial home work, and special accommodation, i.e., the provision of seats and service facilities. The principal aspects not touched on are wages and annual holidays, and hygiene and safety provisions concerning all workers.

Mutter und Kind, Ein Tagebuch der Mutter für das Jahr 1930, by Adèle Schreiber, Member of the Reichstag. Published by Safari-Verlag, Berlin, W. 57.

This very delightful "tear-off" calendar appears for the third year in succession. To many people who have obtained the previous issues, this is now a real serial volume of child-care and welfare, since the leaves when detached may be filed in special cases which can be supplied for the purpose and so constitute a valuable reference book. To those who read German, the calendar is much more than an interesting and original reminder of the day's date; it gives short, clear and practical hints on an infinite variety of matters connected with the care and education of children, and with wise parenthood. But even to those who cannot read the longer excerpts, the pictures will provide pleasure, amusement and information, for many of them relate to hygiene and physical culture and speak for themselves, while the studies of children from many lands and the reproduction of pictures by famous artists are a joy in themselves. We congratulate Frau Schreiber on her successful and beautiful production.

A Complete Record of the Leslie Woman Suffrage Commission, 1917-1920, by Rose Young.

When it became known fifteen years ago, that Mrs. Frank Leslie had willed the bulk of her estate to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, to be used for the cause of woman suffrage, the first question which interested the public was—How much did Mrs. Leslie leave? When income and increase, up to the date of the final accounting by the executors eight years later, were added, the total amount of Mrs. Leslie's fortune was \$2,086,359.62. The second question which has interested the public is—How much of that fortune did Mrs. Catt get for suffrage? The answer is \$977,875.02. Inevitably a third and fourth question arise. What did she do with it, and what became of the million she did not get?

This Report answers those questions by following the story of the Leslie estate through eight years of legal history. It shows what went to beneficiaries, as designated by the will, and records a curious tale of claims and contests with dubious foundation, which made huge inroads into the estate.

It shows how a fortune may be whittled away by depreciation, taxation, and enormous expenses charged to administration. It shows the length to which claimants will go in attacking the dead. It records the many suits, judgments and appeals involved in the settlement of the Leslie estate. It sets forth what the next of kin got, what the executors got, and, finally, what Mrs. Catt did with the portion which came to her. It will serve as the official report of Mrs. Catt's stewardship, for which, as for the original bequest of Frank Leslie, feminists have good reason to be everlastingly grateful.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

London and National Society for Women's Service.

The new Hall in Tufton Street, Westminster, presented by an anonymous donor to the London and National Society for Women's Service, will be opened on December 10th, by Annie, Viscountess Cowdray, who has herself given the beautiful stage curtain and hangings, and the panelling and other furnishings of the Hall. The ceremony will be preceded by a dinner in the new restaurant for members and friends and followed by a reception in the Hall, at which Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, the newly elected President of the Society, and other distinguished guests will be present. The Library, the gift of the same anonymous friend, and enlarged by a generous grant from the Carnegie Trust, will be ready very shortly and the Hall, with refreshments as required, is already available for hire for meetings, concerts or dances, or dramatic performances.

Women Ministers.

One is reminded of the gradual entry of women into the ministry by the publication of a sixpenny pamphlet, entitled "Women Free Church Ministers," which contains portraits and brief biographical sketches of 22 women pastors of Congregational, Baptist, and Unitarian Churches. Miss Maude Royden contributes a foreword.

Girls as Crane Drivers.

An interesting revelation of the capacity of girls in work to which women have hitherto been unaccustomed is made by the firm of Messrs. F. J. Howden and Sons, of the Lime Quarries, Hampole, near Doncaster.

During the war this firm were unable to obtain the necessary male labour. Two girls were trained in the work of crane drivers. For ten years the same girls have carried on the work, and in the opinion of their employers are more dexterous and adept at the work than men. The work of the cranes consists of raising limestone to a height of 50 feet or more into trucks and weighbridges.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The Memorial Service to Dame Millicent Fawcett.

On the 19th November Westminster Abbey was crowded with men and women of all classes, many of whom had come from distant parts to do honour to the pioneer of Women's Suffrage in Great Britain. Many prominent persons were present on this occasion, as well as hundreds of those who had worked in the Common Cause. There was no mourning, and the whole character of the service was one of triumph and gratitude.

Nationality of Married Women.

Strenuous efforts are being made in this country by women's organisations to secure the adequate representation of the women's point of view at the Hague Conference of the Codification of International Law. A bill to return to the British Woman her right to retain her nationality on marriage to an alien if she so wished was introduced in Parliament this Autumn, but unfortunately it was crowded out before receiving its second reading. It is still hoped, however, that the Government may appoint a woman among the technical delegates at the Conference.

Women in Local Government.

The alterations in the administration of Local Government brought about by the Act passed by the last Government have made it a matter of still greater concern that there are still so few women on Local Government bodies. About 3,000 women who have been occupied in the administration of Poor Law Relief have no longer a place in this work, which has been transferred to other bodies. Every effort was made, therefore, by the National Union to promote the adoption of women candidates at the recent elections of Town Councils. While there is a slight increase in the number of women now represented on these bodies it is still regrettably small. Many councils have no women members at all.

In Parliament.

The two most important Government bills to be discussed this term have been the amending bill on Widows' Pensions, and the Unemployment Insurance Bill. The former increases slightly the classes of women eligible for widows' pensions. The particular interest of the Unemployment Insurance bill from the feminist point of view, perhaps, has been that this most difficult Government measure has been piloted by the first woman cabinet minister. She is in an extremely difficult position, but she has won through after a strenuous fight.

Women Police.

The N.U.S.E.C., in co-operation with the National Council of Women, organised a deputation of women's societies which was received by the Home Secretary at the beginning of December. A strong demand for an increase in the number of women police throughout the country was made, and the arguments put forward were received with sympathy by Mr. Clynes. Shortly after the deputation was received, it was announced in the House of Commons that the number of women police in London (the police force in this city being directly under the control of the Home Office), is to be increased from 50 to 100.

GERTRUDE HORTON.

TO NATIONAL AUXILIARIES.

The Editor reminds all Secretaries that their contributions for this page should reach her not later than the 20th of the month.

ITALY.

(The following is a translation of extracts from the Memorandum kindly sent to us by Doctor Ada Sacchi Simonetta, which has been presented by our Italian Auxiliary for the attention of the Inter-parliamentary Commission which will meet shortly to consider the proposed changes in the Italian Penal Code.—ED.)

We commend the recommendation to raise the age of consent from 12 to 14, but we think that it would be even better if it were raised to 16.

With regard to prostitution, the article which imposes penalties on the person who makes money out of the employment of a woman as a prostitute is excellent, but to have a real effect it should apply not only to individual cases, but also to keepers of brothels, who are simply committing the same offence on a larger scale.

The women of Italy most urgently ask the Government to institute a radical reform in social matters, and to abolish organised prostitution completely.

The State should refuse to tolerate traffic and commerce in human merchandise; if the State winks at it, what use is it for individuals to censure it? And if the moral motive is not incentive enough for its abolition, there is the health motive. Medical experts are agreed that regulated Prostitution has increased rather than diminished venereal disease.

In regard to the safeguarding of family life, the new Code is an improvement on the old one. All the same, there is too great a disparity between men and women in the treatment of adultery. Adultery by a man under the conjugal roof or in some known place (apparently the only case in which adultery by the man is to be made punishable.—ED.) is a comparatively rare thing. The law seems inclined to regard man as the economic factor in family life, but he should also be regarded as the moral factor. For the sake of the family, both man and woman should equally keep faith, and the law should set society an example by regarding their duties in this respect as equal. Adultery on the part of the man may result in the infection of his wife and family with venereal disease and in the presence of an illegitimate family alongside the legitimate one.

We are alarmed at the general penalty which the new law proposes to exact for procuring an abortion. It is almost impossible to tell whether an abortion is voluntary or involuntary. In any case, a woman should not be penalised for procuring an abortion when she has been raped. Society should allow her to choose whether she will continue with the life which has been conceived without her volition.

There should be free recourse to the criminal courts for victims of sexual crimes, but, in the case of adultery, which might only happen once in a particular instance, and where homes might be broken up unnecessarily as the result of criminal court processes, perhaps the Civil Courts would be the more suitable instrument of justice.

We understand how difficult it is for the State to proceed in these delicate matters, and we earnestly recommend that as they are of the most vital importance to the whole life of women that women of high moral character be appointed as investigators, magistrates and to serve on juries.

We applaud the Fascist Government for examining the whole question, and make the following petition:—

(1) That the age of consent be raised to sixteen, and that the seducer shall not be acquitted on the plea that the minor has been previously corrupted.

(2) That incitement or compulsion to prostitution be better defined, and that the offence of making a

profit from prostitutes shall be extended to include the keepers of brothels.

(3) That the treatment of adultery shall be equal for men and women.

(4) That a woman shall be exempt from her husband's powers of correction.

(5) That a woman's culpability for procuring an abortion be more clearly defined, and that special consideration be given her in the case of her being pregnant through having been raped or deceived.

Finally, in asking for public action on these lines, we submit that to make it a working possibility women must have their part as policewomen, magistrates and members of juries.

NEW ZEALAND.

Politically, there is little to be said about the months that have elapsed since my last contribution. It must be confessed that the first session of the United Party under the Premiership of Sir Joseph Ward has been barren of feminist legislation. Considering however, the peculiar difficulties faced by the Government, not the least of them being the ill-health of the Premier, and the concentration which was necessary for the steering of the highly controversial Taxation Bill, and a fundamental measure on Land Settlement, we are prepared to wait with patience for our turn. Indeed, women's interests as well as men's have been served by the turning of an army of unemployed into busy units drafted all over the country in the service of accelerated and extended public works. We are not sanguine enough to believe that so weighty a problem can be finally settled by relief works on whatever practical and useful lines they may be arranged, but here, again, we are willing to trust the boldness of a humane policy, for at present it is true that Sir Joseph Ward's dramatic promise made not seven weeks ago, has been redeemed; between public works and seasonal demands, all willing and employable men are now in work, and at good wages.

One small Bill has greatly gratified women. The Rest Houses Act provides for a class of aged, indigent persons not insane or criminal but past powers of responsibility, who formerly drifted either into prison as vagrants, or into mental hospitals as incapable of civic life.

The real political issue uppermost in our minds never came to a head in Parliament,—that is the fixed and definite national demand for women police. The demand was opposed by the Minister of Justice, and the appointment of women patrols without power, status, or training was urged instead. This proposal was almost universally rejected and feeling runs high, throughout the country. No public pronouncement was made at the close of the Session.

More encouraging was the reply of the Premier to deputations urging consideration of the Nationality of Married Women. Sir Joseph Ward cordially affirmed his support of the principle that married women should be free to choose their nationality, and offered to bring up the matter himself should an Empire Conference of Premiers fail to introduce it.

Early in the year, two women, Mrs. Peter Fraser and Miss Jean Begg, were made members of the New Mental Defectives Board, created after the disquieting report of a Royal Commission on the defectives and degenerates of the country had been considered by the Government then in power. Segregation, special training of defective youth, and last, inspection and care of irresponsibles form the field of the Board's operations.

On the Prisons Board, a useful advisory body, dealing individually at short fixed periods with difficult prison cases, a woman has at last been appointed; she

is Mrs. A. I. Fraer, J.P., Dominion President of the National Council of Women. Her particular field of influence covers the welfare of women criminals throughout New Zealand.

Miss Phoebe Myers, of Wellington, has been invited by the High Commissioner, Sir James Parr, to be a delegate to the League of Nations and to act as his substitute in certain departments. Miss Myers has had long experience in women's organisations.

The recent sudden death of Mrs. Annie E. Herbert, J.P., of Christ church, has removed one of the foremost relief workers of the Dominion, and a valued Associate Magistrate of the Children's Court in Christchurch.

There has been a substantial increase of power and great activity in the Women's Institutes, which are carrying on the same educative and helpful work in country districts as the British Institutes are doing. The Women's branches of the New Zealand Farmers' Union have also made a forward movement.

JESSIE MACKAY.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS.

Five years ago, eight national women's organizations on the call of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and their presidents sent delegates to Washington for a conference on the Cause and Cure of War. They have met there annually ever since, and this year, ten organisations will be represented, and, through them a large proportion of the organized women in the country, at the coming fifth conference, January 14th to 17th.

Many of the organizations will be sending some of the same women who attended the first conference. Theirs has been a splendid opportunity to see what can be done in group thinking along the same lines over a period of time. Many of the delegates have followed prescribed reading courses between the conferences so that when they met for discussions they had a common background. Although the group, when organized, had no aim other than to stimulate discussion and to focus attention within the organizations on the problems of war and peace, it now finds itself pressed by the need of supporting legislation when a measure common to the programs of each of the organizations, such as the Kellogg Pact for the renunciation of war, is brought forward. Its fundamental purpose is still to stimulate constructive thinking on the causes and cures of war.

At the opening forum this year delegates will consider how much influence they have made on public opinion by discussing the following questions: "How far have we progressed in the discovery of the causes of war? What are they?" "How far have we progressed in the discovery of the cures of war? What are they?" "What imperative cures are as yet untried, unadmitted or unestablished?" The second day they will meet in groups for intimate discussion of the question "What possible disputes or irritations may cause war before the machinery of prevention is completed?" Later in the week there will be a debate on disarmament and a discussion on "Will trade rivalries produce conditions which cannot be controlled by the present peace machinery?" The conference would be missing a great opportunity if it did not conclude, as it will, with a debate in which only women participate on "Can women help the peace situation, and if so, how?"

Prominent speakers will address the meetings. Several of them will be conducted as debates in which experts representing different points of view will discuss their opinions for the benefit of the audience.

Four foreign women, distinguished in their own countries and known to the women of the Alliance because of their efforts of peace will be among the speakers. Those who were at the Berlin Congress will remember

immediately and vividly Frau von Velson, president of the "Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnen Verband," who will represent Germany. Miss Kathleen Courtney, of England, who was also in Berlin, and who for six years has been chairman of the British section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Madame Marie-Louise Puech, of France, who has been one of the editors of "La Paix Par le Droit" and who is vice-president of the French Association of University Women, are also crossing the Atlantic to discuss peace with American women. Mrs. Taune Gauntlett, a native Japanese, who married an Englishman, is making great sacrifices so that Japan should not be left out of the Conference. Mrs. Gauntlett is a worker in the Y.W.C.A., the peace organization and in the suffrage organization.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

The Child Marriage Prevention Bill.

Now that the Council of State has passed the Bill and H.E. the Viceroy has given his consent, the Bill has become a law from April 1st, 1930. The debate in the Assembly and Councils which have appeared in detail in the daily press shows how awake India is to this evil of child-marriage. Even the orthodox have been able to trot out only one objection again and again, viz., that a religious custom is being tampered with by Government.

Amendments to postpone the Bill to 1931, 1932, 1933, to exempt the Muslims, to raise the legal age of marriage for girls to 11, 12, 13, and 16, were all lost and the original Bill as recommended by the Select Committee was passed by 76 for and 14 against. Twenty-six elected Indians voted for the Bill, while fourteen elected Indians voted against it. Six Muslim members walked out of the Chamber as a protest against the measure.

Of the elected Indian members who voted in favour of the Bill 1 was from Madras; 6 from Bombay; 7 from U. P.; 3 from Behar; 4 from the Punjab; 1 from the Central Provinces; 1 from Bengal; 1 from Burma; 1 from Delhi; and 1 from Ajmer-Merwara. Of the elected Indians who voted against the Bill 5 were from Madras, 2 from Bombay, 3 from Bengal, 1 from U. P., 2 from Behar and 1 from Assam.

The Brothels Bill in Madras.

The Select Committee, appointed by the Madras Legislative Council to examine Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar's Bill for the suppression of brothels and immoral traffic, has published its report. The amendments effected by the Committee are important and commendable. But they still leave unremedied one grave omission in the Bill. There is no provision anywhere for bringing to book those who control this nefarious trade and thrive on the destitution of their victims. We are glad to note that this loophole has not escaped the watchful eye of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, who has four of her colleagues on her side on this point, as seen from their minutes of dissent. We earnestly hope that their amendments will be embodied in the Bill in its passage. The root of the evil is left intact if the 'Souteneur' throws the 'Procurer' to the Law and makes good his own escape. The Law may count the capture of the 'Artful Dodger' and Bill Sykes as a feather in its cap but where is its triumph if Master Fagin still snaps his fingers at the Penal Code? Mr. James draws attention in his minute of dissent to the importance which the League of Nations Committee gives to the extirpation of this noxious individual. We are glad, however, that the members of the Committee are unanimous in the view that the evil which the Bill is intended to combat calls for immediate remedy no less in the mofussal than in the city and have therefore boldly recommended its application to the whole of the Presidency.

Besides the minutes of dissent, there is a note submitted by four members which is of rather an oracular nature: "Though we are in entire sympathy with the objects of the Bill we apprehend that there will be many difficulties in the working of its provision." No one imagines that the task of cleansing society of such cancerous growths will be all sunshine and roses. The question is, what are we going to do about it?

Sex Disqualification in Behar Council.

We are glad to know that Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Roy—a member of the Behar Legislative Council—has given notice of a resolution for the next Session of the Council urging the removal of sex disqualification so that women may be elected or nominated to the Council. Behar has only lately enfranchised its women, and it is gratifying to know that there are men members who realise the necessity of getting the women into the Councils, so as to rectify the one-sided policy that has existed in man-made laws. *Stri Dharma.*

FROM THE GENERAL PRESS.

WOMEN IN RUSSIA.

Equal Rights Demand in Public Posts.

The Soviet Government has voted £60,000 as a fund to help emancipate women and make them independent, especially in those regions of the country where, due to prevailing religious traditions, women are still enslaved to the will of their husbands.

The fund will be managed by the All-Soviet Committee to Improve Conditions of Women. This committee, which is an official Government institution is now sending out so-called women brigades to inspect all the districts, in order to establish whether women get their equal chances in receiving appointment to higher executive offices or not.

"It is the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party that women be pushed in the Government offices toward higher positions, and we are certainly going to see to it that this decision be carried out properly," one of the leaders of the All-Soviet Committee stated. He complained that in the Department of Finances only four women occupy responsible positions, working there as instructors.

"This, of course, is too small a proportion when compared with the number of capable women this department has on its staff doing just technical work," he asserted, "and our inspection will undoubtedly lead toward a number of promotions for those who can be utilised for higher and more qualified work than typing or stencilling."

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE IN BERMUDA.

One of the most curious Governmental systems in the world is that of Bermuda, our Western Atlantic island colony, where, once more this winter, women are trying to induce the local Parliament to give them the vote, which their relatives in Britain have had for many years now. Bermuda lives on growing market produce for New York and providing rich New Yorkers with a Riviera-like winter holiday. It grows enormous quantities of lilies, too, for the florists of Philadelphia, New York and Boston. The Woman's Suffrage Society is up against what amounts to an hereditary Parliament, consisting of 36 non-party members, ostensibly "elected" every five years by the thirteen hundred white males out of a population of 35,000 whites and blacks, but virtually controlled by, and almost entirely comprised of, elderly male members of only eight families, whose proud boast it is that they have controlled the colony for three centuries. They have blocked all attempts hitherto to let women vote on the same terms as men—that is, if they own land worth £60.

The Manchester Guardian.

POLICEWOMEN IN BERLIN.

There appears to be some jealousy of their women colleagues on the part of the men police. This jealousy is apparently on account of their obtaining widespread prominence during the last few months. There is no doubt reason for the suggestion that the women police get a great deal of publicity, but surely this is only because of the newness and perhaps unexpected development of the idea in Germany. It is probable that when the original force of men police was inaugurated a certain amount of unwanted publicity was their lot, but this does not prove that it was the fault of the men, or that in the case of the women police they have done anything spectacular in order to encourage it. It is simply a natural outcome of public interest, and only shows that all and sundry are anxious to understand the question and to assist in making it popular. The men police of Berlin need not necessarily fear for their positions, nor need they—as stated by one or two papers—object to the women obtaining certain privileges not usually given to men, for they must remember that the Berlin policewomen have been very specially chosen and trained for their work. They have long social experience behind them and are recruited for qualifications which are much above the average. They are expected to bring to their work a knowledge, not only of ordinary subjects, but of difficult and obscure social problems.

It also appears to give rise to jealousy that "the greeting of a criminal commissary (in a force) is acknowledged by a nod on the part of the Police President, but he goes up to the *Fraülein Kriminal Sekretär* and shakes her by the hand in a friendly fashion." It seems absurd that such a small detail should arouse even a comment, but we read that great exception is taken by the men to this particular procedure and that the "fuss" about women police is much resented. We would advise the women who are doing such admirable work in Berlin to "sit tight" and refrain from all controversy on the subject, as the matter will adjust itself by their position becoming so usual and recognised that the general public accepts them and says nothing.

The Policewoman's Review.

WOMAN INVENTOR.

Secures First Patent Issued by Irish Free State.

Woman has scored a double victory in the Irish Free State.

Not only has a woman, Mrs. Clara Boag, of Blackrock, County Dublin, taken out the first patent issued in the history of the State, but her invention relates to motor-cars—a subject previously the absolute monopoly of male inventors.

Mrs. Boag's invention is a signalling device for cars which allows both the driver's hands to remain on the steering-wheel.

NOT ON YOUR LIFE!

"At a hearing of the Civil Service Commission, Sir John Anderson, of the Home Office, said that women had their own establishment and their own ladders of promotion.

Lord Tomlin: So far as the work is concerned, is it possible to draw any distinction?

Sir John: There is no sharp distinction. Sir John added that he was in favour of the amalgamation of staffs, the recruiting of men and women to the same grades, and of having the same ladder of promotion.

Lord Tomlin: Does that also involve the same rates of pay?

Sir John: No. That is an entirely separate thing."

MEN'S NEST HABITS AND ANTI-FEMINISM.

Mothers are psychologically unpopular as the majority of psychological books are written by men, with not unnaturally an Adam complex, that is, "Blame the woman."

Man, poor soul, may be tied to his mother's apron strings, when, in more modern parlance, we say that he has a "mother-fixation." At first sight it seems pretty obvious that his mother should get the blame, so "Blame the mother," says every male psychologist, and they do the same in writing.

Men who dislike their womenfolk to do anything but pander to their comfort seem to be all tarred with the same brush; that is, they have nest habits, and, like Peter Pan, they refuse to grow up; and, moreover, like Peter, they want a mother and not a wife. Fortunately, Wendy, being a feminist, refused the job. So Peter, like other men who would not marry because he could not find a wife like his dear mother, became a bachelor, as so many men have done for the same reason, namely, that their nest habits would not allow them to face the responsibilities of family life. So the poor mothers are blamed because their sons regress to infancy.

Or, maybe, for a brief hour or two they were venturesome, got engaged, and even perhaps faced the music, or, rather, the marriage, or were among the "missing bridegrooms." If they faced it, what happened then? They demanded that their wives should stay at home and warm their slippers, cook their dinners, air their clothes, etc. If she dared to earn her living in any other way she was told, in the words of the old song, "My mother never did so," and the nearer she kept to his mother's pattern, the more content was he. One man I know was furious because his wife liked cooking, which seemed ridiculously inconsistent, but he said his mother never did any cooking and she should manage her maids so as never to do any either, no matter whether she liked it or no.

The poor man was playing for safety; anything he was accustomed to, pleased him, as it pleases an infant who will often dread new experiences, especially when he has been sheltered too much. The next generation may find a man unhappy because his wife is not a mathematician like his mother before her; and so he will disapprove of her and will consider her stupid.

Now where a man has these nest habits his wife had better make the best of a bad bargain, and her cue is to mother him. After all, it is not the poor soul's fault that he is afraid of growing up and taking a man's part. He is to be pitied for his early training.

I do not, however, agree for one moment that the fault lies only at the mother's door. I think the father must take his share of the blame, and so, too, must the nurses and teachers, and anyone connected with the early training of such a man, who failed to help him to grow up. The mother usually does this by too much maternal solicitude; the father, maybe, by too much paternal solicitude, but more frequently by dominating his son too much so that he becomes afraid, and instead of going through the normal phase, in which he wants to be a man like daddy and to smoke a pipe like daddy, he clings to his mother's apron strings at the age of about eight, when she should encourage him to let them go. Indeed, he should be encouraged from birth to be as independent as possible.

When the father is a bully it is not unnatural that the boy should not wish to grow up. On the other hand, the father should let go. He is apt to disapprove of the boy's developing along his own line, and does not wish him to become independent in his views or in any other way. The boy never learns to think for himself unless he be a rebel.

One frequently finds fathers who so object to their

sons growing up, that they will not allow them to shave; "they are too young to begin," or they refuse to allow latch-keys. Even if it were possible to police them always, their mental growth is retarded and, as Dr. Crichton Miller puts it so well, they are still spiritually filial.

One may argue that if the father is a good man, why not? For the reason that it is just these misfits whose development has been arrested at any stage who afterwards have nervous breakdowns. More and more it is being recognised that it is just the failure of parents to give spiritual freedom to their children, by making them afraid of life either by the unhappy example they set them or by too much coddling, which fills our asylums. More and more it is being recognised, too, that heredity is comparatively unimportant, but that it is environment that counts.

The other day a mother was telling me what a paragon of a boy she had, absolutely obedient and so reliable that if he said he would be in by five she was nearly driven crazy if he had not turned up before five minutes past. I asked how old he was, thinking probably about five years. To my horror she told me he was seventeen. Ye Gods! What a paragon!

Again, to quote Dr. Crichton Miller: "When the father is harsh and a menace, and security lies with the mother, a filial dependence on the mother is safer and more rewarded; it is also very detrimental to the boy who gets a failure of character." He also says that the satisfactory husbands are the ones the mothers let go, and that only sons, with dead fathers, make bad mates.

Only sons, with live fathers who won't let them go, make bad mates, too, from what one can see. I have some in particular in my mind who succeed in passing off as quite desirable husbands when their wives are willing to sink their individuality and cry with John Milton, "He for God only; she for God in him." Not only do some of them make themselves believe that they have perfect husbands, but their ego is such that, whatever is connected with them, their ox, their ass, and all that is theirs, is perfect too, a sort of mutual admiration society in which they are able to retain the infantile belief in their own infallibility. Every filially spiritual man with a father or mother who has tied him to their apron strings is not so lucky. So it behoves parents to bring up children to be independent, to stand and not lean, to be "the skippers of their own ships," which way sanity lies.

DR. MARION MACKENZIE.

The Vote.

MR. THOMAS' BAD SHOT.

Mr. Thomas has made a bad shot. Having been chosen to redeem the Government's pledge to cure unemployment, he has had to make a pronouncement, and he has taken a deep breath and pronounced against pin-money. There would be less employment, it seems, if women who do part time work without having any economic necessity to earn money gave up doing it. Well, Mr. Thomas had to say something, and to say something that would upset as few people as possible. There would be less unemployment, some think, if we were to scoop out a Channel Tunnel, or set in motion other large public works, but this would necessitate the putting of hands in pockets, an idea repugnant to many, and many, including the influential, would be upset. No, better keep our hands from our pockets and insist that it is the women who are earning pin-money who are the authors of our troubles. The pin-money women may be upset, but they are not influential.

How the scheme would help the unemployed is not clear. Even if we allow the bad economic logic to pass, and take Mr. Thomas' (apparent) view that work does not breed more work, but that there is only a limited

amount of it and not enough to go round, the pin-money women would have to be fantastically numerous and highly paid before the cessation of their efforts would be felt as a benefit by the unemployed.

As a matter of fact, they are not numerous. Most women work because they want to or because they have to, and when they work it is apt to be for eight hours a day. The number of women who earn a little money "for extras" is remarkably small, and women have a long way to go in the economic world before the numbers of leisured and personally independent women can compare with the numbers of leisured and independent men.

Mr. Thomas has not done much harm by his suggestion. He has merely irritated a few people who are more deserving of respect than rebuke. Perhaps he will have better luck next time.

ADA AUSTIN.

DEBATE IN THE STOCKHOLM CITY COUNCIL ON WOMEN POLICE.

At the last meeting of the City Council of Stockholm, Mrs. Törnell moved a resolution that the City should employ women police under the same conditions of training, authority, pay and promotion as policemen.

Some years ago she moved a similar motion which met with great opposition from the men and even from many women, who did not believe that women would or could take up such hard and dangerous work. They did not consider that women had the ability to deal with criminals and feared that they would be easily duped. During the three and a half years that have elapsed since then, there has been lively discussion on this question, and the experience of the good work done by the "Police Sisters" has convinced women that they ought to be given a better status. Finally cases of offences against children and young people have shown the necessity for an organised staff of women to take charge of certain classes of offences.

The discussion in the Council reflected public opinion. In principle all the members, except the communists, agreed as to the need for police women to patrol streets and parks and examine female offenders. The Chief of Police and the Board of Administrators emphasised the good work of the Police Sisters and wished to augment their numbers from the present figure of six to nine. A woman councillor wanted eleven, but the women opposed this proposal as a solution of the problem, and approved Mrs. Törnell's resolution, which was equally unanimously opposed by the men—opinion being in this case untouched by party feeling.

JENNY VELANDER.

THE NEW YEAR.

The Editor seizes the excuse afforded by the New Year and the tradition which associates it with the making of good resolutions to appeal to readers of *Jus* to remember their paper when they are wondering in what way they can show their zeal for the Cause in 1930.

We have lately received news from Miss Amy Maher, an old subscriber and a United States delegate to the Berlin Congress, that at a meeting of her local Branch of the League of Women Voters, she obtained no less than eight new subscribers. When we think that our branch societies make a net-work over the civilised world, and what a valuable increase it would give to our circulation, if each local auxiliary would take out even one subscription, and what an encouragement such an increased interest would be to those of us who are even now making plans for the improvement of the paper, we are moved to make a heartfelt appeal to our friends to give us their active help in this matter. A subscription form appears on the back page.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LETTRE DE GENEVE.

Peu de réunions de grandes Commissions de la S.d.N. durant ce mois, une fois terminée celle de la Commission des Mandats; mais nombre de sessions de petites Commissions et sous-Commissions d'études, dans lesquelles il ne s'accomplit pas moins d'utile et intéressant travail. Voici, par exemple, les séances du Comité d'experts institué par l'Institut international du Cinématographe éducatif de Rome, pour étudier les possibilités d'un accord international en vue de supprimer ou de réduire les droits de douane qui frappent les films éducatifs à leur entrée dans les divers pays: ce Comité a élaboré un avant-projet exemptant de ces droits les films éducatifs et a en outre procédé à la définition très-nécessaire de ce qu'est un film "éducatif." Nombre de Sociétés féminines étant préoccupées, et avec raison, par la question du cinéma, et de son influence bonne ou mauvaise, il peut être intéressant de relever ici cette définition du Comité d'experts:

Seront considérés comme films éducatifs:

1. Les films destinés à faire connaître la Société des Nations.
2. Les films faits en vue de l'enseignement à tous ses degrés.
3. Les films pour la formation ou l'orientation professionnelle, ainsi que les films pour l'organisation scientifique du travail.
4. Les films de recherches scientifiques ou techniques.
5. Les films destinés aux Sociétés savantes ou aux institutions scientifiques.
6. Les films d'hygiène et de prévention sociale.

En outre, toute demande ayant pour objet la constatation du caractère éducatif d'un film devra être adressée pour examen à l'Institut international du Cinématographe éducatif de Rome, accompagnée d'un avis délivré dans chaque pays par un organisme qualifié désigné par le Gouvernement de ce pays. Ce sont là d'utiles mesures pour empêcher toute tentative de profiter de l'exemption des droits de douanes pour des films commercialisés.

Une autre Commission dont le travail nous intéresse aussi très-directement est le Comité des conditions du travail dans l'industrie textile du Bureau International du Travail. Une vaste enquête a été en effet décidée par le Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T. sur ce sujet important, enquête qui doit porter sur 19 pays (pour l'Europe: Gde-Bretagne, France, Belgique, Allemagne, Pologne, Tchécoslovaquie, Espagne, Pays-Bas, Autriche, Hongrie, Roumanie, Royaume S.C.S., et Suisse; pour l'Amérique: Etats Unis, Mexique et Brésil; et pour l'Asie: Inde, Chine et Japon). Seront considérées les industries textiles de la laine et du coton, et plus tard celle de la soie artificielle. La durée du travail, les salaires, le chômage, l'hygiène, la prévention des accidents, le travail des hommes, le travail des femmes, celui des enfants, consisteront les principaux chapitres de cette très-importante enquête.

Vu la part très-forte qu'ont les femmes au travail textile, le Board de l'Alliance avait exprimé au Directeur du B.I.T., M. Albert Thomas, lors de l'entretien qu'il avait eu avec lui à Genève au mois de septembre, ses regrets que cette Commission d'enquête ne comprît point de femmes; ce à quoi M. Thomas avait répondu que c'était une Commission du Conseil d'Administration du B.I.T., formée par conséquent de membres de ce Conseil, lequel ne comprend malheureusement point de femmes, non pas de la faute du B.I.T. mais de celle des gouvernements et des organismes patronaux et ouvriers qui y sont représentés! Mais le Directeur du B.I.T. nous avait suggéré alors une démarche pour faire entrer les femmes par une autre porte dans cette Commission:

celle de demander aux membres de la Commission de s'adjoindre des femmes spécialistes des conditions du travail dans le textile à titre d'experts. La Commission s'étant réunie le 9 décembre, la lettre suivante a été adressée à tous ses membres:

Genève, le 6 décembre 1929.

Monsieur,

L'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes a pris connaissance avec grand intérêt de la décision prise au Bureau International du Travail de faire une enquête sur les conditions du travail dans l'industrie textile de 10 pays d'Europe, d'Amérique et d'Asie. L'industrie textile étant en effet une de celles qui comprend une forte proportion de travailleuses féminines, les 3/5 suivant certaines évaluations, l'utilité de cette enquête est d'une importance trop évidente pour que les organisations féminines n'en saluent pas l'initiative avec satisfaction.

D'autre part, et en raison justement de cette si forte proportion de travailleuses féminines, il nous paraît qu'il serait aussi désirable qu'équitable que des membres féminins fussent adjoints à titre d'experts à cette Commission, et c'est cette demande que nous prenons la liberté de venir aujourd'hui vous présenter. Puisque, lors de sa précédente réunion des 24 et 25 juin 1929, plusieurs membres de différents groupes de la Commission avaient amené avec eux des experts, un précédent a été ainsi établi quant à la présence d'experts, et en second lieu, le fait que les questionnaires, et tableaux préparés par le B.I.T. pour cette enquête contiennent, conformément à la décision prise par la Commission, des divisions spéciales relatives aux conditions du travail des femmes dans le textile,—ce fait nous semble-t-il, la présence de femmes experts dans cette Commission.

Nous espérons donc très vivement, Monsieur, que vous voudrez bien tenir compte de notre demande en vous faisant accompagner, lors de la prochaine session de la Commission, d'une femme spécialiste des conditions du travail féminin dans le textile, assurant ainsi la présence de femmes à la session de la Conférence Internationale du Travail qui s'occupera de cette matière.

En vous remerciant d'avance de l'accueil bienveillant que vous voudrez bien réserver à cette demande, nous vous prions de croire à l'assurance de notre considération distinguée.

Pour l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage et l'Action civique et politique des Femmes.

La Secrétaire: EMILIE GOURD.

A part une lettre du Secrétaire général du Comité National de l'Union générale des Travailleurs espagnols, M. Francisco Caballero (Madrid) nous informant que "son organisation fera le possible pour tenir compte de nos justes désirs," nous n'avons pas reçu au moment où ces lignes sont écrites de réponses officielles à notre demande; et fort probablement aurons-nous à revenir prochainement sur ce sujet.

Nous avons reçu malheureusement trop tard pour pouvoir les mentionner dans JUS des avis de vacances de postes pouvant intéresser des femmes compétentes et qualifiées au Secrétariat de la S.d.N.; et d'ailleurs toutes nos Sociétés affiliées en ont été informées par circulaire spéciale.

Enfin, nous ne pouvons que mentionner, faute de place suffisante pour en rendre compte, le très-intéressant débat que la Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté a eu l'excellente idée d'organiser à la "Maison Internationale," sur la question de plus en plus brûlante de la législation protectrice de la femme qui travaille. Mlle. Martha Mundt, fonctionnaire du B.I.T., a soutenu la point de vue de la protection, et Miss Edith Rodgers, représentante à Genève de l'Open Door Council, celui de l'égalité absolue des conditions du travail entre hommes et femmes. Une discussion fort animée a suivi, dans laquelle il a paru (mais aucun vote n'ayant été émis, on ne peut parler d'une opinion manifestée) que l'assistance, de composition internationale, et en majorité anglo-saxonne, était plutôt favorable à la thèse de Mlle. Mundt. Et cette réunion a été pour nous toutes comme un avant-goût de l'intérêt passionnant que présentera la grande Conférence Internationale organisée par l'Alliance en 1932.

E. GD.

'LE FEMINISME EN SUISSE'

Ce petit précis, écrit par Mme. Annie Leuch Reinek sur le féminisme en Suisse a été publié à l'occasion de la "Saffa" ou Exposition nationale du Travail féminin.

C'est un exposé des vertus et des progrès du mouvement beaucoup plus que de ses succès. Car, si les associations culturelles, de confessions diverses, ont admis la femme aussi bien que l'homme au sein de leurs corps élus, ce n'est encore que par faveur, qu'elle siège aux commissions administratives du canton ou du Gouvernement fédéral.

Ce qui frappe le lecteur étranger, à la lecture de ce petit livre c'est d'abord le fait suivant: Tandis que les pays anglo-saxons et même la France font porter leur effort sur la revendication des droits de la femme, la Suisse se préoccupe d'abord de former la jeune fille, ou la mère de famille à l'exercice de ses devoirs, la préparant ainsi à mériter ses droits, quand il plaira à l'opinion masculine de les lui accorder. Ce caractère décidément féministe beaucoup plus que suffragiste est particulièrement marqué en Suisse allemande où le premier souci est de former la femme à son rôle de maîtresse de maison, comme en témoignent les nombreuses associations à tendance domestique, et l'inclusion d'un enseignement post scolaire ménager dans les programmes des Ecoles primaires. Le mouvement féministe de la Suisse romande a une tendance plus nettement sociale. Tandis que la "Société d'utilité publique des femmes suisses" se fonde à Aarau en 1888 et crée les premières écoles ménagères, "l'Union des femmes de Suisse romande" procède à des enquêtes sur la main d'œuvre féminine à l'usine et à domicile, essaye d'unir les ouvrières en groupements corporatifs et fonde à Genève le premier syndicat des Institutrices.

Le livre se divise en trois parties:

- (1) L'origine de la question féminine.
- (2) Le développement du mouvement.
- (3) La guerre et le mouvement féministe.

"Du jour où la femme apprend à lire, il y eut une question féministe" écrit Marie von Ebner Echenbach. En effet les premières traces de l'activité intellectuelle et sociale des femmes se remarquent dans les couvents; les nonnes étant les "intellectuelles" du moyen âge. Les procès verbaux de la ville de Berne au XVIIe siècle mentionnent le nom de Sarah Schewerlin, fondatrice de l'Ecole de jeune filles et championne de la profession d'institutrice. L'œuvre pour la cause de l'éducation féminine a ses apôtres, avec en 1700, Hortensia Gugelberg, et au XIXe siècle Mme. Necker de Saussure, Pestalozzi et ses élèves notamment la célèbre Rosette Niederer Kathofer; qui réclamait une culture physique, intellectuelle et morale identique pour les deux sexes. En 1872, Madame Marie Goegg prit l'initiative d'une pétition de mères de famille qui obtint l'entrée des jeunes filles aux études académiques. Les Universités leur furent ouvertes avant la fin du XIXe siècle, la Suisse se montrant en cela plus avancée que les pays voisins.

L'activité sociale des femmes suisses s'exerça d'abord dans les œuvres philanthropiques et la propagande abolitionniste dirigée à l'étranger par Josephine Butler, trouva en Suisse nombre de partisans parmi les associations confessionnelles, notamment en Suisse allemande où se fonda "la Société des amies de la jeune fille."

Les noms de deux femmes de grand cœur et de haute distinction d'esprit méritent une mention particulière; ceux de Mme. Goegg et d'Hélène de Mülinen. Cette dernière consacre sa science du droit à la cause féminine, elle provoque des discussions à propos de l'inclusion des lois ouvrières dans le code civil, et, succès sans précédent, elle obtient d'assimiler, à l'article de l'assurance sociale, l'accouchement à une maladie, clause qu'attendent encore les ouvrières des pays étrangers. En 1901 se fonde à Genève le premier "Foyer féminin;"

en 1909 c'est la ligue sociale d'acheteurs qui met en relation les producteurs et les ménagères.

La guerre mondiale fortifia la solidarité féminine suisse. La Société d'utilité publique passa une Convention avec la Croix Rouge pour l'organisation des secours aux internés, évacués et blessés. Détail touchant; ce sont les ménagères suisses qui ont créé: "La lessive de guerre" pour l'entretien du linge des soldats.

D'autre part la répercussion économique de la guerre, créait des problèmes nouveaux auxquels il fallait faire face. L'industrie du tourisme périssait. Les ouvrières chômaient. On essaya de leur trouver de nouveaux débouchés et en attendant on les enrôla dans des écoles ménagères pour leur apprendre l'exercice d'une nouvelle économie, nécessitée par la dureté des temps. Economie plus nécessaire encore après la guerre quand la Suisse dut lutter contre les pays à change bas. Depuis 1920 ont été créés des "offices d'orientation professionnelle," des bureaux d'entraide et d'échanges féminins. En 1923 le gouvernement zurichois approuve un contrat de travail normal pour les domestiques.

Le mouvement féministe suisse a sa presse particulière: C'est le "Schweizer Frauenblatt" à St. Gall avec comme rédactrice Mme. Hélène David, le "Mouvement féministe" à Genève dirigé par Melle. Gourd. Mme. Combe rédige à l'usage des milieux ouvriers de la Suisse romande, un hebdomadaire, intitulé "Notre Samedi Soir."

Depuis le XXe siècle, nombre d'associations nouvelles se sont fondées: C'est en 1919, la Fédération suisse des Associations d'employées, puis l'Union féminine suisse des Arts et Métiers; l'Association des paysannes de Schaffouse; l'Union des ménagères, à Bâle et à Berne; le Lyceum Suisse, l'Association des femmes universitaires. Il existe des Sociétés sportives telles que les Eclairées, le club des Alpinistes; enfin l'association philanthropique pour le Bon du Soldat, a fondé une maison du Peuple.

Les dirigeants du parti socialiste font une large part aux femmes et appuient leurs revendications pour l'égalité du vote. Depuis 1913 des motions soutenues par des parlementaires éminents réclament chaque année le suffrage féminin. Les Grands Conseils des cantons de Neuchâtel, Bâle, Zurich, Genève, ont accepté ces motions mais le vote populaire les a continuellement repoussées. Les commissions scolaires sont les seules où les femmes aient, légalement, le droit de siéger.

Il semble donc que le féminisme suisse qui a tout fait pour rehausser la dignité, la valeur intellectuelle et sociale de la femme soit bien mal récompensé de ses efforts, et ce qu'un observateur désintéressé pourrait lui conseiller, serait de travailler désormais à l'éducation des masses masculines, et à l'organisation scientifique de la propagande pour le suffrage.

ALINE M. REES.

UNE ENTREVUE AVEC CLEMENCEAU.

Les philosophes sont péniblement arrivés, à travers les broussailles des discussions métaphysiques, à croire, et même à dire, que la dignité de la femme n'est peut-être pas inférieure à celle de l'homme. Sans attendre cette laborieuse démonstration, de modestes créatures ont commencé par prendre, d'elles-mêmes, la place de noblesse à laquelle elles ont prouvé leur droit en l'occupant.

GEORGES CLEMENCEAU.
(L'Homme Enchaîné.)

Pour nous, féministes, nous avons une dette de reconnaissance envers Georges Clémenceau. Certes, ce n'était pas un ardent suffragiste et il ne nous cachait pas sa

crainte de l'influence réactionnaire qui pouvait résulter du vote intégral féminin; mais il était de ceux qui reconnaissent l'intelligence des femmes, l'utilité de leur collaboration et il sut nous le prouver.

En 1919, l'Union pour le Suffrage des femmes avait invité à Paris des femmes éminentes des pays alliés, pour tenter d'agir sur les plénipotentiaires réunis chez nous pour préparer le traité de paix. Des femmes vinrent à notre appel des Etats-Unis, de Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, de Belgique, de l'Afrique du Sud et de la Nouvelle-Zélande, et, d'accord avec elles, nous décidâmes de rendre visite à tous les délégués pour obtenir que la nouvelle Charte du monde qui s'élaborait à Paris tienne compte du programme international des femmes.

C'est ainsi que nous sommes allées un matin, voir Georges Clémenceau à son cabinet de la rue Saint-Dominique. Il nous reçut avec la plus amicale bienveillance et sa simplicité habituelle.

"Que voulez-vous de moi?" nous demanda-t-il.— Nous lui expliquâmes alors le but de notre visite: aucune femme ne siégeait dans la Commission qui préparait la Charte du Travail, bien que celle-ci dût, cependant, atteindre toutes les travailleuses du monde; aucune femme ne collaborait avec les plénipotentiaires à l'établissement du Pacte de la Société des Nations dont la répercussion serait pourtant aussi grande sur les femmes que sur les hommes. Nous lui demandions donc son appui pour être entendues par la Commission du Travail qui siégeait aux Affaires Etrangères et par l'Assemblée des plénipotentiaires réunis à l'Hôtel Crillon. Il écouta ensuite avec attention les points principaux de notre programme et notamment notre désir que les femmes puissent, comme les hommes, accéder à tous les postes de la Société des Nations. Quand nous eûmes fini, il nous dit: "C'est entendu, je trouve cela juste et je vous soutiendrai." Et comme nous nous levions aussitôt pour ne pas abuser de son temps, il nous dit, en souriant: "Vous réussirez, car vous savez vous en aller quand vous avez obtenu ce que vous désirez: tout l'art de la diplomatie est là." Et il ajouta en nous serrant la main: "Et puis, vous savez, le vote, cela viendra aussi, mais ne le demandez pas tout d'un coup."

Clémenceau tint sa parole et lorsque nous fûmes reçues à l'Hôtel Crillon, il fut de ceux qui, sur la proposition de Lord Robert Cecil, acceptèrent l'entrée des femmes à la Société des Nations.

Nous nous devons de signaler ce fait à la reconnaissante attention des femmes de tous les pays.

C. BRUNSCHVICG.
La Française.

OUBLI.

Ces jours derniers, devant les mairies de Paris, des affiches vertes et jaunes placées dans des panneaux réservés annonçaient que les élections consulaires avaient lieu le 4 décembre. Il s'agissait de nommer des membres de la Chambre de Commerce de Paris et des juges au Tribunal de Commerce; l'affiche portait toutes les indications et la liste des candidats.

Or cette affiche, qui faisait appel aux électeurs, débutait ainsi:

Messieurs les Electeurs.

Je restai un moment interloquée, me demandant pour quelle raison les femmes qui sont électeurs et éligibles aux Chambres de Commerce et électeurs aux Tribunaux de Commerce n'étaient pas mentionnées et je montai jusqu'au bureau compétent de la Mairie pour avoir une explication.

"Que s'est-il donc passé, demandai-je. Pourquoi ce seul appel à Messieurs les Electeurs!"

"C'est un oubli, me répondit en souriant le chef de bureau: vous avez tout à fait raison. On n'a pas pensé que les femmes avaient le vote. D'ailleurs il en est venu quand même pour voter."

Bien entendu, nous comptons écrire à la personne responsable de cette faute. Mais qu'on ne se plaigne plus désormais si les femmes ne participent pas nombreuses aux élections consulaires, puisque ceux-là même qui devraient faire appel à elles négligent de les convoquer.

Combien de temps, Mesdames, acceptez-vous d'être ainsi et perpétuellement des oubliées?

C. BRUNSCHVICG.

SYRIE.

La présidente de la Société affiliée à l'Alliance, "L'Association académique des Femmes arabes," nous fait part qu'un congrès Oriental Arabes aura lieu au printemps à Damas, de tous les Etats Orientaux Arabes, dont les délégués répondront à l'invitation. Elle dit: "Nous recevrons avec plaisir des délégués de tous les pays pour assister à ce Congrès, mais le droit de vote ne sera accordé qu'aux délégués du proche Orient. Le but de ce Congrès sera de régler les questions suivantes:

1. Le suffrage féminin.
2. Alliance féministe Arabe.
3. Le relèvement du niveau de la littérature arabe.
4. La propagande pour des produits nationaux.
5. La Culture complète des filles.
6. Réglements à suivre dans le traitement des enfants.

Mme. Nour Harmada Bey conclut sa lettre en nous promettant sous peu plus de détails, que nous attendons avec le plus vif intérêt.

Une heureuse nouvelle.

Mademoiselle Marcelle Renson, avocat près la Cour d'Appel de Bruxelles, sur la proposition de M. Paul Hymans, ministre des affaires étrangères, a été désignée pour accompagner la délégation belge qui participera aux travaux de la conférence pour la codification du droit International qui tiendra ses assises, sous les auspices de la Société des Nations, à la Haye, en Mars, 1930.

ROUMANIE

HISTOIRE DE LA VICTOIRE SUFFRAGISTE.

Dans les formes d'activité sociale qui s'établissent entre les divers groupements humains, forcément solidaires les uns des autres, y-a-t-il ou non besoin de vérité et de justice? Solidarité, Justice, Vérité, n'est ce pas l'idéal de ce mouvement féministe qui après une lutte de 18 ans entrevoit la victoire prochaine.

Donc comme pionnière, c'est à vol d'oiseau que je vous ferai voyager en Roumanie, que je vous citerai ces noms de femmes et d'hommes qui mêmes s'ils n'ont apporté qu'un grain de sable ont contribué à bâtir le glorieux édifice d'aujourd'hui.

La Roumanie ne s'est éveillée à la vie nationale que depuis à peine 70 ans. Les dominations farouches et les invasions successives ont laissé tomber en notre âme, comme en un creuset, une infinité de tendances et de passions contradictoires que le tamis du temps n'a pas encore tiré air clair. Pourtant des grandes qualités se sont fait jour dans l'âme de l'homme comme celle de la femme. Si les hommes ont eu leurs tacticiens et leurs politiques, nous avons eu aussi nos remarquables femmes d'action et nos stratèges. A côté de noms célèbres, dont je ne peux vous parler aujourd'hui, il y a des femmes qui ont commencé serrer les liens des intérêts féminins, ce qui a préparé le terrain pour le suffragisme actuel. Citons la princesse Hélène Couza, née Rossetti, Ana Davilla, Irène Campineanu. Arrêtons-nous à cette Sophie Cocea qui fait un vrai travail suffragiste du fait que l'an 1830 elle écrit plus-

ieurs articles politiques en poussant la femme à collaborer à côté de l'homme pour la bonheur du peuple.

Mme. Cornélia Emilian de Jassy, qui a compris la grande importance de la liberté économique pour la femme, a créé la "Réunion des Femmes Roumaines" avec son école professionnelle, une des meilleures qui existent aussi aujourd'hui.

En 1891, j'étais toute jeune alors, je reçus une lettre de Mme. Chéliga-Loevry de Paris, Secrétaire de l'Union Universelle des Femmes, qui me pria d'organiser une société à l'occasion du grand congrès qui se tenait alors à Paris le 25 avril. Je cherchai avec l'appui de M. Georges Panu, directeur du journal "Lupta," président du parti radical, à éveiller les femmes. J'écrivis des articles dans le journal "L'Union des Femmes," ainsi que dans "Lupta" sous le pseudonyme "Jöhn." J'envoyai comme délégué au Congrès M. le Dr. Bacalogue qui était alors étudiant à Paris. Mais le début de propagande n'eut pas de suites.

Ce n'est qu'en 1894 que la même Mme. Cornelia Emilian—un type de Suzanne B. Anthony—avec son petit livre très énergique "Le Droit du Poing" lança la Société féminine "La Ligue des Femmes en Roumanie." Sans demander ouvertement le droit de vote, elle présenta un mémoire couvert de 500 signatures par lequel elle demanda plusieurs réformes législatives et la recherche de la paternité. Mais la Ligue et son Bulletin disparût avec la mort de Mme. Emilian.

Au même moment Mlle. Sarmisa Bibescu, actuellement Alimanasteanu Dr. en droit de Paris réclamait son inscription au Barreau. En 1888, le journal de Mme. Flechtmacher "La Femme Roumaine," et plus tard Adèle Xenopol avec son journal "Viitorul Romancei" continuaient la campagne suffragiste.

L'année 1906, à l'occasion de notre grande exposition, j'ai lancé un "Appel" reproduit par tous les journaux d'alors, pour une société suffragiste. Il s'était créé cette année là deux sociétés "Spriginul" sous la direction de Mme. Dr. Alexandrescu et Catherine Arbore, et "Cultura si Ajutorul Femeii" sous la présidence de feu Mme. Hélène Phérihide, qui soutenaient le féminisme sans être ouvertement suffragiste.

L'an 1908 une femme qui a quelque chose d'un apôtre, qui par la tenacité et le sacrifice ressemble à notre chère Anna Shaw, Mlle. Thérèse Stratulescu, organise à Jassy sa société "Union des Educatrices Roumaines," oeuvre d'une foi ardente et d'un désintéressement totale. Le cercle crée des ateliers pour les classes pauvres, poursuit l'émancipation morale fondée sur l'indépendance économique, a une revue "Union des Femmes Roumaines," et continue jusqu'à aujourd'hui son activité laborieuse et nécessaire.

Nous arrivons à 1911, date de la création de la première société purement suffragiste "Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme," qui pose ouvertement dans ses statuts le principe du droit. Cette société vit encore, j'en suis la présidente, élue à vie l'an 1925. Elle a plusieurs filiales et a eu un journal "Le Droit de la Femme," qui m'appartient. Cette Ligue, en 1913, amena chez nous pour la propagande, la députée Annie Furuhejelm, et la nomma sa présidente d'honneur. La Ligue, lors du Congrès de Budapest, en 1913, s'affilia à l'Internationale. L'an 1914 la Ligue présenta aux chambres, par l'intermédiaire de M. le Député et ex-Ministre de Justice Jean Th. Florescu, le premier mémoire réclamant nos droits, appuyé de 800 signatures. Le même mémoire fut aussi présenté au Sénat par M. le Sénateur et bâtonnier des avocats Constantin Penescu. La Ligue organisa une école pour les ouvrières qui siègea dans la maison même de la présidente, tint ses séances dans l'Aula du Lycée Lazar et, avec le Dr. Nicolas Minovici second vice-présidente, soutint longtemps et avec succès le gros et hardi travail de propagande purement suffragiste.

L'an 1916 la Ligue créa la section horticulture

pour les femmes. Le grand journaliste Alexandre Ciurcu était l'âme et le directeur de cette œuvre d'action. La mairie nous céda deux champs de culture à Herastrau. L'horticulture était nécessaire alors pour le ravitaillement mais vint l'occupation étrangère pendant la guerre de 1916 et l'Horticulteur disparut.

L'activité de la Ligue se manifesta pendant la guerre par le travail de ses membres dans les hôpitaux, par un secours donné aux trente enfants de soldats partis pour la guerre, et par quelques conférences tenues durant l'occupation même à Bucarest.

Parallèle à cette lutte de la Ligue, était celle que Mmes. les avocats Hélène Popovici et surtout l'énergique et vaillant Ela Negrutzi soutenaient pour conquérir leur inscription au Barreau. Et la campagne d'opposition acharnée que lui firent certains avocats restera légendaire.

En 1917 les femmes de Jassy sans être constituées en société ont présenté leur seconde pétition pour le suffrage. En 1918 durant l'occupation, une nouvelle société suffragiste était née à Jassy. "L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la Femme Roumaine" sous la présidence d'une femme vaillante et de haute culture, Mme. Hélène Meissner. Pendant quelque temps les deux Sociétés travaillèrent parallèlement. La Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme tint ses séances à l'Université et atteint le gros public en vendant dans la rue le journal "Droit des Femmes"; L'Association pour l'Emancipation de la Femme tint ses conférences au Sénat.

En 1919 durant le gouvernement du parti libéral, le Ministre de l'Intérieur, M. Georges Marzescu, par un décret-loi donna à la femme le droit d'être co-optée dans les conseils communaux.

Durant les années 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 le propagande suffragiste est soutenue par les thés suffragistes des deux sociétés, par les journaux "Droit des Femmes" et "L'Action féminine," dirigée par la vaillante Valentine Tocsca, et par diverses conférences. Celles de la Ligue sont présidées par de grands hommes politiques comme Dr. Nicolas Lupu, Jules Maniu, Alexandre Vaida Voevod, Basile Stoica, etc. Ces Conférences sont tenues dans la salle Fondation Charles I, qui est bondé d'un monde d'élite. La question féministe a pris un grand développement. Des hommes comme Torga, Maniu, Vaida-Voevod, Dr. Nicolas Lupu, Jean Duca, Goldis, Nicolas Saveanu, Polizu Micsunesti, Virgil Madgearu, Sever Dan, Grégoire Junian, Dr. Aurel Dobrescu, Djuvara, Parthanie, Dmetre Dobrescu, Constantin Argetvianu—tous des ex ou actuels ministres. Il ne faut pas oublier des journalistes comme feu Constantin Mille et Nicolas Filipescu, qui nous ont prêté tout l'appui de leurs journaux "Advarul," "Dimineata," "Epoca," Jean Theodorescu, Batzaria qui ont donné des conférences et écrit des articles; des hommes comme Dmetre Negulescu, notre représentant actuel à la Cour de Justice de la Haye, premier membre de la Ligue; le professeur d'université Ovid Densusianu, feu Christu Negoscu et Palladi, etc. Il faut pas oublier non plus parmi ces personnes Mesdames Marie Butureanu, Ana Contatthernebach, Marie Moruzzi, la poétesse, Marie Dr. Gavrilescu aujourd'hui décédées.

La lutte a continué plus aigre durant les années 1922—1929. Durant une année les trois sociétés, Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme l'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la Femme et le Conseil National, ont eu de concert quatre splendides réunions. Les salles étaient bondées et nous avons obtenu en 1923 cette victoire d'une porte ouverte dans la nouvelle constitution, par l'Article No. 6. De distinguées femmes orateurs comme Marie Bamlescu, Marie Pop, Isabelle Sadoveanu, Ortense Satmary, Ella Negrutzi, Alexandrine Cantacuzene, Calypso Botez, Hélène Meissner, Eugénie de Reuss, Hélène Manticatide, Venert Henriette Gavrilescu, Lucia Nichifor, Steliana

Ciortescu, Michaela Catargi, Margareta Ghelmegeanu—toutes celles-là démontrèrent à l'homme la force intellectuelle et organisée du mouvement féministe prêt pour la lutte et pour la victoire.

La Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme, tout en continuant ses très fréquentes réunions dans la plus grande et historique salle de Bucarest, "Salle Dacia," a fait depuis l'an 1921 un travail politique à côté du parti national sous la présidence de M. Jules Maniu, premier ministre; actuel travail de réunions dans le club même, travail qui lui donne la possibilité de faire la statistique de l'état social-moral des secteurs de Bucarest (le secteur est une division administrative).

En 1926 naquit une autre sœur suffragiste la "Solidaritatea." Comme marraine j'assistai à son baptême et je l'affiliai à l'Internationale. Cette société eut comme présidente Mme Hélène Odobescu, succédée aujourd'hui par Mme. Alexandrine Cantacuzène.

Après les élections, nous allons commencer la campagne pour l'obtention des droits intégraux. S'il est nécessaire de se reposer un peu pour préparer et jeter dans la lutte des éléments jeunes, pourtant il faut bénéficier de l'atmosphère d'émancipation que nous a préparé le parti national-paysan. Dès l'année 1907 les membres de ce parti comme députés à Bucarest ont préparé la loi qui demandait le droit de vote féminin. M. Etienne Cicio Popp actuel président de la Chambre, a préparé la loi. M. Alexandre Vaisa Voevod, actuel ministre de l'intérieur, l'a soutenu. M. Jules Maniu, chef du parti national lors de l'union de la Transylvanie à la patrie mère—la Roumanie—a déclaré à Alba Julia que la femme aurait des droits égaux à l'homme. C'est pour cela qu'en venant au pouvoir leur idéal de liberté pour la femme—après 23 ans—s'est affirmé en devenant loi. Si pour le moment nous n'avons que les droits de vote et d'éligibilité pour les conseils de communes, de municipalités et de départements, M. Grégoire Junian, ministre de justice, a préparé, et fera voter sous peu la loi par laquelle la femme obtiendra son majorat civil. Et si ce n'est par une indiscrétion, M. le Ministre Alexandre Vaida Voevod lors de la motion de loi soutint nos droits avec toute la chaleur de son âme loyale et sa large intelligence, accordant à la femme l'intégralité de ses droits: le premier ministre souri et approuva.

Les autres de cette loi sont Messieurs Constantin Sterca, Paul Negulescu, Alesciu, Romulus Boila, et elle a été revue par Eduard Myrto, sous-secrétaire d'Etat près le ministère de l'intérieur: les uns députés et professeurs d'université—tous membres du parti national-paysan. On peut espérer, la victoire avec des hommes de cette envergure et qui savent persister dans une idée.

La Ligue des Droits et Devoirs de la Femme, n'a-t-elle pas le droit de s'estimer heureuse et fière d'avoir travaillé durant huit années à côté d'un tel parti?

EUGENIE JANCULESCU
(née Princesse de Reuss-Mirza)

Présidente de la Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Grande Bretagne.

Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'Égalité Civique.—Service de Commémoration à Dame Millicent Fawcett.—Le 19 Novembre, un service a été célébré à l'Abbaye de Westminster en l'honneur de Dame Millicent Fawcett. L'église était comble. Des membres du gouvernement, des personnalités éminentes, des délégations étrangères, des femmes qui l'avaient aidée dans son oeuvre, avaient tenu à apporter leur hommage à la célèbre pionnière du

suffrage en Angleterre. Le service n'eut rien d'un service funèbre; ce fut une manifestation triomphale de gratitude et d'admiration pour cette noble femme.

Nationalité de la femme mariée.—Toutes les sociétés féministes du pays travaillent à obtenir une décision libérale à la conférence de la Haye sur la codification du Droit international. On espère que le gouvernement nommera une femme déléguée à cette conférence. Un projet de loi qui donnera aux femmes mariées, en Angleterre, le droit de choisir leur nationalité, a été déposé au Parlement cet automne; il a passé en première lecture.

Les femmes dans les municipalités.—L'Acte voté par le dernier Parlement, qui amènera des modifications importantes dans les gouvernements locaux, a, en particulier, transféré les œuvres de bienfaisance à la direction des municipalités. Il en résulte que 3000 femmes environ, qui étaient employées aux œuvres sociales, n'ont plus de travail. L'Union Nationale fait tous ses efforts pour faire élire plus de conseillères municipales; elle y a réussi en partie, mais le nombre des femmes est encore trop faible et certaines municipalités n'en ont pas du tout.

Au Parlement.—Les deux projets de lois les plus importants, discutés à cette session sont: celui sur les pensions aux veuves et celui sur les assurances sociales. Le premier augmente légèrement la pension aux veuves; l'autre abaisse l'âge auquel les jeunes gens et jeunes filles ont droit à l'allocation de chômage. Les deux projets ont été soutenus par la première femme ministre du Cabinet.

Les femmes dans la Police.—L'Union nationale, en co-opération avec le Conseil national des femmes, a pris l'initiative d'une délégation composée de représentantes des principales sociétés féminines, au Ministre de l'Intérieur, au commencement de décembre. Elle ont réclamé l'augmentation du nombre des femmes dans la Police. Mr. Clynes, Ministre, les a reçues avec bienveillance, leur a donné une réponse favorable, et, peu de temps après, il fut annoncé à la Chambre des Communes, que le nombre des femmes dans la Police de Londres (qui dépend du Ministère de l'Intérieur), serait accru de 50 à 100.

(d'après G. HORTON).

Société Londonienne et Nationale pour le Service des Femmes.—Un bien faiteur anonyme a donné à cette société le nouveau Hall à Tufton Street, Westminster. Le Hall a été inauguré le 10 décembre par Annie Vicomtesse Cowdray qui est aussi une donatrice. La cérémonie a été précédée par un dîner au restaurant attaché au Hall et suivie d'une réception à laquelle le nouveau Président, Vicomte Cecil of Chelwood, a assisté. La bibliothèque offerte par la fondation Carnegie et le donateur anonyme, sera bientôt prête, et le Hall, avec son buffet, est déjà à la disposition de tous ceux qui voudront le louer pour des réunions ou des représentations.

Femme Directrice de Port.—Miss Stella Gale, âgée de 21 ans, a été nommée directeur du port de Paignton (Devon). C'est la seule femme du Royaume - Uni qui remplit ce poste.

Turquie.

Le Comité parlementaire d'Angora vient de modifier la formule de la loi de Suffrage de la façon suivante: "Tous les Turcs, femmes ou hommes, ont le droit d'élire ou d'être élus aux élections municipales."

Palestine.

Congrès des Femmes Arabes.—Une centaine de femmes arabes, à l'invitation d'un des chefs du Pouvoir exécutif arabe-musulman-chrétien, se sont réunies en conférence dans sa maison, au mois d'octobre dernier.

Les chrétiennes-arabes ont pris toute l'initiative de ce

congrès, car elles sont mieux préparées par leur éducation et la liberté dont elles jouissent, à ces sortes de manifestations. Toutes les femmes de ce congrès appartenaient aux classes supérieures, les femmes du peuple n'étaient pas représentées.

Une délégation du congrès, composé de musulmanes éminentes et de chrétiennes, fut reçue par le Haut Commissaire à qui elles présentèrent une copie des résolutions du Pouvoir exécutif arabe-musulman-chrétien. Les musulmanes avaient enlevé leur voile, (les chrétiennes n'en portent pas). La délégation se présenta aussi au Mufti—le chef des musulmans de Palestine—et au Patriarche latin, Barlasona. Enfin, elle passa dans les rues principales de Jérusalem, dans des voitures fermées, les musulmanes étant de nouveau voilées.

Le Congrès prit fin vers le soir. Les femmes du Congrès conseillèrent à toutes les femmes arabes de s'organiser afin d'améliorer leur position. Un comité exécutif fut élu.

Il est difficile de croire qu'un progrès féministe si important et si soudain ait eu lieu au sein d'un peuple illettré, car, parmi les femmes musulmanes, 75% à 90% sont illettrées; les arabes chrétiennes ont atteint un plus haut degré de culture, à peu près 40% sont instruites. La population musulmane profite peu des facilités d'instruction offertes par le gouvernement. D'après les rapports scolaires officiels, pour 1927—1928, sur une population musulmane de 6000000, il n'y a que 4743 élèves dans les écoles de tous grades, officielles, ou privées, laïques, ou religieuses. Cette question devra attirer l'attention du comité exécutif.

(d'après Rosa Welt-Strauss, Présidente de l'association juive féminine de Palestine sur l'égalité des droits).

Etats-Unis.

Ligue Nationale des Electrices.—Par l'initiative de Mrs. Chapman Catt, 8 sociétés nationales féministes envoyèrent, il y a cinq ans, des déléguées à Washington pour une conférence sur les causes et les remèdes de la guerre. Depuis ce jour, elles se sont réunies chaque année dans la capitale de la nation. A la cinquième conférence, du 14 au 17 janvier, il y aura 10 sociétés, représentant la plus grande partie des associations féministes du pays.

Plusieurs sociétés enverront les femmes qui firent partie de la première conférence. Beaucoup de déléguées ont fait les lectures prescrites entre les conférences, de sorte qu'à la discussion, elles seront bien documentées. Quoique le groupe, à l'origine, n'ait eu d'autre but que de stimuler la discussion et d'attirer l'attention des sociétés sur le problème de la guerre et de la paix, il se trouve maintenant pressé par d'autres questions telles que le pacte Kellogg pour la renonciation à la guerre.

A l'inauguration du congrès, cette année, les déléguées verront quelle influence elles ont eue sur l'opinion publique, en discutant les questions suivantes: "Quels progrès avons-nous faits dans la découverte des causes de la guerre?"—"De quelle sorte sont-ils?"—"Quels remèdes sont encore à trouver, à admettre ou à établir?"

Le second jour, elles se réuniront en groupes pour une discussion privée sur la question: "Quelles querelles ou irritations possibles pourraient amener la guerre avant que l'organisation de la prévention fût au point?"—Plus tard, dans le semaine, il y aura une discussion générale sur "Le désarmement" et une autre sur "Les rivalités commerciales produiront-elles des conditions incontrôlables par l'organisation actuelle de pacification?"—Le congrès profitera de cette occasion pour finir par une discussion toute féminine sur "Les femmes peuvent-elles aider à établir une ère de paix et comment?"

Des orateurs éminents et des experts seront appelés à parler et à donner leurs avis au congrès.

Quatre femmes étrangères, distinguées dans leur pays et connues de l'Alliance pour leurs efforts vers la paix, seront parmi les orateurs: Frau von Velson (Allemagne), Miss Courtney (Angleterre), Mme. M. L. Puech (France), Mrs. Taune Gauntlett (Japonaise mariée à un Anglais).

MESSAGE DE NOUVEL AN DE LA PRESIDENTE.

Pendant que les cloches sonnent le glas de 1929, et que nous jetons un regard en arrière sur notre travail et nos distractions des douze mois passés, notre pensée s'arrête sur le merveilleux congrès de Berlin, où le soleil radieux semblait briller en sympathie avec l'orgueil qui rayonnait dans nos coeurs. Nous ne remercierons jamais assez les nombreuses amies d'Allemagne qui contribuèrent à ce succès.

Les victoires suffragistes ont été rares, mais importantes, comme en Roumanie et en Cooch Behar; mais les résolutions du Congrès de Berlin montrent à l'évidence que les femmes, même là où elles ne sont pas considérées comme dignes des droits du citoyen, sont capables de contribuer, par leur intelligence et leur esprit d'initiative, à la solution des problèmes qui déjouent les efforts du monde: la paix et la liberté économique des peuples comme des individus.

On nous reproche parfois d'élargir notre programme au-delà des anciennes limites du mouvement suffragiste. La réponse est simple: nous considérons comme une partie essentielle de notre travail pour obtenir l'égalité réelle entre hommes et femmes, de réclamer, dans toutes les occasions, la suppression des préjugés et des obstacles contre les femmes, mais c'est également notre mission de réclamer pour les femmes le droit et le devoir d'exprimer leur jugement approfondi sur les problèmes mondiaux.

Notre oeuvre constructive pour la paix a sa valeur, puisque, grâce à notre lutte pour l'obtention du suffrage et l'abolition du Code Napoléon et du double étage de moralité, nous pouvons maintenant agir comme citoyennes libres, confiantes en nous-mêmes, instruites et responsables.

Notre effort pour la suppression des barrières économiques est basé sur la même conception de la justice que celle qui nous pousse à nous défendre contre l'assimilation de la femme adulte au mineur et à l'enfant et contre les différences iniques dans le salaire, le statut et la condition de l'ouvrière.

1929 nous a enlevé deux de nos grandes leaders: Dr. Aletta Jacobs et Dame Millicent Fawcett. Grandes, parce que, tout en luttant sans jamais faiblir, pour le suffrage et l'égalité, elles ont aussi sacrifié tout leur temps et toutes leurs forces au bien-être de la Communauté. Elles nous laissent un grand vide.

Nous espérons que 1930 nous donnera la joie de co-opérer plus étroitement avec notre chère Présidente honoraire: Mrs. Chapman Catt, qui nous a promis sa visite.

1930 imposera à chacune de nous de nouvelles tâches nationales et internationales. Notre premier devoir est de veiller à ce que, suivant l'admirable exemple de la Belgique qui a nommé Mlle. M. Renson, nous obtenions une femme légiste dans chaque délégation à la Conférence de la Haye sur la Nationalité. Le second est d'obtenir la nomination d'une femme dans chaque délégation nationale à l'Assemblée de la Ligue. Le troisième est d'inspirer à nos jeunes femmes la volonté de se rendre aptes au service social.

Je souhaite une bonne et victorieuse année à toutes les amies, spécialement aux membres du bureau, du comité, aux présidentes des sociétés nationales qui assument la responsabilité de notre splendide Alliance et à Mrs. Bompas, mon bras droit.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

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