

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 25. No. 2.

PRICE 6d.

Annual Subscription, 6/-

NOVEMBER, 1930

CONTENTS.

Page.		Page.
Appel des Femmes aux hommes d'etat du monde entier	17	Section Française:
Ce que les hommes d'etat pensent de l'appel	18	Réponses au Questionnaire 27
Events of the Month	19	Pologne par Anna Szelagowska 28
The League Assembly, a final impression. By Lucy Mair	20	L'Association des Femmes pour le Service Social 28
Maternal Mortality. By D. M. Anning, M.B.	21	Nouvelles Internationales 29
Reviews	22	Les Femmes et les Elections aux Etats Unis 29
Correspondence: "An Italian Feminist"	23	L'Assemblée de la Société des Nations 29
Replies to suffrage questionnaire	23	Les Elections Allemandes 29
News in Brief	24	Genève: deux bonnes causes 30
Cartoon	25	Mortalité des Femmes en Couches 30
I.A.W.S.E.C. Campaign Committee	27	Espagne: à propos de certains concours 30

APPEL DES FEMMES

aux

HOMMES D'ETAT DU MONDE ENTIER.

Nous, associations féminines, représentant plus de 40 millions de femmes qui travaillent de façon diverse dans 56 pays à l'avancement de la compréhension internationale et de la coopération:

Nous nous faisons un devoir d'attirer l'attention sur la tendance effrayante et toujours croissante de la presse, du grand public, et même des cercles gouvernementaux, à discuter ou même simplement à admettre la discussion sur la possibilité d'une nouvelle guerre, ceci sans tenir le moindre compte du Pacte de renonciation formelle à la guerre, qui vient d'être signé par 57 nations civilisées.

Cette attitude constitue à la fois une tache à l'honneur national des signataires du Pacte Briand-Kellogg et une menace directe pour la jeunesse en particulier et pour l'humanité en général. Elle ne peut pas et ne doit pas être tolérée.

Déjà nous flétrissons sous le poids d'armements sans précédent, et cela en pleine période de dépression commerciale et de guerre économique. En ce moment critique d'inquiétude et de désarroi, nous réclamons une action énergique de toutes les forces constructives.

Nous déclarons que le travail pour la paix est la tâche la plus urgente qui s'impose à l'humanité aujourd'hui. Par conséquent, nous faisons appel non seulement aux organisations, mais à chaque individu, et en particulier aux femmes, qui paient les premiers frais de la vie humaine, pour que tous comprennent

APPEAL OF WOMEN

to the

STATESMEN OF THE WORLD.

The undersigned organisations, representing more than forty millions of women working in various ways in fifty-six different countries of the world to put forward international understanding and co-operation, feel impelled to call attention to an increasing and ominous tendency of the Press, the general public and even Governmental circles to discuss, or admit in discussion, the possibility of another war; this in utter disregard of the sacred pact formally renouncing war, which has just been signed by fifty-seven civilised nations.

This constitutes a flagrant slur on the national honour of the signatories of the Briand-Kellogg Pact, a direct menace to the youth of the world and to humanity in general. *It cannot and must not be tolerated.*

We stagger under an unprecedented burden of armaments in the midst of commercial depression and economic warfare. We have come to a critical moment of upheaval and unrest and we demand the energetic action of every constructive force.

We declare the work for peace to be the most urgent task before the world to-day. We appeal, therefore, to every right-thinking person, and in particular to women, who pay the first cost of human life, to realise their responsibility and power. We ask every single individual to use his active influence to combat the idea of a recourse to violence as the solution of any problem; to work by word and deed for the eradication of the

leurs responsabilités et leurs possibilités d'action individuelle. Nous demandons à chacun d'user de toute son influence pour combattre l'idée qu'un recours à la force est la seule solution de quelque problème que ce soit; de travailler par la parole comme par l'action à supprimer les causes psychologiques de la guerre: la peur, l'ignorance et l'avidité, et de proclamer sans se lasser l'unité de l'humanité et l'interdépendance des nations.

Enfin nous réclamons de vous, hommes d'Etat, élus de par la volonté populaire, de vous montrer à la hauteur de votre tâche en concentrant vos efforts et en mettant tout votre honneur national à l'observation stricte et au respect absolu de ce Pacte Briand-Kellogg, qui est la sauvegarde de l'humanité.

Conseil International des Femmes.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR.

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

M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté.

JANE ADDAMS.

Union mondiale de la Femme pour la Concorde internationale.

CLARA GUTHRIE D'ARCIS.

Comité Universel des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Filles.

C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK.

Fédération internationale des Femmes Universitaires.

WINIFRED CULLIS.

CE QUE LES HOMMES D'ETAT PENSENT DE L'APPEL.

Ce manifeste a été lancé par le Comité de liaison qui vient de se créer à Genève, et qui réunit les Grandes Associations Féminines internationales.

Nous avons été vivement frappées de l'importance que les hommes d'Etat, les principaux représentants de la Société des Nations, et les journalistes y ont attachée.

Certes, toutes les fois qu'une de nos Grandes Associations fait des démarches auprès de la Société des Nations pour soutenir une de nos revendications, c'est toujours avec une grande courtoisie que nous sommes reçues. Mais, nous avons l'impression que notre autorité fut considérablement accrue par le fait qu'il ne s'agissait plus de l'action d'une association, mais d'un cartel de toutes les grandes Associations. Et nous croyons que toutes les fois que nous pourrons réaliser cette union, ce sera un grand bien pour notre cause.

Le manifeste des Grandes Associations Féminines Internationales fut présenté à Monsieur Titulesco, président de la XIe Assemblée, qui l'approuva cordialement et accepta de le faire parvenir aux membres des différentes délégations.

La délégation du Comité de liaison, se rendit ensuite auprès de M. le Dr. Curtius, chef de la délégation Allemande, et auprès de Monsieur Henderson, 1er Délégué de l'Empire Britannique. L'un et l'autre félicitèrent la délégation de son initiative et Mr. Henderson dit sa conviction que les organisations féminines pourraient contribuer largement au succès de la Conférence du désarmement.

Le 23 Septembre, ce fut Monsieur Briand, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de France, qui reçut la délégation dans une atmosphère de confiante cordialité. Monsieur Briand indiqua toute l'importance qu'il

psychological causes of war: fear, ignorance and greed; to promote by every means the recognition of the oneness of humanity and the interdependence of nations.

We demand of our statesmen, elected by the people—if they value their privilege of service—to increase their efforts and henceforward to make the whole-hearted observance of the Briand-Kellogg Pact the supreme charge of national honour and the safeguard of humanity.

The International Council of Women,
ISHBEL ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR.

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship,
M. I. CORBETT ASHBY.

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,
JANE ADDAMS.

The World Union of Women for International Concord,
CLARA GUTHRIE D'ARCIS.

The World's Young Women's Christian Association,
C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK.

The International Federation of University Women,
WINIFRED CULLIS.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Good Causes The Howard League for Penal Reform, at Geneva, during its 58th Session in January this year, has submitted a memorandum to the League of Nations "indicating what in its opinion are the aspects of the improvement of penal legislation which could advantageously be dealt with internationally and through the instrumentality of the League of Nations, and on what evidence this opinion is based." The memorandum includes a description of the horrors which have been endured by prisoners—sometimes before trial for offences of which they have afterwards been proved innocent—in different countries, and claims "that if cases of this kind were reported to an international body set up by the League of Nations, the world publicity which attends the work of the League would so instruct public opinion that the continuation of such barbarities would be rendered impossible." It requests the League to set up a Commission to study existing methods of penal administration with a view to drafting a Convention which will establish an effective international standard for the treatment of persons in captivity.

An International Conference on Stateless Persons was convoked by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at Geneva during the session of the Assembly. Among the great international organisations which sent representatives were the I.A.W.S.E.C., the International Council of Women, the League of the Rights of Man, the Society for the Prevention of War and the International Association of League of Nations Unions.

The Conference discussed the situation of persons without nationality, which may be summed up as follows: they have no citizenship rights, no right to work, and no right to any consular protection or help; they are refused passports and visas, and may be expelled at any moment from the country in which they are living. Moreover, their children inherit their disabilities.

Tragic cases were quoted of men who after having been hounded from one frontier to another found the only solution to their problem in suicide. Speakers from various countries explained the different causes of Statelessness. The dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was made up of so many different races, and other confusion caused by the divergent laws of its successor States, have deprived hundreds of thousands of people of the rights of citizenship, and the Governments and the interested countries have done absolutely nothing to improve the situation. The Conference nominated a deputation to the League of Nations, to bring to its knowledge the appalling conditions of Stateless persons and to ask for its intervention in the matter.

Our German Vice-President, Frau von Velsen, sends us the following information:

Germany. The political situation in Germany is regarded as extremely serious, not only in our own country, but also abroad. The sudden rise of a big national and fascist party has created stupefaction everywhere, and on all sides the question is asked: How has this happened?

The chief reason is the economic situation, unemployment, rise in prices, aggravated by a bad harvest, and the consequent growing impatience with ultra-capitalist tendencies in industry and commerce. Discontent in the middle classes, impoverished by the after-war inflation, reinforces the masses who, discouraged by what they consider the slow progress of the socialist and liberal parties, now seek their fortune in other quarters. The socialist and revolutionary tendency

of the nationalist party appeals to one part of the population, while its accentuated nationalism and its fight against pacifism and internationalism is dear to those who cling to old forms of national life. In conjunction with the Conservative Party (Deutsch-nationale Volkspartei), the National Socialists represent a formidable opposition, although, if it came to actual working together, their divergencies—the Conservatives are monarchist and capitalist—would soon be felt. The fact that the Versailles Treaty, with its clause on "war guilt" is a constant humiliation to the German spirit, is propitious for their propaganda; moreover, reparations, though not the sole cause of the economic trouble, have accentuated and accelerated the dangers of the situation.

Another feature of the National Socialists is their anti-feminism. There is not a single woman among their 107 members in the Reichstag. Indeed, they did not allow any women candidates to stand. The Communists, on the other hand, who had considerable success, have 13 women members. But on the whole the percentage of women in the House is lower than before.

Real statesmanship will be required to help the German nation to steer democracy through troubled waters during the coming winter. With these clouds hanging heavily on the political horizon, the Deutscher Staatsbürgerinnenverband assembled for its 36th annual meeting at Frankfurt a.M. It was preceded by a conference for women engaged in municipal work. Both were extremely well attended, the main subjects being political: "The Financial Organisation of Reich, States and Municipalities" and "The Economic Situation created by the Versailles Treaty." The discussion that followed the lectures, given by first-class experts, showed a distinct increase of knowledge on these difficult subjects, exemplifying the intensification of political work among German women. The attendance of young girls at the public meetings paralleled their attendance at the Alliance Congress in Berlin. In fact, political work and public endeavour stand absolutely in the foreground of general interest.

However, the Staatsbürgerinnenverband's work in other directions is also proving very successful. A group of Berlin women, under the Chairmanship of Frau Fleischmann, the indefatigable worker at the Alliance Congress, has organised an exhibition of works of art by women—an exhibition reaching a very high standard. It is designed to display the specially feminine creative spirit, which only needed a certain assurance and independence to come into play. Woman, allowed to develop according to her own nature, no longer forced into the mould of a society exclusively informed by the male spirit, will in future be able to give to the world work original in its conception, whether that contribution be to create art or to improve the structure of society. To all who look forward to that future, this Berlin Exhibition, "Die gestaltende Frau," will bring a conviction that it is steadily drawing nearer.

Women in United States The approaching November elections in the United States are a subject of much interest in the Elections.

Those who ten years ago saw their long campaign for equal suffrage finally bring about the enfranchisement of women, view with great interest the important part which women play in present-day political activities. United in an un-partisan body such as the League of Women Voters, they weigh issues and qualifications of candidates with the desire to vote intelligently, while in all the political parties the importance of their vote is recognized and they are

given representation on party committees. The two major political organizations have their women's divisions with women as directors.

Recently appointed as the head of the Woman's Division of the National Committee of the Republican Party is Mrs. Lenna Lowe Yost, who directed the campaign for equal suffrage in her State, who was later made a member of her State board of education, and who for the past few years has led the legislative activities for the National Women's Temperance Union. Versed in the technique of political activity and with a thorough knowledge of women's organizations, Mrs. Yost is busy with her plans to enlist the aid of all women of her party in the coming election.

Directing the activities of women in the opposing major political party is Mrs. Nellie Tayloe Ross, former governor of the State of Wyoming and now vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Democratic Party. Mrs. Ross has the distinction of being the first of the only two woman governors ever elected in the United States. Since her two-year term of office as governor she has been active in the Democratic Party and as a lecturer on subjects relating to government.

Great Britain: the Women Civil Servants. The members of the Federation of Women Civil Servants who stated the case of the Federation last week before the Royal

Commission now sitting under the presidency of Lord Tomlin, has to face a trying ordeal. It is impossible to read the reports of the examination of the women witnesses without feeling convinced that the Commission did not address itself to the task of sifting their evidence in an impartial spirit. They have, however, such an excellent case that public opinion cannot fail to have been influenced by hearing it stated clearly in response to what was for the most part hostile questioning. The two main points of evidence placed before the Commission were (1) That the rate of remuneration of Civil Servants shall not be differentiated by reason of sex, and (2) That all appointments shall be open to men and women by the same method and on the same terms, and that opportunity for training other acquirement and experience necessary for advancement shall be equal as between men and women. The Federation also recommended that the retirement of women on marriage should be optional. The printed statement of their case shows a fine feminist spirit, and we wish that the omens were better ones for their immediate success. The conclusions of the Commission respecting the women will be given in three weeks' time.

The Imperial Conference. It is regrettable that there is no woman delegate to the British Imperial Conference now in session. There are women voters in all the Dominions and Colonies represented at the Conference, and Great Britain, Canada, and Australia included women in the delegations they sent to the recent League Assembly. Why not to the Imperial Conference?

The two Indian women whom we mentioned last month as members of the Indian Round Conference will be the only representatives of their sex. There are no British women nominees.

The Bermuda Woman Suffrage Society has received a reply from the Acting Colonial Secretary in Bermuda to their Memorial presented early this year stating:—"The Secretary of State has read the memorial with interest... but is of the opinion that the question of conferring parliamentary or municipal franchise on women falls within the province of the local Legislature, and that having regard to all the circumstances, he does not see his way to intervene in the matter."

THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY, A FINAL IMPRESSION.

That some spectators left the Assembly this year with a feeling of depression was due mainly to two political events which had no direct relation to the work done at Geneva: the breakdown of the Franco-Italian naval negotiations, and the enormous increase in power of the National Socialist (really Fascist) party at the German elections. Both these events had their inevitable chilling effect on the international atmosphere, the latter especially, since it was intensified by the immediate reaction of the French press. Its importance is certainly exaggerated; so long as Herr Curtius remains at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs there is no need to fear a serious return to the policy of *revanche*. The failure of the naval negotiations has increased the tension between France and Italy, and may postpone the summoning of the General Disarmament Conference. But neither event provides a reason for setting down this year's Assembly as unsatisfactory.

A more logical cause of dissatisfaction lies in the paucity of results; but those who lay most stress on this have, I think, failed to realise that the technique of the Assembly has altered in the last five years. It no longer attempts to produce in three weeks schemes to reform the world. The Protocol was the last effort of this kind; but now any proposal of vital importance is expected to take two or three years to reach its final form. Thus the postponement for a year of the proposed amendments to the Covenant to bring it into line with the Kellogg Pact, and of the Convention to Strengthen the Means of Preventing War need not cause undue disappointment. Nobody supposes that before next September the world will be threatened by a war for the prevention of which those instruments would be of decisive importance; everyone would admit that what is most desirable is to arrive, after thorough discussion, at real agreements which all the members of the League can accept. Again, the decision of the Assembly not to fix a date for the World Disarmament Conference need not be taken too sadly when one reflects that it was Lord Cecil himself who supported it, in his anxiety lest it should be summoned prematurely and, by failing, prejudice the whole future of disarmament. Many speakers expressed a hope that the meeting of the Preparatory Commission, fixed for November 3rd, will be its last; and it must be remembered that it rests with the Council to call the general conference, and this it will if possible do after its meeting in January.

The failure to bring into force the reformed statute of the Permanent Court, owing to the opposition of Cuba was disappointing, but here the effect of thinly disguised public disapproval combined with amicable persuasion was evident in the changed attitude of the Cuban representative as the debate went on, and the practical difficulties of postponing ratification were ingeniously met by the proposal that the important measures should be introduced by the Court itself into its rules, which do not require government approval.

A debate on the system for the protection of minorities led to a reassertion of the Assembly's confidence in the Council and Secretariat and a reaffirmation by the States concerned of their refusal to submit to modifications to which they do not consent. The delegate of Yugoslavia, however, made the interesting admission that he would be prepared to see this thorny question submitted to the Permanent Court; and Herr Curtius, pressed by M. Zalecki to say whether he would be willing voluntarily to accord to minorities in Germany the rights given them in the new States, at once agreed. It is to be hoped that this debate will in future be a regular feature of the Assembly.

The only real disappointment was the refusal of all the States affected to agree to the establishment of any machinery to supervise the execution of the Slavery Convention, with a reactionary declaration by Belgium that only the trade in slaves is really a matter of international concern.

Turning to practical results, the Assembly adopted a Convention whereby credits up to a certain limit are guaranteed in advance to any State determined by the Council to be the victim of aggression, provided that such State has disarmed in accordance with a League plan. A new scheme of regulations has been drawn up governing the appointment and conditions of service of members of the Secretariat, and International Labour Office, and the Registry of the Court. A scheme which provides on the one hand, the security of tenure and provision for the retiring official which are essential if the best brains are to be attracted into a service whose efficiency becomes every year more important, and on the other emphasises anew the international character of League servants and their independence of national influences. The question whether the higher officials should be regarded as in some respects emissaries of their Governments was debated frankly and at length, but has been adjourned for final settlement till next year. During the year, special conferences will meet to discuss the possibilities of concerted economic action between the members of the League, particularly in Europe. They have instructions to examine a number of special points including the possibility of developing the agreements already drafted between the agricultural states of Eastern Europe, to prepare the ground for a general conference on the limitation of the manufacture of dangerous drugs, which may be held before the next Assembly, and to discuss M. Briand's scheme for European federation. As I mentioned, the Preliminary Disarmament Commission is expected to complete its work. On balance, a useful if uneventful Assembly.

LUCY MAIR.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Comparison of the maternal mortality returns from different countries is a very difficult matter, since the mode and efficiency of registration, and the nomenclature and classification adopted, vary from country to country. Although the International List of Causes of Death for 1929 contains a detailed nomenclature, which covers all the causes of maternal death, this is by no means generally used; and the matter is further complicated by the fact that in few countries is any distinction made between deaths due to abortion and those due to parturition. Since abortion is illegal in most countries (using the term abortion here to mean induced abortion as distinct from spontaneous or therapeutic abortion) the difficulty of obtaining any true statistics as to deaths from this cause is obvious; yet when we consider the conditions in which the greater number of these abortion take place,—in secret, in unhygienic surroundings, performed by ignorant people, and usually late in pregnancy,—it is equally obvious that the death-rate due to abortion is high, and must have a decided influence upon the general maternal mortality figures. That this is so is proved by the figures from the U.S.S.R. where abortion has been legalised, so that at present 85% of all abortions are recorded; in 1922 the maternal mortality in Leningrad was 3.92 per 1,000 cases, in 1923, 3.55 and in 1924, 2.76; whereas the figures for Berlin for the same years were 13, 14, and 11 per 1,000 respectively.

Since the inclusion or non-inclusion of deaths from abortions, apart from any other factors, can affect the

maternal mortality figures so markedly, it is more useful to compare statistics from the same country for different years, rather than to attempt to compare country against country. Thus, in the United States, Maternal Mortality in 1901 was 8 per 1,000, and in 1925 6.5 per 1,000, although the infant mortality rate dropped by 28% during this period. Similarly, in England, while infant mortality fell from 117 to 70 per thousand during the period 1906 to 1926, maternal mortality during the same period actually increased from 3.74 to 3.84 per thousand.

In all the Anglo-Saxon countries maternal mortality has remained at a constant level; in Germany, the figures for the last 20 years show no decrease, while in the South American countries and in Mexico the rate remains high. As the Epidemiological Report of the Health Section of the League of Nations says "We may therefore conclude, on the basis of the figures for nearly all the countries in the world, that maternal mortality is not declining with any rapidity. In this respect, it shows a striking contrast to Infant Mortality."

The death of a mother in childbirth, while tragic enough in itself, has far-reaching effects which are not immediately apparent. To begin with, the death rate amongst infants who lose their mothers is very high, so that in nearly 50% of cases, the mother's death involves that of the child. Then the mother is usually young (the death rate is highest between the ages of 25—35, since this is the child-bearing period), so that with her death potential lives are lost, and frequently there is a young family left without the proper care and guidance which should be theirs.

Whether civilisation has definitely increased the risks of childbirth is not proved. MacIlroy holds that increased mental development has led to an increase in the size of the child's head, with no corresponding increase in the size of the mother's pelvis, which, indeed, is often contracted to greater or less degree, by rickets, and bad hygienic conditions. Other authors hold that the weight of the foetus has increased in general. However this may be, it is certain that the attendants of civilisation, dirt, poverty, over-crowding and over-work, aggravate the dangers of parturition directly, and also indirectly, by their effects on the health and physique of women.

These may be described as general causes tending to increase maternal risk in childbirth, and are social rather than medical problems.

The medical causes of deaths due to child-bearing, and following from these, the whole problem of Maternal Mortality in England, have recently been the subject of investigation by the Ministry of Health, whose committee has just published its interim Report. This has, I think, an international interest, as the general principles behind its conclusions apply in other countries besides Great Britain. 2,000 unselected cases were investigated and the causes of death classified. Sepsis accounted for 38.6% of deaths, eclampsia for 13.6%, other toxæmias 6.2%, haemorrhage 13.5%; these were the main causes. In each case the history was investigated as thoroughly as possible in an endeavour to discover if the fatal issue was at any time preventable, and if so by what means. It was found that in not less than one-half of these cases death need not have occurred; that it did so was due to one or more of the following causes; (a) Omission or inadequacy of antenatal examination, (b) Errors of judgment in the management of the case by doctors or midwives, (c) Lack of reasonable facilities for effective medical care, (d) Negligence on the part of the patient or her friends to adopt or carry out medical advice.

It is clear from this report that there is no one solution of the problem, but that greater care is needed at every stage of pregnancy and labour, and to begin with,

public opinion and the mother herself must be educated to recognise the need for such care. The Committee make several recommendations based on their findings: Firstly, the need for better education of medical students in Obstetrics, particularly in practical work; at present the time devoted to this subject is, in many medical schools, inadequate, and the number of cases actually delivered by the student is far too few. Also too little attention is paid to infant hygiene and ante-natal care.

Secondly, a great increase in scope and also in efficiency of ante-natal care, together with increased facilities for ante-natal treatment. Ante-natal care is essential for pregnant women, and should, where possible, be carried out by the doctor who will attend the labour.

Efficient ante-natal supervision can almost completely eliminate eclampsia, and can lead to a great reduction in the number of obstructed labours, as well as affording opportunities for educating the mother in general hygiene and preparing her for childbirth and nursing.

Thirdly, the Committee indicate that there is need for improvement in medical practice; a higher standard of knowledge and skill should be required from the medical practitioner; consultant and specialist services should be available, and an increased number of hospital beds provided.

The Committee have set out in detail their considered proposals for the establishment of a National Maternity Service; put very shortly, the proposals are these:—

- (1) The provision in every case of a qualified midwife.
- (2) The provision of a doctor to carry out ante-natal and post-natal examination in every case, and to attend during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium as may prove necessary, all cases showing any abnormality.
- (3) The provision of a consultant, when desired, by the doctor in attendance during pregnancy, labour and the puerperium.
- (4) The provision of hospital beds for such cases as need institutional care.
- (5) The provision of certain ancillary services, such as transport, sterilised equipment, laboratory facilities, etc.

This report, the main trend of which has been very shortly indicated, should be widely read; although of necessity technical, it yet contains much that can be understood and appreciated by the general public; particularly it should be studied by women, since this is a subject which concerns them so vitally.

That excessive maternal mortality can be prevented by increased care has been definitely proved by the figures returned from various hospitals, which figures cover not only the cases confined in the institutions, but also those confined in their own homes, under the care and supervision of the hospital's district maternity service. Thus the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies at Woolwich for the years 1924-28 inclusive, had 4,221 cases either in the hospital or in the district, and the death rate for this period was only 0.71 per 1,000 births.

The East End Maternity Hospital had 17,525 hospital and district cases for the period 1921-28, with a death rate of 0.68 per 1,000.

The General Lying-In Hospital, Lambeth, had 25,906 cases over a period of ten years with a death rate of 1.31 per 1,000.

These figures, picked at random out of many equally striking, when compared with the general mortality rate for the country which is for 1929, 5.82 per 1,000, are very suggestive, and to quote from the Interim report, "What is being done for some women can and should be done for all."

D. M. ANNING, M.B.

REVIEWS.

THE "GIRL VOTER."

The Girl Voter, by F. M. WHITE. (Herbert Russell, 2s.)

It is unfortunate that this book, which is evidently intended mainly for the instruction of the adolescent girl, should have been called by a title which inevitably recalls the silly newspaper campaign against the "Flapper Vote." At twenty-one a female is presumed to be a woman, and therefore there is no such thing as a "girl voter," and a certain amount of irritation is caused to those who have so long struggled against the conception of woman as the eternal minor. In reading this little manual, the reviewer was irresistibly reminded of the dreadful moment when, at the age of thirteen or so, a book was placed in her hands which purported to enable her to teach a Sunday School class of very small and extremely unruly little boys. The short catechisms at the end of each chapter are evidently intended similarly to help those who run girls' clubs and the like, but the general style of the book suggests that it is also intended to be put into the hands of the students themselves. It is impossible to over-rate the difficulties of producing a book so simply written that it is easily understood by the unsophisticated, without losing interest and without irritating by an assumption of superiority. Frankly, the author does not appear to have surmounted those difficulties; moreover, the short space into which it has, very wisely, been compressed has necessitated a selection of names and incidents with which many will quarrel, and produced generalisations which tend to give an air of superficiality.

The arrangement is good, showing the evolution of society from the individual, the expansion of the family into the community, and the ways in which every private interest is affected by the complicated structure of modern society. There is here a useful outline on which to base classes in what is now known as "civics," either for girls or boys, and it is a little unfortunate, since the aim is so evidently the instruction of the potential voter, that a twist should have been given to make it specially applicable to girls. All feminists desire to see feminism disappear—why has the girl citizen a different inheritance from the boy, and why should she approach national or international problems from a special angle? The assumption that the girl needs special "coaching" is a sign of a sex inferiority complex, which will hardly be dissipated by the final chapter giving a brief outline of the work accomplished by a few well-known women, working in the conditions of the past inequality between the sexes, now, we hope, a thing "out of remembrance" in the sphere of politics.

K.B.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Life in Victorian England, by E. V. ROUTH. (Routledge. 6s.)

As opinions are invariably formed on comparisons, some knowledge of the generations just preceding our own is necessary if we wish to have definite ideas on life as it is lived to-day. Mrs. E. V. Routh has published a book of excerpts from well-known writers which gives diverting and interesting glimpses of the life of that period.

The book is one which will appeal to the student and the literateur, and even the dilettante will find entertainment in it, so astutely have the excerpts been chosen. The author has shown a sense of fine discrimination in choosing those which re-create the atmosphere of conventional solidity of the period, and yet, at

November, 1930.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

23

the same time, give a realistic impression of the general emancipation in the trend of thought.

Religion, nature, social life, finance and politics are included among the varied subjects on which the extracts throw light, and in her explanatory notes on each chapter Mrs. Routh gives a running commentary on the time and the circumstances under which they were written.

Although the Victorians, in their worship of respectability and their complacent acceptance of recognised standards of behaviour, were innate optimists, the age never lacked critics and reformers, and many of these papers are provocative protests against intellectual stagnation. They also include satirical attacks on the artificiality and pompous gravity generally regarded as compatible with Victorian gentility.

The fictional extracts and a few letters give an interesting glimpse of characters that are representative of the age and make us realise that we are missing a great deal of enjoyment in not reviving our acquaintance more frequently with Victorian personalities that still live in the memory. Illustrations that trace the scientific and spiritual evolution of the era are found in many remarkable passages by the foremost thinkers of the day, who attacked the older theories of creation and formulated those on which so many of our own conceptions are based.

In her preface Mrs. Routh says that the advance guard of the Victorians had already captured our spiritual freedom without sacrificing their own artistic consciousness, and suggests that the arrival of our own period of transition is indicated in the conflict between instinct and reason. She also points out that the late Victorian movement towards liberty and freedom is so strongly identified with the post-war modernist's escape from conventionalities that credit for the true originality of the thought is due to the 19th century humanists rather than to the 20th century experimenters.

G.R.

BURGUNDY.

Burgundy, with chapters on the Jura and Savoy, by STEPHEN Gwynne. (Harrap, 7s. 6d.).

This volume is one of the useful Kit Bag travel series. Mr. Gwynne knows his subject well and writes about it cheerfully and informally. He does not pretend to render a *Guide bleue* unnecessary—indeed he specifically recommends to intending travellers to buy one—but he does give a considerable amount of useful information of a practical nature, with much of the more recondite variety which tourists, suddenly infected with an interest in architecture and history, find comforting. It is especially with regard to food and drink—and let us be frank and admit that "a great part of the delight of visiting France comes from French cooking"—that Mr. Gwynne will be found a valuable companion. "Burgundy is one of the regions where cooking is at its best, because wine and butter are both to be had in plenty and perfection. In this respect it is centrally and typically French." He has dined and dined wisely and well in that delightful district, and his list of recommended hotels is up-to-date and should be trustworthy. In addition, his own experiences on various occasions are told with infectious zest, and his book undoubtedly fulfils one of the main objects of a guide book—it gives one a strong desire to visit the places he praises.

A.M.R.

RECONCILIATION

A Magazine for all who seek to drive out the spirit of strife, whether between persons, classes, nations or races.

Monthly - Price 3d.
Specimen copy free from: The Secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation, 17, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.I.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN ITALIAN FEMINIST.

Dear Madam,

The ambition to be kept by a man, whether actively professed, or merely passively accepted, is not, I am afraid, a purely Italian characteristic as Madame Sacchi would suggest. Nor is the man who prefers to be made even more responsible financially for wife or mistress, rather than to allow her economic independence gained by her own earnings, an essentially Italian character. The former is the more menacing problem to feminism, being a kind of dry rot in the very material of the enterprise. I believe this inertia and this willingness to relinquish anything, body or soul, rather than to accept responsibility and do something, is not so much due to biological facts as to historical ones. Personal pride has never been encouraged in women—pride of family has been substituted—and I think it is this lack of individual pride which results in a lack of individual effort. That repeated maternity lessens a woman's vitality and ability for outside work is possibly true, but it is not a very vital point in these days of the small family; I imagine the average healthy woman can produce three children without being permanently incapacitated by doing so.

That women should have the same right to devote themselves without opposition and for equal reward to whatever work they wish, and that they should have, in addition, the right to be supported by their husbands or lovers during their life together, and to be indemnified later, whatever the cause of separation may be, is a demand to eat your cake and have it. As I pointed out in my review—woman will never be given equal chances in work while her work terminates or is likely to terminate with marriage. When an employer is weighing the merits of a man and a woman candidate for the same job, it cannot fail to weigh heavily against the woman; she will not be given equal chances because she does not offer equal service.

Yours, etc.,
YOUR REVIEWER.

COMMITTEE FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

SUFFRAGE SUB-COMMITTEE

REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. BERMUDA.

1. Women have no voice whatever in electoral matters in Bermuda. They have no vote nor are they eligible for election in the Parliamentary, Municipal or Parochial elections.

(NOTE.—A husband who is not qualified in his own right may vote in respect of his wife's property).

2. This question, under the above circumstances, does not, of course, apply to Bermuda. There are no Party politics in Bermuda.

3. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by the Governor.

The Governor also appoints the members of the various Government Boards, which exercise certain executive authority and recommend matters for legislation, which recommendations are then submitted to the Legislature.

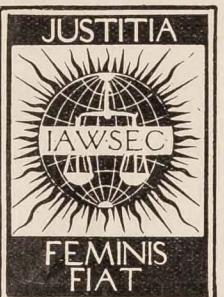
A few women have been appointed within recent years to certain Boards, i.e., to the Board of Education, Board of Health and Hospital Board, but never more than one woman to each Board,

which makes it difficult to get the woman's point of view adequately represented.

4. No. The only Committees on which women serve are those of non-political organisations, such as their own societies, i.e., Welfare Society, Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire, women's branches of the Friendly Societies, Sunshine League, etc.; they co-operate with men in such organisations as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Garden Clubs and Arbor Societies (often doing the bulk of the work), as also on sub-committees of the Annual Exhibition run by the Department of Agriculture, etc., etc. They are, however, explicitly excluded from political life and serve on no political committees, with the exception of the Boards mentioned above and the committee of their own Woman Suffrage Society.

(Replies from Switzerland and Hungary will be found in the French Section of the paper).

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



With regard to the sale of special stamps and postcard, announced in our last issues we have now received information as to the method of making payment for any orders sent. The orders should be sent to Mrs. Hartog Plaut, 7, Emmalaan, Amsterdam, but the payment should be made direct either by cheque to the International Campaign Stamp Account, c/o Rotterdam Bank, Bykantoor Valerius Plein, Amsterdam; or through your post office to the International Campaign Stamp Account, Post-giro number 167560, Amsterdam. Payment for orders of less than the value of two packets of stamps should be increased by the value of 10 cents (Dutch) to pay the cost of postage.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

GREEN, WHITE and GOLD FAIR
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, 25 & 26 November

The Caxton Hall, Westminster, from 3 to 9 p.m.
To be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

On Tuesday by
THE VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA, J.P.

On Wednesday by
THE MARCHIONESS TOWNSHEND OF RAYNHAM
Entertainments each day at 6:30 p.m.

String Orchestra
Tickets (including tax) 1/10d, the first day until 5 o'clock; after 5 p.m. and on Wednesday 1/2d. (including tax) on sale at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or at the doors.

The Welfare of the Dressmaker.

IF INTERESTED, have your Dresses, Costumes, Lingerie, Renovations (Fur Coats repaired and remodelled) by placing your orders with

THE WOMEN'S NEEDLEWORK DEPOT.,
98, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

MODERATE CHARGES. Telephone: Museum 0286.
Price list and full particulars on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.

Hand-woven materials, Scarves and Children's Garments.
Machine knitted three piece suits and long coats.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

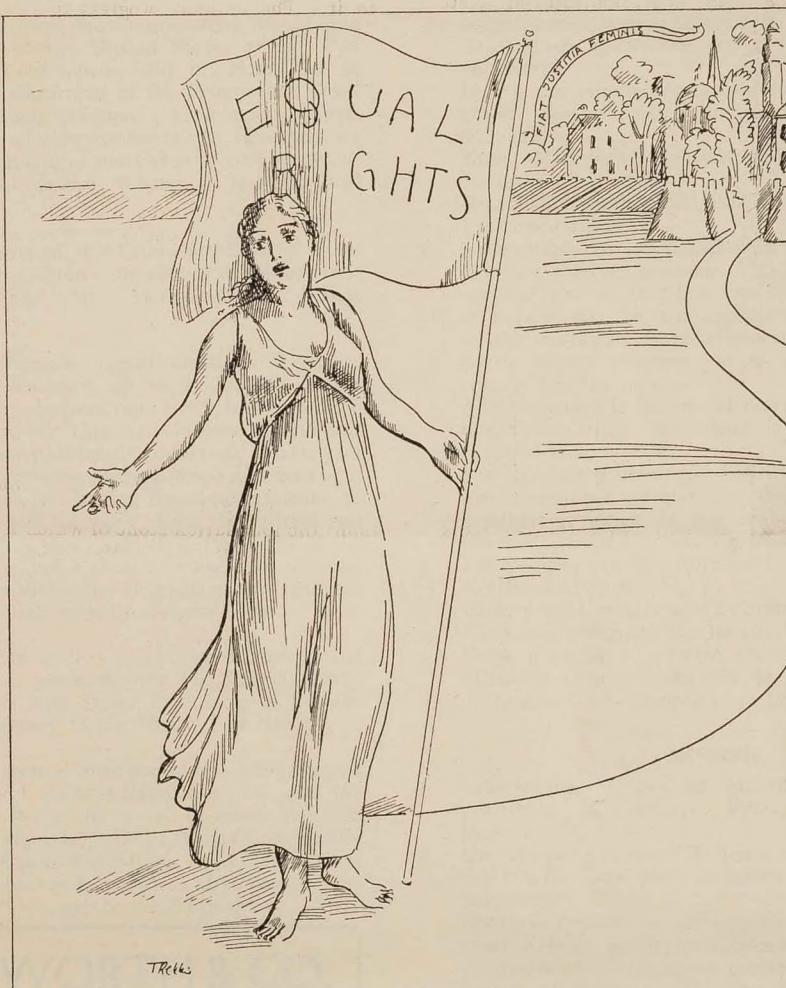
The National Council of Women of Ireland held its Annual Meeting in Cork this year. Five delegates from Belfast and five from Dublin attended. A resolution was passed congratulating the Government on the election of the Irish Free State to one of the non-permanent seats on the Council of the League of Nations. As the work of the National Council (owing to the political constitution of the country) is mainly concerned with international affairs, the accession of Ireland to a seat on the Council is of especial interest to it. The gradual progress of the Women's International Movement towards obtaining the abandonment of Regulation shows the importance of this work, and the success of the women's organisations in Northern Ireland and the Free State in securing enactment of measures for Affiliation Orders is an instance of the reaction of the international movement on national progress, as is also the appointment by the Government of the Irish Free State of a Committee to consider the reform of the Criminal Law. Of the seven members which compose this Committee two are women.

St. Joan's Alliance, in co-operation with other societies of Catholic women, is organising an appeal for a gift in honour of St. Joan of Arc, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of her death. It is hoped that the response will be from all the English people, regardless of creed, the intention being to make an *amende honorable* for the part England played in the martyrdom of the saint. A Memorial Committee has been formed in Rouen to build a church dedicated to St. Joan in the market place, on the site of her martyrdom, the foundation stone of which is to be laid by the Archbishop of Rouen, on May 30th, 1931, the anniversary of her death. After consultation with the authorities in Rouen, the organisers of the Appeal have decided that the English people shall give either the main door of this church or one of its windows, the design of either gift being commemorative of St. Joan, to which a suitable inscription would be added.

The British Commonwealth League is giving a Reception to the women accompanying the Delegations to the Imperial Conference, the women Delegates to the Round Table Conference, Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Lady Cynthia Moseley, M.P., The Right Honourable Margaret Bondfield, M.P., The Honourable Irene Parlby, M.L.A., Canada; Miss May Holman, M.L.A., Australia, and others distinguished in Politics, the Professions, and the Arts, on Tuesday, 11th November, at The Accountants' Hall, Victoria Embankment, Temple, W.C.2, at 9 p.m. The tickets are 5s. each.

Frau Professor Grete Laube, Member of the "Bund Österreichischer" Frauenvereine, has been appointed Counsellor for the Ministry of Education on questions concerning girls' high schools. With this appointment one of the old demands on the programme of the women's movement has been at least partly realised, as, owing to the increased amount of women high school teachers, it was absolutely necessary to have feminine influence at the centre of the educational system. We are specially pleased that the choice of the Ministry of Education should have fallen on so experienced, far-sighted and clever a woman, and we hope that this preliminary appointment will soon lead to a more permanent position.

JUS CARTOONS: No. VIII.



FIAT JUSTITIA FEMINIS.

We are only half-way to our destination: do not let us fail now.

Support the I.A.W.S.E.C. Campaign Committee.

Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the National League of Women Voters, has been appointed by the Secretary of State as a member of the National Council of Intellectual Co-operation for the United States. She, with a number of other men and women, will represent that country in the Inter-American Institute of Intellectual Co-operation which was organized in Havana, Cuba, in February, 1930, by the Inter-American Congress of Rectors, Deans and Educators. The object of the institute is to bring about the collaboration of representatives of all the American countries in the study and solution of the problems of intellectual life of mutual concern to them.

Mrs. Egerton Parsons, who represented the League of Women Voters of the United States at the Pan Pacific Woman's Conference, held in Honolulu in August, was made Chairman of the Programme Committee of the Pan Pacific Woman's Association, which, in 1933, will hold another conference in Honolulu for the study and discussion of mutual problems of education, health, social service, women in industry and government.

Lady Squires, wife of the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, has been elected a member of the Newfoundland Parliament. She is the first woman M.P. in that country.

The Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, founded eleven years ago in the United States, now comprises eleven hundred local branches and has more than fifty-six thousand members, and has affiliation with twenty different countries. Each year parties of American members visit Europe in order to get into contact with women having the same interests, to compare their methods of work, their difficulties and their successes. This year, parties visited most of the European countries, and a great international meeting was held in Geneva under the auspices of six Genevese women's societies which united to receive them.

For the first time in the history of the British Socialist Party a woman has presided over the Annual Party Conference. She is Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health.

There are eleven women members of the newly elected Finnish Diet. The Coalition Party has four, and the Social Democratic Party has seven, of whom the best known are: Hilda Seppala, Miina Lillanpää and Hilda Parssinen. Miss Annie Furuhjelm, who has retired from active participation in politics, after many years of distinguished service, will be much missed.

WADSWORTH & CO.
THE RYDAL PRESS
KEIGHLEY

MAGAZINE AND GENERAL PRINTERS

Reports, Catalogues and Pamphlets
Specialised.
Estimates given for all kinds of Printing.

Readers are asked to mention the "International Women's News" when answering advertisements.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

COMMISSION DU SUFFRAGE ET DES ELECTIONS.

Sous Commission du Suffrage.

REPONSES AU QUESTIONNAIRE.

2. HONGRIE.

1. Nous avons le suffrage législatif et le suffrage municipal. Le système législatif ne comporte pas d'électoral. Nous sommes éligibles.
2. Les femmes ont déjà voté. Nous n'avons les statistiques que pour la capitale. Le pourcentage de femmes électrières est 37.68. Le vote est obligatoire. Il y a des femmes dans tous les partis, en plus grand nombre dans les partis socialiste et démocrate. Mme. Marguerite Schlachta, était Membre de Parlement 1920-1925. Mme. Anna Kéthly, fut élue deux fois Membre de Parlement 1925.
3. Les membres de la Chambre des Députés sont tous élus par élection générale. La Chambre spéciale est élue par les membres des familles aristocrate et royale, par les municipalités et départements et par certaines corporations et institutions, en partie encore nommée par le gouvernement ou comme fonctionnaires. A la campagne le système électoral est uninominal: dans cinq villes seulement le scrutin de liste proportionnel. Les listes ne peuvent pas être modifiées. Les signatures obligatoires des déclarations de candidature exigent un pourcentage très élevé des électeurs jusqu'à 5,000 signatures.
4. Les femmes peuvent faire partie des commissions si elles sont élues. Elles y sont relativement nombreuses. Elles sont désignées par les partis politiques.
5. Nous n'avons le scrutin secret que dans cinq villes où il y a le scrutin de liste. Le scrutin uninominal à la campagne se fait ouvertement.

3. SUISSE.

1. Les femmes suisses ne possèdent aucun droit politique, ni suffrage législatif, ni suffrage municipal.
2. Un très petit nombre de femmes sont affiliées au parti radical, au parti socialiste et au parti communiste. Quelques femmes ont été appelées par le gouvernement à faire partie de Commissions extraparlementaires (ex. assurances sociales).
3. Le Conseil National (Chambre Basse) est nommé par le peuple. Le Conseil des Etats (Chambre Haute) est formé de représentants des Cantons lesquels sont élus, suivant les Cantons, ou par le peuple, ou par le gouvernement. Nous avons le scrutin de liste et le système proportionnel. Les listes peuvent être modifiées par l'électeur, "panachées". La préparation des listes est faite entièrement par les partis.
4. Dans quelques Cantons des femmes peuvent faire partie de Commissions permanentes, communales, mais ce droit n'existe souvent que sur le papier et non dans la pratique. Elles y sont donc très peu nombreuses.

Suivant les Cantons, elles sont désignées ou par les partis politiques ou en dehors d'eux.

Les femmes peuvent faire partie :

- (a) des Commissions scolaires dans les Cantons de :
Bâle-Ville Vaud
Berne Zurich
Genève Appenzelle, Rhodes Extérieures
Neuchâtel Lucerne
- (b) de l'autorité tutélaire dans les Cantons de :
Bâle-Ville et Neuchâtel
- (c) des Commissions de prévoyance et d'assistance dans les Cantons de :
Bâle-Ville Vaud
St. Gall Genève
Berne Valais
Lucerne Appenzell, Rhodes Extérieures
Neuchâtel
- (d) des Conseils de Prud'hommes dans les Cantons de :
Bâle-Ville (avec électoral)
Genève "
Neuchâtel "
Zurich "
St. Gall (éligibilité seulement)
Vaud "

POLOGNE.

Les Femmes et les Elections.

Des élections à la Diète et au Sénat aura lieu le 17 novembre en Pologne. Les femmes en Pologne ont le droit de vote et d'éligibilité; Il est donc désirable que toutes les femmes exercent ce droit; et que les noms de femmes se trouvent sur les listes des futurs députés et sénateurs.

Comme les femmes en Pologne sont en majorité, elles pourraient décider du sort des élections. Il y a deux grands groupements féminins: l'un, l'Organisation Nationale des Femmes Polonaises, représente les idées du parti national-démocratique, qui est contre le gouvernement actuel en Pologne; l'autre, créé par l'Association des Femmes pour le Service social en Pologne, affiliée à l'Alliance, embrasse trois grandes associations et une douzaine de petites qui ont constitué ensemble un Comité Electoral des Organisations féminines. Ce dernier groupement représente plus de 100,000 des associées et son influence est très importante.

Les femmes de l'extrême gauche collaborent avec leurs partis respectifs.

Le Comité électoral des Organisations féminines a publié une déclaration dans laquelle il constate qu'on ne présente pas une liste spéciale des femmes, ayant en vue l'intérêt de l'Etat. Mais ce Comité a décidé de collaborer et de donner son appui au Bloc Electoral du Maréchal Pilsudski; il partage ses idées et il est persuadé que les femmes candidates à la Diète et au Sénat trouveront sur la liste de ce Bloc une place convenable et sûre. Le Comité Electoral des Organisations féminines demande dans sa déclaration: (1) une révision de la Constitution pour élargir le pouvoir du Président de la République, élu par toute la nation; (2) la possibilité du travail continu pour le gouvernement de la République; (3) limitation des compétences entre le pouvoir législatif et le pouvoir exécutif; (4) la responsabilité des représentants du peuple pour des actions commises contre la loi. Le Comité demande aux nouveaux corps législatifs, qui être élus, la réalisation des problèmes suivants:

(1) En ce qui concerne les questions économiques, une réforme du système des impôts, élimination du chômage, le relèvement de l'industrie, un appui pour les organisations coopératives, et l'extension du mouvement pour la construction des maisons.

(2) En ce qui concerne les questions du travail et de la protection sociale, on demande le même salaire pour le même travail, l'augmentation du nombre des inspectrices du travail, l'élargissement de la protection de la maternité et du travail des mineurs, le règlement de la question des enfants illégitimes.

(3) En ce qui concerne l'hygiène et la moralité publique on demande un contrôle de l'application des lois contre les mendiants, contre la traite des femmes et des enfants, et contre l'alcoolisme.

(4) En ce qui concerne les lois civiles on demande la radiation du code civil de toutes les clauses qui diffèrent les droits des deux sexes.

ANNA SZELAGOWSKA.

L'Association des Femmes Pour le Service Social.

Déjà avant la guerre les industriels français employaient des ouvriers polonais et la question de la protection et de la défense des intérêts de ces ouvriers était depuis longtemps actuelle. Après la guerre l'émigration en France est devenue plus intense, et elle s'est dirigée surtout vers les départements du sud, où les ouvriers polonais travaillent à l'agriculture.

Les ouvriers polonais ne connaissent pas la langue française et les conditions du travail dans le pays étranger où ils se trouvent. Ils ont besoin d'être protégés. Les jeunes femmes solitaires sont les plus exposées et le Bureau polonais d'émigration a été même obligé de défendre à ces femmes de se rendre en France jusqu'à ce que les autorités françaises garantissent la protection législative et morale à la femme polonaise.

A la suite de conférences les autorités françaises organisent des Comités de Patronage qui au début n'étaient guère satisfaisants. Le Gouvernement Polonais exigea de l'Inspecteur ou l'inspectrice du Patronage la connaissance de la langue polonaise et consacrent à ce travail tout leur temps; ils doivent aussi connaître les conditions du contrat et recevoir un appointement convenable. Ces inspecteurs doivent surveiller l'exécution des conditions du contrat.

L'expérience actuelle démontre que les conditions d'existence des émigrés sont beaucoup améliorées depuis la fondation des Assurances polonaises et des Patronages français. Le développement de ces institutions est obligatoire au moment actuel; pour atteindre ce but il faut disposer des moyens financiers et d'un personnel instruit. Pour pourvoir à cette dernière condition la Section d'Emigration a organisé en août de cet année des cours de 20 jours pour les personnes qui travaillent dans les institutions sociales du Bureau de Patronage des émigrés en France. La direction de ces cours a été confiée à Mme. Lucie Kipa, qui a parfaitement accompli ses devoirs.

Outre ces cours les auditrices ont visité les points de ralliement des émigrés à Myslowice, la Station d'hygiène préventive, et l'hôtel pour les émigrés à Varsovie.

Le nombre de 41 aspirantes 20 ont été reçus. Toutes les aspirantes devaient subir un examen d'entrée de la langue française. 18 personnes ont subi les examens finaux, 15 ont obtenu des certificats.

Les cours ont été appréciés par le Bureau d'Emigration et une promesse a été faite, que les personnes qui ont terminé ces cours seront engagées en premier lieu aux Patronages en France. Vu l'utilité de son initiative, l'Association pour le travail civique des Femmes a l'intention d'organiser chaque année des cours de ce genre pour aider à confier le patronnage des émigrés et particulièrement des femmes à des personnes connaissant les conditions du travail des émigrés. Ces personnes aideront l'émigré de devenir un travailleur conscient de ses droits et de sa dignité.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Les femmes et les Elections aux Etats-Unis.

Les élections prochaines occupent activement les associations féminines des Etats-Unis. Dix ans ont passé depuis l'obtention du vote et dans cet intervalle des progrès immenses ont été accomplis. La Ligue Nationale des Femmes qui comprend tous les partis s'attache spécialement à faire triompher les revendications féminines dans toutes les branches de l'administration et de la Politique. Chaque Parti a en outre son organisation féminine spéciale qui apporte son contingent d'activité au succès, soit des Républicains, soit des Démocrates. La Présidente de la Division féminine du Parti Républicain est Mme. Lena Lowe Yost, une militante du Suffrage, qui a déjà été membre de la Commission d'Education de sa province.

Madame Nellie Taylor Ross, vice-présidente du parti national démocratique représente la doctrine politique opposée. Mme. Ross a déjà été gouverneur de l'Etat du Wyoming et la première élue à ce poste dans toute l'Amérique.

Autriche.

Frau Professor Grete Laube, membre du comité de l'Alliance, vient d'être nommée par le Ministère de l'Instruction publique, conseillère pour le département d'éducation des filles.

Irlande.

Le Conseil national des Femmes d'Irlande s'est réuni à Cork cette année. Il a adressé ses félicitations au Gouvernement de l'Etat libre pour avoir obtenu un siège permanent au Conseil de la Société des Nations. Il constate avec satisfaction le progrès du mouvements pour l'abandon de la Réglementation et se félicite qu'en Islande les femmes aient obtenu la recherche de la paternité. L'Etat libre a nommé un Comité de 7 membres dont deux sont des femmes, pour l'étude de la réforme du Code penal.

Nouvelles Brèves.

L'Auxiliaire des îles Bermudes, en réponse au questionnaire dit que les femmes n'ont aucune voix dans les affaires municipales ou législatives. Tout au plus, le Gouverneur en nomme-t-il quelquefois comme membres des Commissions d'Hygiène et d'Education.

L'Alliance Sainte Jeanne (Grande Bretagne) en coopération avec quelques autres sociétés catholiques organise une souscription en faveur de la Chapelle qui doit être construite sur la place du vieux Marché à Rouen en commémoration du 500ème anniversaire de la mort de Jeanne d'Arc. Les souscripteurs de nationalité anglaise doivent offrir soit la porte, soit un vitrail.

L'ASSEMBLÉE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS.

Impression finale.

Des visiteurs à Genève sont revenus plutôt désappointés par le travail de la Société des Nations. Est ce l'insuccès du traité naval franco-italien, ou l'attitude belliqueuse du nouveau parti fasciste allemand qui les rend pessimistes? Ce sont là deux faits malheureusement en dehors de l'influence de Genève mais qui ne doivent pas nous faire oublier le travail réel accompli par l'Assemblée.

Ce travail paraît lent, mais le temps n'est plus où l'on essayait de produire en trois semaines un programme de régénération universelle. Les amendements au Covenant viendront à leur heure, ainsi que la Convention pour la Prévention de la Guerre. Avant de

fixer une date pour la Conférence sur le Désarmement général, il faut consulter tous les membres de la Société sur leurs désirs, leurs craintes, leurs possibilités d'entente. La Commission préparatoire réunira le 3 novembre, on espère pour la dernière fois. Mais c'est ou Conseil de convoquer la Conférence, ce qui sera fait si possible après la séance de janvier.

L'opposition de Cuba à la réforme du Statut de la Cour permanente a créé une certaine irritation, mais la Cour va préparer elle-même un certain nombre de mesures pour la modification de ses règlements.

Un débat sur le système de protection des minorités n'a pas complètement abouti, mais le délégué de la Yougo-Slavie accepte de porter les différends devant la Cour permanente. D'autre part Herr Curtius et M. Zaleski ont paru pouvoir se mettre d'accord sur la question des droits à accorder aux minorités. L'Allemagne consentirait à ses minorités le même statut que dans les Etats nouvellement formés.

Notre déception réelle concerne la question de l'Esclavage. Les Etats ne peuvent s'entendre sur la création d'une Commission de surveillance, et la Belgique en particulier déclare que seule la traite des esclaves devrait faire l'objet d'un arrangement international.

Venons aux résultats pratiques: l'Assemblée a adopté une Convention par laquelle tout état, victime d'une agression, pourra recevoir un secours financier du Conseil, à la condition qu'il ait désarmé suivant le plan de la Société des Nations. Le Secrétariat, l'Office International du Travail et la Cour de Justice ont en mains un projet d'organisation définitive avec leur tableau de nominations, de promotions et de retraits qui permettront aux fonctionnaires de garder leur caractère indépendant et international.

On prévoit pour l'année prochaine la réunion de plusieurs conférences sur des questions d'entente économique et en particulier on discutera le projet de Mr. Briand pour une fédération européenne.

En somme si l'Assemblée n'a rien présenté de sensationnel elle a fait d'utille travail.

d'après LUCY MAIR.

LES ELECTIONS ALLEMANDES.

La situation politique en Allemagne est inquiétante. Le succès soudain du parti fasciste jusqu'alors négligeable, mais qui vient de conquérir un si grand nombre de sièges au Reichstag stupéfie maints observateurs qui demandent: Comment tout cela est-il arrivé?

Il faut chercher la raison principale dans la situation économique. Le chômage, le coût de la vie accru encore par une mauvaise récolte, le nécessité de payer quand même d'onéreuses réparations, la main-mise croissante du gros capitalisme sur l'industrie et le commerce sont autant de causes d'irritation pour la classe ouvrière et la classe moyenne, appauvrie par l'inflation d'après guerre. Le socialisme des Hitlerites plaît à une partie de la population tandis que son nationalisme intranigeant l'attache aux partisans des formules surannées de l'ancien régime.

Les National Socialites sont anti-feministes; sur leurs 107 membres au Reichstag il n'y a pas une femme. Les Communistes, d'autre part, qui ont aussi obtenu un succès considérable, ont 13 femmes députées. Mais dans l'ensemble le pourcentage de femmes députées est moins élevé que dans la dernière assemblée. La démocratie allemande a besoin de guides sûrs, car une période troublée s'ouvre devant elle. Les femmes cependant ne perdent pas courage. La récente réunion de la Deutscher Staatsburgerinnenverband à Francfort en est la preuve. On y fit une revue du travail municipal accompli par les femmes et on y discuta: l'organisation financière du Reich, les rapports des Etats et des municipalités, la situation créée par le traité de Ver-

sailles. Fait encourageant, les conférences sont régulièrement suivies par la jeunesse de l'élément féminin comme l'avait été à Berlin le congrès de l'Alliance. Un groupe de Berlinoises sous la Présidence de Frau Fleischmann a organisé une exposition de travaux d'art féminin qui illustre spécialement l'esprit inventif des femmes. Manifestation intéressante et qui nous fait espérer des créations originales et viables bien que complètement en dehors de l'inspiration masculine traditionnelle.

d'après D. von Velsen.

GENEVE.

Deux bonnes causes.

La Société Howard pour la réforme internationale du système pénal a soumis un mémorandum à la Société des Nations où il est suggéré des mesures pour l'amélioration du régime des prisons dans divers pays. Certains cas de traitements particulièrement barbares sont cités et mériteraient d'avoir la publicité que seule la Société des Nations peut donner. Le mémorandum suggère une Convention spéciale qui établirait un système international pour le traitement des individus en captivité.

Pendant la session de l'Assemblée de la S.D.N., la Ligue internationale pour la Paix et la Liberté organisa une conférence où plusieurs sociétés prirent part, sur le sujet des Sans-Patrie. Le cas de ces individus sans nationalité défini a déjà été exposé dans *Jus Suffragii*. Rejetés de frontière à frontière certains de ces malheureux ont été accusés au suicide. Une députation a été envoyée à l'Assemblée pour presser la solution du sort des Sans-Patrie.

MORTALITÉ DES FEMMES EN COUCHES.

Il est difficile d'établir une statistique complète pour ce genre de mortalité parce que les méthodes de classification varient avec les différents pays—une nomenclature détaillée nous est cependant fournie par la compilation internationale des causes de décès établie en 1929, mais en général aucune distinction n'est faite entre la mort par avortement et la mort par suite de couches. Comme l'avortement est illégal et se dissimule, on ne peut établir de statistiques à son sujet, mais il est probable que les cas de décès par avortement sont nombreux. En Russie soviétique, l'avortement est légalisé de sorte qu'on a pu enregistrer jusqu'à 85% des cas. La mortalité des femmes en couches à Leningrad était de 3.55 par 1000 en 1923—et de 2.76 en 1924. Les chiffres correspondants pour Berlin (où l'avortement est illégal) sont de 14 et 11 respectivement.

Dans ces 20 dernières années, pour les pays anglo-saxons le coefficient est resté le même. Il n'a pas diminué pour l'Amérique du sud et le Mexique.

Mais partout, grâce aux mesures d'hygiène et d'assistance, la mortalité infantile a diminué.

Comment se fait-il que malgré l'indéniable progrès de la santé et de l'hygiène la proportion des décès en couches ne diminue pas? Certains auteurs assurent que notre civilisation a accru les risques maternels: le développement mental de la race se marque dans l'élargissement de la tête de l'enfant, tandis que l'organe maternel le rétrécit—d'autres pretendent que le poids du foetus a augmenté. Il ne faut pas oublier non plus que ladite civilisation traîne après elle un cortège de maux, dont les moins sont la pauvreté, la saleté, l'entassement humain dans les taudis, toutes causes qui contribuent à diminuer la résistance physique des femmes.

Un conscientieux rapport, publié récemment par le

Ministère de l'Hygiène de Grande Bretagne, donne une statistique détaillée des causes de décès en couches. 2,000 cas pris au hasard sont étudiés—38,6% des décès sont dûs à un état septique, 13, 6% à l'éclampsie, 6,2% à d'autres intoxications, 13, 5% à l'hémorragie. Une investigation attentive prouve que la moitié des cas de décès sont dûs à la négligence, et auraient pu être évités si, dès le début de la grossesse, la mère avait subi un examen médical et si elle avait reçu les avis d'un médecin ou les soins d'une sage femme compétente.

Le Rapport recommande que toutes les facilités soient données au public et notamment aux jeunes femmes pour s'éclairer sur les conditions d'hygiène nécessaires à une heureuse maternité, qu'à cette effet on établisse des cliniques prénatales où elles recevront tous les renseignements et directives dont elles ont besoin.

Le Rapport recommande aussi que l'instruction des étudiants en médecine soit plus complète et plus pratique en matière de gynécologie. Le temps qu'ils consacrent à acquérir leur expérience d'accoucheurs dans les hôpitaux est actuellement trop limité de sorte que la clientèle de nombre de médecins souffre de leur ignorance.

Enfin le Rapport propose la création d'un service spécial de maternité qui assurerait à toute femme le depuis le début de la grossesse, l'aide d'une sage-femme désirant, les services d'un médecin consultant pour l'accouchement, et, s'il y a lieu, la possibilité d'un traitement spécial dans une salle réservée des hôpitaux.

Cette excessive mortalité peut être enrayer par une spéciale vigilance. Les résultats obtenus dans certains Hopitaux-maternités en font foi. A Woolwich par exemple le coefficient des décès pour la période 1924-28 était seulement de 0,71 par 1,000 naissances. A l'East End Maternity Hospital il est de 0,68. L'Hôpital de Lambeth, sur 251,906 cas pendant une période de 10 ans n'atteint qu'à 1,31 par 1,000.

Par comparaison avec la mortalité générale des femmes en couches ces chiffres montrent que le mal peut être enrayer. Ce qui est accompli en faveur d'un certain nombre de femmes doit l'être pour toutes.

d'après D. M. ANNING.

ESPAGNE.

A propos de certains Concours.

Le féminisme, qu'on tient à appeler le problème des temps nouveaux est un sujet de préoccupation urgente pour ses adeptes. Il suscite autour de soi de vraies phobies. Celles-ci s'évanouissent, bien entendu, quand on les soumet à l'examen de la logique moderne. Les arguments des anti-féministes fatiguent à force d'être toujours les mêmes, d'autant plus qu'ils sont en désaccord avec les faits dans le temps et dans l'espace. Il est regrettable que ce boycottage de la femme s'accroise en particulier quand il s'agit de la femme avocat. C'est un fait incompréhensible mais dont nous constatons maintes fois l'évidence. La veuve actuelle nous permet un certain nombre de professions qui, suivant la dialectique de certains *paladins* sont une absurdité. Mais leur absurdité à eux, ils ne veulent pas la voir.

Effectivement, si dans une profession diverse comme celle d'avocat, on parle des dangers possibles pour la femme, que dira-t-on de la profession de médecine par exemple? Ne fremira-t-elle pas d'épouvanter la sensibilité exquise de la femme médecin légiste devant l'autopsie d'un cadavre? Le service médical de l'assistance publique avec ses scènes de misère effroyable ne deviendra-t-il pas pour elle hautement nocif? Faudra-t-il encore parler de la profession médicale dans la Marine ou dans le milieu rural? Pourtant en Espagne il existe des femmes courageuses qui sur les navires marchands et dans des bourgades arrières remplissent le rôle de médecin habilement et sans défaillance.

Mais dans cet ordre d'idées est-ce que tous les métiers qui exigent un effort physique n'offriront pas nombre de conflits et de difficultés? Femmes batelières comme celles de nos ports du Nord, débardeuses, ouvrières dans les exploitations minières, comment ne vous réfugiez-vous pas dans les biens et les confortables destins que vous offrent ceux qui s'irritent contre le travail féminin? Regardez les, prêts à échanger leur violent

November, 1930.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS.

31

travail contre le vôtre. N'êtes-vous pas étonnées, vous, femmes de la Manche, du nombre d'employés de commerce qui vont se substituer à vous pour le maniement de la charrette? Ne vous tourmentez pas, vous les veuves et vous les vieilles filles, car l'Etat va remplir envers vous les devoirs qu'un mari exerce envers son épouse.

Laissons un moment l'ironie pour constater que si nos adversaires font beaucoup de bruit, c'est de la même façon que les tambours. Plus ils sont creux et vides, plus ils sont sonores. Dans tous les pays vraiment civilisés ou en train de le devenir nous observons que la femme débute rapidement son chemin, et se vole à l'exercice de toutes professions. L'Espagne, pays de paradoxes, permet aux femmes l'études du droit, mais s'oppose à sa pratique. Fait isolé en Europe.

Les travaux professionnels se rapportant au Droit, travaux sédentaires s'il en est, deviennent dans notre pays quelque chose d'intangible pour la femme aussitôt qu'elle quitte l'Université munie de son diplôme. Les offices de Notaire, de l'Enregistrement, d'Avocat, de Finances, et tous les autres postes accessibles au mâle, sont de nouveaux fruits défendus à l'avocat féminin. Qu'ils font pitié, ces pauvres hommes qui n'acceptent pas la lutte avec les faibles confrères de l'autre sexe dans les concours.

Et même si leurs motifs sont d'un ordre esthétique peuvent-ils justifier leur opposition? "Quel effet produira une femme enceinte au milieu du Prétoire" chantait certain article de journal. Mais si l'on oublie qu'un tel état physiologique et transitoire ne doive jamais devenir un sujet de moquerie, ne pourrais-je demander à mon tour: quelle sera la sensation produite par la présence d'un avocat pourvu d'une bosse ou autre déformité? En tout cas la condition physique de la femme serait plutôt une raison pour la laisser travailler dans le repos d'un bureau.

Il est vraiment d'une injustice noire que des êtres libres, capables de diriger leurs actions, soient soumis à l'esclavage qui naît seulement du sexe et gouverné par des lois à la rédaction desquelles ils n'ont pas participé et sur lesquelles ils n'ont pu faire entendre leur opinion.

Si la femme doit prendre part à la lutte que l'Humanité a pour tâche inévitable, pourquoi ne peut-elle être la collègue de l'homme dans le labeur du Droit dont le but principal est de régler et d'harmoniser des intérêts souvent contradictoires?

Mais nous, les femmes, ne devons pas perdre l'espoir de voir s'ouvrir dans un avenir prochain une ère nouvelle en Espagne où la femme verra reconnaître son droit à remplir tous les emplois dignes de son activité.

L'objet des lois est d'organiser les conditions générales de la vie humaine sans qu'un groupe d'individus soit lésé, et de façon à se trouver en harmonie avec le progrès du monde. Chaque citoyen, homme ou femme, a droit au développement intégral de sa personnalité sans prohibitions archaïques et injustes.

C'est ma conclusion. Ce thème a été exposé par moi avec enthousiasme et peut-être trop de vivacité. Mais je ne veux rien corriger. C'est le cas de citer la fameuse parole de Lichtenberg: "Où la moderation devient une faute, l'indifférence constitue un abominable méfait."

MARIA PALANCA, Advocat.

Madrid.

THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

seeks to facilitate
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL
by arranging
SOCIAL HOLIDAYS
in many of the most beautiful parts of Britain and the
Continent where guests of
ALL RACES, RELIGIONS and POLITICAL CREDITS
can meet on a common ground.

INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL IN LONDON.
Send for particulars to:

THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP LTD. (DEPT. W.N.)
"Highfield," Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11.

HALL available for Private Meetings.

Seating accommodation for 240 on Ground Floor
and 80 in Gallery.

TERMS:

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

Apply: THE SECRETARY, 3 DENISON HOUSE,
296, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, S.W.1
(close to Victoria Station).

Women's Pioneer Housing LIMITED

Public Utility Society, Founded 1920.

Invest after Investigation
and Build up Housing
for Professional Women
at Moderate Rents. :

An Investment of real interest to Women.
HERE, your money not only earns a good return,
but supplies an essential need. Our waiting list of
would-be tenants becomes daily more clamorous
and we need a steadily growing capital to provide
more flats.

SEND for Illustrated Booklet and read the story--
from zero to £100,000 in TEN YEARS and 6%
dividend all along the line.

The Secretary, 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

LE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIQUE

a été créé par

L'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage
& l'Action Civique et Politique des Femmes
190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1
en vue d'établir une documentation sur tous les travaux
relatifs au mouvement féminin

Consultez

le Bureau International Bibliographique.

Feministes

Etudiantes

Femmes de Lettres

Femmes Politiques

Vous qui êtes à la recherche de renseignements
concernant:

le Mouvement féminin politique économique & social

adressez-vous au

Bureau International Bibliographique

Secrétariat: 4, rue de Chevreuse, Paris (6^e)

Permanence: Lundi & Vendredi, de 14 à 18 h.

Readers are asked to mention the "International Women's News" when answering advertisements.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To the Secretary, I.A.W.S.E.C., 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1

*I desire to become an Associate Member of the Alliance and enclose £1, for a year's subscription
or

A subscriber to the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS and enclose 6s. for the yearly subscription, post free.

Name

Address

*N.B.—Membership includes subscription to the paper.

Board of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, elected at the Eleventh Congress, Berlin, June 17-22, 1929.

President: MRS CORBETT ASHBY, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15, England
Hon. President and Founder: MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, 171, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A.
First Vice-President: ADELA SCHREIBER (Germany).
Second Vice-President: ROSA MANUS (Holland).
Vice-Presidents: GERMAINE MALATERRE-SELLIER (France), FRANTISKA PLAMINKOVA (Czecho-Slovakia).
Treasurer: FRANCES M. STERLING (England).
Corresponding Secretary: EMILIE GOURD, Crets de Pregny, Geneva, Switzerland.
Assistant Secretary: MILENA ATANATSKOVITCH (Jugoslavia).
AUXILIARIES IN: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jugo-Slavia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Peru, Porto Rico, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay.
INTERNATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES.—Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and Against the Traffic in Women: Chairman, Dr. Paulina Luis. Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women: Chairman, Broken Ingeborg Wallin. Committee on Illegitimate Children: Chairman, Frau Adele Schreiber Krueger. Committee for Peace: Chairman, Miss Ruth Morgan. Committee on Women Police: Chairman, Miss Manus. Committee on the Civil Status of Women: Chairman, Mme. Suzanne Grinberg. Committee for Suffrage and Elections: Chairman, Mme. Plaminkova.

By-Law of the I.A.W.S.E.C. Constitution.

"The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

Headquarters and EDITORIAL OFFICES of the I.W. News: 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

Telegrams: "Vocorajto." Telephone: Victoria 0285.

TIME AND TIDE

The only weekly review in the world edited and controlled solely by women.

EVERY FRIDAY, 6d.

A Weekly Review is not a luxury—
It is a necessity for everyone who wishes to be well informed upon current events.

DIRECTORS

Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D. (Chairman)	Miss Winifred Holtby, M.A.
The Viscountess Rhonda (Vice-Chairman)	Lady Llewellyn
Prof. Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc.	Miss Marion Jean Lyon
Miss E. M. Delafield	Miss Rebecca West
Miss Cicely Hamilton	

Subscription Rates 26/- a year; 13/- six months;
7/- three months.

Specimen Copy free of
The Circulation Manager, TIME AND TIDE,
32, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

THE VOTE
THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE PAPER.
144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN
(Organ of the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).
PUBLISHED ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.
PRICE 2d. (Annual Subscription, post free, 2/-.)
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance,
55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1.

NOTICE TO READERS.—All communications respecting Subscriptions and Editorial contributions should be addressed to:—THE EDITOR, I.W. NEWS, 190, VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.W.1.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
2d. WEEKLY.

WOMEN in different parts of the world interested in the Woman's Movement in Great Britain should read this paper every week. SHORT, CHEAP, UP-TO-DATE.

10/10 post free at home or abroad.

Write for a specimen copy to
The Manager, THE WOMAN'S LEADER,
4, Tufton Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—All communications respecting ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to:—

The Advertisement Manager,
190, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Full page facing editorial matter... . . £8 0 0
Half and quarter page pro rata.
Full page not facing matter £6 0 0
Half and quarter page pro rata.

Series Discounts:

3 insertions 5% 6 insertions 10%
12 insertions 15%

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS.

Small advertisements 5s. an inch, and 2d. per word over.