

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

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## Features of the Month.

In another column we publish an account of the Women's Congresses held in Mexico, the first organised women's meetings in any Spanish-speaking country, and which we hope will mark the beginning of a great and growing movement.

As in the first beginnings of women's awakening in Europe in the 18th century, or the first movements of democracy before the French Revolution, the first claims to be expressed are large and vague and general. The ideals of full development for every human being, including women's freedom from the chains of tradition and convention, are the first to stir enthusiasm. Later on will come the dreary routine of practical politics, the slow, patient fight for freedom, in which each step gained is so small that only the eye of faith can see the ultimate goal.

The women who gathered at Merida, in Yucatan, are in the first happy phase, when they have revealed to them the vision of a free, enlightened womanhood. The subsequent struggles will be shortened and lightened for them by the victories that the last half-century has brought to the women of Europe and Northern America in the domain of education, entry to professions, and direct participation in political life.

Turning from Central America to Asia, we find the women's movement concentrating on the attainment of education, and striving to develop a type of teaching which, though assimilating what suits it in European methods, develops according to its own national genius. Englishwomen and Indian women are working hand in hand in furthering Indian education.

Switzerland has several successes to encourage it in the domains of the Church vote and the commercial vote for Conseils de Prud'hommes.

Holland has secured the amendment of the Constitution removing the previous bar to women's enfranchisement, and thus leaving the way open for the introduction of a Woman Suffrage Bill. Moreover, by a bizarre turn of mind in its legislators, the Lower House has voted in favour of allowing women to be elected to Parliament by the male electorate, while refusing for the present to allow women to vote. We may thus have the strange spectacle, if the Upper House endorses this, of women M.P.'s in a country without women's franchise!

In Denmark women have now attained and exercised their full rights as citizens on an equality with men. They voted for the first time in the referendum on the sale of the West Indies to the United States.



### THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN YUCATAN, MEXICO.

Yucatan, the peninsular State of Mexico, has had the good fortune to experience a rapid growth of the feminist movement. Not twenty years ago Mexican women could sum up their existence in a proverb current in South America—"Vivio elaboró tortillas y morió" ("Live, make cakes, and die"). In January, 1916, the first Feminist Convention, at which 800 delegates attended, was convened at Merida, not by the leaders of the movement, but, what is most significant, by the revolutionist governor of the State, the Gral. D. Salvador Alvarado. If we remember that the inhabitants of Yucatan are of Latin stock, and that the various Latin peoples of South America have attained political freedom by revolutions within the last thirty years, this rapid development is not surprising.

The Convention was held in 1916, from the 8th of January to the 16th, at the Theatre Peon Contreras, Merida. The debates and discussions were conducted with the enthusiasm and warmth so natural to the Latin temperament. The president, Adolfin de Avila, was supported by a vice-president and ten committee members, all of whom were elected at the first meeting.

When the elections were completed, Colonel Rafail Aguirre Colorado declared the Convention open on behalf of the Governor of the State. It was not merely the patronage of the head of the State that was thus implied; the opening ceremony recalled to mind the official statement that the conclusions of the Convention would be practically given statutory form.

The four main problems around which the discussions centred were not concerned so much with the question of votes as with the possibilities of the full and free development of woman. The first question was "to discover the social means by which woman could free herself from the tyranny of traditions." It was resolved, after much discussion and selection, that the following steps be recommended to the State Executive:—

(1) In all the centres of culture, woman should be taught the potential and varied nature of her faculties, and how to apply them to occupations hitherto limited to men.

(2) To place before the Governor the modifications of the existing civil laws, so as to obtain for woman more freedom and more rights, "which will enable her to reach the summit of her aspirations."

(3) The establishment of secular instruction. (This is already in process.)

(4) Not to teach dogma in the churches to children, since their undeveloped reason and their unformed judgment make them accept everything.

(5) To institute lectures in schools, the end of which would be to destroy in children's minds the fear of a vindictive God who imposes eternal punishment according to the law—"tooth for a tooth, eye for an eye."

(6) To inculcate in woman high principles of morality, humanity, and solidarity.

(7) That she should be educated on rationalist lines, emphasis being given to intellectual training, "so as to bring woman to the level of man."

(8) That woman should have a profession or work by which she could maintain herself.

The second question dealt with the reform of primary education. Public lectures should be established for the benefit of parents and teachers to demonstrate the noble aims of rationalist education; far from leading to "libertinism," it was the basis of a society in which would predominate a conscience sensitive to rights and obligations. The solution of the third problem was the establishment of Academies of Art, Painting, Sculpture, Music; a Conservatoire of Elocution, and in "Vocational Schools" to hold classes in the trades of photography, printing, binding, florist, etc.; to found women fellowships for this purpose.

The fourth question was more contentious: "What are the public functions which a woman should hold in order to be a directing factor not only in her sphere, but in that of society?" There is nothing wanting in the theory of the replies. I give a literal translation:—

(1) "To women should be opened the doors of all the fields of action in which man struggles daily for life."

(2) "The woman of the future should discharge whatever public duty of which her physical constitution is capable, since her intellect in no way differs from that of man, and is as well able to be a ruling factor in the community."

These were apparently abstract theoretical principles, with no immediate practical significance. There was no question of the vote. Everything was expected of the woman of the future. With Latin logic the Mexican women preferred first to obtain not the symbol of liberty—the vote,—but actual liberty—a release from the tyranny of clericalism, and of conventions and habits based on ignorance.

It is not until the second Convention is held, ten months later, that we first hear of the vote. It was convened by the same State authority. The booklet which records the conclusions of the Convention is not yet in our possession; but we have half-a-dozen leaflets which give account of questions to be discussed that have been proposed by various special committees.

One of the chief propositions is the question of municipal votes for women. The committee which presented this question are of opinion that while women are now capable of exercising a municipal vote, they are not, strangely enough, capable yet of becoming municipal candidates. While the committee are unanimous in demanding the vote, it is surprising that one delegate, Lucrecia Rivas, is instructed to hold that women should not yet have votes or be voted for; that the woman of the future may vote, but should never be a candidate for election. The reasons given are of the usual kind, centring round the sentimental hearth. The result of the struggle between the Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists at this Convention has not yet reached us.

Another proposition to be presented was the question of marriage and venereal diseases. Various steps are suggested to safeguard the women from the perils the man might bring, such as rigorous medical examinations before marriage.

Finally, among others, there is the question of the education of the children of divorced parents. It should be undertaken by the innocent party, or persons appointed by the two parties in other cases. The conclusions arrived at are not yet to hand.

T. PUGH EVANS.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

The Gokhale Memorial Scholarship was started in 1915 by the friends in England (both English and Indian) of the late Mr. Gokhale, as a memorial to him. It was decided that there could be no better tribute to his memory than a scholarship bearing his name, and devoted to furthering the education of women in India, by giving Indian girls a training in England in the latest methods of teaching. The great want in India is trained Indian teachers. In order to supply this want in a small way, for Calcutta there had already been established two associations, working in co-ordination; one in India, the "Mahila Samiti" (Ladies' Association), with the Maharani of Coochbehar as president, and one in England, the "Indian Women's Education Association," under the presidency of Lady Muir Mackenzie. The work of the first Association was to choose a suitable Indian girl and send her to England; the work of the second to enable the girl to study at an English training college and obtain the teachers' diploma.

This latter Association has lately been considerably enlarged, so as to work in connection with associations formed in other provinces of India, and progressive Indian ladies of high rank—like H.H. the Begum of Bhopal, H.H. the Begum of Janagdh, H.H. the Dowager Maharani of Coochbehar—have been induced to add their names to its list of patrons. The committee has also been enlarged and strengthened by the addition of a few men members, and the founders of the Gokhale Scholarship have transferred to it the administration of their funds.

In order to accomplish its object there are two alternatives the Association might adopt when deciding on a suitable candidate, both of which are useful. One would be to choose a girl who has recently graduated and has had but little experience in teaching, to let her study at one or other of the recognised training colleges, such as the Bedford College or the Cambridge Training College, and obtain the teachers' diploma. In this way one would train a teacher who would make an excellent under-mistress in any good secondary school. The other alternative would be to choose an older woman, an Indian graduate, who has taught in an Indian school for some years, who is thoroughly acquainted with the methods in vogue at present in India, and to give her an opportunity to visit various training colleges and schools in England, and to study their different methods of teaching, and to work out for herself a course adapted for India. By this method one would obtain a teacher who would make a good headmistress of a

training college, and who would be capable in her turn of training other teachers. Which alternative is adopted would depend very largely on the particular candidate, who might offer any particular year. Three years ago the Association trained a student at Bedford College, who took the Cambridge diploma for teachers after a two-years course. Now it proposes to try the second alternative, as a candidate has been suggested, on behalf of her committee, by Mrs. J. C. Bose (the wife of Dr. J. C. Bose, the eminent scientist). This candidate is Mrs. Ráj Kumár Dás, an M.A. of the Calcutta University, who has been for eight years headmistress of a secondary school for Girls in Calcutta, the "Sadharan Brahma" Girls' School. This school is State-aided, and lately the Government has suggested that it would be a good thing if the headmistress had an opportunity of studying English methods of teaching. The lady also is anxious to have some knowledge of newer methods and organisation. The Indian Women's Education Association has therefore decided to offer her a scholarship of £100 for one year to help her to obtain the fresh experience she requires.

Assistance of this description is some of the most useful that can be offered. The ladies who are helped to come over have received all their education in India; they know the type of girl they will have to deal with, and what subjects and up to what standard they will be required to teach. If they receive a good training themselves they are much more valuable as teachers, and more capable of instructing others how to teach. Indian public opinion is not sufficiently alive to the importance of education for women to induce even well-to-do fathers to spend large sums on their daughters' education, so that unless more scholarships like the above are founded the work of education will progress but slowly. It is true that Government offers a few scholarships, but much more is required both from the Government and from private effort before female education in India can be put on a satisfactory basis.

S. H. BONNERJEE.

### FRANCE.

#### Progress of Woman Suffrage in Public Opinion.

We think we may safely affirm that in France, as elsewhere, the cause of Woman Suffrage, if far from being won, is still making good progress, at least from the point of view of municipal Suffrage. The awful war which tortures us, and to which we wish to owe nothing nor to admit any advantage, none the less has thrown light on the occupations which women have been forced into, and thereby on the qualities of organisation and endurance which men did not previously recognise in women.

The possibility of the vote to be granted to women is often shown in an unexpected way. I will quote the little article which follows, and which appeared in the *Matin* on January 11th, and which alludes to the speech at the opening of the Senate by M. Latappy, the "Father of the House," and who some years ago enjoyed pouring ridicule on the cause of Woman Suffrage. The quotations are from the article of M. Louis Forest:—

"It appears more and more that this war will mark for humanity the date of woman's emancipation. I have already expressed this idea on several occasions, and behold yesterday in the Senate it had the honour of opening the sitting. The 'Father of the House' said: 'We must not stake our pride on this. I am sure you will judge as I do that women are to-day graduating for the future electorate. I for my part do not stand on my dignity, and if women had the franchise to-morrow I should not feel myself humiliated. I may feel humiliated when I am preceded at the election by a pick-pocket; but if I am preceded by a good woman with a fine child in her arms I feel in no wise diminished. It is not the sex of the elector which matters, it is the quality, and a woman of good quality is better than a man of inferior quality. (équilibre)

"There is, however, one thing to be noticed. Suppose that to-morrow all Frenchwomen voted in general elections. The number of Frenchwomen already exceeds that of Frenchmen before the war. War has terribly aggravated this disproportion. Women will therefore suddenly be in a crushing majority. One step more forward, and there will be no more men in Parliament, but only women. Men will then be governed by women—and nothing much will be altered."

LOUIS FOREST.

M. Latappy had also said in his speech devoted to women: "The United States have got ahead of us; it is high time we caught them up."

Of course the President of the "Union Française pour le suffrage des femmes" wrote to thank M. Latappy, because although this allusion to Woman Suffrage has no capital importance it is nevertheless a sign of the times, given the time and place of the speech.

M. Flandin, the new reporter to the Chamber on the question of Suffrage, has finished his report, which is favourable to us, but this report before being presented to the Chamber must be discussed by the Commission on Universal Suffrage. The President of this Commission, M. Breton, having been nominated Under-Secretary of State, the President and Secretary General of the U.F.S.F. have been to see the new President, M. Alexandre Varenne, and we have been assured that we shall be received and heard by the Commission on Suffrage. A group of representatives of societies having Suffrage on their programme will join us.

We are going to prepare for this deputation by interviewing beforehand the individual members of the Commission, who number 40, so as to discuss the question with each of them. We shall divide the visits according to the tendencies and capacities of each of us, for one of our faithful friends in the Chamber has taken the trouble to give us minute information as to the personality and tendencies of each of the members of the Commission, so that a visitor of diametrically opposite views to those of the deputy may not be sent to plead our cause, which would be lost in advance. The ambassadress should as far as possible be in sympathy with the deputy whom she is to convince of the utility of our demand for Municipal Suffrage; for that is the first stage we have in view.

We shall not ask to be received by the Commission before this preparatory work has been accomplished, and it is time to sow the seed for the harvest.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, President of the U.F.S.F.  
(affiliated to the I.W.S.A.).

#### Women Appointed on Government Commissions.

A Commission has recently been nominated by the Ministry of Public Instruction to deal with the reorganisation of girls' secondary education. In addition to a number of male professors, teachers, senators, and deputies, the head mistresses of several girls' schools were nominated. At first this was all, but several days later the significant addition was made of Mme. Jules Siegfried, president of the National Council of Women, which has been agitating the question of the reform of girls' secondary schools.

The Commission appointed to report on improvements in physical training did not include a single woman. In response, however, to the protests of the National Council of Women, two women have been added—Mme. Thuillier-Landry and Mme. Debré.

#### Infant Welfare in Paris during the Second Year of the War.

Professor Pinard recently made a communication to the Academy of Medicine on the protection of infant life in Paris. With protective measures similar to those of the preceding year, the figures of the second year are not so good. This is attributed to the working in munition factories of pregnant and nursing women, which is vigorously denounced by M. Pinard.

#### Child Labour.

French Suffragists are alive to the suffering inflicted on children and the injury to the future of the race inflicted by present war conditions, which are driving young children into the factory and depriving them of health and education.

The *Française* of January 6th, and *L'Action Féministe*, have strong articles on the subject by Juliette François Raspail and Marthe Bigot.

The Union fraternelle des femmes has approached the Ministry of Labour, and offered to organise a service of women inspectors to safeguard children in factories, and pointed out the large increase in accidents to children, of which examples are given. After investigating the facts the U.F.F. presented them to various deputies, notably to M. Ernest Lafont, deputy of the Loire, who took up the matter. It is hoped to obtain increased safeguards for children working in factories. Mme. Bigot draws attention to the danger of continuing the suspension of laws which formerly protected children, and quotes a speech of Senator Touron to the Chambers of Commerce in June, 1916, in which he says that manufacturers will have to depend on the labour of women and children. Mme. Bigot shows what disastrous results this would have for the physical and moral development of the race, and that it is women's first duty to safeguard the children.



## GERMANY.

**The Extension of German Women's Work in War Time.**

In all belligerent countries—indeed, in neutral States, too, which have been obliged to mobilise their armies—after the first crises of unemployment were overcome an increase of women's wage-earning work has taken place.

In Germany, whose position, surrounded by enemy countries, made the bringing in of foreign workmen difficult compared with other countries, this increase is perhaps the greatest. General inquiries, such as a census of occupations undertaken in peace times, were not made in the first year of war or were not published. The German census of December 1, 1916, included in its questions inquiries into the occupations of the population, and for the first time included women's occupations, but has, of course, not been worked out scientifically. But the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* (Imperial Labour paper), the organ of the official bureau for labour statistics, published in September, 1916, an article on women's work in war time in which the replacement of men by women is treated in a comprehensive way. An attempt has been made to show by the statistics of the national sick insurance, in which everyone in employment whose income is below a certain figure (2,500 marks) is obliged to insure, the increase of women's work.

According to the evidence, the increase of employed women of the middle and lower classes has been more than half a million compared with peace times.

But it would be a mistake to conclude from this great increase of women's work that there is a general lack of labour. In August, 1916, for a hundred vacant situations there were 142 women applicants. For every two vacant places there was an average of three women candidates. In October the number had fallen to 136. This surplus is to be explained by the fact that in peace there is always a surplus of women's labour, which has now been increased by the falling off in many women's industries, textiles, etc., and the greater number of women entering industry on account of the increased cost of living and the falling off in men's labour. Women are not included in the new auxiliary service, because at present all demand for women's labour can be filled through the open market. Women have poured into national labour according to the needs of the economic situation in various branches of industry, and not according to what are considered female occupations.

Industries always recognised as women's—such as textiles, some luxury trades, and the whole category of domestic services—show a decrease of women workers, whilst work always considered strictly men's work shows an ever-increasing proportion of women.

German women have proved their worth in these new employments, have overcome many prejudices as to their capacities, and won frequent official recognition. The *Reichsblatt*, already mentioned, publishes details about the increase of women's work in various industries, which may be of interest. It is reported that the number of women employed in agriculture and forestry, which is relatively high in Germany in peace time, has risen by more than three-fifths since July, 1916, compared with peace time. The woman behind the plough is a picture which will remain in popular memory, and amongst all memories will arouse the greatest gratitude. The cultivation of the soil has not only been carried on as before, but land that has hitherto lain fallow has been put to use owing to the labour and initiative of women. In mining, which before the war had happily almost entirely disappeared, women have again been employed since the war in day work. In the building trades, too, in which women are not usually employed in Germany, the number now is not inconsiderable. In the summer of 1916 the building trades instituted an inquiry, which showed that 9,441 women were employed, chiefly in railway work and in work for the military authorities. But this figure is certainly incomplete. The increase of women is naturally in the war years chiefly in the factories. Whereas employment has fallen off in some industries, it has, of course, increased in war industries, and shows the transition which has taken place so quickly in the national economy. The sick insurance offices of the metal and machine industries show that the women employed before the war were 60,000, and in August, 1916, had risen to 140,000. But in some single trades the increase is still greater. Figures about the increase of women's labour in Krupp's works have been given in this paper (September, 1916, page 174).

Out of 579 branches of the metal industry in Rhineland and Westphalia, 352 have introduced women's labour since the war. In these trades, in the autumn of 1916, 42,000 women workers were employed. Through division of labour, which is very extended in these trades, it is possible to apply woman power to almost all branches of work. In shell-making women's work begins in the foundry and goes through all the processes up to the packing and loading of the finished shell. Women are employed in the manufacture of cooking stoves; in wire factories, in spooling and drawing the wire; in gun factories they make gun parts; in leather works they serve the great saddle and shoe making machines. In only a few processes is preparation or arrangement by male experts necessary. The electrical and chemical industries show also a great increase of women, but wood working shows a decrease.

The better employments show a varied picture of apportionment of the influx of women. In the towns the increase is striking in the number of women employed in trade and municipal and State work, although it is of less extent and importance than women's industrial and agricultural work. Women are seen cleaning the streets (before the war only a few South German town authorities had entrusted this work to women); they are to be seen in the streets as postmen and mail-van drivers; in the railway service they have penetrated to the higher offices; and are also employed on the trams. In these latter occupations they wear a service cap or official badge like their male colleagues, and the public has soon become accustomed to it.

An inquiry in the autumn of 1915 into the employment of women in 70 tramway systems showed even then the considerable number of 13,954 female employees, of which 2,799 were wives of mobilised employees; women have proved capable even as drivers of electric cars in the busiest streets of capital cities. Girls and women have replaced men in the banks and in offices of private commercial firms and of the Government, and the statistics of professional organisations show that since the war women in an increasing degree have been able to fill higher posts and earn good salaries in commercial life, which hitherto have been reserved for men.

Indeed, if the replacement of men by women in higher positions is less statistically, it is of much greater importance for general progress. Women are now successfully filling the places of men teachers and doctors who are in the field. Thousands of women teachers are now at work in boys' schools, without in any way confirming the prejudice which has hitherto obtained against them in Germany. At the end of the year 1915, in Greater Berlin 90 women teachers were employed at 24 State and municipal boys' secondary schools (gymnasien).

In the higher professions which demand a university training there is scarcely any field in which women are not replacing men. As a proof that women are used to carry out the organisation of all war tasks, there is the fact that a woman was officially appointed to the new Imperial War Department. Specially conspicuous is women's activity in all departments of social welfare work.

Municipalities appoint women to the communal committees for provisions, in the offices for war maintenance grants, in health work, and particularly in child protection, which at present is considered specially important, and private societies engaged in social work have doubled their activities and workers during the war.

So the war has led to the appearance of the official social worker, who was formerly rare, and is now becoming a well-known type. In the middle of the war a professional organisation for women social officials has been formed. The influx of women into social work has been warmly supported by men, for here is a field for women's special gifts, which is generally admitted, and rouses no envy!

On the whole the changes in the labour market in favour of women have been most marked in those fields where women had already got a footing before the war—e.g., in the metal industry, or where women had had the same training as men, as e.g., in medicine or as head teachers; but even where there was no precedent and no tradition, as e.g., railway officials, train or tram conductors or drivers, we see astonishing adaptability to the needs of the labour market, which as the war continues proceeds ever more quietly and as a matter of course. The welfare of the country demands women, and they offer themselves from every class in society, and so abundantly that there is still a surplus. No statesman and no leading employer or worker has spoken of the national economic progress in war time without saying that the economic strength of the country was only maintained by the co-operation of women.

The supporters of the women's movement may be delighted and proud at the successes of their sisters in professional work. The people will ever be grateful to the women, who in difficult times rendered priceless services to the country. And yet those most in favour of women's employment can have no doubt that it neither can nor ought to continue after the war to the same extent as at present. On the whole German women are agreed that it is a matter of course that women must relinquish all those positions which they have only had since the war, and must give them up to the men as they return from the front. The weeding out of women from a great part of the industrial field presents a problem for which solutions are already being sought. At the great Congress of the German National Council of Women (Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine) (see *Jus Suffragii*, vol. x., No. 12, p. 172), Frau Dr. Altmann-Gottheiner spoke on the transition of women's work between war and peace time, and showed that on the conclusion of peace these tasks must be grappled with by the professional organisations, with the help of the municipal and State authorities. The professional organisations must insist on equal pay for equal work, and prevent cheap women's labour being used to undercut the rates of pay of the returned soldiers. The municipal and State authorities must extend and develop the whole system of labour bureaux, so that from one district to another there is an equalising of demand and supply.

There has been already in Germany, since the war, a unification of the organisation of labour bureaux, and this must go on. For the unemployed there must be after the war the unemployed relief which was instituted at the beginning of the war, and which will be indispensable for the transition time. Finally, the State must enforce the Factory Acts for the protection of workwomen, which were in force before the war but have been suspended, such as the ten-hour day, the prohibition of night work for women, and their employment in mines and building. Thus the returning men will get back into their old jobs, and women be kept out of the work which is dangerous to them. A great extension of laws protecting workwomen is demanded by far-seeing politicians and by the women's movement in order to preserve women for their maternal functions, which will be now of increased importance. Many women will voluntarily retire from wage-earning when the family breadwinner returns and when the nation no longer requires their labour. But, nevertheless, in comparison with pre-war times, there will be an increase in the number of wage-earning women to fill the gaps left by the fallen and wounded. Many women will, therefore, remain in callings which have hitherto been exclusively masculine, but which war time has shown can be filled adequately by women, both physically and mentally.

On the other hand, many wounded men will take up work which is usually performed by women—clerical work and such like. There will certainly be a readjustment of employments in which every capacity will find room, and will give no scope for a sex war. So women may look forward even during the war to possibilities of future development of their labour.

LISELOTTE KUNTZE.

**The Equal Moral Standard.**

A great gathering of women was held in Berlin in the last days of November, to consider the pressing problems of prostitution and venereal disease, now rendered more urgent than ever by the disorders of war time. The numbers wishful to attend the Congress so greatly exceeded the space provided that many hundreds were turned away, and it is proposed to have a second meeting in February on the same subjects. The Press was not admitted, and no report of the proceedings was permitted, but an article by the well-known Frau Katharina Scheven, in the *Frauenfrage*, gives an idea of the lines taken by various speakers. The object of the conference was to interest circles who have hitherto not concerned themselves with the subject, and in this it was successful. The Empress's Court ladies attended; the wife of the President of the Lower House made the opening speech; large numbers of middle-class women and girl students attended.

Fraulein Anna Pappritz explained the need of women's participation in the solution of the terrible problem of vice; Frau Scheven gave an account of present conditions and of the attitude of the State to prostitution, of the measures taken by the authorities, and of the efforts of social reformers. Fraulein Paula Müller described the social causes of prostitution; and Fräulein Margarete Treuge showed the moral results of civilisation. Discussion was then directed to practical steps. Dr. Gertrud Bäumer gave an address on sick insurance, as the

bearer of social hygiene, and explained reform plans which it is hoped will undermine the system of State regulation. The intimate connection between all social conditions, which has hitherto been neglected in the treatment of the problem of prostitution, was clearly shown, and instead of police control a new social hygiene was indicated, based on sick insurance, and providing supervision and cure for the population. This speech emphasised the responsibility of each individual for that of the whole, and Fräulein Müller with a wealth of fact pointed the moral that the responsibility for prostitution and venereal disease rests upon the whole community. The principle of abolition of State regulation underlay all the speeches, but met with some opposition. The sharpest controversy was excited by the question of the housing of prostitutes. One party was uncompromisingly opposed to any kind of segregation, even of the reformed kind obtaining in Dortmund and Bremen, but they were opposed by the friends of regulation. As this question is not one of expediency, but of fundamental principle, it was necessary to discuss it thoroughly. Frau Lischnewska made a proposal, characterised by Frau Scheven as grotesque, that communal lodging-houses for prostitutes should be instituted under the supervision of a woman social worker and the medical inspection of men and women doctors. This is a revival of a scheme recommended to the authorities by Dr. Sarason. Frau Neuhaus, of Dortmund, took the view that segregation could not reasonably be opposed unless and until other means were found to prevent prostitutes living in working-class families.

The abolitionists favoured the toleration of lodgings ("Absteigequartiere"), together with prohibition of souteneurs and prohibition of disorderly houses containing young children. They took the view that prostitution was a matter of supply and demand, with both parties equally responsible, so that efforts should be directed not against the prostitutes but against the trade.

This view is not understood by those who direct their disapproval chiefly against the woman, and who will not admit the equal moral standard for men and women, which is inseparable from a true conception of morality and of justice.

Frau Marianne Weber supplied a constructive element to the discussion in her paper on ethical counterweights to prostitution, but the discussion of constructive reforms had to give way to the need for clearing the ground on more elementary matters of principle.

**Women's Patriotic Service: Voluntary or Compulsory?**

The Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine (Federation of Women's Societies) has forwarded an address to the Imperial Economy Committee, in which it declares that the Bund, comprising 4,000 women's societies of all varieties of religions, and economic sections, and representing a large part of organised women, would welcome the inclusion of women in patriotic auxiliary service, and that equal compulsory civilian service for women and men would have been approved by them. As the Government has not included women in a compulsory scheme, the Federation will do all in its power to further women's voluntary service.

The letter is signed by Dr. Gertrud Bäumer on behalf of the Bund.

**Health Certificates and Marriage.**

Henriette Fürth discusses the pros and cons of this safeguard against the spread of venereal disease, and points out that the kind of examination necessary in these cases would be most repulsive to decent girls on the eve of marriage, and likely to produce nervous disturbance. The same objections do not apply to men, who are subject to such examination periodically during military service. The writer concludes that only two alternatives avoid dangerous consequences—(1) to differentiate between the examination of men and women, and in the case of women only to enforce the medical examination usual before official appointments; (2) that the thorough examination if applied to both sexes should be carried out in the case of women by medical women.

**Dress Reform.**

An exhibition of women's dress from 1700 to 1900 has been arranged in Berlin. The earlier fashions were set by the ladies of the French court, and showed always a well-defined style. Since 1870 the fashions have been decided by commercial interests, and show a hotch-potch of meaningless designs feverishly and suddenly changing from one extreme to another. Margarete Pochhammer, in discussing the importance of suitable dress for sensible, active women, says that the matter must be seriously taken up by thoughtful women of the upper classes.

—*Frauenfrage*.



## GREAT BRITAIN.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

## \*The Conference on Electoral Reform and Women's Suffrage.

The work of the Conference is drawing to a close, and it is expected that the result of its deliberations and the agreement arrived at on the various questions submitted to it will be made known before Parliament reassembles next month.

Meanwhile reports purporting to give the findings of the Conference have been circulated in the Press which contain the statement that Women's Suffrage would not be included in the report because members were unable to come to any agreement on that question. An official announcement was made on the day following the appearance of these reports, stating that they were "wholly unauthorised, inaccurate, and misleading."

It was not surprising that these reports assuring women that their claim had been completely set aside should have aroused the indignation of Women Suffragists. This feeling of resentment was expressed in the following letter from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, published in the *Times* and other papers:—

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.  
To the Editor of the *Times*.

Sir,—In view of the reports current in the Press as to the findings of the Conference on Electoral Reform, and the general impression that these findings include no satisfactory reference to the question of Woman Suffrage, the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies begs you to grant them space in your columns for a brief statement.

At no time in the history of this country has there been such widespread support for any single non-party measure as there is to-day in support of the principle of Woman Suffrage. The opposition to it has dwindled to a few determined opponents, whose obstinacy deserves little consideration; and the imminence of the Imperial Conference, at which only the women of the Overseas Dominions are to be directly represented, brings the matter clearly in evidence. The demand for the inclusion of women in the electorate rests now upon their proved service to the State and upon the grave danger that their continued disfranchisement will become when the problems of reconstruction are dealt with. Nothing will be so disastrous for the British Empire of the future as an industrial settlement in which women are not fairly treated, and nothing but enfranchisement can secure justice to them. The matter is of such urgent importance and is now so long overdue that we could but feel contempt for a Conference which has not had the courage to face it. If it is true that it has recommended that organisations of women cannot even intervene in elections to the extent now open to them, it is but an added disability, while the proposal that they shall pay still more for the upkeep of the members they may not elect is yet another injustice.

If the current rumours are correct, we should feel it necessary to protest most seriously against the continued indecision of our rulers, who neglect to remedy an evil because they have no direct interest in so doing.—Yours, etc.,

MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT (President),  
HELENA AUERBACH (Hon. Treasurer),  
EVELYN M. L. ATKINSON (Hon. Secretary),  
RAY STRACHEY (Hon. Parliamentary Secretary).

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W., January 18.

Preparations are being actively pushed forward by the National Union in readiness for the moment when the report of the Conference will be made public, and a campaign of propaganda has already been initiated. The annual conference of the National Union will be held in London at the time when Parliament meets, and whatever the outcome of the findings of the Conference may be the National Union will be prepared to take action.

## Scottish Women's Hospitals.

A visit was paid to the headquarters of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, Edinburgh, by the Serbian Minister. His Excellency was accompanied by Professors Georgevic and Popovic. The Serbian Minister acknowledged in a most gracious manner the work done by the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia, paying a high tribute to the devotion and heroism shown by the members of the Units, and which he declared would never be forgotten.

A donation of £13,000 has been received at headquarters from Calcutta, which is the result of the meetings held by Mrs. Abbot. It will be used to equip and maintain a unit to be known as the "Calcutta Unit."

*Royal Mont Hospital.*—Miss K. Burke, at present touring in America and Canada to collect funds for the Scottish Women's Hospital, has been presented with a magnificent ambulance car for use in France. The donor is Mr. Emerson McMillin, of New York. Although this car can accommodate

twelve stretcher cases, it is light enough to be driven easily by a woman. This car is the first of the kind to be employed in France. A new feature of this ambulance is that the stretchers are hung upon flexible springs, which is very advantageous to the patients.

*Corsican Unit.*—Work has been very difficult owing to bad weather, which has destroyed roads and bridges in some places, but gradually the sick have all been brought down to Ajaccio. Writing on December 29, Dr. Phillips said she expected the hospital to be filled up with more sick Serbians, who were being sent from France.

*Salonica Unit.*—Thirty-six beds have been added to the 250 of this Unit. The patients were French, Senegalese, Serbs, Russians, and a few British, Albanians, Rumanians, and Herzegovinians. The Unit counts as part of the French Army, and owes deep gratitude to the Service de Santé for their unflinching kindness and courtesy. During the year November, 1915, to November, 1916, 3,045 patients have been treated by this Unit.

*London Unit.*—Miss May Henderson, the administrator of the London Unit working in Roumania and Russia, has returned to England to collect stores. On all sides it is acknowledged that the Unit did invaluable work in Dobroudja. The Foreign Office has sent a message conveying Mr. Balfour's appreciation of the splendid work done and the magnificent example set by the members of the Unit. Dr. Inglis is now in charge of a hospital near Galatz. Dr. Chesney and the transport are working in a hospital at Odessa.

## Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

Miss Moberley, administrator of the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units, has returned to England for a rest, after a year of untiring and devoted work. Miss Moberley has given her services with such ungrudging devotion, and shown so much tact and wise judgment, that the South-Western Zemstvo has asked her to return to Galicia in the spring and help them with a much-needed piece of educational organisation. The same Zemstvo also very much appreciate the services of the Zaleschiki military and civilian Unit, and are co-operating with the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in helping it on under Dr. King Atkinson until the end of the war. Miss Moberley reports that the Units are winning golden opinions from all who come into touch with them. At Zaleschiki the Unit was augmented by two nurses in order to fight the smallpox epidemic in the villages round. The work has been extraordinarily successful from a medical point of view, for, though the type of disease was a very virulent one—"black" smallpox, as it is called in Russia,—only four deaths occurred out of 27 cases. Dr. King Atkinson, whose energy and enthusiasm has so largely contributed to the success of the work, is returning home on a short visit, leaving Dr. Helena Hall and Dr. Laura Foster to carry on the work until her return.

Mrs. Elborough has taken over the post of administrator in place of Miss Moberley.

## Women's Suffrage Memorial to the Prime Minister.

A memorial, signed by 4,000 leading and representative persons in 24 constituencies in the Manchester area, has been addressed to the Prime Minister. The text of the memorial runs as follows:—

We, the undersigned, urge the necessity of enfranchising women in any proposed Electoral Reform brought forward during the war, so that they shall take part in the election of the Parliament which will deal with the problem of reconstruction immediately after the war.

Many of the signatories are men and women who, before the experience of war conditions, were indifferent, even hostile, to the often expressed demand of women for some share in the political life of the country, and have not only readily appended their signatures, but also obtained signatures from others. The comprehensive nature of the signatures is self-evident, and shows an obvious demand for Women's Suffrage at this time. They include 347 public officials (members of Parliament, aldermen and councillors, poor-law guardians, magistrates, directors of education, superintendents of police, etc.); 663 representatives or officials of political organisations, such as trade unions and trade councils, the Labour Party, the I.L.P., and Co-operative Guilds; 609 representatives of the professions (University professors and lecturers, headmasters and mistresses, clergymen and ministers, doctors, lawyers, artists, and representatives of the Press); 225 representatives of business and commerce, including large employers of labour and bank managers, etc.; and 170 persons interested in social

welfare—i.e., 40 officials of hospitals and 130 social workers, including officials of religious bodies, officers of adult schools, representatives of temperance and philanthropic organisations, etc.

The memorial points out that Women's Suffrage is a measure essential to the welfare of the country at this crisis. As a consequence of the wider national service of women "it would be positively dangerous for a Parliament which does not represent women to deal with the problems of industrial and social reconstruction which have to be considered after the war." The Prime Minister is reminded of his own words at the Guildhall on January 11 of this year, "Women have helped to win the war, and without them we could not have done it," and it is shown plainly that any extension of the franchise which would exclude them could not be contemplated by the nation at large.

This memorial, so representative of varied interests and classes, is typical not only of what Lancashire, but what England thinks on the vital question of Women's Suffrage.

## The Women's Vote in War and Peace.

It is an interesting fact that at the Special War Conference of the Empire the women of Australia, New Zealand, and of the four Provinces in Canada where Women's Suffrage has been carried, will be directly represented by the delegates from those Dominions and Provinces. Not a few opponents of Women's Suffrage in this country have acknowledged that this fact has made a greater impression upon them than any arguments for granting the franchise to their countrywomen. It has apparently occurred to these opponents that Englishwomen are quite as well qualified to have a voice in the settlement of urgent questions affecting the war as the women of the Overseas Dominions.

## Women and the Legal Profession.

At the annual general meeting of the Bar, Mr. Holford Knight brought forward a resolution in favour of admitting duly qualified women to the legal profession. The resolution was defeated by a large majority. Many prejudices against women have been shattered in the course of this war, but they still flourish in conservative bodies such as the legal profession. The speeches of the opponents on this occasion did not show perhaps so much prejudice as fear of competition. Most of the arguments, indeed, were similar in character to those advanced against giving the vote to women. The *Times*, in a leading article which appeared the day before the debate took place, pleaded for the admission of women, and tried to dispel the fears of the legal gentlemen by assuring them that only a very few exceptional women would ever rise to any eminence in the profession. The writer also urged that there were "special reasons just now why the Law, which is the oldest, and closest, and most distinguished of Trade Unions, should set this particular example (of admitting women) to the rest."

## The "Common Cause" and Women Munition Workers

The "Common Cause" Fund for providing a "hut," as it is called, for women munition workers, is now completed, and the hut will be erected in a munition centre. It is to be called the "Common Cause" Hut, and will be a well-lit and well-ventilated wooden building, containing a large hall, with buffet at one end, and a rest room. It will be available both as a club and recreation room in the evening, where women and girls can find food, rest, and entertainment after their hard work. The fund was raised by readers of the *Common Cause*, the organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. EDITH PALLISER.

\*[N.B.—The Speaker's Conference reported on January 31, recommending by a majority vote the principle of Woman Suffrage, and suggested that women who have the Local Government vote, and wives of men who have that vote, should be enfranchised with an age qualification of 30 or 35.—Ed. J.S.]

## National Council for Adult Suffrage.

It will be remembered that last summer a demand was raised for the enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors as such. This demand was based on the fact that soldiers, sailors, and many munition workers had lost their qualification for the franchise because their service to the nation involved change of residence.

Many Suffragists, while realising the justice of the claim that national service should not be a cause of disfranchisement, yet held that a franchise qualification based on military service would be dangerous and reactionary. The only course

which seemed likely to do justice to the claims of both soldiers and sailors and also women was a simple and complete measure of Adult Suffrage.

Under these circumstances, the National Council for Adult Suffrage was formed, and in the few months of its existence it has gained considerable support, both from Labour and Suffrage organisations. The Women's Co-operative Guild and the Women's International League are affiliated to it, besides many Trades and Labour Councils, Labour Representation Committees, and other organised bodies. Resolutions calling upon the Government to introduce a measure of Adult Suffrage into the present Parliament, so that the whole adult nation may have a voice in the measures of reconstruction after the war, are being received from all over the country, and a list of 156 such resolutions, collected during the past few weeks, was sent to every member of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform.

The report of the Speaker's Conference is expected in the immediate future, and there seems to be grave danger that the women's claim will again be ignored, or inadequately dealt with. Under these circumstances the Council wishes that a strong and influential demand should be voiced for a Franchise Bill which will give justice to all, and a public demonstration is to be held in the Kingsway Hall on February 10th, at three o'clock. The speakers are the Right Hon. Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Barton, and Miss Mary Macarthur. Amongst those who have accepted complimentary tickets, many of whom will sit on the platform, are Mr. William Archer, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Olive Schreiner, and Mr. Charles Trevelyan, M.P.

All particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, National Council for Adult Suffrage, 27, Chancery Lane, London, E.C.

## Women's Labour League.

NEVER AGAIN.

An editorial in the January *Labour Woman* says:—

"We believe that the best security for peace lies in the hatred of the peoples for further war. That hatred is now widespread. The belligerent and neutral nations alike know at last what the full horror of war is. 'Never again' is the phrase heard in every language throughout the civilised world. That determination has to be translated, not into military or naval domination, but into the public law of Europe. And even then it will be useless unless the spirit of the peoples is behind it. For even a League of Nations to enforce peace might be powerless against a strong combination of Governments to overthrow its decisions, unless the moral strength of the whole of the nations concerned was thrown into the balance against them. In the end, future peace rests upon the wisdom and tolerance of the people, on their freedom and strength, on their civilisation and humanity."

WORKING WOMEN AND EDUCATION.

Mr. Sidney Webb, writing on Education in the January *Labour Woman*, says:—

"The Government and the employers will be more ready to concede continuation schools, technical colleges, and half-time for adolescents, for boys than for girls. We must insist that as much be done for the girls as for the boys. It is literally true that there are more girls than boys employed in industry. The future women need instruction as much as the future men."

## The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

"The Laywoman in the Church of England" is the subject of an important Conference to be held on Saturday afternoon, February 3rd, in the Church House, Westminster. The Bishop of Willesden will preside, and Miss A. Maude Royden, Dr. L. D. Fairfield, and Mr. Douglas Eyre will speak. The meeting will then be open for general discussion, and five minutes' speeches will be allowed at the discretion of the chairman, while questions will be answered by the speakers. The aim of this Conference is to provide an opportunity for exchange of views on the question of women's share in the functions of the laity, and it is intended to afford a starting point for those who wish to make the study of the woman's movement from a Christian standpoint an outcome of the work of the National Mission. The Church League for Women's Suffrage



is responsible for the arrangements of the Conference, and particulars may be obtained from 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

#### The Campaign Against Venereal Disease.

The Hammersmith Borough Council has passed drastic resolutions, which will be submitted to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary, and which indicate tendencies in public opinion:—

Any measures of suppression can only be partially effective so long as they are directed only against premises used for these practices. The malignant and disastrous physical effects of the evil, of which the country appears at last to be growing conscious, are suffered and subsequently propagated by men who indulge in immoral practices. A man who, knowing the injury he is likely to inflict upon himself, his wife, and children, and the community generally, does this, deserves to be no less criminal than the keeper of the disorderly house and the woman, and should be made amenable to the law and liable to prosecution and penalties.

The City of London, as part of its scheme for dealing with these diseases, has arranged courses of lectures to the staffs of city firms, and those for women will be given by a woman doctor.

#### FACTORY WORK AND WOMEN'S HEALTH.

The *Lancet*, in an article eulogising welfare work in factories, says that properly conducted welfare work among female operatives demonstrates that work done under fitting conditions may be so beneficial to women that it may lead to permanent benefit to the race. Good ventilation, good meals, the wearing of clean caps and overalls, and strict observation of washing regulations, have had good results. "The bad effect of industry on female health was owing to the fact that the surroundings were bad. We must now recognise much factory employment as a healthy occupation for young women, under proper conditions of atmosphere, rest, nutrition, and personal care. Wholesome industrial conditions are the reasonable demand of workers." This shows considerable advance in the attitude of a conservative profession to women's work.

#### An International Hostel.

At the St. Paul's Hostel in London, for girls of all nationalities, a Christmas party was held, at which French, Belgian, Swiss, and girls of various nationalities met and enjoyed themselves. A warm welcome was given to a homeless German girl, who had recently been admitted to the hostel.

#### IRELAND.

#### The Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

Mrs. Haslam, the veteran Irish Suffragist, writes that they wish to continue their affiliation to the International Alliance. They feel the goal is very near now, and when Woman Suffrage is carried will remodel their Association for local government only. Mr. Haslam is over 91, but still continues his lifelong work in the cause of women.

#### CANADA.

#### National Equal Franchise Union.

The question uppermost in the minds of Suffragists all over Canada at the present time is that of the Federal Vote. The enfranchised women of the four Western Provinces keep the question continually alive, not only before their Provincial Premiers and Legislatures, but also before the Western members of the Dominion House. These gentlemen are bound to have an eye to future elections, and the fact that these will depend partly upon the women is certain to weigh strongly with them. We may therefore hope with some confidence that the Federal Vote will not long be withheld from the Western women at least.

The National Equal Franchise Union has, however, written to the Premier of each of the Provinces of Canada, urging their support of a Federal amendment which shall apply to all Canadian women, and showing that such legislation will be perfectly practicable for the Eastern as well as the Western women by reference to the history of women's enfranchisement in Australia.

#### RESOLUTION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following resolution was also sent to the House of Commons at Ottawa:—

Whereas, it is the one aim of patriotic legislators at the present crisis in our country's history to develop the best

resources of our country, the most important of these being the human resources, and

Whereas, just as in all the warring countries vast resources of woman-power lay dormant, until called into use by the war; so in like manner, by the exclusion of women from citizenship, both the women and the country are losing heavily—the women, because they are failing to reach full development, since education without participation is impossible; the country, because it is losing what women can best contribute, an understanding of the needs of Canada's million homes; and

Whereas, in the Commonwealth of Australia the Federal Vote was granted to all women when only two of the States had enfranchised them, the remaining four conferring the Suffrage one at a time as seemed expedient, without the slightest difficulty or confusion resulting.

Be it therefore resolved that the National Equal Franchise Union do petition the Parliament of Canada to enfranchise the women of our Dominion without delay.

#### WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND IDIOTS MAY BE TOLD ANYTHING.

As we all know, Hon. Wm. Pugsley introduced a resolution in the Ottawa Parliament last February, after Suffrage was granted to the Manitoba women, providing that Canadian women who have the Provincial franchise should also vote at Federal elections. This was opposed by the Government, and accordingly defeated. Many Suffragists, however, do not realise that in taking an opposing stand Premier Borden went back on his own words. In 1912 he told a Suffrage delegation that the Federal franchise depended entirely upon the Provincial, and advised them to concentrate upon the Provincial franchise in order to gain the Federal vote. The women of Canada do not enjoy being tricked and played with after this fashion, but it is the lot of the unenfranchised everywhere. Women, children, and idiots may be told anything; a citizen must be treated with more respect, or they may turn one out of office.

ISABEL R. ERIKSEN BROWN.

#### Women and Food Prices.

The Montreal Council of the National Council of Women have passed a resolution urging that the Government should ascertain how far increased prices are due to the war, and as the problems are those that nearly concern the home, to associate competent women to assist the Government committees in framing measures to cope with the matter.

#### Child Welfare.

The Executive of the National Council of Women ask the Dominion Government to establish a Child Welfare Bureau.

#### Help Received by Women in the Referendum, B.C.

Canvassing cost the women very little money. There were about 30,000 voters in Vancouver City. One firm gave the linotype, another firm gave 30,000 sheets of paper, another the printing. One firm gave 10,000 envelopes, another 6,000, another 1,000. The leading newspapers gave special articles in favour of Woman Suffrage, and put in a picture showing that British Columbia was the only Province on the Pacific Coast showing black (non-suffrage). The artist who designed this "cut" gave his work. All the electric street cars inserted this picture as an advertisement.

Professor Carrie M. Derick, professor of morphological botany in McGill University, and a prominent Suffragist, has organised a series of study groups to inquire into women's problems after the war. Some of the proposed subjects are the industrial and technical education of women, the married woman worker, conservation of child life, and conservation of women's energy. The series is called: "Preparedness for peace."

#### NOTES FROM NEW ZEALAND.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

#### CARE FOR MATERNITY.

Very satisfactory beginnings of a combined crusade to promote the preservation of infant life and to check the ravages of venereal disease are being made in New Zealand. The Dominion, which heads the world for lowness of infant death-rate, is now reorganising the State-subsidised Plunket Society, headed by Dr. and Mrs. Truby King. This, under its new

name of the Royal Society for the Health of Women and Children, will now work under a Dominion Executive at Dunedin, with provincial centres for the larger towns. The Royal Society's nurses (State-subsidised) have long given free advice and help to mothers in rearing babies, while Karitane, in Dunedin, is its training school and model baby hospital. Under the new régime this work will be largely extended throughout the country.

The advice given about babies is now to be supplemented by another excellent State institution long established here—the St. Helen's Maternity Hospitals,—where the patient pays if she can afford it, and if not is admitted free. The doctors in charge of these hospitals, of which there are five, with another in prospect, will now attend twice a week in some place where expectant mothers may come to them for free consultation. Also, the rule that no woman whose husband's income is more than £4 a week can be admitted is now relaxed, in view of the rise in the cost of living. Everything is being thus done to provide good treatment and convenience, with helpful advice before and after the baby's birth.

#### COMBATING RACIAL DISEASE.

The campaign of social education and the prevention of venereal disease is also being promoted with liberal state aid. An example of this is the scheme just formulated by the newly formed Ladies' Social Hygienic Association, of Christchurch—a body of experienced women in close touch with the local Hospital Board under the State Department of Public Health. The Association has proposed that a bureau shall be established in Christchurch, under a woman doctor and a trained nurse. Here women may come for advice and information regarding gynecological and venereal troubles, and literature will be disseminated bearing on social diseases. Treatment will be given at the general hospital, and all will be done to make consultation and treatment easy, free, and confidential. The upkeep of this bureau of information will be defrayed by the Government and the Hospital Board, the Government paying three-fourths. It is expected that other centres will take similar action.

Great satisfaction is felt that the Hon. G. W. Russell, Minister of Public Health, opposes compulsory notification, and is promoting his campaign against social disease on sound and moral lines.

#### INDIA.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

#### Arya Samaj and Women's Education.

The religious society, Arya Samaj, held an anniversary celebration recently in Saharanpur. The Samaj maintains a girls' school of 85 pupils; prizes were awarded and their work was exhibited.

The proceedings included a number of lectures on ancient Indian religion and philosophy contained in the Vedas. Shrimati Thakur Devi, an elderly matron lady preacher, delivered an impressive lecture on female education. She insisted that Sanskrit scriptures should be taught to Hindu girls instead of English. She advocated open-air exercise, and denounced the custom of veiling from the health point of view, and approved the attendance of women at public meetings.

Pt. Dhani Ram Shastri lectured on female education, and showed from texts that women were held in high esteem by the Aryas of old.

#### Teaching in Infant Care.

Mrs. Caleb, of Lahore, Punjab, started a scheme of infant welfare in March, 1916, which has been warmly welcomed, and is meeting with great success. In Mozang, the suburb of the city in which it is held, it is forming a nucleus for women's educational progress. The women are mostly poor, the wives of small land holders and labourers, with a sprinkling of better-off people. About 200 mothers, girls and babies, attend, and all minor ailments are attended to by the surgeon, health visitor, nurse, and a Bengali trained midwife. There is a demand now for first aid and home nursing, and the old native midwives are bringing their young daughters-in-law to be trained. In fact, the desire and demand for training outstrip the facilities that can at present be given.

Lantern lectures are given to the children, who flock to them. The people welcome this work gladly.

Our correspondent writes: "India has a new spirit, and is determined to progress. All are most anxious to learn."

#### HUNGARY.

On the occasion of the change of Sovereign, our Society decided to undertake the following steps in the interests of peace:—

On the 24th current we sent a telegram to the King, of which we enclose a brief résumé. We sent to members of our Society in 120 towns the gist of a similar telegram, to be sent in similar form from all these towns to the King.

We requested the Union of Hungarian Women's Societies to carry out a similar national action. (This was unfortunately refused for the time being.) In the course of the next few days we are sending a circular letter to all the political parties represented in Parliament and to all members of Parliament and of the Upper House, urging them to support the peace utterances of the new King by suitable political declarations. —Yours, etc.,

VILMA GLUCKLICH,  
President of the Feministak Egyesulete.

The telegram runs as follows:—

"Your Majesty, you are called in great times to the accomplishment of great tasks. We submit to you our heartfelt wish that the noble principles which underlie your royal manifesto may be realised during your Majesty's reign. We hope with confidence that your Majesty's youthful strength may give to the people what our late King hoped and wished for: the return of a lasting peace to the welfare of the peoples, and equal rights for all working members of the nation, and thus too for the Hungarian women, who in peace as in war were true and industrious citizens of the Fatherland, and who as mothers have to suffer the most fearful martyrdom.

"Your Majesty's manifesto fills us with hope in expressing the wish for lasting peace, and giving a prospect that that time shall be also a time of social development, of the appreciation of labour, and of equality of rights. In the name of organised Hungarian women the Feminist Union greets your Majesty with hopeful hearts."

#### THE NETHERLANDS.

*Continuation of the Suffrage Debate in the Dutch Parliament.*

Mr. BEUMER (member of the Calvinist Party, a young man who is strongly opposed to all women's rights): Now, my opinion about Woman Suffrage. I know that if one nowadays combats Woman Suffrage it gives him a mark of inferiority. But that means nothing for me. I ask, Is Woman Suffrage in conflict with God's ordinances? And then I must say there is nothing in the Bible that forbids or orders the introduction of Woman Suffrage. Christians, therefore, can be Suffragists or Anti's, just as they like. But if they look farther, then the way is clearly shown to them. The Woman Suffrage movement and the woman movement strive for social and political equality of men and women, and that is against the will of God; that is the reason why Christians ought to oppose Woman Suffrage. De Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht, in one of their pamphlets, say quite openly that "the ballot is not the aim of the women, but the key to open the door for social and political equality of men and women." And I am against this equality, and therefore all who feel like me ought to oppose Woman Suffrage. For this reason also I am against the eligibility of women. I know, and you all feel, that that eligibility is not so dangerous as the franchise, but it will work to ease the introduction of Suffrage, and I prefer to make that impossible.

The Minister said that "women more and more take part in the social and political problems of the country, and that a practical statesman ought to make allowance for that fact." But therefore we are not obliged to give them a vote. They can use their indirect influence, and that they do through their congresses, meetings, demonstrations, petitions, and even here on the Binnenhof, where there is daily a large group of women standing there like statues, but I feel not sure that this will influence us. Where the Minister says that "taking part in the government of the State by women must be in the interest of the State, while the women with their instinctive capacity will complete the men in the many problems which have more to do with feeling than with logical conclusions," I must say that does not speak to me. I do not give any value to the instinctive capacity of the women in connection with the government of the State, and did all of you read that the President of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht has said that out of this paragraph (that men have all the wisdom and women act more by instinct) the pride of men was speaking?



In the work of Cleveland I read that in the U.S. many enfranchised women do not vote because they do not wish it, and others do only to balance the votes of the lower-class women, and the women of the labour classes do not vote because they wish to do so, but they are forced to vote.

But there is another argument used by the Minister in favour of Woman Suffrage, which ought to be strongly opposed. The Minister said that after all the women have to decide by themselves what functions they wish to fulfil in society. But, gentlemen, we must oppose that idea. Not the women have to decide that question; that is already decided by God. The woman's place is in the home. To do house work is also working in the interest of society. But they call household duties inferior work for civilised women. If we, notwithstanding all that is against it, must decide to give woman a vote, let us then begin to give it to the married woman. They at least know something about infant mortality, about the food babies need, etc. But do you not see what a mistake that would be? To give married women a vote would just force her to leave her higher duties to others. Cannot the married men be the voice of their wives in the government?

But among the Woman Suffragists there exists a more and more far-reaching inclination to consider the children as theirs. In one of the addresses which reached our Parliament I read that the women also want the vote "to protect themselves and their children." As if the children no longer belong to their fathers!

He finishes his speech with the remark that the Minister had not the right to express by authority that the women have the right to decide themselves the function they will fulfil in society. We men have to take care of the women outside the home, and here in Parliament we must always have at heart the interests of our wives, mothers, and sisters.

Mr. DE YONG (member of the Moderate Liberals) began by saying that large groups of people in the country are very dissatisfied that the Government does not go farther than to remove the present bar for the introduction of Woman Suffrage. Not one argument against Woman Suffrage that was heard here is a serious one. It is easy to say women must stay at home and produce children, but where circumstances oblige women to leave the homes and to earn a living for themselves and their children, we must no longer use such arguments in an earnest debate.

We know that many social laws have to consider also the interest of the working women, of the mothers, of the married women, and it is unfair to exclude them to protect their own interests. They know better than we do what is really good for them and what not.

Married and unmarried women ought to have a vote; they have both their separate own interests. Now the leaders of the different groups of Clerical parties told us that there is not one argument from a Christian point of view against Woman Suffrage. We ought to go further than the Minister proposes, and write Universal Suffrage for men and women in the new Constitution.

M.P.'s of all political parties are longing to bring the Suffrage question in our country to an end, and they believe they do so if they agree about Universal Suffrage for men only, but if we look out of the window we will know that the great problem of Universal Suffrage for women will remain unsolved, and that the agitation will grow if we do not give women the vote in the new Constitution.

Then there began a big debate in which Mr. de Yong, Mr. Marchant (Leader of the Radicals), and Mr. Troelstra took part, in which was discussed which political party has done the most to bring the Woman Suffrage question in our country as far as it is now. They all forgot that up till the last one and a half year the Socialists, the Radicals, and the Moderate Liberals had left the women alone to fight for their liberty, and that they have done what they could do to put our claim in the background; that their papers always reported our speeches in a wrong way; that they boycotted our meetings; that if they could not ignore our meetings they told the people that we worked for a ladies' Suffrage, and that we were a body of aristocrats, and want a vote to oppose democracy.

But now Woman Suffrage in our country has gained the sympathy of the people, now it is popular, and the voice of the ballot-box will soon oblige the Parliament to give women a vote, all the advanced parties in the House claim the honour to have introduced the question first in our country, and have helped us in the best way. Mr. de Yong refers at the end of his speech to an article in the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* (the most honest Liberal daily in our country), in which

(September 13, 1916) was said that "after the work done by the women in ALL countries during the war it is absurd to refuse women a vote any longer."

Mr. ROSTER (member of the Radical Party): No one in our country is astonished that the Woman Suffrage question takes such a prominent place in the debates here. Everyone knows that it is a burning question nowadays. Other speakers have said that it is a pity Woman Suffrage had become a political party interest, and that in the future political parties will play with it as children with a ball; but, I ask, how could it be avoided? Till a short time ago most of us thought that the Suffrage problem would be solved if we had brought Universal Suffrage for men in the Constitution. But is there now any of you who believe that? If we agree to accept what is proposed by the Government, we will have before us years and years to come in which Woman Suffrage Bills will be introduced, debated, and voted down, which will take time, which we need so much for social-political questions, till at last we will still be obliged to allow women a vote.

Woman Suffrage is unpreventable. We all know that. Why should we, then, not solve this question now in the same way as we do for the men? That could be done in the same time.

The women can arrange demonstrations to get what they want, is said here. But we all know that if demonstrations had not votes behind them they would not influence Parliament much. Women have held demonstrations, often larger and better organised than men's, to get a vote. They want now the real power of the ballot to defend their interests and to be able to prevent that injustice is done to them.

But it is not only in the interests of women that we claim Woman Suffrage. It is just as well for the interest of the country. And, we ask, why should we not give all women a vote? Is there one serious man who dares to say that women are not fit to vote? No one in this House had dared to do so. But some of you are afraid that to take part in the political work of a country, women will lose their capacity for their mother functions. But that is not true. The mother functions are deeply rooted in women. Every woman is a mother in the deepest sense of the word, and not a law or a Constitution can deprive women of the holy feeling of motherhood. But thousands of women feel more strongly day by day that to fulfil their mother functions they need the vote. Questions such as laws to protect children, State assurance for motherhood, etc., they can better defend in the Parliament than men do, because they feel those questions in another way than men.

Mr. Beumer has made the Woman Suffragists a reproach that they often in their pamphlets and in their speeches speak of their children, but it is because they feel their mother feelings so strongly that they must object to the laws which gave the men all the rights over the children. Children need a father and a mother; in the law children are protected only by a father. In all countries where Woman Suffrage exists we can see the good influence of the women in that direction. The decrease of infant mortality, the increase of the age of consent for girls, better rules against prostitution and alcoholism, etc., are the results.

Some members said that the majority of women do not want a vote; there are only about 35,000 women organised for Woman Suffrage in our country. But M.P.'s who used that argument must look at their own political party, and then compare the number of members with that of the Woman Suffrage organisations.

A few days ago more than 4,000 women were gathered here on the Binnenhof, each one of them representing groups of women from all parts of the country and from all classes of people, and those women came here answering to a call which was sent out to them only a few days before. One of the papers has said of that demonstration that the crowd of women did not excel in beauty and elegance, and the answer of the women has been: "We did not want to influence the men by beauty, etc. We came as ordinary Dutch women to ask that justice is done to us."

Then there came a discussion of several M.P.'s, merely Clericals, whether it was right or wrong to exclude married women from the franchise.

Mr. BRUMMELKAMPF (a Calvinist) was of opinion that Suffrage ought to be given only to persons who are heads of the family, or who are in the same position as such. Widows and other women who have to take care of a family therefore ought to have a vote. But now we are going to introduce an individual Suffrage, now women ought to be excluded. Women, as women and nothing more, ought not to have political rights. This opinion was not based upon a conviction that women are

for the eligibility of women. That has quite other dangers. He would not bring in discussion if the women are fit for Parliamentary work; some of them are perhaps; but that is out of the question. "What I have to warn you for," he said, "is the silent, sometimes unconscious influence women exercise upon men. Parliament sometimes assembles successively months after months, and members then often come together in small committees, in which one vote can turn the scale, with often great political results. I need not go more into detail before this assembly; you all know what I mean. If now that one vote is expressed to please the female M.P., for love of her, it could be of the greatest influence on the political situation of a country. And how could we control that? Read the history of France, even of late times, and you will know the danger I warn you of. And the letters of Von Bismarck show how much he loved women, and how he feared at the same time their influence on State affairs. I am of opinion that men and women must not be brought together in Parliaments; that is too dangerous. In this case the men are the weaker sex."

Another M.P. of the same party, on the other hand, thought that married women must be excluded from the Suffrage because they are to compare with soldiers in a barrack, who have lost for a great deal the liberty to express their thoughts.

Mr. VAN NISPEN TOT SEVINAER (a Roman Catholic) was of opinion that if married women got a vote they would constantly quarrel with their husbands about the right candidate; that the good wife and mother knows that her place is in the home and therefore should not leave her home to go to the ballot-box; and that women are now already sitting in so many committees that it was quite unnecessary to give them also a right to sit in Parliament. Besides, and this was against Woman Suffrage as a whole, the women were not the equals of men; where is a woman-equal of Keppler, Newton, Rembrandt, Beethoven, etc. *He, the man, is God's glory; he the voice that speaks for her!*

(This M.P. is a cripple; he walks on two club feet, has a crooked back, and is stiff from rheumatism.)

What did the Minister answer to all this wisdom?

Minister CORT VAN DER LINDEN: Why did I propose to leave the future law-giver free to give women a vote, and did not go so far as to propose to make Woman Suffrage a fact in the new Constitution?

About the first question I must answer. We are standing before a movement of which we cannot yet say to what it shall lead. We must consider that the woman movement is not a local one; it is an international movement, a movement which gets its full signification if we take into account that in all civilised countries the wish of the women to take part in public life is growing. I consider this just, as one of the M.P.'s has said, as a mark of civilisation. This is the reason we ought not to conserve in our Constitution a limitation which was not meant for the present time.

The Constitution must contain only such articles as are the basis of right for the near future.

The speakers who were against Woman Suffrage based their antagonism on the fear that it will endanger the duties of the women as wives and mothers. But, as other speakers have already said, the women already take part in public life and in the elections, and women just want a vote to be better able to do their duties as wives and mothers in this horrible time. I know there are women who ask a vote for other reasons; some of them want a vote to become social and political equals of men. I am sorry to say, but I am sure, as soon as they have got the vote they will see how foolish that is, and will find the right way to go, better than we can drive them to.

But however it is, a movement like this is not to be arrested in its course; it is even indifferent for it if we give the women the vote or not. New generations are ruled by new ideas. The woman movement is so strong—we do not know from where it takes its forces—that mothers cannot keep their daughters free from infection.

If you speak of the vocation of women, do not forget that every generation has its own vocation. Let us not forget that the light we ignited on the candlestick will soon grow pale by the strong light of the new time.

But, you will ask, if that is true, why did you not propose Universal Suffrage for men and women in the new Constitution? My answer is in the first place this, that the men got their enfranchisement by degrees, and we ought not to give it to the women at once. And that must be done if we lay the enfranchisement of women now down in the Constitution. And, in the second place, because politics is the art of possibilities, and I believe it is impossible to bring the Bill for a new Constitution now to a victorious end if I had included Universal Suffrage for women. Then, the Article 80, which gives the men Universal Suffrage in the new Constitution, and for the women only makes it possible that the Lower House can give them a vote or not, was unanimously accepted.

Now a few words about the debate that took place in connection with the Article that meant to give women the passive Suffrage (eligibility).

Mr. DE SAVORNIN LOHMAN (Leader of the Christ. Histor. Party) opened the debate. He had amended that Article in order to exclude women. He was in favour of Woman Suffrage for the unmarried woman, and after he had heard several of his arguments against Suffrage for married women defeated, he must confess that they have convinced him that he was wrong. As Woman Suffrage would come, he no longer would oppose the Suffrage for all women. But he would never give his vote

for the eligibility of women. That has quite other dangers. He would not bring in discussion if the women are fit for Parliamentary work; some of them are perhaps; but that is out of the question. "What I have to warn you for," he said, "is the silent, sometimes unconscious influence women exercise upon men. Parliament sometimes assembles successively months after months, and members then often come together in small committees, in which one vote can turn the scale, with often great political results. I need not go more into detail before this assembly; you all know what I mean. If now that one vote is expressed to please the female M.P., for love of her, it could be of the greatest influence on the political situation of a country. And how could we control that? Read the history of France, even of late times, and you will know the danger I warn you of. And the letters of Von Bismarck show how much he loved women, and how he feared at the same time their influence on State affairs. I am of opinion that men and women must not be brought together in Parliaments; that is too dangerous. In this case the men are the weaker sex."

Interruption: "Let us, then, propose a limit for the age of women."

Mr. DE SAVORNIN LOHMAN: Oh! no, that does not help. At every age the men can be victims of the amiability and beauty of women. (Mr. de Savornin Lohman is 82 years old.)

Mr. LIMBURG (member of the Radical Party): I am much surprised to hear these arguments against the eligibility of women. I thought we had all agreed that the passive Suffrage could be admitted to women, because it concerns only a few women elected by men. The Women Suffragists have been so much disappointed by not having got the vote this time that it would not be wise to embitter them more by not giving them the passive Suffrage.

And what are the arguments Mr. de Savornin Lohman uses to defend his amendment? He is afraid of the influence of the woman upon the man, and he defends that argument by examples from the history of France, in which women behind the curtains—not members of Parliament—have used their bad influence upon statesmen. But that is just what must be prevented. Bring some women in Parliament, give them responsibility for their deeds, and the silent influence will diminish.

Mr. DE YONG (Moderate Liberal) calls it an insult for the men—the way in which Mr. de Savornin Lohman had spoken.

Mr. SCHOPER (Social Democrat) is also astonished to hear the arguments against the eligibility of women. How could a man of the age of Mr. de Savornin Lohman speak in this way? Did he know that he would shorten the rights of the men so that if his amendment were accepted the men would be deprived of their right to elect the person they find best?

Mr. VAN HAMEL (Moderate Liberal, a man 74 years of age) said that the question of eligibility of women now has turned to a direction no one could have thought of before. Mr. de Savornin Lohman fears the influence of Eros, and especially in the Parliament. But he must know that before women were allowed as students to our universities men were afraid of the same influence upon the male students. And they are all young people! And what have been the results? All university professors were of the opinion that the influence of the female student has been for the best; that the young men respect their fellow women students, that they are on friendly terms with one another, and that nothing of the kind that was feared had taken place.

What kind of women does Mr. de Savornin Lohman think the men will elect for M.P.'s? There are in election time, first public meetings, then there is a Press, and at the end the men have to elect. I feel sure that bad kind of women will not have much chance to set their feet here.

Minister CORT VAN DER LINDEN answered that he did not believe that the influence of the French women of the present time was far-reaching, and that the kind of women which have in France a bad influence are not the kind who could get a seat in the Dutch Parliament. On the other hand, to give women eligibility would probably bring some women of high culture in this assembly, and that could only be for the best of the country. All the other arguments mentioned here against the eligibility of women were not worth combating. He felt quite sure that the amendment of Mr. de Savornin Lohman had not a chance of being accepted.

The Revision of the Constitution is finished in the Second Chamber. The Bill goes now in a few months' time to the First Chamber. If it is there accepted a new Parliament has to be chosen. This will probably be in June, 1917. That new Parliament, First and Second Chamber, have to accept each



with a two-thirds majority, this Bill, and then it becomes the new Constitution.

The First Chamber now and the new Parliament have no right to amend the Bill; they have to accept or to reject it as it is now. Very probably it will be accepted, and then the political situation of the women of the Netherlands will be a unique one in the world.

*The Dutch women will then not have the right to vote, but the right to be elected in all executive and legislative bodies.*

In the spring of 1918 the general elections under the new Constitution will take place, and if the women are wise they ought to come out with a full list of women candidates in all the eighteen voting districts into which the country will be divided. There are large groups of men who will be too glad to vote for women—men who do not belong to political parties, and others who belong to political parties but are very discontented with the way the political parties have treated the women.

But, alas! many of our prominent women feel so much for the party they belong to that they prefer to get none of the women in Parliament than to do something which could cost their party a dozen votes. And that will bring a big fight in our own organisation.

DR. ALETTA H. JACOBS,  
President of the Vereeniging voor Vrouwenkiesrecht,  
Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.

## RUSSIA.

### Russian Women desire to Form a National Council.

Several women's organisations have united in a petition to the Minister of the Interior, in which they ask to be recognised as the Russian National Council of Women. The organisations consist of the Women's Mutual Aid Association, the Petrograd Women's Club, the first Women's Consumers' League, the Association for Promoting Agriculture and Farming, and the Kharkov Association of Working Women.

The petition points out that, owing to the eventful time through which the nation is passing, new circumstances and problems have arisen which require co-ordinated efforts. In these women have taken their full share, and strenuous work in all social spheres is awaiting them also in the future. To enable society to obtain the fullest benefits from the efforts of women it is essential that they should be organised, and thus work together at the successful solution of the multitude of problems which confront them. The memorandum dwells on the fact that practically all countries to-day have National Councils of Women with the exception of Turkey and China, and that in order to take their share in the work of the International Council it is necessary that Russian women should form themselves into their own national unit.

Several organisations petitioned in 1913 for such recognition, and were first of all informed that there was no reason against their constituting themselves into a national organisation. Later on, however, one technical difficulty after another was placed in their way, and this object remained unobtainable.

The petition is signed by the representatives of the above-mentioned Associations, with Dr. Chabanova as chairman.

### Women and War.

The wife of a colonel, Olga Petrovna Habich, served as a volunteer in one of the artillery brigades, and has received two St. George Crosses. She had already been decorated with two St. George Medals for bravery whilst serving previously as a nurse at the front.

Elena Konstantinova Shutskaia was recently killed whilst fighting under the name of Leonid Shutski.

On July 31 the sisters Turikova, Rauer and Shagin, were killed by bombs from an enemy aeroplane.

### Municipal Votes for Women.

The Ministry of the Interior is introducing a Bill into the Duma under which women are to be granted the direct municipal franchise without the right to be elected to municipal bodies.

At the meeting of the Zemstvo of Jaroslav it was decided to recommend, in contradiction to the proposals to be submitted by the Government, that women should be eligible for seats on the district councils.

According to official statistics, the number of women engaged in agriculture has increased 30 per cent., whilst that of men has decreased in the same proportion. In view of the enormous

importance of women's labour on the land, the Council of the Zemstvo of Jaroslav insists that it is necessary, not only as a measure of justice, but for the good of the country, that women should have their full share in the control and in the administration of local affairs.

A school for the training of postal and telegraph employés has recently been opened in Tomsk. The qualifications are: For boys, a completed two years' course at a city school; whilst girl candidates must have previously passed a four years' course at a secondary school. Such a course entitles a girl to entry into a university, whilst the two years' course which is required of boy candidates would only qualify them for entry into a secondary school.

An organisation of women textile workers has just been formed in Petrograd.

The Ministry of the Interior has established the minimum age of 16 for women entering the railway service.

The Municipal Council of Petrograd has adopted a bye-law according to which women are to be permitted to act as cab and as van drivers.

The Bishop of Krasnovarsk, and of Enisseisk, Nikon, a member of the Imperial Duma, has sanctioned the admission of women to the parish councils.

—*The Women's Messenger* (December).

## SWEDEN.

### Conservatives and Suffrage.

The Allmänna Valmansförbundet (Conservative Electoral Association) has just published its Year Book for 1916. One chapter is devoted to women and the vote, and displays remarkable impartiality, and gives in full the memorial sent to the Government by the Central Council of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, as well as the resolutions passed at the Central Council meeting of the summer meeting at Strängnäs and the Birgitta day on October 7, accompanied by the comment that "whatever may be said about the Women's Suffrage movement, it cannot be denied that it is carried on with enthusiasm, strength, and energy."

### New Town Councillors.

Filipstad: Fröken Ottilia Marin, Radical.  
Stockholm: Fröken Anna Johansson, Social Democrat.  
Sölvesborg: Fröken Ebba Hultqvist, Radical.  
Ängelholm: Fröken Carin Nilsson, Moderate.  
Östhammar: Fröken Signe Jacobsen, Radical and Temperance Party.

### Social Democrats and Suffrage.

Social Democrats demand a Party Resolution in the Riksdag in favour of Women's Suffrage.

The Labour Unions in several Communes have petitioned the Central Council of the Social Democratic Party to bring forward a resolution at the Congress of the Party, instructing the Social Democratic members of the Riksdag again to introduce a motion conferring the rights of citizenship on women. The Central Council has returned the following answer to the petition:—

"The Social Democratic members of the Riksdag have repeatedly brought this question forward, and the Central Council considers it to be of the highest importance. Though we are aware that the Social Democratic leaders in the Riksdag are taking steps to bring forward a motion in this year's Riksdag, yet we appeal to the Congress to accentuate the importance of the matter, and to urge the Social Democratic Party in the Riksdag to renew their motion giving to women the full rights of political citizenship, active and passive."

### Fru Anna Wicksell.

On December 15th, 1916, the Lund Society for Women's Suffrage arranged a social gathering to bid farewell to Fru Anna Wicksell. It was attended by the members of the Lund Society and representatives of the other Suffrage societies in Skone. Docent Hilma Borelius expressed the thanks of the Lund Society to Fru Wicksell, and Fru Louise av Ekenstam spoke for the Skone Society. Several other speakers also paid a tribute to the work done by Fru Wicksell.

—*Rösträtt för Kvinnor.*

## DENMARK.

### Women Electors' First Vote.

Danish women recorded their vote for the first time on the occasion of the Referendum held on December 14th, 1916, to decide the question of the sale of the Danish West Indian possessions. Elsa Alkman, a Swedish suffragist, gives her impressions of this historic event in *Rösträtt för Kvinnor*. After a picturesque description of the scenes at the various polling stations in the city and suburbs, she sums up by saying that "women were just as eager to vote as the men, and though in the afternoon the male electors predominated as they came in great crowds from the factories, in the morning the women were in the majority. All classes were represented; elegant ladies in furs and silks came side by side with "mothers' helps" and shop girls who were in a hurry to get back to their work. Old women who had not left the house for weeks hobbled along to record their vote. All had the same object: to vote for the first time. It was interesting to study the expression on the various women's faces. Some tried to look indifferent as they walked with a firm step, fully determined as to how they were going to vote; others wore an embarrassed smile; others had a gleam in their eyes which made one feel that this was a great day in their lives. I felt the same, and could not help wondering how long the Swedish women would have to march on before they reached the same level as their Danish sisters."

### Scandinavian Marriage Laws Commission.

The work of the Scandinavian Commission, which is preparing the new marriage laws for the three countries, is being watched by women with the greatest interest. An additional proof of this interest was the meeting arranged by the Frederike Bremer Society on December 6th, with the object of giving members of different women's associations the opportunity of laying their views before the members of the Scandinavian Commission for considering reforms in the laws relating to the marriage state and the family. It was a numerous and representative assembly, at which all the members of the Commission were present, a particularly hearty greeting being given to the Danish and Norwegian women members, Dr. Estrid Hein and the advocate Elise Sem.

Fru Montelius opened the proceedings, and the first speaker was Fröken Mathilde Stael von Holstein, who laid special stress on the demand for full legal equality of husband and wife in the marriage state and the abolition of the guardianship of the husband.

Fru Gertrud Tornell spoke on the need of a mediating body composed of men and women to whom disputes in the marriage state could be referred. Out of this mediating body should be formed another body which would have the function of dealing with matters which cannot be brought before the ordinary courts, and on which women should, as a matter of course, have representatives.

Fru Karin Holmgren spoke about the desirability and justice of the principle of marriage settlements provided for in the "Stiernstedtska Bill." In this Bill provision was made that the whole income of the home must remain intact, husband and wife having equal rights over it, which was psychologically and practically the only way to secure women's independence in the marriage state. The speaker dwelt upon the importance of having several alternative methods of financial arrangement in the marriage state with the right to change from one method to another.

Fru Anna Sterky then set forth the working woman's point of view in regard to the division of the incomes in the marriage state, and she especially spoke in opposition to the arrangement provided for in the Stjernstedt Bill.

Fru Montelius, in a short speech, then expressed the hope that the various opinions which had been set forth by women would be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

Advocate Elise Sem and Professor Bentgen then expressed their thanks for the opportunity which had been given of becoming acquainted with the wishes and aims of Swedish women in this matter.

HERTHA.

In the proposed Constitution for Mexico self-supporting women are to have the right to vote, if they earn their living with their brains and not with their hands. But matrimony is to mean for them the choice between the vote and a husband.

—*Suffrage Notes and News.*

## SWITZERLAND.

### The Church Vote and the Council of Prud'hommes.

As the readers of *Jus Suffragii* have already heard through extracts from our feminist papers, the question of Woman Suffrage has been considered simultaneously in three of our Swiss cantons. I should like to revert to this question to-day and go into detail, and give some explanations which are perhaps necessary to understand our movement.

It is important to remember that our country is a Confederation in which the electors are men enfranchised in one or other of our twenty-two cantons, and that consequently to be an elector in the federal domain they must first be enfranchised in a canton. That is why the effort of our Suffragists is devoted to the cantonal field; and, as each of our cantons and half cantons has its constitution and its own legislation, our work, our method of procedure, our checks, and our successes vary from one district to another.

Until this autumn the question of Woman Suffrage has been little discussed in our cantonal legislative assemblies. In 1908 the Grand Council of Canton Vaud had voted the ecclesiastical law giving women the right to vote for church questions; and more recently the Grand Council of the Canton of St. Gall had been presented with a motion for Woman Suffrage—a motion which is still sleeping in the pigeon-hole of that assembly. At Geneva, Woman Suffrage in church matters was granted in 1909 by popular vote of the Protestant electors, and in 1914 during the debates in our Grand Council on the subject of franchise and eligibility of women for the tribunals of prud'hommes (it will be remembered that this right, after being given, has been withdrawn before we had time to make use of it!), the question of women's political rights had been touched several times. There stopped for the present the interest taken in our claims by the legislators of our essentially democratic country!

But in the spring of 1916, on the occasion of the revision of the communal law in Berne, the Socialist Deputy Munch proposed the following amendment: "Swiss women domiciled in the commune and enjoying civil and commercial rights shall have the communal vote."

It is in support of this amendment that the Committee of Action for Obtaining Women's Communal Suffrage, composed of delegates of twenty societies, carries on an ardent campaign, publishing an occasional paper (*Die Bürgerin*), addressing a petition to the Grand Council, collecting numerous signatures to this petition, organising all over the canton, especially the rural districts, an intense propaganda of meetings. Unfortunately it received a check on the first reading, the Munch amendment being rejected on a verbal vote by 107 votes to 18; but as the second reading will not take place till the spring, the Committee intends to employ this delay in working energetically on public opinion and on that of the deputies. On the other hand, it has had some successes, since in the course of the same session on October 25th, a motion was passed granting women eligibility for Poor Relief and School Committees; and on November 23rd Deputy Brand's amendment to the communal law was passed as follows: "The ecclesiastical franchise is granted to Swiss women who enjoy civil rights, and who have lived for a year in the parish." This was passed by the fine majority of 83 votes to 48.

Almost on the same date the Grand Council of Neuchâtel voted an almost analogous motion, giving women equal ecclesiastical franchise, drawn up in these terms: "The Church franchise is granted to women belonging to the parish who fulfil the conditions of residence demanded by the law, are over twenty years of age, and in enjoyment of their civil rights." This time the motion was passed unanimously except for four votes, and, not content with having put their women citizens on a level with the Vaudoises, the Genevese, and the Bernois in the exercise of this right, the Neuchâtel deputies gave them at the same time, and with only one vote against, another right which they alone have in Switzerland—franchise and eligibility for the councils of prud'hommes. That is a fine success for our confederates, and they have obtained it after a very interesting discussion. Several of the Socialist Deputies really intended to extend to women the communal or cantonal vote, and when they were told that this proposal, being contrary to procedure, could not be examined at present, several other deputies belonging to other parties seized the occasion to make a very feminist confession of faith. Only one of these gentlemen brought forward the eternal argument that politics were not clean enough for the participation of women!



The women, for their part, had been active, but without much noise or agitation. Two petitions had been presented in 1912 and 1915; an individual letter had been written to each deputy, and addresses sent to the Grand Council, whilst a meeting of women employers and work women declared themselves equally for the admission of women to the councils of prud'hommes. But as the president of the Feminist Union of Neuchâtel (Mlle. Porret) well wrote: "What would have been the lot of our modest claims if behind the crowd of 'demanders' there had not been the crowd of 'deserving,' of those who everywhere for more than two years had been seen by everyone at work in our towns and villages, without mentioning all those who all over the world in the midst of the universal madness of destruction have been the alleviating and consoling factor? It is their courage and their labour which has inspired men with the more or less conscious feeling that in associating them closely in their work they will be working no less for themselves than for women."

The Suffragists for the canton of Bâle town have had less cause to be content with their legislators. A Socialist deputy, Dr. Welti, has presented this autumn to the Grand Council a motion which he had previously presented in 1914, and then withdrawn in view of circumstances, requesting the Council of State to present a report introducing women's complete Suffrage, franchise, and eligibility. This was a considerable proposal, both as regards the work that it necessitated for the local Suffrage Society, only founded in February, 1916; and premature as regards the mental capacity of certain deputies. Indeed, several of these gentlemen have brought forward arguments against women's votes of which their women fellow citizens are not at all proud, proving that they had not taken this question, new to them, seriously, and that they treated it rather as a joke. Nevertheless, at the final vote the motion, rejected as was expected, gained 45 votes against 61, and 22 abstentions. It is a big minority which makes this first check encouraging, and which allows the hope that when the idea is better known and more familiar in certain Bâle circles, when a new motion is presented, the efforts of the feminists of Bâle will meet with success. Already this time they gave proof of great ardour and perseverance, organising public assemblies, sending brochures to the deputies to supply them with facts, getting articles into the Press, addressing a petition to the Grand Council, etc. Thus the three last months of 1916 have more to show than any other epoch in the annals of Suffrage in our country. And we greatly hope that it is only a beginning; that one after another our cantonal Parliaments will deal with this question until the moment when one of them will risk being the first to accomplish the decisive reform. Even our checks trace the way to definite success. We know that with us the work is difficult at first, because we are a democracy in which every modification of the Constitution is submitted to a referendum, and, moreover, because in view of the political organisation of our country the efforts of some only serve the interests of others indirectly, and that if the Bernese women get the vote, the women of Geneva and Zurich will not have it as a matter of course, as would be the case in more centralised countries. But we know, too, that our cantonal successes make a favourable impression on the legislators of other cantons, and even what happens in other countries—in Holland, in Denmark, or in America—does not leave them indifferent. Thus the bond of solidarity is affirmed which binds all Suffragists to one another.

EMILIE GOULD,

President of the National Swiss Woman Suffrage Association.  
Affiliated to the I. W. S. A.

#### The First Swiss Woman-Doctor.

Switzerland has lost its pioneer medical woman by the death of Dr. Marie Heim-Vögtlin. She was born in 1848, and kept house for her father after her mother's death. Her love of children led her to wish to study medicine, and for long she studied Latin, mathematics, and science alone and in secret, in order to prepare for it. In 1868 she entered Zurich University as the first woman medical student, and qualified in 1872. She then continued her studies at Leipzig and Dresden, and settled in Zurich as a practitioner. She devoted herself chiefly to gynecology. In 1875 she married Professor Heim, and was able to combine her professional work with care for her children, to whom she was a constant companion. One of her greatest interests and centres of activity was the women's hospital and nurses' school. She was the author of two monographs, one on infant care, the other on the task of the mother in moral education.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### The Danger of a Divided America.

(From a speech by Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, Chairman, New York State Woman Suffrage Party, delivered at Buffalo, January 10.)

"Since President Wilson's re-election the women of the country have been scolded by Republican newspapers and politicians.

"The unenfranchised women of the East have been scolded, too, because it is said that the voting women of the West were led astray by the Democratic slogan: 'He kept us out of war.'

"We have every right to feel that such scoldings are unjust. The West joined the solid South and elected Wilson. Women, of course, vote in all the Western States. But the women in the East had nothing to do with it at all. States in the West that had formerly been Republican now, with women voting for the first time, became Democratic; but the formerly Republican State of New Hampshire, where the women do not vote, became Democratic too in this election. In Illinois, the only State where the women's votes were counted separately, the women voted for Hughes as well as the men.

"No one knows how the women of New Hampshire would have voted, or how the women of New York would have voted.

"In the last century the statesmen saw that the country could not endure half-slave half-free. It seems to me the tendency here to believe that the women of the West, apart from the men, effected the result of the last election may bring about a condition containing the same elements of danger. In every Western State women vote. If those women do hold a sufficient balance of power to determine the result of a Presidential election, then the rest of the country is at a grave disadvantage.

"If such a condition continues, it cannot fail to engender the greatest bitterness between the two sections of the country. There is a great effort to-day to encourage a real Americanism, to triumph over the differences of sectional interests for the common good of the country. Such an issue as may arise between an equal suffrage West and a man suffrage East may indeed become gravely serious. Already there is an effort on the part of the Western Congressmen to have the basis of representation in Congress placed on voting strength rather than on population, as it is now. Then Chicago would be, indeed, a greater city than New York. Because, although New York is nearly two and a half times as large as Chicago, the latter city has 69,307 more registered voters than New York City—808,119 in all. It is safe to say that such efforts to readjust representation will be increasingly marked. This is only one of many difficulties that may arise between States whose franchise is so different. There are only two ways to avoid such difficulties: One is to disfranchise the women of the West; the other, to enfranchise the women of all the country.

"It is safe to say that it would be impossible to disfranchise the Western women. Woman Suffrage works too well, and those States that have adopted it are proud of it. No State or country after once enfranchising women has ever attempted to reverse its action. Wyoming long ago gave the first big proof of the way men feel about this. As a territory it had enfranchised its women in 1869, and when in 1890 it was about to be admitted into the Union as a State there was a question of depriving it of Woman Suffrage. The Legislature of Wyoming then telegraphed saying the men of Wyoming would stay out of the Union for a hundred years rather than come in without the women as voters. No Western State would consent to disfranchise the women.

"There remains, therefore, only to enfranchise the women of all the country, just as in the last century the country freed all its slaves when it found it could no longer endure half-slave half-free."

#### An Important Step.

The Federal Amendment has been reported out by the House Judiciary Committee. As the policy of smothering the measure in Committee has long been pursued, this is a decided victory for its backers. The Bill was reported out without a declaration for or against its passage, and is now in the House awaiting action by the Rules Committee. The thousands of Suffragists interested in its success believe that it has a good fighting chance in Congress.

## BOOKS TO READ.

We talk a great deal about freedom, but do many of us know what it really is? Mr. Norman Angell in his pamphlet, "Why Freedom Matters" (price 1s., published by the National Council for Civil Liberties), completely answers that question. He shows us what freedom is by showing us what freedom has meant ever since it worked its way into British and into European politics. He shows us that liberty of individual conscience is not, as so many people, especially in war time, are inclined to treat it, a mere ornament, a privilege belonging to the class in luxuries which English people in particular have been fortunately able to enjoy, but that it has been and is the mainspring and source of all progress, and that in curtailing it, as part of our programme of national economy for a rigorous prosecution of the war, we are running grave risks not only of losing all for which we are fighting, but of arresting the march of civilisation altogether. Only through liberty for the individual conscience have the nations attained collective wisdom; sound public opinion is impossible without stubborn and scrupulous private opinion. And he shows, too, that sound public opinion has been the cause of all progress. It has not been the learning of those in authority—the erudition of theologians, for instance—which has put an end to the wars and persecutions of religion. The change in men's minds towards this question has been because the mass, the common folk, have been led to challenge the premises of the learned, of those in authority; because the man in the street has been brought to see religious wars and persecutions in the light not of theological argument, but of the common facts and feelings of every day. We shall not get rid of war until its great problem has been similarly referred to broad, simple issues, and until, as in the past, authority's unwillingness to have its abstract premises questioned has been overcome. War and all the abstractions which permit war are the last ditch wherein unquestioned authority lie, and the world of to-morrow has got to clear that ditch, and it can only do it by keeping its freedom. That is why freedom matters.

FECONDITY VERSUS CIVILISATION. By Adelyne More. (George Allen and Unwin, 40, Museum Street, W.C.) 6d.

This monograph by the author of "Militarism versus Feminism" is a contribution to the study of over-population as the cause of war and the chief obstacle to the emancipation of women. Arnold Bennett, in his introduction, pleads for such open and frank discussion of birth-control as has been brought about in the United States by Mrs. Sanger's prosecution and acquittal. The brochure deals with various aspects of the population problem from an international point of view. The problem in all countries is similar—"fecundity versus civilisation." On the one hand, the cry of the capitalist and the militarist for more food for powder, for more slaves of industry; on the other hand, the cry of groaning populations for better conditions, room to live, a decent standard of family life, leisure, health, and development for the married woman. The book is well documented, and contains a wealth of citations from high social and medical authorities in England, Germany, Hungary, France, and America. Before the war the birth-rate was falling in Western Europe, and will doubtless continue to fall, unless the frenzied appeals of militarists to "patriotism" delude the people, and persuade the women to forfeit all aspirations for freedom, to bow their neck to the yoke, and exist as human breeders only. Just as conscription can only be forced on a self-governing nation by raising the spectre of fear of conquest, so the slavery of perpetual maternities can only be forced on awakened womanhood by the specious appeal of self-immolation for the good of the State. The spectre of fear must be banished; woman must be freed to pursue a free career, in which she can combine the happy motherhood of a small family, whose education and wellbeing she can safeguard, with professional independent work.

The writer concludes by saying that the problem is an international one for women to solve, for, "while vital to the future of the women's movement as a whole, it cannot be adequately grappled with by the national societies already in existence. It is clearly the duty of feminist leaders not to allow their energies to be diverted into channels suggested by the immediate needs and difficulties of a changing political situation. At present it is possible for powerful interests to play one nation against another, so that none will take the first step. If after the war the same mad fertility race is to continue, no settlement, no form of international organisation, will avail to prevent a recurrence of the catastrophe."

ESSAYS IN WAR TIME. By Havelock Ellis. (Constable.) 5s.

These studies in present-day topics by the author of "The Psychology of Sex" deal in a scientific and sympathetic spirit with subjects of the greatest interest to the women's movement. The chapters in particular on the birth-rate, on feminism, and on eugenics, go to the heart of some problems of womanhood, and emphasise the permanent ideals which it is necessary to preserve amidst the conflicting claims of the moment. In dealing with war, the author demolishes the fallacious claim made by militarists that war is a factor in evolution and assists in the survival of the fittest,—in fact, a biological necessity. There is no foundation for this claim in scientific theory or experience. In nature, the survivors are those best adapted to their environment, and in animal life there is nothing analogous to war. War, on the contrary, by killing off the best, leads to the survival of the inferior. Telling illustrations are given, showing the later effects of warfare in enfeebling the stock, the higher proportion of inferior and diseased among children and descendants, and the disastrous effects on the civil population. "For every ten million soldiers who fall on the field, fifty million other persons at home are plunged into grief, or poverty, and life-diminishing trouble." Those best fitted for fatherhood are eliminated, and also war spreads the racial poison of venereal diseases. Nor is war conducive to the development of high moral qualities, which are equally developed by peace; it only decides that the virtues of daring and endurance shall be devoted to the destruction of the arts of humanity instead of to their creation. Intellectuality and science will not deliver us from the bondage of warfare; only enlightened effort and the moral determination to wipe out this curse.

Turning to the birth-rate, the author shows that progress is incompatible with high fertility. The real "race-suicide" is that at present going on on the battlefields; birth-control is the conservation of the race, the prevention of the hideous waste of infant-mortality, and indispensable to the raising of the quality of the population. Moreover, expanding nations tend to aggression and war; stationary nations tend to prosperity and peace. A diminished birth-rate means diminished death-rate, less disease and misery. The charge of selfishness and immorality brought against the small-family system is the exact reverse of the truth. The selfishness and immorality lie in the pouring out of a stream of unwanted babies for whom no satisfactory place in the world is secure. Small families belong to the higher stage of civilisation. Many facts and statistics are adduced in support of this argument. The modern woman will not submit to a life of endless child-bearing; she has a sense of responsibility for herself and her children, and demands the best conditions. The whole question has been too much hushed up; it is time for it to be treated frankly and thoroughly; we shall then discover that the true population problem is to secure quality, to lower the death-rate, to provide for the protection of motherhood and childhood. The allegation that birth-control is artificial and contrary to nature is a misinterpretation of the facts of life. Nature, in fact, in evolving the higher species, provides preventive checks, and man is only carrying out consciously the indications given by nature. "The art itself is nature."

The subject of the White Slave Traffic is dealt with briefly, but with insight. As Mr. Ellis says: "If we wish to influence prostitution we must remake our marriage laws and modify our whole conception of the sexual relationships." Meanwhile, what is needed is education in sex matters and development of the sense of responsibility. Other interesting chapters are devoted to the questions of Eugenics and Genius, the Production of Ability, Marriage and Divorce, and Mental Differences of Men and Women. To all these questions Mr. Ellis brings a mind stored with the studies and knowledge of a lifetime, and the freshness of one in sympathy with the most modern thought.

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