

WOMEN'S STORAGE
FILE COPY
NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 24. No. 12.

PRICE 6d.
Annual Subscription, 6/-

SEPTEMBER, 1930

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Events of the Month	188	Section Française:	
The Oriental Women's Congress in Damascus ..	189	Chronique Mensuelle	196
Chivalry, by A.M.R.	190	Le Congrès Oriental Feministe de Damas..	198
News in Brief	191	Une Apologetique de la Femme par un Ecrivain Italien	198
The Value of Holidays, by D. M. Anning, M.B.	192	De l'Esprit Chevaleresque	198
Cartoon	193	Honneur pour Mme. Elise Soyer	199
Reviews	195	Réunion International d'Écoliers en France	199

THE WAYFARERS TRAVEL AGENCY

(GEOFFREY FRANKLIN & DAVID GOURLAY)

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

PERSONAL SERVICE AND ECONOMICAL RATES.

Write for full particulars to:—

33, GORDON SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Telegrams: "Waytravag Westcent London"

Telephone: "Museum 2312"

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

Palestine. We have already chronicled in this paper the triumph of Mme. Rosa Ginzberg, who won admission to the Palestine Bar some months ago; later, in the July number, we announced that that triumph had been of short duration; to the wrath and dismay of the Equal Rights Association of Palestine Women, the Bill, as it was published, contained clauses restricting women from practising in any Religious Court or any Tribal Court. It also contained the proviso that "the Chief Justice, with the approval of the High Commissioner, may by regulation forbid licensed advocates who are women to appear in any specified class of judicial proceedings, or otherwise restrict their exercise of the profession of advocates." It was felt that the matter could not be allowed to rest there, and energetic protests were organised in Palestine by the Equal Rights Association, the women lawyers and the Jewish Bar Association. Steps were also taken by the Political Secretary of the British Auxiliary to bring the matter to the notice of the competent officials in England, with the result that an Ordinance has now been issued which declares that a person shall not be disqualified by sex from being the holder of a license to practice as an advocate in the Civil Courts, or from practising as an advocate, saving as to Moslem Religious and Tribal Courts.

Great Britain. The general press is hailing 1930 as an *annus mirabilis* for women in the field of action, and indeed the last two or three months have seen some exciting achievements. Miss Amy Johnson began it with her already world-famous flight to Australia; then Miss Winifred Brown won the King's Cup Air Race, the most important annual flying event open to civilians; Miss Marjorie Foster won the King's Prize for service rifle shooting at the Annual Meeting of the National Rifle Association at Bisley, probably the most important annual contest of marksmanship, which attracts nearly 1,000 competitors drawn from the Services of the British Empire; and then Miss Winifred Spooner was awarded the highest marks for landings in the Round Europe Flying Race. Her performance called forth warm praise from the German experts. It is amusing, and no doubt gratifying, from point of view of propaganda, to see how quickly the advertisers have seized upon these triumphs, and how, for the boosting of all sorts of commodities which we were accustomed to see in the hands or at the side of a tweed-clad male, a young woman now takes his place. On the whole, comment in the Press has been generously enthusiastic. One writer, a man, reminds readers of the struggle which early women pilots had to remove the resolutions of the "International Commission for Air Navigation," which virtually forbade women to fly. Another, with regard to Miss Foster's performance at Bisley, remarks that "this was no mere feat in the achievement of which we might use such words as luck, daring, or audacity, but sheer cool skill, pitted against the most proficient masculine marksmanship in the world," and adds that it was a performance which was "above any claim upon chivalry or generosity." There have been, however, a few isolated, and extremely amusing, howls of dismay. One correspondent thought it a suitable moment to reiterate his horror of what he quaintly calls the "flapper vote"—suggesting, as a broad-minded concession presumably, that, although the vote should be withdrawn from young women in general, it should be conceded, as a privilege, to such exceptional women as the Misses Johnson, Brown, Foster and Spooner. Another tells us that "our women, already incompetent in what should be their

own special lines, are becoming, and will become, more and more inefficient as they desert their natural avocations for industrial work, the sports field, and various sensation-mongering stunts."

U.S.A. The League of Women Voters rejoices over the ratification by the United States Senate of the London Naval Treaty. Believing it to be a definite step towards better international understanding, members of the League used their influence to bring about speedy ratification. They made a study of the Treaty, instructed people all over the United States in its clauses, and helped them to understand its implications, and urged their Senators to stay at Washington until ratification was completed.

Brazil. The Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women has taken part in two important congresses. Dr. Carmen Velasco Portinho, our Treasurer, represented the State of Rio Grande do Norte in the Pan-American Congress of Architecture, and scored a great success as the only woman-official delegate. At the National Prison and Penal Law Conference, the Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women and University Women's Union were represented by Drs. Bertha Lutz, Maria Ritta Soares de Andrade, President of the State Branches, and Maria Luiza Doria Bittencourt. They secured support for the establishment of a Woman's Reformatory, to be entirely directed by women, and for women to be eligible to serve on juries. This last was considered a very great victory, and was achieved by Dr. Maria Ritta Soares de Andrade, of the State of Sergipe, who is the first woman in South America to be appointed as general State Attorney.

Roumania. It is gratifying to be able to record certain legal enactments in Roumania of capital importance to the feminist cause. The Conseil National de Femmes Roumaines has achieved a great victory in securing the passing of a law in Roumania which not only makes it obligatory on local authorities to give gratuitous treatment for venereal disease, but, which is far more important, abolishes under penalty the "maisons de tolérance" and all similar establishments.

It is with especial pleasure that we offer our congratulations to Princess Cantacuzène, President of the National Council of Roumanian Women, on her election as Municipal Counsellor. She is the first Roumanian woman to be elected from a list of candidates not having official government support. This is fitly recognised her long service as a co-opted member of the Council.

Japan. We are glad to report that good progress has been made recently in the women's movement in Japan. In May of this year a proposal was put before the Diet by two great political parties, namely, Seiyukwai and Milseito, to give women the rights of citizenship. It was passed by a big majority, but, unfortunately, it was shelved by the House of Peers, who said it must be looked into further. The House of Peers is regarded as the most formidable barrier to be overcome, but every effort is being made to gain their sympathy. It is understood that the present government is preparing another women's suffrage bill for the coming autumn session, but with the intention of considerably limiting the original proposals. Therefore, on the 23rd of July, representatives of all the women's societies in Tokio went on a deputation to the Minister of the Interior and heads of departments to ask them to make the proposals more complete. The Minister agreed the proposals were too limited to be of any great value, but feared that anything fuller would not pass the House of Peers. In the meantime the women's organisations are working at tremendous pressure to influence public

opinion, and no stone will be left unturned to get a really satisfactory Bill introduced and passed. We wish them every success in their campaign and shall hope to hear good news in the autumn.

THE ORIENTAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS IN DAMASCUS.

I. THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The Oriental Women's Congress took place in Damascus from the 3rd to 7th July. There were delegates from Egypt, Turkey, India, Persia, Afghanistan, Irak, Hedjaz, Syria, Lebanon, Aleppo, Hauran, representing women's societies irrespective of creed. The opening of the Congress was held in the big Aula of the Arab University. It is the first time that all the Oriental women have held a meeting, and Moslem women spoke to an audience composed largely of men. There were many brilliant speakers, who were listened to very attentively by the audience. Mme. Nour Hamada Bey took the Chair and spoke first about the aims of the Congress. The delegate of the Alliance, Mme. Avra Theodoropoulos, greeted the Congress on behalf of the Alliance and spoke of the work done by the world organisation of women for Equal Rights between men and women. The delegates of Persia, Afghanistan, the Hedjaz and many other ladies, spoke on various subjects concerning women. A report from India was read, as well as greetings from Persia, Stamboul, the League of Women Voters of America, Egypt and Palestine. The next day Miss Emily Pharès, a brilliant young girl from Beyrouth, spoke about women in the professions and claimed the right for married women to decide whether they will work or stay at home. On the succeeding days many subjects were dealt with: equality in divorce laws, child marriage, labour, education, alcohol, social hygiene, Arabic literature, handicrafts and national industries. A great many reports were read by societies about their work.

After long discussions on each subject, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. **Polygamy.** That in all countries where polygamy is legally recognised, it be abolished entirely in all its forms.
2. **Divorce.** That a woman should have the same rights as a man to divorce and under the same conditions.
3. **Age of Marriage.** That the minimum age of marriage be fixed at 16 for girls and 18 for boys, and that child marriage should be abolished by legislation.
4. **Women's Work.** That women should get equal pay with men for equal work, and that all avenues of employment and advancement be equally open to women as to men.
5. **Education.** That compulsory elementary education be established and equally applied to women as to men, and that the law should prohibit the employment of children in industry below the age of 14.

At the end of the Congress the following Commissions were appointed to work between Congresses:—

1. Commission on marriage laws.
2. Commission for social work (cleanliness in towns, prisons, etc.).
3. Commission for the development of national industries and handicrafts.
4. Commission for the encouragement of the study of the Arab language and the propagation of popular books in Arabic.

The Press was very favourable to the Congress and published all the reports in full. All the societies were much pleased that the Alliance had sent a delegate and they highly appreciated the help given by Mme. Theodoropoulos.

NOUR HAMADA.

II. THE ALLIANCE DELEGATE'S REPORT.

I was asked to represent the I.A.W.S.E.C. at the Oriental Women's Congress at Damascus. I accepted willingly, as I felt it was one of the most important duties of the Alliance to help the women of the East to break the chains of custom and traditions that keep them still in conditions of life which are not far removed from real slavery. It is hard for a European to realize that in this, the 20th century, when women are M.P.s. and Senators in so many countries, where nearly all over the civilized world women are recognized as equal to men in their capacities, there are still countries next door to us where women are born, and live and die, in the most degrading conditions of servitude. Their parents marry them even before they are born, making a kind of commercial transaction of the marriage of their children; they are obliged to live in utter seclusion, veiled from the sight of men, in an atmosphere of fear and subjection. They marry men whom they have never spoken to, whom they have at most seen at a distance through the trellises of their *cafashes*, those caged windows that hide them from sight. They can be put away by their husbands at any time and for no reason whatever, or they have to bear the presence of other wives whom he has the right to bring into the home; they have no joy, no pastime, no healthy pleasure; they have no right to any kind of ambition; they have to pass their stunted lives in their homes which are closed in all round by high walls like convents. We must help these miserable women to a better life. It is the deepest offence to womanhood that such a state of things continues, and we must fight by the side of the poor sufferers to bring them out to life and light.

It is only too natural that these women should lack the courage necessary to revolt against tradition. The merit, therefore, of the few pioneers who undertook to organize this first Congress of oriental women is so much the greater. The moral significance of the Congress is immense. It was the first time that Moslem women, some of them unveiled, have appeared before an audience of men and women—at the opening meeting of the Congress in the Aula of the Arab University in Damascus on the 3rd of July. It is the first time that oriental women of all creeds and sects—Christians, Jews, Moslems, Maronites, Greek orthodox, Behai, Druses, etc. (there are about thirty different religions in Syria), have met together to protest against their social conditions, against polygamy, child-marriage, unequal conditions of divorce, illiteracy, exploitation in labour. For, even where these conditions are not dictated by religion, as among the Moslems, the power of tradition is so strong and so oppressive, that even Christians cannot go against it. The black veil that hides the Moslem woman's face throws its dark shadow over all social life in the Orient. It creates a special frame of mind, and denies any feeling whatever of independence, self-respect, or pride. The importance given to the pure fact of being male is utterly shocking to a European mind. I was talking to some poor women at the door of their home. Some men happened to pass that moment at a little distance, and, although these women were veiled, they withdrew from the threshold, and said to each other in a frightened tone: "Hush! don't speak too loud." I asked why. They answered: "Because men are passing by." I was

disgusted. It is easy to imagine the difficulties the organizers of the Congress had to fight against. If it were not for the courage, the persistency and the self-sacrifice of Sit (Mme.) Nour Hamada, it would never have taken place. The conservative men were against it, because they feared it meant the revolt of Moslem women against tradition. The Government looked upon it with suspicion, as they feared it would turn out to be a nationalist demonstration. Even the nationalists refused to support it unless they included propaganda for the Arab language and national industries in their agenda. The attitude of the Government towards these women gave the Congress even more impetus than it might have had otherwise. They would not grant permission to hold the Congress in the University till the very last moment; there were notices in the Press saying that the Congress would not take place. All this, to discourage the women from attending it. They would not allow journalists to be present at the sessions after the opening meeting, thus obliging the Congress to leave the University and continue its work in a private school. The police, I was told, paid spies to give them information of what was going on at the Congress. It was only natural that these measures exasperated the women, and the result was that the leading feature of the Congress was the craving for liberation.

The President of the Congress, Sit Nour Hamada, is a Druse, with wonderful strength of character. She is the sister of the Grand Sheik (High Priest) of the Druses and this is enough to tell in what austere surroundings she was brought up. She has been very active for many years, organizing different societies. First a welfare society among the Druses, up in the mountains, for helping the poor, with about 100 members. Later on, a Mahommedan women's league, for the reform of old customs, with 500 members in all Syria. They support orphan girls and give them a proper education in schools. They also organize lectures for women. Last comes the Academy of Arab women, whose members must have at least a secondary education. It includes all religions. There are about 50 members in Beyrout. There are also branches in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama and Sidon. When the Government closed 100 elementary schools, they opened a school for girls, where they have about 100 pupils. The school is supported partly by Sit Nour Hamada, partly by such fees as the more well-to-do pupils can afford to pay. The society maintains a club for women, where different courses are given, in French, English, shorthand, etc., as well as various lectures. Sit Nour is the President of all three societies and keeps them in being. I must say that I never expected to find such a great number of Women's Societies in Damascus. Nearly every woman present at the Congress was President of a Society in one town or another, and there were about 100 women present nearly every day. All these women's organizations have faith in Sit Nour, and she has thus been able to form a Supreme Council of Oriental women, a kind of President's Council, from all the Oriental countries represented in the Congress. This Council will organize congresses every two years for the emancipation of the Oriental woman.

There were a large number of young girls who took a very active part in the Congress, young Moslem teachers, such as the two daughters of the Minister of Agriculture, who live in the little town of Hama, away from their parents, under the guardianship of a married brother, with no kind of exercise or recreation, only "to work for their country and to raise the intellectual status of women," as they told me in their simple and earnest way.

The impression left by the Congress on the more progressive among its members was that the resolutions

were too meek and mild, somewhat timorous indeed. There was no resolution for abolishing the veil, and, as for the vote, it is out of the question in a country under a foreign mandate. It was nevertheless explained to me that this was the wisest way to get on; the fact that women from all Oriental countries had met together to express their feelings and speak their minds was in itself a great event, and sufficient for a first step.

I will close this report with the translation of some Arab verses that were recited by a young lady—a great deal of poetry was recited during the Congress:—

"We welcome all those who come for the purpose of raising the women's educational standard. The Syrian woman wants to be placed on an equal footing with men, so far as education is considered; furthermore she wants to be admitted into the field of labour. Consequently, the Eastern world has to know that the woman who was humiliated for centuries is asking for, and is going to get, a place in the sun."

AVRA S. THEODOROPoulos.

CHIVALRY.

The French writer who is known to a large public as Alain has written in *Mars ou la Guerre Jugée**, a very striking argument in favour of pacifism—an achievement in these days when the original friends of peace have had their ranks swelled by many newly or temporarily converted publicists whose facile pens make the same platitudes serve their turn over and over again. We were in danger of being bored in the name of peace, had almost ceased to believe that there was anything new to be said about it, and took our daily dose in praise of it more as a moral than an intellectual stimulant. But Alain's vigorous and powerful mind presents us with fresh ideas. His book, a collection of short articles, develops two main themes. He is concerned, first, with the fundamental human qualities which make men ready to be exploited as the instruments and victims of war; and secondly, with the skill by which every detail of life in armies is directed towards obtaining the maximum help from these qualities, and towards stifling, or even turning in the required direction those qualities which are inimical to its objective. He does not, like some other pacifists, burke the fact that some of the qualities which make men soldiers are among the highest human virtues. Courage is good, fear is bad, but, skilfully handled, both operate towards the desired end of the military commanders. Courage fills the ranks: "The race to death of all the young men is the most important fact of war; it is to this that we should direct our attention. They do not yield to necessity, they do not even think of it; they run forward. It is honour that speaks; and there are no passions more poignant, more excruciating, than those which belong to honour." Fear can be turned to anger, and that anger can also be useful, properly directed by those who understand the management of men. But it is the noble qualities which war uses for its ends that are the most important, and the most powerful.

We have all heard men who served as officers in the war speak warmly and admiringly of some incidents in it, and, especially now that the actual experience had receded some distance, they often seem to cherish an illusion about the whole of the war, forgetting, as people always do, the worst features of their experience, and idealising it until we are surprised to find it presented in an adventurous and chivalric light such as certainly did not belong to it at the time. . . . a man who has escaped dangers, who has acquitted himself as well as he could, who has admired his own courage, will adore for a while both the system and the

* There is an English translation—*Mars, or the Truth about War*, published at 6/- by Jonathan Cape.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Miss Agnes Macphail, of Ontario, was re-elected a member of the Federal Parliament in the recent Canadian General Election. Miss Macphail has been a member of Parliament since 1921, and is still the only Canadian woman M.P.

A circular issued by the Minister of the Interior, and addressed to the Governors of all the Provinces of Turkey, lays particular stress on the necessity for the election of women to the Municipal Councils and suggests that in all the larger towns of Turkey from three to five women should be elected. This is typical of the attitude of the Turkish leaders, who consider women's rights an essential element in their progressive programme.

The Seventh International Congress for Peace and Freedom (under the auspices of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom) was held last July in Mexico, and aroused much interest. Madame André Rieder, who was present at some of the meetings, and who is well known for her sympathy with the cause of feminism in Central America, delivered a lecture on the work of the Alliance during her stay, and enthusiasm for its aims was expressed. Delegates to the Berlin Congress will remember Dr. Rodriguez Cabo; other feminist pioneers in Mexico are: Sta. Eulalia Guzman, Sta. Antonia Urona, Sta. Esperanza B. de Josefe, Sta. Elena Torres.

Mrs. Moccock, a member of the Women's Freedom League, has been elected as the first President of an International Women's Club in Yokohama. The club has British, Japanese and American members, and its object is to foster friendly international relations and to help the progress of women in Japan. Meetings for lectures, etc., are held every fortnight. The president would be glad to get into touch with distinguished women of any nationality visiting Japan, as the club would much appreciate the encouragement of a visit or a lecture from them on a subject of interest to feminists. Address: Mrs. Moccock, c/o The Rising Sun Petroleum Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 401, Yokohama.

The Women's Freedom League have sent a letter to the Prime Minister, signed by the President or Secretary of nine Women's Organisations, including Mrs. Ashby, urging him to consider the advisability of including both British and Indian women in the Round Table Conference on India.

The Fourth International gathering of school children organised by Miss Gilpin, of the Hall School, Weybridge, has been held this year at the Chateau de Bures, kindly lent by Dr. Prince Hopkins. There are 150 children from France, England and Germany. The main object of the gathering is for the children to learn each other's languages, and many of them who have been to the previous ones held at Boissy-la-Rivière, Freiburg and Petersfield, have kept up a regular correspondence with each other.

The Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women has just had its annual campaign to increase the membership of its affiliated societies. Intensive propaganda was conducted through the Press, the Radio, etc., and much material distributed. One publication which explained the seven aims of the Federation by pictures featuring different aspects of the woman's movement was specially appreciated. It shows an American woman's college, a Chinese mother selling her babies in a slave market; Greek women breaking stones; the prize winning Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, built by a woman architect; an international gathering

commanding officer, and afterwards he will do this in memory. Thus the survivors always praise war more than they really mean to do." Nothing could be more dangerous, for no one is immune from the glamour of chivalry. When the guard is changed at Buckingham Palace and the soldiers march down the street carrying the Colours to the sound of music, every day we see a knot of civilians at their sides, straggling untidily along beside them, moth-drawn by the piece of purple silk, keeping it in sight for as long as they possibly can. And even those of us who do not go out of our path for it, feel our pulses beat more quickly for a second or two and involuntarily lengthen our stride to keep time with the band. Even though our generation has had an unparalleled opportunity of seeing war as it is in reality, there is in all of us a treacherous response to the suggestions of chivalry, the beautiful and romantic mask which covers the ugliness of the actual fact.

But indeed chivalry has long been our enemy as women, indeed we must shut our ears to its appeal, however beguiling, for, with its paraphernalia of music and banners and poetry and fine gestures, chivalry has always been used to cover up the ugliness of the actual situation.

The privileges with which our sex is still encumbered, the devotion of anti-feminists to their idea of the "womanly woman," the compliments and the deferential manners coupled with the refusal to discuss serious things seriously, all these are the rags and tatters of the splendid-looking cloak which once so bravely proclaimed the double message of chivalry to our sex—that women were protected, flattered and adored, that women had neither strength nor power nor independence. The first was poetry, the second was the reality of every day life.

So beautiful was the cloak of chivalry that its makers were in love with it, and many of their descendants love it as an ideal to this day, and are intimately hurt when they realise that it is going to be cast off, and is already, as we have said, in tatters. I do not think women were ever so much affected by its beauty as its makers were, but they accepted it, and from long habit, many find it hard to abandon. But do not let us make a mistake; the idea of chivalry is against us, as it is against peace. It has always been a cheat, a false notion, a day-dream to put in the place of realities too ugly to be faced. "To women, once our Superiors, now our Equals," is a modern toast—there sounds the bitter voice of disappointed chivalry.

We must apply the experience gained in our own case to the universal case against war. Chivalry deludes, so strong is its power, both its creator and its victim, indeed they are often one and the same person, but at least non-combatants should keep their heads. "I have kept my unerring opinion," writes Alain, "which can distinguish between the hero who falls and the weak who applaud. . . . No, I want no gladiatorial show," and again, "I loved the story of Manfred marching to his death with a kind of wild joy. And how many Manfreds there are to-day! No one can have admired them more than I have. I think that, more than most people, I have felt the beauty of a man's undertaking an impossible action, for the sake of his own dignity, of what he owes to himself, regardless of other people's support, of God, or of hope. But I have also seen too many of them on the ground looking no larger than birds." Chivalry is too expensive, the world can no longer afford it.

A.M.R.

NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD.

We are glad to welcome Miss Josephine Schain on the Board of the Alliance, in place of Miss Sherwin, whose resignation has already been reported.

of women; women voting in Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil; and the Peace Demonstration at the Berlin Congress. Many new members came in and several new branches were formed.

During a short stay in Rio de Janeiro of President Lamartine, who granted women the vote in Rio Grande do Norte, the Brazilian feminist movement gave a great reception at the Automobile Club in honour of His Excellency. Speeches were made by Mrs. Maria Eugenia Celso, one of our foremost women authors, and Miss Maria Luiza Doria Bittencourt, who won the oratorical prize contest in Rio, spoke for the student class.

The Vice-President of the Republic, the Vice-President of the Senate, Members of Parliament and the Supreme Court were present and gave their support. The Diplomatic Corps was also present. President Lamartine made an excellent speech, saying that the woman's movement and aviation are two of the most important questions of this century.

Mme. Kollontay has been appointed by the Central Executive Committee in Moscow as Plenipotentiary of the U.S.S.R. in Sweden.

HONOUR FOR MME. ELISE SOYER.

We offer our warm congratulations to Mme. Elise Soyer, Vice-President of the Belgian National Council of Women, and one of the pioneers of the suffrage movement, on being made Chevalier de l'Ordre de Leopold for her social services.

WADSWORTH & CO. THE RYDAL PRESS KEIGHLEY

MAGAZINE AND GENERAL PRINTERS

Reports, Catalogues and Pamphlets
Specialised.

Estimates given for all kinds of Printing.

THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

seeks to facilitate
INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL
by arranging

SOCIAL HOLIDAYS

in many of the most beautiful parts of Britain and the
Continent where guests of
ALL RACES, RELIGIONS and POLITICAL CREEDS
can meet on a common ground.

INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL IN LONDON.

Send for particulars to:
THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP LTD. (DEPT. W.N.
"Highfield," Golders Green Road, London, N.W.11.

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

THE VALUE OF HOLIDAYS.

There was a story written years ago of a very brilliant society woman, who, each year, disappeared for about a month; her friends could never find out where she went or what she did. Eventually, by chance, she was discovered staying at a farm in the depths of the country where she was a regular visitor, and was known as the "dumb lady who never smiles." This bare outline of the story is all that remains to me, everything else is forgotten, even the name of the author, but whoever wrote the story had grasped the essential conditions necessary for a successful holiday, namely that it should be spent under conditions as different as possible from those of everyday life. The synonym for a holiday, "going away for a change," implies this, and of course, in leaving home at all, we obtain change of air and change of surroundings, and the change should be complete; those who live all the year round by the sea would not benefit so much by a visit to another sea-side place as they would by going inland, preferably to a hilly district; those who live in a bracing atmosphere obtain most good by going to a softer climate and so on. Even more important than change of scene, is the need for change of occupation and mode of living. For a chauffeur to spend his vacation going for a motor tour would be no true holiday; but if he were to go a walking tour far from arterial roads his change would do him good. So that, in planning a holiday, the conditions in which we live must be taken into account. Those of us, and under modern conditions it is by far the greatest number, who spend our lives in big towns, surrounded by noise and smoke, need quiet, fresh air and sunshine, and an untrammelled life for a time. The object of a holiday is to refresh and restore; so that rest both mental and physical, should play a larger part than is often the case. It is important to remember the inter-action of mind upon body—a tired mind nearly always means a tired body—and many people make a great mistake in taking too much physical exercise when they are on a holiday. At first, unwonted exercise should be strictly limited, then later on, when rest and fresh air have helped to refresh the mind and restore the body, more can be attempted.

The chief physiological effect of a holiday is to increase the metabolism of the body by the stimuli of pure air, sunshine, and exercise, which improve the appetite, and help the elimination of waste products. The exposure of the body to sunlight increases the germinal power of the blood, the effect of which lasts for a considerable time, so that it is true to say that in the summer we are able to store up a certain amount of sun in our blood to help us through the dark days of winter. Sea-bathing is ideal for these effects; the stimulus of the salt water causes improved circulation and respiration, the necessary exposure of the body allows it to obtain sunlight, and swimming is one of the best forms of exercise, since almost every muscle in the body is used.

A holiday which is spent in "sightseeing"—a foreign tour, for instance,—would be excellent for those who live in the country and normally spend much of their time in the open air, amid quiet surroundings, without much mental interest; but for town-dwellers, the fatigue, both bodily and mental, involved and the necessity of much of the time being spent under urban conditions prevents this from being the best form of holiday. The mental change and stimulus is obtained at the expense of physical benefit.

For those who can afford it, the ideal holiday is a sea-cruise,—complete change of surroundings, a moderate amount of sightseeing without undue fatigue, pure air and sunlight, rest and absence of newspapers and the daily post,—what could be more delightful?

JUS CARTOONS: No. VII.

THE ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS: 1930.



The International Chef (weighing the ingredients presented to him): The proportions are better this year, but there is still not enough leaven for the lump.

But for the ordinary person, such delights are not usually possible, and each of us will probably be influenced, not by what would be best for us, but by what we like best, and by the state of our pockets.

D. M. ANNING, M.B.

REVIEWS.

AN ITALIAN FEMINIST.

Les Lois du Libre Amour. By G. Quatara.
(Librairie Félix Alcan. frs. 60)

Signor Quatara has amassed a quantity of information on the condition of women in every country and every age. Information which must to a great number of people be not only surprising, but shocking. We know very well that the law has almost always been unjust to women, but just how unjust comes as something of a surprise. But while Signor Quatara is tireless and accurate in putting his finger on the existing injustices to women, one cannot as an active feminist altogether agree with his suggested reforms. One's sense of justice is revolted by the existing conditions—but it is revolted again by some of Signor Quatara's hopes for the future, in such remarks as:—"It is only when women are free as air, and men bound with iron chains that the sweet time of Jesus Christ will appear on earth." It is surely not the binding of the other sex, but the freeing of our own that occupies us.

It is in his desire to give women equal moral freedom and yet to keep them still dependant financially on men that he is forced to advocate unfair treatment for men. One cannot cry out for the absolute equality of the sexes in love and work, and at the same time maintain that marriage must, and should, always remain "woman's chief métier," and insist that a husband must be financially responsible for his wife, and, even if she has left him for another, must pay her a large indemnity—though this last law actually exists in some American States. One cannot ask to be on a perfect equality and at the same time expect to be paid for domestically. And if one asks for equal sexual freedom with men one must mean real equality and not a sham equality in which one is in reality given all the plums. Such views can only prejudice the feminist cause in the most dangerous way, that is in alienating the sympathy of the ordinary man in the street. So long as marriage and motherhood are regarded as a career in themselves woman cannot hope—nor should they expect—equality in work or opportunity. During the years of training for any profession, it is not surprising if the professors and instructors are more interested in, and give the better opportunities to the young man, if they believe that the young woman will cease to work when she marries. For the same reason, employers cannot be blamed for choosing the promising young man rather than the equally promising young woman. When Signor Quatara demands that women shall be given equal economic opportunities and also says that the husband must support the wife, he is asking not for equality, but for preferential treatment. Women can only have equal sexual freedom when they have economic freedom. One cannot expect either one's father or one's husband to pay for one's amours. Every woman who gives up her work voluntarily on marriage prejudices the chances of other women in the same job. Once economic freedom is established sexual freedom must automatically result. The two things which up to the present day have prevented women from enjoying equal sexual freedom with men, are the economic dependence of women—and the fact that the physical consequences are hers alone.

If a woman is not economically dependent, her desertion by her husband or lover is no longer a financial question but purely an ethical one which cannot in any case be legislated for. The obvious thing therefore is not—as Signor Quatara advocates—to make more and more laws to bind the male, in order to be sure of making him pay up, but to free the woman financially, and the real financial independence of women can only be achieved when marriage no longer terminates their capacity to earn money for themselves.

With regard to prostitution and its laws, Quatara's position is sounder, and one can only agree with his demand for the abolition of State control and a revision of the laws in connection with prostitution. Thus, at the present day in Italy, a prostitute is liable to a year's imprisonment if she shows herself at the window of the house, but for sending young girls to brothels abroad the penalty recently imposed was only 6 months' imprisonment. He criticises hotly and justly the Italian law which makes adultery a criminal offence for a woman but not for a man, as well as the power given to the police to secure their victims by actually entering hotels and private houses. Also, in the question of the forced medical examination of prostitutes—why should the prostitute alone be subjected to this? A prostitute may infect a client—but equally a client may infect her. Why, then, should the habitués of prostitutes not be registered and also examined? Is it because one cannot catch them? But in any country where regulation is the law, a woman who is merely "suspected" of being a prostitute may be had up, interrogated, and perhaps examined, and the same law might just as suitably be enforced with regard to the man "suspected of using a prostitute." The woman who is often arrested on no evidence at all frequently proves to be a perfectly respectable virgin, the arrested man who is innocent could not produce such conclusive proof, but at any rate he could prove that he is not infected if such was the case.

The extremely unfair laws connected with divorce occupy a large part of Signor Quatara's book, and here again he shows himself as an eager but somewhat misguided advocate in the cause of woman. Divorce, more than almost anything else, has its chief solution in the financial equality of women, because the main problem of divorce is usually a financial one. Either the husband and wife are forced to live together because the husband has not enough money to run two establishments, or the wife is forced to stay because it is by being a wife that she makes her living—with two independent incomes the problem would cease to be financial and become, as it should be, purely ethical.

The facts in Signor Quatara's book show clearly how unjust the law has been to women—the law is still undoubtedly unfair, particularly in Latin countries, but even where it has been changed and legal equality gained, real equality has not yet been won for women in any country. Under the old conditions woman was, and in some countries still is, a slave. Under the new, as in some American States, she is becoming a parasite. Equal rights does not mean preferential treatment. Equal rights is only true as a fact when equal responsibility is accepted. And the change in the point of view of the average person can only be achieved when all women themselves realize this. Then they will be equal—neither superior nor inferior. When every boy is not brought up as Signor Quatara says: "Avec la croyance que, sans posséder aucune mérite, sans avoir rien fait par lui même, fut il le plus frivole et le plus ignorante, il est de naissance, supérieure a tout une moitié de genre humain, sans exception; bien que dans cette moitié se trouvent comprises cependant de personnes dont il peut, chaque jour, et chaque heure, sentir la supériorité sur lui,

et cependant il maintient que malgré cette supériorité il a le droit de lui commander, et qu'elle est tenue de lui obéir."

It is strange that Signor Quatara who can speak so rightly and well against this unjust attitude does not realize that it is only with financial freedom that woman can and really has a right to break this system. She who pays the piper calls the tune. It may seem vulgar to say that woman can only be regarded as man's equal when she can pay her own way, but practically it is so, and if she asks for anything else she is asking man to perform a complicated piece of make believe to no particular end. The struggle for legal and political equality is well advanced, the struggle for economic equality, the whole crux of Signor Quatara's subject did he but know it, has hardly begun.

T. R.

MARRIAGE.

The Sex Factor in Marriage.—by Helena Wright, M.B., B. S. Introduction by the Rev. A. Herbert Gray D.D. (Noel Douglas, 3s. 6d.)

Everyone will agree with the Rev. A. Herbert Gray when he says in his preface to this book that people going to be married, if they wish to lead healthy, happy, lives, cannot afford to be ignorant about sex, and the sexual side of married life. The difficulty of course arises in how and when this knowledge should be imparted. This book gives with admirable clarity all the facts, and is especially helpful in explaining the natural psychological and physical relations of both the man and the woman, thus helping to avoid a great deal of unnecessary suffering on both sides.

Probably men at least would get much benefit from it before marriage, although it might appear rather crude if read in cold blood, and after a short experience of married life, most women, especially of this generation, who have to cope with the legacy both of Victorianism and of the War, would be very grateful for the help and advice given about some of the difficulties which in nine marriages out of ten are almost certain to arise.

The Welfare of the Dressmaker.

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

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

MODERATE CHARGES. Telephone: Museum 0286.

Price list and full particulars on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.

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

HALL available for Private Meetings.

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

TERMS:

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

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

SECTION FRANCAISE.

CHRONIQUE MENSUELLE.

PALESTINE.

On se rappelle la déception des féministes de Palestine lorsque les avocates enfin admises à plaider au même titre que les hommes se virent retirer le droit d'exercer leur profession dans les causes qui sont du ressort de la religion ou des coutumes de la tribu. Leur présidente Mme. Rosa Ginzberg protesta énergiquement. Enfin grâce à la campagne menée par les groupes féministes et l'aide précieuse de l'Auxiliaire de Grande Bretagne ce décret d'exclusion a été rapporté et il y a désormais plus d'égalité entre avocats de l'un et l'autre sexe dans les cours de Justice de Palestine.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

La Grande Presse proclame à tous les échos que l'année 1930 a vu le record des exploits féminins au point de vue sportif.

Ce sont Miss Amy Johnson et Miss Winifred Brown dans le champ de l'aviation ainsi que Miss Winifred Spooner qui se classa première championne d'Europe pour les atterrissages.

Nous sommes loin des temps où la Commission internationale de navigation interdisait aux femmes le haute vol, les considérant indignes, pour ne pas dire incapables, d'exploits aussi éminents.

C'est Miss Marjorie Foster qui gagna le prix offert par le Roi au concours de tir de Bisley et dont on remarqua la fermeté et le sangfroid autant que l'habileté sportive.

Une déception pour les associées anglaises est la lettre que Mr. Arthur Henderson, ministre des affaires étrangères vient d'adresser à la secrétaire du Six Point Group. Mr. Henderson dit que les difficultés juridiques internationales soulevées par le projet d'égalité des droits en matière de nationalité seraient telles qu'il ne peut pas lui rendre son appui. Pourtant, à la Conférence de Codification de la Haye le Gouvernement britannique avait annoncé fermement son intention de reconnaître les droits de la femme en matière de nationalité.

AMERIQUE.

Miss Agnes Macphail d'Ontario a été élue membre du Parlement fédéral et est encore la seule femme député depuis 1921.

Le 7^{ème} Congrès international pour la Paix et la liberté qui tint ses sessions à Mexico en Juillet a soulevé un intérêt général. Madame André Rieder, bien connue pour son dévouement à la cause du féminisme, donna une Conférence sur le travail et l'influence de l'Alliance à travers le monde.

ETATS-UNIS.

La Ligue des Femmes Electeurs se réjouit que sa propagande pour la ratification par le Sénat du Traité naval de Londres ait abouti à un succès. Ce traité naval est un pas de plus fait dans le chemin de l'entente pacifique.

BRESIL.

La fédération brésilienne pour l'avancement des femmes vient de faire une campagne de presse, de sans fil, qui lui a amené bon nombre de nouvelles adhérentes. Une ingénieuse propagande par l'image illustre les sept buts de la Fédération. Un tableau montre un Collège de Femmes en Amérique, un autre une maman chinoise vendant ses enfants dans un marché d'esclaves, des femmes grecques cassant des pierres, le Théâtre de Stratford-on-Avon construit par une femme architecte, une réunion internationale de

femmes; un vote de femmes à Rio Grande del Norte, et la Démonstration pour la paix du Congrès de Berlin.

Une réception en honneur de Son Excellence le Président Lamartine qui accorda le vote aux femmes fut donnée pendant le séjour du président à Rio de Janeiro. Madame Maria Eugenia Celso, une femme écrivain, et Melle. Maria Luiza Bittencourt lauréate en rhétorique prononcèrent des discours.

La Fédération brésilienne a pris part à deux congrès. Ses motions pour la réforme des maisons de détenues et pour les femmes au jury reçurent l'appui de l'Assemblée.

ROUMANIE.

Nous avons à signaler un événement important en Roumanie. Une loi vient d'être passée qui oblige les autorités sanitaires à gratuitement traiter les maladies vénériennes. Fait aussi important: les maisons de tolérance et tous les établissements de même genre sont désormais absolument interdits sous peine d'amende élevée et, en cas de récidive, de condamnation à prison. C'est là une victoire pour le Conseil National des Femmes roumaines.

Nous nous permettons de féliciter la Princesse Cantacuzène de son élection comme Conseiller Municipal après une grande lutte électorale. La Princesse est la première femme roumaine élue sur une liste qui n'a pas eu l'appui du gouvernement, preuve que les masses populaires sont disposées à aider les femmes et l'idéal féministe.

ITALIE.

Le 21 Avril dernier fut inauguré au Capitole, en présence du Chef du Gouvernement, le Conseil National des Corporations, sorte de parlement du travail, dont les membres sont élus par les Conseils centraux des Confédérations syndicales, qui ont faculté délibérative. Etant donné que les Conseils centraux sont à leur tour constitués par le vote des membres des Conseils de syndicats provinciaux, et que ceux-ci sont élus par le suffrage de tous les travailleurs, hommes et femmes, inscrits aux syndicats, le Conseil National des Corporations est le résultat d'une élection au troisième degré, qui est ensuite ratifiée par un décret royal, sur la proposition du Chef du Gouvernement. Les membres du susdit Conseil gardent leur charge pendant trois ans.

Le Conseil National des Corporations est appelé à donner son avis sur toutes les questions du travail, sur les propositions de la loi relatives à la discipline de la production et du travail, sur la reconnaissance légale des associations syndicales et autres Confédérations non prévues par la loi syndicale, de même que sur leur constitution. La requête de l'avis du Conseil sur ces derniers points est obligatoire.

Lorsque la loi sur le Conseil National des Corporations dut être approuvée, à la fin de l'hiver dernier, l'Auxiliaire italienne de l'Alliance se préoccupa d'établir si les femmes pouvaient avoir le droit d'en faire partie. En effet le 9^{ème} article de la loi en question, prescrivait que pour être membre de ce Conseil il fallait les qualités requises par la loi électorale actuelle n'exclut pas explicitement la femme de l'éligibilité, bien qu'elle l'exclut de l'électorat. L'Auxiliaire italienne soutint auprès du Ministre des Corporations que, selon le texte littéral de la loi, les femmes pouvaient de droit faire partie du Conseil; et à présent une femme, Mme. Liuzzi, a été nommée au Conseil National des Corporations, comme représentant la classe des Sages-femmes.

Il aurait été désirable que plusieurs femmes fissent partie d'un corps consultatif composé de 150 personnes environ; toutefois la présence même d'une seule

représentante a une importance énorme, car l'application qui a été faite de l'art. 9^{ème} de la loi sur le Conseil National des Corporations a établi même l'interprétation de la loi électorale politique: désormais en Italie les femmes sont éligibles, et il faudrait une nouvelle loi pour changer cette interprétation. Cela s'est passé presque sans que le grand public masculin s'en aperçût, sans besoin de lois spéciales, sans que le fait fût mis en relief dans la presse. Cela a été bon pour notre cause, car la plupart des hommes qui par leur sexe même sont presque toujours antiféministes, auraient poussé les hauts cris en réclamant qu'on donnât à l'art. 9^{ème} de la loi une autre forme ou une autre interprétation; et vis-à-vis de ces protestations la presse féminine qui a très peu de diffusion ainsi que les associations féministes n'auraient vraisemblablement pas eu gain de cause.

De sorte qu'à présent en Italie les femmes dans les syndicats ont tout-à-fait les mêmes droits que les hommes; et qu'elles soient filles ou mariées, elles n'ont plus rien à revendiquer dans le champ du travail. Toutefois cela est vrai seulement en théorie, car en pratique les travailleuses ne s'intéressent pas trop à la vie syndicale; elles n'ont pas encore compris l'importance des possibilités que la loi leur confère, et ne se soucient pas comme elles devraient, qu'il y ait dans les conseils dirigeants un nombre de femmes proportionné à celui des inscrites, ou qui du moins soit suffisant pour soutenir leurs intérêts particuliers. Par conséquent, bien que le nombre des travailleuses égale à peu près celui des travailleurs, les dirigeants sont presque toujours des hommes, qui se soucient beaucoup de leurs contrats collectifs de travail, de leurs salaires, mais très peu de ceux des femmes.

Cela est dû à deux causes: une générale qui est commune aux femmes de tous les pays; c'est à dire que les soins familiaux et la sourde hostilité des hommes les éloignent de l'activité sociale; l'autre cause est particulièrement italienne, car en Italie la propagande qui serait nécessaire pour intéresser les femmes à l'organisation directe de leur labeur, trouverait sa place dans l'organisation qui s'intitule Œuvre Nationale de l'Après-travail (Opera Nazionale del Dopolavoro), qui a pour but d'élever, d'amuser et d'instruire les travailleurs de deux sexes dans leurs heures de loisir, en les éloignant des cabarets et des récréations malsaines. Dans l'Après-travail féminin on parle beaucoup d'économie ménagère, on organise des excursions, on fait de la gymnastique; toutes choses belles et bonnes, qui, il faut en convenir, sont très utiles; mais dans ces réunions on ne parle jamais de culture et d'activité syndicale. Les ouvrières par conséquent ne connaissent pas même les lois qui régissent leur travail, ni les grandes innovations apportées dans la vie sociale et dans la condition juridique des travailleurs en général, par la constitution syndicale fasciste. En outre on insinue dans l'esprit de ces travailleuses que la femme doit s'occuper seulement de la famille et pas de la politique, en comprenant dans ce mot même l'activité syndicale.

Il faut donc avant tout convaincre les femmes qui s'occupent de l'Œuvre Nationale de l'Après-travail féminin qu'elles n'accomplissent pas entièrement leur tâche en oubliant d'instruire les travailleuses sur leurs devoirs et sur leurs droits dans les syndicats; et cela est très difficile parce que les *Fasci* féminins qui sont chargés de l'organisation et de la surveillance de cette Œuvre sont à leur tour dirigés et dominés par l'influence des hommes fascistes. Il est donc nécessaire que les femmes fascistes aient beaucoup d'indépendance d'esprit de courage, d'énergie et de savoir faire pour exercer parmi les travailleuses une tâche qui est parfaitement dans l'esprit de la théorie et de la loi fasciste, mais contre laquelle s'acharne la lutte des hommes.

BEATRICE SACCHI.

LE CONGRES ORIENTAL FEMINISTE DE DAMAS.

C'est à Damas du 3 au 7 juillet que se réunirent dans l'Aula de l'Université arabe les déléguées de l'Egypte, de la Turquie, de l'Inde, de la Perse, de l'Afganistan, de l'Irak, l'Hedjaz, de la Syrie, du Liban, d'Alep, du Hauran toutes représentant des sociétés de confessions différentes, mais unies par leur profession de foi féministe. Mme. Nour Hamada Bey présida un auditoire surtout composé d'hommes—Mme. Avra Théodoropoulos dont ou lira le rapport plus loin parla du but de l'Alliance et du travail déjà accompli. Après discussions sur chaque sujet, les résolutions suivantes furent votées:

- (1) Que la polygamie soit abolie.
 - (2) Qu'en matière de divorce les droits de la femme soient égaux à ceux de l'homme.
 - (3) Que les mariages d'enfants soient abolis, l'âge légal étant relevé à 16 ans pour les filles, et 18 ans pour les garçons.
 - (4) Que toutes les professions et emplois soient ouverts aux femmes comme aux hommes, sous les mêmes conditions de rémunération.
 - (5) Que l'éducation soit obligatoire pour les filles comme pour les garçons et que nul enfant ne soit employé au dessous de l'âge de 14 ans.
- d'après NOUR HAMADA.

Mme. Théodoropoulos représenta l'Alliance internationale au Congrès de Damas. Spectacle unique dit-elle et presque incroyable car les Associées d'Europe s'imaginent avec difficulté la condition des femmes d'Orient, rivées à la chaîne de la tradition, entièrement privées de liberté et soumises à la plus dégradante servitude.

Mariée, quelquefois même avant sa naissance, l'orientale devient alors la propriété de son mari et peut subir à son foyer la présence de rivales sans que rien ne vienne sauvegarder sa dignité ou sa liberté.

Le voile qui la dérobe au regard des passants, jette son ombre sur l'Orient entier. On comprend donc quel courage et quelle intelligence il a fallu aux organisatrices du Congrès pour vaincre les susceptibilités et gagner la sympathie des auditeurs mâles qui se pressaient à leurs séances.

La signification morale de cette manifestation fut immense car c'est la première fois que des Musulmanes osaient parler en public, c'est la première fois qu'elles osaient protester contre des conditions d'existence dictées, quant à elles, par leur religion, mais que la coutume impose aussi à d'autres sectes et à d'autres milieux. A Madame Nour Hamada revient le principal mérite d'avoir organisé le Congrès, de lui avoir prêté une âme—tout se dressait contre elle: la tradition, l'autorité gouvernementale qui ne permit qu'au dernier moment la réunion dans l'Aula de l'Université arabe. Les nationalistes mêmes furent d'une tiédeur remarquable. Et cependant il y eut là tous les jours présentes, au moins 100 déléguées, présidentes ou secrétaires de groupes féministes—toutes ont foi en Sit Nour Hamada.

Sœur du Grand Sheik Druse, Mme. Nour Hamada est autant connue par sa philanthropie que par ses idées. Elle a fondé une Ligue—qui compte 500 membres—pour la réforme des vieilles coutumes, mais son programme est aussi constructif. La ligue entretient des orphelinats, fonde des Ecoles de filles dont les frais sont en partie couverts par la bourse personnelle de Sit Nour Hamada. D'autres femmes distinguées par leur situation sociale la secondent avec ardeur. Ce sont par exemple les deux filles de l'actuel Ministre de l'Agriculture qui, dans la petite ville de Hama, se sont faites institutrices afin, comme elles disent à Mme. Théodoropoulos

de travailler pour leur pays et de relever le niveau intellectuel des femmes.

Le Congrès laisse l'impression que les femmes d'Orient s'engagent plutôt timidement dans la voie du progrès. On n'y voit aucune motion pour l'abolition du voile et on n'y touche même pas la question du suffrage.

Les organisatrices estiment que la voie de la prudence, même timorée, est la plus sage—et que c'est déjà une chose extraordinaire d'avoir réuni toutes ces femmes d'origine et de confessions si diverses pour une protestation unanime contre leur servitude.

UNE APOLOGIQUE DE LA FEMME PAR UN ECRIVAIN ITALIEN.

"Ces lois du Libre Amour par Signor Quatara."

Le livre de Signor Quatara est une mine d'informations sur la condition de la femme à toutes les époques de l'histoire et l'auteur ne manque jamais de mettre le doigt sur les injustices dont elle a été la victime. Sa partialité à son égard est même exagérée, car à son avis c'est l'homme qui devrait être attaché par une chaîne de fer tandis que la femme libre comme l'air, ferait ainsi "régner sur la terre l'âge d'or de Jésus-Christ."

Sûrement la justice est, non pas de lier un sexe mais de le libérer tous deux et les féministes qui trouvent la loi de certains états d'Amérique fort légère à la femme n'abonderont certainement pas dans le sens de Signor Quatara qui réclame pour elle tous les privilèges sans l'obliger à aucun devoir.

De tels arguments ne peuvent que nuire à la cause féministe dans l'esprit de l'homme moyen.

Tant que le mariage et la maternité seront l'unique carrière de la femme, nous ne pouvons espérer, nous ne pouvons compter être traitées sur le même pied que l'homme. Il est fort compréhensible que des employeurs donnent la préférence à des jeunes gens pour la vacance d'un poste, lorsqu'une jeune fille, même égale en valeur peut être appelée à les quitter d'un moment à l'autre pour cause de mariage.

La liberté économique de la femme ne sera pas achevée tant que la vie domestique, lui interdisant un emploi au dehors, la maintiendra dans la dépendance financière de son mari.

Pour celles qui ont des ressources personnelles la question de leur indépendance ou même de leur liberté sexuelle n'est qu'une affaire de sentiment, ou de choix et n'est pas du ressort de la législation.

La conclusion évidente, n'est donc pas comme le demande Signor Quatara plus de sévérité en ce qui concerne la conduite de l'homme mais plus de liberté économique pour la femme, la liberté de garder, pour elle, un emploi rémunéré après son mariage.

Les vues de Signor Quatara sur la Prostitution sont fort judicieuses. Il critique avec véhémence la loi italienne qui ne punit l'adultère et la prostitution que chez la femme, laissant l'homme parfaitement libre et irresponsable. Sur la question du Divorce aussi la femme trouve en lui un champion convaincu mais excessif, car le divorce comme l'indépendance domestique se réduit à un problème financier. C'est hélas! un fait brutal mais réel et il faut bien se dire que toutes les demandes de Signor Quatara se heurteront au mur d'airain de la liberté économique sans laquelle il n'est point de salut.

DE L'ESPRIT CHEVALERESQUE. REFLEXIONS A PROPOS DU LIVRE D'ALAIN "MARS OU LA GUERRE JUGEE."

Livre original sur un sujet bien rebattu: la paix. Combien de platitudes journalistiques ne nous inflige-t-on pas sur ce thème qui rencontre peu de détracteurs

en principe, mais dont tant de gens intelligents ont la nausée à cause des apologies brumeuses et vides de ses propagandistes.

Alain ne dédaigne point les qualités qui font l'esprit guerrier. Elles sont les plus hautes, dit-il, parmi les vertus humaines: le courage, l'oubli de soi, l'admiration, l'esprit de corps. Et il remarque avec quelle habileté les chefs savent le mettre en valeur, tournant même à l'avantage de la guerre, la peur, qui étroit le soldat devant l'ennemi, surexcitation nerveuse qui, à son paroxysme se traduit fréquemment par une folie meurtrière.

Lorsque nous entendons célébrer la guerre par ceux qui l'ont faite n'est ce pas le côté chevaleresque de la lutte qu'ils se rappellent le plus volontiers, oubliant ses vulgarités, ses horreurs au point que l'esprit guerrier se place sur le plan d'une haute élévation morale; dangereuse influence qui prend l'homme malgré soi, comme la musique militaire d'un régiment nous exalte et nous fait suivre le drapeau.

Cet esprit chevaleresque qui survit à la guerre et la rend sympathique, est, par sa beauté même, l'ennemi de la paix.

De même le manteau de courtoisie qui recouvrait jusqu'à nos jours les relations entre hommes et femmes est un idéal, que nous féministes devons travailler à détruire.

Il plait à ceux qui le portent; il semble embellir les réalités humaines—mais il ne couvre que déception et mensonge. Nous voulons notre vraie place dans la vie et non pas celle qu'un faux idéal nous prête. Chaque progrès du féminisme déchire un pan du manteau. Dans le toast moderne souvent entendu: "A la Femme, autrefois notre supérieure, désormais notre égale" résonne la défaite de l'esprit chevaleresque, amer et déçu.

d'après A.M.R.

HONNEUR POUR Mme. ELISE SOYER.

Nous félicitons vivement Mme. Elise Soyer, Vice-Présidente du Conseil National des Femmes belges, qui vient d'être nommée Chevalier de l'Ordre de Léopold. Ainsi sont reconnus par le gouvernement belge les services inestimables d'une des premières féministes en Belgique.

International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship
TEMPORARY OFFICE IN GENEVA,
6, rue de Saussure

(One minute from the Assembly Hall of the League of Nations).

Open from the 1st to the 30th September.
ALL FEMINISTS VISITING GENEVA ARE WARMLY INVITED.

Information; addresses; entrance cards for the Assembly; Women's papers; conferences, meetings and receptions; restaurant and tea-room.

RECONCILIATION

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

Monthly - Price 3d.

Specimen copy free from

The Secretary: Fellowship of Reconciliation,
17, Red Lion Square,
London, W.C.1.

REUNION INTERNATIONALE D'ECOLIERS EN FRANCE.

La quatrième réunion internationale d'écoliers, organisée par Miss Gilpin de l'école "Le Hall," Weybridge, s'est tenue cette année au Château de Bures gracieusement offert par le Dr. Prince Hopkins—150 écoliers français, anglais, allemands, s'y rencontrèrent. Le but principal est l'enseignement mutuel des langues.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Temporary Office during September at the Athénée, Geneva.

All members of the I.C.W. and their friends who are at Geneva in September are cordially invited to call at this Office for information, introductions and addresses of all kinds.

Entrance cards to League Assembly as far as available.
SEPTEMBER 17TH.

Dinner given by Joint Committee of Women's International Organisations in honour of women members of Delegations to League Assembly. Cards obtainable at the Office.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16th, 4.0 p.m. at the MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.
"TEA AND POLITICS"

Speaker: MRS. PETHICK-LAWRENCE. COLLECTION.

FRIDAY, OCT. 31st, 7.30 p.m. at CANTON HALL, Westminster, W.C.1.

"THE VOTE'S" COMING-OF-AGE PARTY.

All readers and friends of the paper cordially invited.

Women's Pioneer Housing
LIMITED

Public Utility Society, Founded 1920.

Invest after Investigation

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

An Investment of real interest to Women.

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To the Secretary, I.A.W.S.E.C., 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1
*I desire to become an Associate Member of the Alliance and enclose £1, for a year's subscription or
A subscriber to the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS and enclose 6s. for the yearly subscription, post free.
Name
Address
*N.B.—Membership includes subscription to the paper.

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

President: MRS CORBETT ASHBY 23, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15, England.
Hon. President and Founder: MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, 171, Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A.
Members: HODA CHARAOUI (Egypt), SUZANNE GRINBERG-AUPOURRAIN (France), INGEBORG HANSEN (Denmark), PAULINA LUISI (Uruguay), RUTH MORGAN (U.S.A.), ALISON NEILANS (Great Britain), EUGENIE DE REUSS JANCULESCU (Roumania), BESSIE RISCHEBETH (Australia), JOSEPHINE SCHAIN (U.S.A.), LA MARQUESA DEL TER (Spain), AVKA THEODOROPoulos (Greece), DOROTHEE VON VELSEN (Germany), INGEBORG WALIN (Sweden).
First Vice-President: ADELE SCHREIBER (Germany).
Second Vice-President: ROSA MANUS (Holland).
Vice-Presidents: GERMAINE MALATERRE-SELLIER (France), FRANTISKA PLAMINKOVA (Czecho-Slovakia).
Treasurer: FRANCES M. STERLING (England).
Corresponding Secretary: EMILIE GOURD, Crets de Pregny, Geneva, Switzerland.
Assistant Secretary: MILENA ATANATSKOVITCH (Jugoslavia).
AUXILIARIES: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ceylon, Cuba, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jugoslavia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, Porto Rico, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay.

INTERNATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES.—Committee for an Equal Moral Standard and Against the Traffic in Women: Chairman, Dr. Paulina Luisi.
Committee for the Conditions of Work for Men and Women: Chairman, Fröken Ingeborg Walin.
Committee on Illegitimate Children: Chairman, Fran Adele Schreiber-Krieger.
Committee for Peace: Chairman, Miss Ruth Morgan.
Committee on Women's Police: Chairman, Miss Manus.
Committee on the Civil Status of Women: Chairman, Mme. Suzanne Grinberg.
Committee for Suffrage and Elections: Chairman, Mme. Plaminkova.
By-Law of the I.A.W.S.E.C. Constitution.
"The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship," by mutual consent of its auxiliaries stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national.
Headquarters and EDITORIAL OFFICES of the I.W. News: 190, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.
Telegrams: "Vocorajto." Telephone: Victoria 0285.

TIME AND TIDE
The only weekly review in the world edited and controlled solely by women.
EVERY FRIDAY, 6d.
A Weekly Review is not a luxury—
It is a necessity for everyone who wishes to be well informed upon current events.
DIRECTORS
Mrs. Chalmers Watson, O.B.E., M.D. (Chairman)
The Viscountess Rhonda (Vice-Chairman)
Prof. Winifred Cullis, O.B.E., D.Sc. Miss Winifred Holtby, M.A.
Miss E. M. Delafield Lady Llewellyn
Miss Cicely Hamilton Miss Marion Jean Lyon
Miss Rebecca West
Subscription Rates 26/- a year; 13/- six months; 7/6 three months.
Specimen Copy free of
The Circulation Manager, TIME AND TIDE,
32, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

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

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN
(Organ of the St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance).
PUBLISHED ON THE 15th OF EACH MONTH.
PRICE 2d. (Annual Subscription, post free, 2/6.)
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance,
55, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.1.

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

Printed by Wadsworth & Co., The Rydal Press, Keighley.

NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association
2, rue Daniel Colladon, Geneva, Switzerland.

President - JONKVROUWE C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK. General Secretary - MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.
MADAME ALFRED BERTRAND. Vice-Presidents: MISS RUTH ROUSE, MISS UNA SAUNDERS.
MRS. C. C. OREN. MRS. JAMES S. CUSHMAN. MRS. MATSU TSUJI.
MRS. LUXMOORE. Treasurer - MADEMOISELLE CATHERINE PICOT.
FRAULEIN HULDA ZARNACK.

A NEW ERA IN THE WORLD'S Y.W.C.A.

The biennial Committee Meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A., which was held at St. Cergue, Switzerland, in June, marks the beginning of a new period of development in the work of the Association throughout the world. This meeting, which was attended by two hundred representatives from thirty-eight countries, had to consider a new Constitution to meet the many changes involved in the removal of headquarters from London to Geneva. This Constitution, on which much work has been done in the course of the past two years, was carefully studied by the Conference in English, French and German, the official version being finally accepted in French. The final legislative authority of the World's Association has up till now been vested in the World's Conference, meeting every four years. In the years during and immediately following the War, these large conferences proved impossible, and the legislative work was done by the World's Committee, consisting of representatives from every affiliated National Association, working on recommendations presented by commission groups which met at the same time as the Committee Meeting. This plan of organisation has proved so satisfactory, that it is now regularised by the new Constitution. The legislative authority is the body of representatives from each affiliated National Association, now known as the World's Council, meeting every two years, as before. To ensure that this body is in touch with the thinking of the various countries, international gatherings and group conferences, representing any number of affiliated National Associations, have the power to send forward to it recommendations, with a view to legislation.
In the intervals between the meetings of the World's Council, the direction of the work will be in the hands of an Executive Committee, no longer, as previously, resident in one place, but drawn from as wide an area as possible. The meeting at St. Cergue considered a recommendation to the effect that members of the Executive Committee should be drawn from those resident within twenty-four hours' journey of Geneva; but on further consideration, it was felt that this geographical limitation did not sufficiently allow for the national representation so much desired. The new Executive Committee, therefore includes many representatives who are outside this radius, and is drawn from Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America; while the Vice-Presidents have been chosen from China, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Switzerland, and the United States of America. The following is a list of the new Officers and Executive Committee members.
President: Jonkvrouwe C.M. van Asch van Wyck.
Treasurer: Mademoiselle Catherine Picot.

Vice-Presidents: Madame Alfred Bertrand, Mrs. Chen, Mrs. James S. Cushman, Mrs. Luxmoore, Miss Rouse, Miss Saunders, Mrs. Tsuji, Fraulein Zarnack.
Members of Executive Committee: Fru Elsa Cedergren, Mademoiselle Chenevière, Mrs. S. K. Datta, Mademoiselle de Dietrich, Mrs. John Finley, Mrs. Huntington, Madame Henri Johannot, Miss MacLagan, Madame Pannier, Lady Procter, Fröken Raeder, Miss Elizabeth Victor, the Hon. Mrs. Montagu Waldegrave (Honorary Member).
The members of the Committee do not represent countries, but are chosen with a view to their general, international and Association experience. According to the new Constitution, the retiring President becomes an honorary member of the Committee; hence the inclusion of the Hon. Mrs. Montagu Waldegrave.
Among the business before the Committee Meeting was the welcoming into active, i.e., voting, membership of the World's Association, the National Associations of Jamaica and Korea, while those of British Guiana, Egypt and Palestine were accepted in corresponding membership.
The meeting at St. Cergue was not only a business gathering. It was also in the nature of a conference, the subject under discussion being "The Christian Message and the Responsibility of the Association for Presenting It." This subject was considered from various points of view, such as, the Presentation of the Message through Service, through Teaching, through Church Fellowship and Worship, and through Research; and the Bible Readings each day were based on the topic for the day. The speakers included Mlle. de Dietrich, of France; Professor Kohnstamm, of Holland; Dr. Mackay, of Latin America and Scotland; M. André Philip, of France; Pastor Riethmüller, of Germany; Miss Anna V. Rice, of U.S.A.; Miss Ruth Rouse, of Great Britain; and Miss Elizabeth Victor, of Hungary.
Plans for the next meeting of the World's Council, which is to be held in China, were carefully considered, and it was agreed to hold the meeting, if possible, in the late summer of 1932. The programme will probably take up subjects particularly related to the fact that it is the first meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. to be held in the Far East. There will be addresses on fundamental questions of our Faith and Purpose; discussion sessions on questions of contact with the non-Christian world, the study of Christianity and relations with the Christian church; and at the same time there will be groups meeting simultaneously to discuss such subjects as the relation of the Association to rural women, to industrial women, to women in the home, and to other groups included in the present or future membership of the Association.

The Y.W.C.A. in China.

From the daily press these days, the news from China seems calculated to convey an impression of general disorganisation. It is well, perhaps, to realise that, while many changes are taking place with extraordinary rapidity, and the country is in a very unsettled condition, a great deal of constructive work is going on. The following extracts from recent reports from the Y.W.C.A. in China may be studied with interest from this point of view:—

"This last year has seen a certain amount of extension work in the Association. In two cities, Amoy and Swatow, work has been started preparatory to the organisation of city centres. Six new student Associations have been formed during the year, a new industrial centre started in Shanghai, and the first organised rural centre of the Association opened in Toi Shan, South China. Another new piece of work is the International Camp being held at Hangchow this summer, a joint project of the Student Department and the Girls' Work Department. During the year, two city centres, Shanghai and Hongkong, have bought buildings, making seven in all of the city centres which own their buildings. The National Committee has made definite plans for the re-building of its headquarters in Shanghai.

A much-needed study of Association work throughout China has been made in the course of the year. This has been done through interviews, and through conferences of Board, staff, membership, and general community groups. Nearly every city has held its own evaluation conference.

There have been three departmental conferences. The Girls' Work secretaries held a conference in Peiping in December, which was followed by a conference of the rural staff, and in February the industrial secretaries met in Shanghai for a conference. The year began with a conference for new secretaries which was held in Shanghai College in August, and which introduced to the Association twenty-four new secretaries.

An interesting piece of co-operation is being carried on this summer, as one of our national student staff and four women students are to join a delegation of equal numbers from the Y.M.C.A. and go to Japan at the invitation of the Japan Young Men's Christian Association for a summer conference."

* * *

"We are much interested these days in the preparation for the Second Pan-Pacific Women's Conference to be held in Honolulu in August. At the first Conference, which was held in 1928, China had two representatives. This year the Committee is happy to announce that there is a possibility of having as many as fifteen delegates representing China."

* * *

Mr. T. Z. Koo, National Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. of China, who in Europe and America last year

attracted large audiences to listen to his interesting exposition of the present situation in China, and the political and religious conditions which have brought it about, gives, in a recent letter, some further observations on the more recent developments.

"Round about the year 1916, there arose in our country an intellectual revolution which, in the short space of a decade, profoundly changed the mental outlook and habits of the educated class in China. In the West, this revolution was variously known as the 'Chinese Renaissance,' the 'New Thought Movement,' the 'New Culture Movement,' etc.

In essence, this revolution was a protest against the traditional content and processes of China's thought life, and a recognition of the fact that a revolution in ideas must precede a revolution in the political or social structure of a nation. The traditional thought life of China has been mainly metaphysical and ethical in content, while its expression has been literary and synthetic in a crudely unscientific way. The intellectual revolution changed all this. It emphasised the idea of scientific method in thinking.

The Movement reached its height between the years 1920 and 1923. Thereafter, new forces began to emerge in the intellectual field, and a period of confusion and

apparent aimlessness set in. This was especially noticeable in the years 1926 to 1928. But, beginning with last year, a new tendency began to emerge from this confusion, thus indicating that the intellectual forces are once more beginning to find themselves and to enter a new period of endeavour. The new intelligentsia are now turning their attention to fields outside their own immediate concern. It is a fact of great significance



A Group of Association members in China.

for the future that the field chosen should be in the realm of the life and problems of the common people, the submerged classes of China. If you were familiar with the spirit and traditional attitude of the old literati of China, with their proud aloofness from the common herd, you would then realise the radical nature of the step now taken by so many of the thinkers and writers of the day.

The new tendency [has as] its avowed purpose to champion the cause of the exploited classes, that is, the industrial and farm workers, who form more than eighty per cent. of the entire population of China. It is an indication that a definite change is coming over the literary and artistic world in China to-day. In the first period of the intellectual revolution, democracy was worshipped; now it is dictatorship. Formerly, pure science was emphasized; now the social sciences are pushed to the front. Beauty and delicacy in art and literature were demanded in the first period; now strength and virility are the first consideration. . . . The social organism will be treated as a whole, and not merely as a series of isolated problems.

This new tendency, whether our sympathy is with it or not, is destined in the next decade to play an important part in the development of the Chinese people."