

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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PEACE.

The word is almost a mockery in view of recent events and when we write under the shadow of apprehension of what the immediate future may bring. But for the courageous soul the reaction to danger must be intensified effort. The I.P.C. when it organised a great meeting in the Queen's Hall, London, to protest against the trend of British policy away from the League could still hope that there was time, in the words of the Duchess of Atholl, "to rally enough peace-loving nations in Europe to make any political aggressor think long and hard before he strikes." Later events have proved that that rally had not been planned in time to save Austria from being forcibly annexed to the German Reich, not, we admit, against the wishes of all her people, but without her whole people having any say in the matter. So the I.P.C. immediately planned a great Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, March 13th, to demonstrate in favour of immediate action to safeguard the independence of Czechoslovakia and demand the restoration of Austrian independence and in support of the principle of collective security. A hundred thousand people were present and the meeting received official support from all three political parties. Other countries are urged to plan similar demonstrations at once to strengthen the hands of their Governments in taking at long last a strong policy against international lawlessness and aggression.

The British Youth Peace Assembly has taken the same stand and has demanded that the Council of the League of Nations should be summoned to secure the withdrawal of German troops from Austria and the holding of a free plebiscite under League auspices; that the British Government should declare that it is prepared to support with other Governments such measures as are necessary to maintain the freedom and independence of Austria; that it should terminate the present conversations with Germany and issue an immediate statement guaranteeing the territorial integrity and the political independence of Czechoslovakia.

Their statement says that in this way "war may yet be avoided"—if that refers to Czechoslovakia, very many people will agree. But there can be no illusion more dangerous than to suppose that anything short of war can at this moment restore the independence of

Austria. Perhaps there was a moment when it could have been saved, but that moment was allowed to go by. It is vital that those who demand that Governments should take a strong policy on this question or that should take into account exactly what a strong policy would mean: it may mean the *risk* of war, a risk which may seem justifiable as a bid for peace; but it may also mean *certain* war and then the cost must be counted and the alternatives weighed and re-weighed.

THE PEASANT PEACE MOVEMENT.

This new enterprise of the International Peace Campaign began with a Conference held in Geneva a little over a month ago which brought together representatives of agricultural organisations, some of which comprise in their countries 100 per cent. of the agricultural population, from large farmers to smallholders. In this Conference the representatives of the agricultural labourers also took part. In the course of several meetings and private conversations it sought to discover the real currents of opinion in the agricultural world, and the clearest impression resulting from several days' work was a realisation of the deep-seated uneasiness and disquiet of this world. After two days' discussion the Conference drew up a preliminary programme of activity that it was decided to submit to agricultural organisations throughout the world, and it has been decided to set up forthwith an Information Centre which will become a living link between Geneva and the world of agriculture, and so another factor in the cause of peace has been created.

PEACE STUDY CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE.

The Conference on some economic aspects of peace problems, organised by the Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee, was extremely interesting and very fully attended. Under present conditions in Holland, there could not be a public meeting, but for this purpose in any case the method of a more intimate meeting was particularly successful. The two principal speakers, Mrs. Barbara Wootton, England, and Mme Ballande, France, were admirably clear and made intricate problems seem positively elementary.

The Conference did not attempt to adopt definite conclusions, but from it has emerged the following programme for study and action:—

China. While leaving the question of support of a boycott of Japanese goods to each member organisation, it was urgently recommended that moral and material aid to China should be increased, and the International Red Cross is being urged to send a delegation to China as the basis for such extended help.

Spain. Members are asked to take action with their respective Governments to endeavour to stop bombing from the air.

Economic Problems and World Peace. The continued and special study of the programme of the Conference was urged upon all members through their national groups, who should be encouraged to organise similar short conferences, endeavouring to obtain the co-operation of the Universities in supplying meeting places, books, lecturers, etc.

World Peace Conference, U.S.A., 1939. It is hoped to organise such a Conference in connection with the World Fair, to which strong and informed national delegations should be sent.

Training Leaders. Leaders' Study Conferences are to be organised in Geneva; encouragement was also given to a "Goodwill Day" to be held between May 18th-25th.

Plans for reaching women who do not belong to organisations were discussed, as, for instance, through their children at school.

WOMEN, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY.

World events interrupted plans for this Congress, but we can now announce that it will take place in Marseilles under the title of "Moral Relations between Nations," in May, either the 6th or the 13th. The programme will be concerned with the demand for freedom of conscience, religion, press, assembly and for the equality of race and of sex. All will be welcome and though the notice is short we hope that many will spare a few days to show the concern of women for justice and freedom. Further details will be communicated to Alliance members by letter.

WOMAN'S DAY ON STATUS OF WOMEN.

The proposal that May 14th should be celebrated as a "Woman's Day" in order to show women's interest in the setting up by the League of Nations of an Expert Committee to study the Status of Women, and to demonstrate what reforms are most urgent in order to achieve equal status between men and women, is being taken up in several countries. Alliance Auxiliaries in the Argentine, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Dutch East Indies, Denmark, Bulgaria, Sweden, Syria, Norway and Yugoslavia are considering the possibility of obtaining the co-operation of other women's organisations. The Scandinavian countries are in consultation with each other as to the possibility of organising a Northern Women's Broadcast; Syria is proposing to concentrate on press publicity and petitions to local authorities for better educational facilities for girls. Holland is so deep in its widely organised opposition to the Married Women's Employment Bill that it cannot wait till May to demonstrate women's solidarity when their status is affected. Other countries have explained that this particular plan does not fit in with their programme already planned long in advance even though they appreciate the value of the idea.

Great Britain's plans are the most advanced and detailed so far. Twenty-nine national organisations of women have formed themselves into an Ad Hoc Council to plan the demonstration in London and in centres

outside London. In addition to the three societies affiliated to the Alliance, the National Council for Equal Citizenship, St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance and the Women's Freedom League, such organisations as the National Council of Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Women's Guild of Empire, the Federation of Girls' Clubs, the National Union of Women Teachers, etc., have joined the Council. It is hoped that many meetings will be organised throughout the country in addition to the demonstration to be held in London on May 14th.

The Provost is kindly allowing the Council the use of University College, London, for a Conference of Delegates in the morning, followed by a meeting in the afternoon in the big hall which holds a thousand people. The plans also include a luncheon at which Professor Gutteridge, of Cambridge, Great Britain's representative on the Committee of Experts, will be the guest of honour. He has also promised to address the afternoon meeting when we hope to hear from him what will be the scope of the enquiry and also to tell him something of our own hopes and wishes.

It is hoped that most of the women Members of Parliament and other distinguished women will be present. The meeting will be followed by a Public Tea.

Particulars of the London Meeting can be obtained from the Hon. Secretaries, Lady Pares and Mrs. O. Sebag Montefiore, 9, Fellows Road, London, N.W.3, and of the Provincial Meetings from Miss Mary Grew, 120, Mount Street, London, W.1.

MRS. RAMA RAU.

All her many friends in England, and our Alliance, have learnt with great regret that Mrs. Rama Rau is leaving London very shortly for South Africa, where her husband has been appointed Agent General for India. Perhaps we should congratulate her, as the appointment is an important one, but our hearts are heavy when we realise how slender must now be the chances of having her with us at our international meetings.

The British Commonwealth League has taken the initiative in organising a farewell party to take place on April 26th, at 4-30, at the Economic Reform Club, 64, Great Cumberland Place, London, tickets for which may be obtained from the League, 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, price 2s. The Alliance and all the many societies with which Mrs. Rama Rau has worked will be represented and we urge all our readers in or near London to come to give Mrs. Rama Rau an enthusiastic send-off. Those who know her will want to say good-bye, and those who do not should take this opportunity of meeting such a charming and able representative of Indian women whom we all hope will some day come back to London.

INDIA.

On March 11th, the Women's Advisory Council on Indian Questions and the Liaison Group of British Women's Societies arranged a public meeting which was attended by a large gathering. Mrs. Grace Lankester was the speaker and she gave an account of her recent visit to India where she attended the All India Women's Conference held at Nagpur. Mr. R. A. Butler, M.P., Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and ex-Under-Secretary of State for India, was in the Chair.

Apart from attending the Conference at Nagpur Mrs. Lankester made an extensive tour of the country in the course of which she visited no less than 60 institutions. She was greatly impressed by the vast changes and improvements obtained by, and for the benefit of, Indian women and by the enormous strides the women's movement had made.

The Conference was most successful. On the opening day more than 6,000 men and women were present when

the Hon. Secretary presented the Annual Report and several well-known people spoke. On subsequent days attendance was never less than 3,000 apart from all the delegates. The resolutions previously selected by a special committee from batches received from all parts of the country in the course of the year covered, if anything, almost too much ground. They dealt with:— compulsory primary education, amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, Social insurance, abolition of untouchability, legal status of women, abolition of immoral traffic in women and children, opium sales restriction, prison reform and a hundred and one other urgent problems. The women of India are also most emphatic in their conviction that world peace should be maintained at all cost and that the women of the world should take the lead in this burning question.

Mrs. Lankester expressed her admiration for Mrs. Pandit, the first Indian woman cabinet minister, who is Minister of Health. Mrs. Lankester was also struck by the self-assurance and gift of oratory displayed by the various speakers at the Conference. She herself took a message of goodwill and encouragement from the British Women's Organisations.

H. BANSKY.

We have received from an old correspondent, Bhagat Ram, a pamphlet entitled "A Plea for Civil Marriage." We do not know the views of our affiliated organisations in India on this point, but there seems to be much sound sense in his arguments, which we quote briefly. It is a sad and strange fact that at the many Hindu schools and colleges throughout India for the education of both boys and girls, while there is provision for the study of English and Indian Histories, there is no arrangement to impart the very rudimentary knowledge of the most important Personal Law by which their whole lives are to be governed. As a result of this ignorance it is the girls who are the chief sufferers. None can gainsay that the present Hindu Marriage Law is unjust towards women. To rectify the disabilities to which women are subjected, all Hindu parents should demand that all future marriages of their sons and daughters shall be registered under the Civil Marriage Act (III of 1872) as amended in 1923 with the legal consequences as to monogamy, etc. This Act provides a valid form of marriage for Hindus of all castes without standing in the way of the customary religious ceremonies, if these be performed afterwards. While this Act allows all the latitude given by the Hindu Law, it removes its injustices. It provides relief from an unfortunate marriage and would help to abolish family disputes, and to establish equality of the sexes. It would help to lower the percentage of infant and maternal mortality and lead to the disappearance of early marriage which in our hearts we all know has been one of the great obstacles to the progress not only of women, but of our Hindu society as a whole.

THE ALLIANCE.

The opportunity of the Peace Conference at The Hague was taken to hold a small executive of the Officers of the Alliance to discuss future plans. These include a Meeting of the Board and Presidents of Auxiliaries in London, early in July immediately preceding the Jubilee Congress of the International Council of Women; a Meeting of the Board in Stockholm in the middle of October, to be followed by a Peace Study Conference; and last but obviously by no means least, our Thirteenth International Congress in Copenhagen at the beginning of June, 1939. As always when we go to Holland, we were received with the kindest hospitality by our Auxiliary and the weather smiled on us so delightfully that the charm of the ancient cities of Holland came home to us with particular force.

ROUMANIA.

We have not been able to obtain the exact terms of the clauses of the new Constitution giving equal rights to women, and unfortunately numerous press cuttings from Roumanian papers do not help us very much. We are, however, able to gather with the aid of our rather imperfect recollections of the Latin of our youth, that the Constitution gives equal rights to women, not only as regards the franchise, but as citizens in the widest sense, with equal right to work with men. That is good news indeed, and we do not wonder that both the Association for the Civil and Political Emancipation of Women and the National Council of Women organised festival meetings to celebrate this joyful occasion. At the former meeting, the President of the Association, Mme Elena Meissner, presided and a loyal message of thanks to King Carol was adopted. The meeting of the National Council was held, under the presidency of the Princess Alexandrina Cantacuzene, at the "Woman's House" which she founded.

We congratulate the women of Roumania on the attainment of their rights, and we are glad to know that the women's societies propose to continue their citizenship work, wisely realising that there is still need of women's co-operation.

International Eucharistic Congress, Budapest, May 25th to 29th.

TO LET for the period of the Congress, a SUITE of three rooms, sitting-room, bed-sitting room and bedroom with two beds, and bath. Ten minutes from centre of the city, on the hillside. Garage for small car available on the premises. Rent £10 per week, inclusive of service and continental breakfast for three persons. Apply Mrs. E. Miskolczy Meller, Városmajor-u. 21, Budapest I.

HUNGARY.

The Bill for a new Electoral Law to restore the secret ballot, reiterates discriminations against women. In order to qualify for the franchise, either Parliamentary or municipal, a woman must:

- Be over 30 years of age, in addition to nationality and residence qualifications, which presumably apply also to men;
- Have passed six school standards;
- If unmarried, have private means or earn her own living;
- If married, be the wife or widow of an elector (this is modified in the case of women married to men who are disqualified by reason of employment as a soldier, policeman, etc., or by insanity, insolvency, etc.).

There are special clauses in addition which permit a woman who has a University degree or has passed out of a High School of similar standard, to vote at the age of 23—the age for men. And also a woman who is the mother of three living children may vote provided she is simply "literate." A curious provision is that a child killed in war may be counted as living.

The provisions as to eligibility seem largely to rest on the possession of the precedent right to vote.

The women are working hard to have the Bill altered so as to give equal suffrage rights to women. The Feministak Egyesulete, affiliated to the Alliance, planned an important meeting for February 25th, to be addressed entirely by Members of Parliament. On the day before, however, they were informed that the Police would not allow the meeting to be held and it has been impossible to hold it. They had already taken a deputation to the President of the Chamber, who stated that he was in agreement with their views and promised

to present their petition to the House and recommend it to the Government. In fact this was sent to the Committee of Parliament dealing with the Bill. Very many Members are in favour of the women's demands, including members of the Government Party. All the leaders of the important opposition parties also support them.

Already some time ago a petition by ten thousand women had been presented to the Minister of the Interior, asking for equal suffrage, and at that time it had been permitted to hold a meeting similar to the one now prohibited.

CEYLON.

The Annual Report of the Women's Political Union of Ceylon for 1937, affiliated to the Alliance, contains a survey of the ten years' of the Union's existence. It is a tribute to the work of women, and also to the attitude of many of the men and of the administration to some extent, that so much has been accomplished. To begin with women obtained the vote and eligibility to the State Council, and two women have been returned as Members, one of whom still sits. The municipal franchise was only granted in 1936, and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Union, Dr. Mary H. Rutnam, was the first woman to sit on the City Council of Colombo. Now the Union is fighting for the franchise for the Urban District Councils and hopes that women will be eligible when elections next take place.

Then, as a result of the Union's work either alone or in co-operation with other women's societies, women are now able to enter the legal profession, and one of the Union's members, Miss Ruby Gunsekera, is the first woman Proctor. The status of the woman doctor has been raised, and the post of Honorary House Officer at most of the Hospitals is now open to them. The marriage bar applied to Public Health Nurses has been successfully lifted, and improvements have been effected in hospital accommodation and services.

Efforts to secure accommodation for mentally deficient children failed, but now a new Mental Hospital is being provided and these efforts will be renewed. The provision of Remand Homes for women, who at present before conviction are simply herded with criminals, is being dealt with.

A Hostel for women students, small Maternity Homes attached to the municipal welfare centres, have also been opened as a result of the women's persistence. They are working for Maternity Benefit for working women, for a pure milk supply, for free, compulsory education, the establishment of Juvenile Courts and other good objects. Their success so far ought certainly to encourage them to continue and should bring the Union the larger number of members which it needs for its valuable and effective work.

AUSTRIA.

Since our last issue, Austria has ceased in fact to exist as an independent State, and has been incorporated in the German Reich. There is still a plebiscite to be held, it is true, but who among us supposes that the result can affect what has been done under the threat of overwhelming force? How large a proportion of the Austrian people desired the event, how many may have been carried away by a contagious enthusiasm of the moment, how many dreaded it and are now suffering from it, we shall perhaps never know. All we know is that at this moment there is no Austria as we have known and perhaps loved it.

What of the woman's movement? We know nothing, we have no news—neither of the movement nor of our friends in it. But we must know that almost certainly that also has gone and left another gap in the fellowship which withstood the Great War but could not withstand the consequences of that War. And our hearts are sad. Not that Germany and Austria should come together—

that would perhaps have been a natural, happy and to many of us a welcome solution of great economic difficulties had it come about differently and at a time when it should have been without ominous significance for other countries. As a measure of evolution in Europe it was prevented by other States, prevented by something which should justly be called "force." So now it has come about with force indeed, heavy with uncertainties and fears, with incalculable consequences for many thousands of Austrians and for the world. So true it is that the world has for long been unable to see the things that pertain unto its peace.

Just too late for inclusion in the March number of our paper, we received the little paragraph below from our old friend and correspondent, Gisela Urban. It has now no meaning as "news," but we publish it because it may well be—perhaps must be—the end of so many years of collaboration and happy fellowship with that group of intelligent and public-spirited women who formed the Oesterreicher Statsbürgerinnen Verband.

"In June, 1937, I reported the efforts made by the National Council of Austrian Women to establish a Chamber of Housekeeping to form one of the 'Estates' in the new corporative constitution. That effort failed, but now the Council's proposal for the formation of an obligatory professional union of housewives and household workers seems to be going forward. The Government has appointed a Housekeeping Commission, composed of five housewives, including Hofrat Hertha Sprung of the N.C.W., and five house-hold workers with an official of the Ministry of Social Welfare in the Chair, to deal firstly with legal questions affecting domestic work, but also to consider the possibility of the above compulsory union, and eventually, if it appears feasible, to organise it. Austrian women welcome this step towards the incorporation of the household in the State organism and hope that it will work out well."

GISELA URBAN.

IN MEMORIAM: ROSA MAYREDER.

Rosa Mayreder, the poetess, philosopher and champion of women's rights, died on January 19th at the age of 79. Her name will be known to at least the older generation of feminists, and women ought to feel deeply grateful to her above all because in 1904, she dared to tackle the question of sex. At that time, when the campaign for women's rights was flaring up, opponents were calling endless variations on the tune of: Woman by reason of her sex is intellectually inferior to man, and women's need to assert her personal, human value was constantly opposed. Then Rosa Mayreder came out with her book "Zur Kritik der Weiblichkeit" (published by Heinemann in English as "Women's Problems"), which enunciates truths and proclaims ideas which will remain valid far beyond our own times. She purified the atmosphere which was saturated with the microbes of the virulent dispute as to what is "genuine womanliness", by exposing the irrationality and contradictions of the traditional ethics of sex, and by showing that both women and men may be "synthetic persons, subject to the conditions of both male and female". In this way she helped to strengthen the foundations on which the woman's movement rested and developed.

But this brave woman, who always avoided cheap publicity and popularity, gave out philosophic reflections on all aspects of the life force, which glowed with her intellectual power, sense of justice and complete devotion to the highest ethical ideals. She grasped the eternal ends of Nature and with an absolute sureness of method, based on a profound learning, she recorded her thoughts and conclusions in many books, among which

may be specially mentioned the complement to "Zur Kritik der Weiblichkeit": *Geschlecht und Kultur* (Sex and Culture); *Idean der Liebe, Zur Krise der Ehe, Askese und Erotik, Die Frau und der Internationalismus*; and among her later books, "Der letzte Gott," in which she showed into what dangers man will plunge himself if he persists in trying to master nature, with which he is indissolubly connected, by means of culture. Man must set himself goals within his own sphere and, in order to perfect himself, pursue them impersonally.

Rosa Mayreder won fame also by her other works, especially "The Remembrances of Hugo Wolf," the unfortunate composer who was her friend and for whom she wrote the libretto of his one opera "The Corregidor." Especially charming are her "Fables on Things Human and Divine," and her technically perfect sonnets "Zwischen Himmel und Erde."

She was also a brilliant painter and musician. For more than ten years she was President of the Austrian branch of the Women's League for Peace and Freedom, and her personal life completed the perfect harmony between her life and work. She married her youth's love, the architect Karl Mayreder, who died some years before her. All who knew her will never forget this woman, whose genius was outshone by the example she gave of unselfish love.

GISELA URBAN.

PAST AND FUTURE OF ETHICS, by M. A. R. TUKER. Oxford University Press, Price 2s. All women should read this book which contains very full chapters on the historical relations of the sexes and the biological facts concerning reproduction.

REVIEW.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND VENEREAL DISEASE: League of Nations Document. Published by Messrs. Allen & Unwin, 49, Museum Street, London, W.C. Price 1s. 3d.

The provision of social, as well as medical, services in the treatment of venereal disease is a comparatively new feature of social work. The League of Nations Secretariat has just issued an account of the systems prevailing in different countries, acting upon a resolution of the 1937 Assembly that "an early publication of this information will be of great service to countries contemplating the creation or extension of such services."

Replies from over forty countries to a questionnaire show that the necessity for cheap medical treatment for venereal disease is now widely recognised. In some countries such treatment is compulsory by law for all sufferers and, as regulated prostitution declines, this group of countries, already the largest, recruits new members; in others, it is only compulsory for prostitutes; and in eight countries, including the United Kingdom, treatment is voluntary, but is encouraged by facilities organised or subsidised by the State, and by propaganda and instruction.

There is not the same wide recognition of the need for social help, and the number of countries where social service is combined with treatment at venereal disease clinics and hospitals is still comparatively small. In countries where social services exist they take different forms. An account is given of the systems in force in two of the countries which rely on individual social assistance—the United Kingdom and France. In the former country help is given through the hospital almoner, who acts as the link between the patients and the social and charitable institutions which might be useful to them; through hostels attached to the public hospitals in London where women recommended by the treatment centres are given free or cheap board and lodging and some general education and training in work and are helped to find employment when they leave, and through training in hospitals. In France the patients are helped by workers attached to hospitals as social assistants. Other countries, such as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, whose system is described, have set up special institutions for combined medical and social treatment.

Although it is as yet too early for any method to have proved itself unquestionably the best, the report suggests certain guiding-lines for future planning and should prove of value to social workers in all countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Belgium The law of June 10th, 1937, extended the system of Family Allowances to other than salaried workers, and is being applied by degrees as the difficulties in application are immense. The idea seems to be that eventually all families with young children will be granted such allowances.

France We learn with great regret that the health of Madame Maria Vérone has again been giving cause for anxiety. We hope, however, that she is now on the road to recovery and we send her our best wishes.

Great Britain For the first time a woman, Miss Cross, has been appointed a member of the General Council of the Bar, which is the body which deals with all matters affecting the barristers' profession.

As a result of a special joint campaign among women's organisations in the district, the Hammersmith Town Council has decided to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work among its men and women employees.

Miss Marjorie Pollard, former Captain of the English Women's Cricket Team and a Hockey International, has been appointed organiser of the Women's Team Games Board, with a grant from the National Fitness Council. She will travel about organising games for girls and women, for which there is still certainly a need as far as many sections of the population are concerned.

Holland. Mrs. Buisman, president of the Leeuwarden Branch of the Dutch Alliance Auxiliary, has been elected an alderman of Leeuwarden, capital of the Province of Friedland. She has been a member of the City Council for many years.

We have just learnt that Dr. N. S. C. Tendeloo, a member of the Board of our Auxiliary and a well-known lawyer and first president of the Youth Committee in Holland, has just become the fourth woman member of the Amsterdam Town Council. Congratulations.

Japan. In January two remarkable women were invited to speak on the radio: Miss Utah Hayashi, now 75 years old, who is one of the great pioneer workers against the regulation of prostitution and the drink evil. The other is Mrs. Tanahashi, who is 100, and who is still working in the High School for Girls which she established after the death of her husband, when she became the breadwinner for her children.

Ireland. There are eleven women's names on the list of candidates for the Senate, many of them are veteran workers in the republican cause during the troubled times before the establishment of the Irish Free State. For instance, one of them, Mrs. McWhinney, was sentenced to ten years penal servitude, but escaped over the wall of Mountjoy Prison, which she now inspects. The name best known in the woman's movement is perhaps that of Mrs. Cosgrave, who was a delegate to the Paris Congress of the Alliance in 1936 and who is particularly connected with municipal work in Dublin.

Miss Mary Hayden, President of the National Council of Women, which is affiliated to the Alliance, is resigning her position as Professor of Modern Irish History at University College, Dublin, at the end of the year, after 30 years' association with the National University.

Jugoslavia. The Prime Minister recently received a delegation led by Mme Petkovitch and Mlle Milena Atanatskovitch, to make representations on behalf of women in the Civil Service.

Norway. The Ministry for Social Affairs has set up a Commission of five women, including a lawyer, a housewife and the President of the Household Workers' Union, to study the possibility of legal regulation of the conditions of household workers.

U.S.A. We regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Sophie L. W. Clark, Editor of the Legislative Counsellor, and a life-long worker in the cause of women's equality.

Mrs. Barron, a practising attorney, is the first woman to be appointed Associate Judge of the Municipal Court of Boston, the largest Court in the State of Massachusetts.

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The next Annual Conference will take place in London (Y.W.C.A. Central Club) on June 14th, 15th, and 16th next. The special subject will be: "Woman plan for Peace, Prosperity and Progress." The first point is amplified as: The British Commonwealth and British Mandates as Factors for Peace; the second is divided into three: Nutrition in relation to Production and Distribution; Foodgrowing areas; Emigration and Immigration. The last point is also dealt with in three sections: Inequalities in the Home, Inequalities in Professions, Business and Industry; Inequalities in Citizen Rights.

JAMAICA.

Through the kindness of our old friend, Miss Harriet Newcomb, we get occasional news from Jamaica of the activities of Miss Una Marson, whom delegates to our Istanbul Congress will surely remember. She has not yet managed to get started the social welfare work on which her heart is set and which is so badly needed, but she is doing something very well worth while in stimulating the artistic and social life of her own people. She has just had a play picturing the life and manners of the people produced with brilliant success. It is called "Pocomania," and the second performance was attended by the Governor and his wife, the Bishop, the Mayor and all the "good and great" of the Island, while hundreds of people could not gain admission. This is perhaps the beginning of a real indigenous school of drama.

Then a Readers' and Writers' Club has been started, and a three-day Economic Conference was held under the auspices of the Mayor.

Now Miss Marson is going to work for a new daily paper, "The Jamaica Standard," which should give her a platform for her wealth of ideas for the progress of her countrymen.

CHILE.

The Accion Nacional de Mujeres de Chile has issued an interesting manifesto in connection with the elections to the Municipality of Santiago de Chile. The women of Chile were granted the municipal franchise some time ago, and it is pointed out that so far they have been serving their apprenticeship in administration. Now they have some practical experience and can appeal for public support for their task as a new element in public life in bringing in a new spirit. If the welfare of women and children seems to be their most close concern, such questions as alcoholism, prostitution, housing, education and public health are also questions with which women should help to deal and form a programme of reform for many years ahead.

If we understand the Manifesto correctly, it is in the first place issued to support the candidature of three women, its own members, who are standing on this programme based on the principles of justice and charity in its true sense of devotion and care for the community.

FRANCE.

JUS SUFFRAGII a déjà annoncé le vote par le Parlement Français de la loi du 18 Février 1938, qui supprime l'incapacité de la femme mariée.

C'est un événement considérable, dont se réjouiront avec nous nos amies étrangères, d'abord par sympathie, ensuite parce que notre code civil a souvent influencé les législations des autres pays, et qu'à cet égard, le prolongement de cette réforme ne peut être qu'excellent.

Certes, la modification n'est pas aussi totale que nous l'aurions souhaité. Lors des travaux par lesquels nous avons préparé l'avant projet au sein de la Commission extra-parlementaire réunie par le Ministre de la Justice, nous avons cherché à libérer pleinement la femme de la tutelle qui pesait sur elle. Nous n'avons pas été complètement entendues. De nombreux amendements au Sénat ont amenuisé la portée de la réforme, mais son principe demeure, et c'est l'essentiel, car il nous permettra, sans nul doute, des changements ultérieurs. La capacité de la femme mariée est proclamée. C'est une brèche considérable faite à un vieil édifice de traditions et de préjugés.

La femme, dorénavant, ne doit plus obéissance à son mari. Elle pourra donc, non seulement obtenir un passeport et une carte d'identité sans autorisation maritale—ce résultat avait déjà été acquis, grâce à une circulaire du 14 Juin 1937—mais elle acquiert la liberté sur sa personne, peut correspondre sans contrôle, exercer une profession, ester en justice, accomplir des actes juridiques, accepter des donations ou des successions, avoir un compte en banque, passer des baux, contracter des assurances, signer des chèques, vendre, acheter. En outre, la femme peut devenir subrogée tutrice sans autorisation.

En bref, la nécessité de l'autorisation maritale est absolument supprimée.

Quelles sont les restrictions à ces nouveaux droits? D'abord, les limitations légales, c'est à dire celles qui résultent du fait pour la femme d'être munies d'un conseil judiciaire ou d'un tuteur, au cas où elle est prodigue ou interdite. En outre, et c'est plus grave, celles résultant des régimes matrimoniaux.

Le projet primitif comportait une modification des régimes matrimoniaux, et la création d'un régime dont l'auteur était M. Ripert: la participation aux acquêts, qui allie fort heureusement les avantages de la communauté d'acquêts avec ceux de la séparation de biens. Pour des raisons de tactique, les deux parties ont été dissociées. C'est la première, seule, qui a été votée jusqu'ici. La deuxième viendra prochainement en discussion. En attendant il est bien certain que la femme mariée sous le régime de communauté, celle surtout qui s'occupe de son ménage et n'a pas d'occupation rémunérée au dehors, ne peut retirer de la nouvelle loi des avantages matériels très importants. Elle y trouvera cependant le sentiment de sa dignité et c'est déjà un premier résultat qu'il est impossible de sous-estimer.

Par contre, la femme qui exerce une profession et qui dispose librement de son salaire et des économies qui en proviennent, et la femme séparée de biens, auront, grâce aux nouvelles dispositions légales, une grande facilité pour leurs affaires.

Malheureusement, le mari demeure "le chef de la famille." Cette expression, ont dit certains commentateurs, n'aura qu'une portée théorique. Acceptons en l'augure!

Toutefois, c'est le mari qui fixe la résidence. Il a le droit, en outre, de s'opposer à l'exercice d'une profession par sa femme, sauf pour elle le droit de recourir aux Tribunaux, si la fixation de cette résidence ou l'interdiction de l'exercice de la profession sont abusives.

Les féministes s'efforceront d'obtenir la suppression de ces limitations, et aussi, elles s'appliqueront à faire

voter l'égalisation de la puissance paternelle entre les deux parents, qui est particulièrement chère à leur cœur.

MARCELLE KRAEMER-BACH,
Avocat à la Cour.

Note de la rédaction. Nous venons de recevoir un livre bien documenté sur ce sujet; Les Droits nouveaux de la Femme Mariée par Suzanne Grinberg et Odette Simon, Librairie du Recueil Sirey, 22 rue Soufflot, Paris. Nous tenons à en remercier bien vivement les auteurs, en exprimant nos regrets que, faute d'espace, nous ne pouvons faire plus que le recommander très chaudement à toutes celles qui désirent avoir sous main un exposé détaillé de la situation légale actuelle de la femme mariée.

NOUVELLES DE TOUS PAYS.

Belgique. La loi du 10 Juin 1937 qui étend le bénéfice des allocations familiales à tous les travailleurs, de l'administration, des professions aussi bien qu'aux salariés du commerce et de l'industrie est mise graduellement en pratique mais les difficultés dans l'application sont immenses. Eventuellement toutes les familles ayant de jeunes enfants auront droit à l'allocation.

France. Nous apprenons avec regret que la santé de Madame Maria-Véronne a causé de l'inquiétude. Nous lui envoyons nos souhaits pour son rétablissement.

Grande Bretagne. Une femme, Miss Cross a, pour la première fois été nommée membre du Conseil Général des Avocats.

Une campagne pour l'égalité des salaires organisée conjointement par les organisations féministes de l'Ouest Londonien a eu un résultat pratique: la municipalité de Hammersmith a reconnu le principe du Travail Egal, Salaire égal pour ses employés.

Miss Marjorie Pollard qui fut Capitaine de l'Equipe anglaise de "Cricket" aussi bien que de l'International Hockey a été nommée organisatrice d'Education physique pour les femmes.

Hollande. Madame Buisman, présidente de la Section de Leeuwarden de notre Alliance a été élue Alderman de cette ville, capitale de la province de Frise.

Japon. Au mois de Janvier deux femmes remarquables ont été invitées à parler à la Radio: Melle Utah Hayashi, aujourd'hui âgée de 75 ans qui est une des pionnières de la propagande contre l'alcoolisme et la réglementation de la prostitution. L'autre est Madame Tanahashi âgée paraît-il de 100 ans, qui après la mort de son mari fonda une Ecole secondaire de jeunes filles où elle réside encore.

Irlande. Il y a onze noms de femmes sur la liste des candidats pour le Sénat. Plusieurs sont des anciennes Fenians. L'une d'elles Mrs. McWhinney fut condamnée à 10 ans de détention mais s'échappa par dessus le mur de la prison de Montjoie dont elle est aujourd'hui Inspecteur. Parmi ses collègues la plus connue est Mrs. Cosgrave qui fut déléguée au Congrès de Paris en 1926.

Miss Mary Hayden, Présidente du Conseil national des Femmes irlandaises, se retire à la fin de l'année de son professorat à l'Université de Dublin.

Yougoslavie. Le Premier Ministre a reçu récemment une délégation conduite par Mme Petkovich et Melle Ahanskovitch sur la question des femmes fonctionnaires.

Norvege. Le Ministre des Affaires Sociales a créé une commission de cinq femmes qui comprennent une avocate, une ménagère et la Présidente

de l'Union du Travail domestique pour étudier la possibilité d'une réglementation des conditions du travail domestique.

Etats Unis. Nous regrettons d'annoncer la décès de Madame Sophie Clark, qui a travaillé toute sa vie à la cause de l'égalité des femmes. Madame Barron est la première femme qui ait été nommée Juge Substitut au Tribunal de Boston (Massachusetts).

Autriche. Nous avons reçu il y a quelques semaines une note de notre correspondante Gisela Urban, indiquant les efforts du Conseil national des Femmes pour établir une Chambre d'Economie domestique qui devait former l'un des "Etats" de la nouvelle constitution corporative. N'ayant pas réussi, le Conseil proposait une Union obligatoire du travail domestique.

Ces notes de Gisela Urban n'ont plus qu'intérêt historique puisque l'Autriche, incorporée désormais au Reich allemand a cessé d'exister. Et bien que nous n'ayons aucune nouvelle de nos collègues, nous savons hélas!, que le mouvement féministe autrichien a aussi cessé d'exister. Et nos cœurs se serrent, non pas à cause de cette union, qui surtout au point de vue économique semblait si naturelle, et que d'autres Etats n'auraient jamais dû empêcher, mais à cause de l'expression brutale qui l'a accompagnée et dont des milliers de personnes souffrent aujourd'hui.

Jamaïque. La plupart de nos associées se rappellent Miss Una Marson, la jeune Jamaïque qui prit une part active au Congrès d'Istanbul. Elle était repartie dans son pays, pleine d'ardeur et se proposait d'organiser une assistance sociale fort nécessaire dans l'île. Elle n'a pu encore commencer son projet, mais elle essaye de stimuler la vie artistique et sociale de son peuple. Elle vient de faire représenter une pièce "Pocomania." Le Gouverneur, sa femme, l'Evêque, le Maire et toutes les notabilités de l'île assistèrent à la seconde représentation.

Miss Marson organise un club, une bibliothèque, et une Conférence économique s'est réunie pendant trois jours, sous le patronage du Maire. Elle va également publier ses vues dans une nouvelle feuille: le "Jamaica Standard."

Hongrie. La nouvelle loi électorale que restore le scrutin secret, accorde le suffrage municipal et parlementaire aux femmes, mais pas universellement, et sous certaines conditions.

- (1) L'âge du vote est 30 ans ou plus.
- (2) L'électrice doit avoir une certaine instruction.
- (3) Si elle est célibataire elle doit avoir certains moyens de subsistance, un métier ou une profession.
- (4) Si elle est mariée, elle doit être l'épouse ou la veuve d'un électeur.

Dans certains cas, ses capacités (par exemple un diplôme secondaire ou un titre universitaire) autorisent l'électrice à voter à l'âge de 23 ans, l'âge masculin. Aussi, une mère d'au moins trois enfants peut voter, si elle sait au moins lire. Les sociétés féministes ne sont pas satisfaites de la discrimination que cette nouvelle loi implique, et elles envoient une circulaire aux membres du Parlement, ou font pression sur plusieurs d'entre eux afin de faire reconnaître l'égalité de droits.

Chili. L'Action Nationale des Femmes du Chili a publié un manifeste au moment des élections municipales de Santiago du Chili. Les femmes Chiliennes qui ont la franchise municipale se proposent d'appuyer trois de leurs membres qui sont candidates et dont le programme concerne spécialement les questions de la prostitution, de l'habitation, de l'éducation et de l'hygiène.

Ceylan. Le Rapport annuel de l'Union Politique des Femmes de Ceylan pour 1937 contient un résumé de l'activité de la Société pendant les dix dernières années. Au début des femmes obtinrent le Vote et l'Éligibilité au Conseil Supérieur d'Etat. L'une d'elles siège encore au Conseil. La franchise municipale leur fut accordée en 1936 et une des Vice-Présidentes de l'Union Dr. Mary H. Rutnam fut la première des Conseillères de la municipalité de Colombo.

L'Union lutte aujourd'hui pour l'obtention de la franchise dans les Conseils de District. Un grand progrès a été accompli dans l'accession des femmes aux professions libérales Miss Ruby Gunsekera est la première femme "Proctor." Les femmes docteurs sont pleinement reconnues et des postes dans les hôpitaux leurs sont ouverts.

L'installation des hôpitaux est en progrès; un hôpital d'aliénés vient d'être créé où on espère avoir une section pour enfants arriérés. Il existe aussi un projet d'institution pour la rééducation des femmes, délinquantes qui sont encore emprisonnées avec des criminels de droit commun.

Des Maisons d'étudiantes, des Maternités attachées au Centres d'Assistance publique ont été ouvertes.

Le programme actuel de l'Union réclame une meilleure distribution du lait, l'Instruction obligatoire, et des tribunaux d'Enfants.

Inde. Un correspondant de longue date Bhagat Ram nous a envoyé un pamphlet intitulé "Mariage Civil" entièrement personnel mais qui nous semble excellent. Il voudrait que les écoles donnent aux garçons et aux filles un enseignement civique qui puisse leur faire comprendre les lois qui régissent leur existence en particulier la réglementation du mariage indou si injuste pour les femmes. Dans l'intérêt de leurs filles les parents indous devraient demander l'inscription des futurs mariages suivant la loi du Mariage Civil de 1872 amendée en 1923. Cet acte fournit un formulaire civil valide pour les Indous de toute caste et qui n'empêche pas le complément d'une cérémonie religieuse.

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