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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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THE WOMAN MEMBER OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT.



Miss Miina Sillanpää.

The first woman member of the Finnish Government, in her office. Miss Sillanpää is Assistant Minister in the Labour Ministry, her Department being Child Welfare, Poor Relief and State Control of Liquor. An article dealing with her appointment appeared in the February issue.

ALLIANCE PEACE COMMITTEE.

The Peace Questionnaire.

Last May in Paris there was a great meeting for peace held by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship at the Trocadero. Only women speakers were announced, and they had but one subject,—peace; yet the place was crowded to the doors and from floor to ceiling. Quite unannounced M. Herriot came to address the meeting in a most eloquent speech. The representative of Germany made so fine an appeal for the cause of international harmony and goodwill that the Belgian lady who had spoken previously, pressed forward to clasp her hand, while there was a tumult of applause from the vast audience.

As a result of the enthusiasm shown by this meeting, the Peace Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance was set up. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who is dedicating her energy and genius to the cause of international understanding, was made honorary chairman, Miss Ruth Morgan was made chairman, and Miss Rosa Manus secretary. Owing to the fact that Miss Morgan is an American, the official headquarters are situated in New York, but Mrs. Corbett Ashby in London, President of the Alliance, and Miss Rosa Manus in Baarn, Holland, not to speak of Miss Emily Gourd, who represents the Alliance in Geneva at the League of Nations, give the committee a widespread geographical representation for its active work.

In September when the Executive Board of the Alliance met in Geneva, Miss Morgan was present, and the first plans of the committee were outlined. Each country was asked to name a representative on the committee, and the following appointments have been made to date:

United States: Miss Ruth Morgan.
Holland: Mrs. C. C. Bakker van Bosse
Brazil: Senhora Jeronyma Mesquita.
Czecho-Slovakia: Dr. Irena Malinska
France: Mme. Germaine Malaterre-Sellier.
Germany: Dr. Fassbinder.
Greece: Mme. Avra Theodoropoulou.
Ireland: Mrs. Mercer.
England: Miss K. D. Courtney.
Belgium: Mme. Nisot-Cherix.
Switzerland: Mlle. Grutter.
Sweden: Mrs. M. Leche-Löfgren.
Roumania: Mme. de Reuss Jancoulesco.
(Proxy) Mme. la Princesse Cantacuzene.

Moreover, the Alliance Board decided that, in addition, experts would be very helpful to the work, and the following well-known woman has been added to the committee:

Frau Dr. Gertrud Baumer, member of the Reichstag. Out of the interesting discussion of this first group a common understanding about certain essential points was reached:

1. That Mrs. Catt's proposal that national Conferences on the Cause and Cure of War such as had been held in the United States would, if held in European countries under the auspices of the women's peace groups united for such a conference, be very effective in strengthening the movement, by giving publicity to women's vital interest in the subject. They would further educate many women as to how wars can best be prevented.

2. That aiding women to take responsibility with respect to government in their own countries was the great objective of the Alliance as a whole, and that in this special field of international understanding women could secure this equipment only by undertaking active work.

3. That work on behalf of the League of Nations in countries members of the League was a logical place to begin, and that when the delegates representing a country in the Council or Assembly of the League had by their votes ratified a treaty in the interest of peace members of the Peace Committee of the Alliance,

could properly undertake to aid in securing the necessary ratification of these treaties by their governments.

That because conditions often differed so completely from one country to another, some survey designed to bring needed information to the committee as a whole, might well be undertaken by the committee. It was with these ideas in mind that the following questionnaire was issued in October, 1926:

Part I.

1. Will your Auxiliary hold, in co-operation with women's organizations, a national meeting on some special question of Peace and the League of Nations before the next International Congress of the Alliance in 1929?

2. Will you undertake a special campaign to secure ratification of one or more of the League Conventions and Treaties by your Government?

3. What service can the Peace Committee of the Alliance best render you?

Part II.

4. Is education for Peace and the League of Nations carried on in your schools and colleges, and if so, by whom?

5. Can you inform us as to the different social, intellectual and political groups which support or oppose the League of Nations and peace efforts, viz:—

Political parties,
Trade Unions,
Religious and philosophical movements,
Newspapers,
Universities,
Youth Movements,
etc., etc.?

If a national conference is undertaken in any country it has been suggested by the chairman that assistance in securing speakers and help in organizing the conference might be offered to the national group in question, should this group desire assistance.

This slight sketch of the committee and its first steps entirely fails to reflect the enthusiasm, energy, and faith with which the representatives on the committee have undertaken to go forward in the cause of peace together. The committee chairman, because of her own relative inexperience and the fact that she is distant from European centres, may be permitted to say that the courage, the tremendous experience lived through by the women of other countries, and the vast stores of help and understanding which they bring to the committee make the possibilities which lie in this effort immeasurable in their importance. She, herself, is given spirit to go on by their support. The fact that the Senate of her own country has, within the last week, voted unanimously in favour of arbitration of particular international difficulties adds also to the hopes of peace for the future. Names are unimportant but "willingness to arbitrate is a test of civilisation."

RUTH MORGAN.



Miss Ruth Morgan.

MISS ADDAMS

Chicago did something in its finest character recently in turning out en masse to pay its tribute of love and admiration to Jane Addams. The dining-room of the Furniture Club was crowded by twelve hundred ticket holders, and a thousand applications were

rejected for lack of space. Mayor Dever brought the congratulations of the city to its leading citizen. William Allen White, Judge Hugo Pam, and Professor Charles E. Merriam spoke of Miss Addams's work and influence, and the present outlook in the world for the doctrine of liberalism, understanding and disinterested service, which she has expressed in local, national and international affairs. Miss Julia Lathrop in presiding read letters, all of which had a genuine personal expression of affection, from individuals and organizations engaged in social service, and others, including President Coolidge, Governor Smith of New York and Governor Fuller of Massachusetts. The "Chicago Tribune" in its report of the occasion, asserted that it was in effect a reply to the recent attacks upon Miss Addams, such as those emanating from the commander of the American Legion of Illinois, the Congressional Record, and other irresponsible sources, charging her with disloyalty, with being in the pay of Moscow, etc. No mention was made of these things at the dinner, however, and the attitude of the gathering was that of malice toward none and charity to all, which Miss Addams has made so perfectly her own.

UNITED STATES.

Scholarship for Foreign Women at Bryn Mawr.

We have been asked to make known the opportunity offered by Bryn Mawr College to foreign women students. The College offers each year eight scholarships giving free board, residence and tuition to foreign women who have had three or four years of university training, and who understand and speak English. Courses are offered in Languages, History, Economics and Politics, Social Economy, Philosophy, Education, Archaeology, History of Art, Music, Mathematics, Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Biology).

Applications for scholarships should be received by May 1st, though applications will be considered if received later, provided all the scholarships have not been awarded. They should be accompanied by full particulars of the candidate's academic work, diplomas or certificates, letters of recommendation from professors, a statement of the circumstances of the candidate and of her plans for future work. If time permits blank forms of application may be obtained from the Office of the President, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., to whom applications should also be addressed.

A sample application form is available at the Headquarters of the Alliance, and if any of our readers wish to see it, the Headquarters Secretary will be glad to forward a typed duplicate.

OBITUARY.

With memories of our Paris Congress fresh in our minds, it is with the greatest regret that we learn of the sudden death of M. Lapie, rector of the Sorbonne. It was to the kindness and real interest in the women's movement of this gifted man that we owed the great good fortune of being able to hold the Congress in the historic buildings of the Sorbonne. We extend our respectful sympathy to Mme. Lapie, a member of the Committee of our French Auxiliary, the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

We have also learnt of the death of Mrs. Madge Donohoe, who represented Australia at the early Congresses of the Alliance, beginning with Copenhagen in 1906, and continuing with Amsterdam 1908 and London 1909. Mrs. Donohoe was at one time well known as a journalist.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

In our American contemporary, "Equal Rights," there have recently appeared articles dealing with women on juries, and also a little map of the United States which gives the "white" and "black" States, i.e., those where women may or may not serve on juries. It is rather a surprise to find that only 20

States at present admit women to juries, and among those which do not, Wyoming appears along with most of the other States which, following its lead, gave their women suffrage long before the war.

It is also a painful surprise to learn that the Irish Free State by a Bill introduced into the Dail this month is proposing to take from women the duty of sitting on juries which has been laid on them since 1919. This would appear to be a violation of the Constitution, and though jury service is a duty which is often both disagreeable and inconvenient, and is in no sense a privilege to be sought for in itself, it is to be hoped that Irish women will resent and fight against a measure which is a denial of equal responsibilities for men and women citizens, and in its way a denial of equal justice in the technical sense of that word for men and women brought up for trial.

CHINA.

The Supplement published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association with this issue is devoted to China, and the Editor wishes to call the attention of readers to the extremely interesting information which it gives on a topic of such universal interest at the present time. There is special reference to the woman's movement and its reactions to current happenings in China.

M. HEBERT.

Many of the visitors to the Paris Congress must recall M. Hébert and the assistance he gave to us. It may be that they may wish to avail themselves of his services on future visits to Paris, and I am sure that they will learn with deep sympathy of the tragic death of his only little son, who has died from the effects of a motor accident, which occurred soon after the Congress.

M. Hébert's address is 18 bis., rue le Ranelagh, Paris

LETTER SENT BY THE ALLIANCE TO ITS AUXILIARIES.

Dear Madam,

International Labour Conference.

I have to inform you that the next International Labour Conference will be held in Geneva on the 25th May next, and that on the Agenda of the Conference the following two points appear which are of special interest to women:

Health Insurance, the careful study of which has shown that the laws of the various countries show sufficient similarity to allow of the question being dealt with on the basis of international regulation;

A minimum wage standard for certain unorganised industries in which wages are exceptionally low.

The question of Health Insurance in certain aspects, as for example maternity benefits, already figures on the programme of women's organisations, and this matter affects directly various problems with which we are concerned, such as the industrial position of women, industrial legislation, the economic position of the housewife, etc. In the second place, the unorganised industries in which wages are exceptionally low are for the most part home industries in which women are particularly engaged, and women's organisations in all countries have done much work in the direction of getting improvements in the conditions of such industries.

It seems to me, therefore, that the fact that these two questions appear on the Agenda of the forthcoming Conference fully justifies the application of Par. 2 of Art. 389 of the International Labour Organisation: "When questions of special interest to women are to be discussed at the Conference, one at least of those appointed as technical advisers should be a woman." I would therefore beg you most earnestly to get into touch with your government without delay in order to make the request that, in accordance with this Article, a woman may in any case be appointed

as a technical adviser on each of these questions for the forthcoming International Labour Conference, and further that if possible a woman may be appointed as one of the official delegates. Governments are not obliged by the text of the Article to appoint women as official delegates as in the case of the appointment of technical advisers, but it seems to me that when the subjects to be discussed interest women so directly, it is necessary that a woman should hold a post more important than that of technical adviser. I have no need to remind you that in the case of former Conferences women have been sent as official delegates by Canada, Great Britain, Norway and Uruguay, and as technical advisers by Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Norway, Poland, Roumania, South Africa, Sweden, Spain and Switzerland. There is no question, therefore, of creating a precedent but rather of firmly establishing a good habit. In feminist circles we sometimes hear complaints about the I.L.O., which seems likely to affect women's right to work: should we not, however, be all the more anxious to ensure that the woman's point of view is represented at its meetings?

Finally I should like to call your attention to the necessity of putting forward to your government at the moment of making your request the names of women candidates, who are specialists in the questions under discussion, and who are accustomed to international work. In those countries where more than one society is affiliated to the Alliance, I would make a special point of the importance of co-operation both as regards the demand to be made and the names to be put forward. In such cases nothing is more harmful than the lack of such co-operation.

I should be most grateful if you would keep me informed of the result of your efforts, and also of the names of the women appointed by your government in sufficiently good time for me to have the pleasure of welcoming them to Geneva. I should be glad in such cases to learn the probable date of their arrival.

With cordial greetings,

Yours sincerely,

EMILIE GOURD,
Secretary.

CANADA.

The Editor, I.W.S. News.
Dear Editor,

Although you have not heard from Quebec for some time I would not have you think our Suffragists are all dead or even asleep. Very much "au contraire," as the enclosed clippings will show. Early in October, on the advice of our good friend, Hon. J. H. Dillon, K.C., a small delegation waited upon the President of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which was then in session at their annual convention at the Mount Royal Hotel in this city, to ask if the Congress would endorse and support the movement to secure the Provincial and other franchises for women in the Province of Quebec. At first the President demurred, and objected, but not only agreed to our request finally, but arranged that it be brought up on their own initiative, which, of course, suited us better still. You will see from the newspaper report that a very strong resolution was passed unanimously along the lines we had indicated. Our next step was to keep in conference with the Labour leaders which resulted in their decision to make women suffrage a plank in their own platform, and to invite a few leading suffragists to accompany them in their annual delegation to the Legislative Assembly at Quebec and present their own case. This took place yesterday, and the newspaper reports tell the tale. We are very proud of the President of the Montreal Women's Club, Mrs. E. T. Sampson, who is a pronounced and intelligent Suffragist, who represented the Club in the delegation which the Labour Party had requested should be small. Mrs. Sampson is a charming young woman, a pleasing

speaker, and has the decided advantage of being a Roman Catholic. As it was, all three representatives were Catholics, and two, Mdme. Mercure, wife of Ald. Mercure, a Labour leader, and Mdme. Idola St. Jean, a leading suffragist, were French, so there were no handicaps. While Premier Taschereau gave no promise of yielding, yet this delegation was much more courteously received than the one which went last year. An elaborate luncheon, with flowers and frills galore, and presided over by two Cabinet Ministers, was provided by the Government for the ladies, the Premier expressing the hope that he would see them often, rather a baleful suggestion.

We are glad to report that far from blighting his political career, our gallant young champion, now the Hon. J. H. Dillon, has been made a Cabinet Minister in the Taschereau Government, quite an object lesson to those fearful souls who stand aloof from "votes to women."

(Mrs. JOHN) ISABELLA SCOTT
Convener, Franchise Committee,
Montreal Women's Club.

Jan. 19, 1927.

The cuttings referred to are as follows:—

The struggle of the women of Quebec to obtain the provincial franchise, received unanimous support at this morning's session of the annual convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada at the Mount Royal Hotel. The Congress unanimously agreed that the Province of Quebec Executive be urged to co-operate and assist to the greatest extent possible in efforts to obtain the franchise for women in the Province of Quebec.

("Star," Oct. 4, 1926).

A strong plea for the granting of the suffrage to women in the Province of Quebec was presented by the delegation of women which accompanied organized labour to Quebec yesterday for the annual interview with the Provincial Government.

Labour, in addition to presenting its program, championed the women's cause, which was presented by Madame Joseph Mercure, Miss Idola Saint Jean and Mrs. E. T. Sampson, president of the Montreal Women's Club. The women's delegation arrived back in the city this morning.

Mrs. Sampson acted as spokeswoman, and petitioned the Government to include in the bills of this session a bill giving full franchise to the women of the province.

She spoke as representative of the women employed in factories, mills, stores, hotels, offices, hospitals and universities, and the great number of women in their homes; of the several thousand women in the Provincial Suffrage League, the Montreal Women's Club, numbering 1,028, and other women's organizations, all debarred by their sex from exercising the vote. In the history of this province she urged there was no mention of inequality. Women pioneers helped equally with men, and their memory was equally cherished. The faith to which 85 per cent. of the people of the province belonged also did not admit of inequality. There were just as many women saints as men, and in some of the schools of the province this was taught in the catechism, which defined in what respects all men were equal. The catechism definitely established that in the term man all human beings were included.

The speaker pointed out further the great powers of organisation, administration and executive control shown by the large number of competent women who administer the great religious and educational institutions—the Mother Houses, which are more numerous in Quebec than in any other part of the world. But for their competence, she said, the control would pass to others across the line or to other parts of Canada.

The speaker emphasised that the eminent success of Quebec's distinguished men could be attributed as much to mothers as to fathers, and claimed that the women in Quebec had kept pace with the rest of the world in advancement. She touched on the good conditions of life prevailing in Quebec, to which the won-

derful thrift of the women had contributed in no small part, and urged the Government to admit the women of the province not only to work, pay taxes, and obey the laws with them, but to vote with them.

("Star," Jan. 19, 1927).

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The following paragraphs are largely taken from miscellaneous press sources and their accuracy is not vouched for by our National Auxiliaries.

ARGENTINA.

A proposed convention for the reform of the constitution of the Province of San Juan (Argentina) would give women equal voting power with men, for the first time in South America.

AUSTRALIA.

Mr. Baddeley, the Minister for Labour, has introduced into Parliament a Child Endowment Bill.

It is proposed, at present, to pay in respect of children of employees at the rate of 5s. weekly for each child under 14, provided the family income does not exceed £364 annually, including endowment. "Family income" means the combined income of husband, wife, and children under 14 plus 25 per cent. of the income of children over 14 resident with their parents. It is also provided that every employer shall contribute to the endowment fund 6 per cent. of his wages sheets under Federal awards and 6½ per cent. of the wages sheets under State awards.

Domestic employees are excluded from the benefits of the measure (New South Wales.)

BELGIUM.

Five places in Belgium have women Mayors, namely, Noerlinter, Husse, Appels, Thimongies and Waillet.

CHILE.

Miss Olga De La Barra, during the absence of her father on holiday, will act as Chilean Consul in Glasgow for the next six months. Miss De La Barra is only 21 years of age, but she has acted as her father's secretary for a long time, and is fully familiar with the duties.

FRANCE.

The Suffrage Commission of the Chamber to-day adopted unanimously a proposal favouring the principle of giving the vote to women in France.

A Bill dealing with the subject will be presented in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Tremintin.

GERMANY.

A Woman Deputy Mayor.

Frau Stadträtin Klara Weyl has represented the Bürgermeister of Berlin during his absence, acting also as President of the Board of Magistrates. It is the first time that a woman has acted as Bürgermeister, and is specially significant since it has occurred in the biggest city of the country.

Women Police.

Six women have passed the examination prescribed for candidates for the newly created women's section of the Berlin criminal police service. All of them have had practical experience in welfare and similar work.

School for Housewives.

The first State School for Housewives will be opened at Easter in Berlin.

Primarily intended for young wives who wish to learn housekeeping thoroughly, the course will last a year, and will include training in cooking, gardening, general hygiene, and the care of infants.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

Mrs. Pankhurst, the well known militant suffrage leader, has definitely joined the Conservative Party, and has been adopted as Parliamentary Candidate by the Whitechapel Division of Stepney (London), which is at present represented by a Labour Member.

Triumphs for Women.

Two new triumphs for women are announced in the appointment of Miss H. E. Wallis as higher grade Chief Supervisor of the Central Telegraph Service, and that of Miss Beatrice Edgell, M.A., as the first woman Professor of Psychology in the University of London.

A Bristol woman, Miss Lily Baker, has gained a unique honour by being appointed to the honorary staff of the Bristol Royal Infirmary, in charge of the ante-natal department.

This is the first time a woman has been made a member of the full staff of a teaching hospital in the British Isles, except the Royal Free Hospital, London.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Leave to introduce Bill extending franchise to European women was defeated in South African Parliament.

SWITZERLAND.

At the recent elections for the School Commissions of the town of Berne, 10 women were elected. There are 14 Commissions with 146 members. At the last elections in 1922, seven women were elected among 148 members.

UNITED STATES.

Woman Commissioner of Immigration.

President Coolidge has appointed Mrs. C. M. Tillinghast Commissioner of Immigration at Boston. She is the first woman so honoured.

Honour for College Head.

For the first time a woman is directing the affairs of the American Association of Colleges as its president. The organisation, which represents more than 300 liberal arts colleges and is considered the chief college association in the United States, elected Miss Lucia R. Briggs, president of Milwaukee Downer College, to its highest office at its thirteenth annual meeting here. She is the daughter of LeBaron R. Briggs, dean of Harvard University.

Officers of the association declared that Miss Briggs was chosen simply because "she had administered in a very effective way a very good woman's college."

SUFFRAGE FOR PORTO RICAN WOMEN.

By MARGARET LAMBIE,

Member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and of New York.

SOME of the statements in my previous article on "Suffrage for Philippine Women" apply to suffrage for Porto Rican women, but there are also points of difference.

The Nineteenth Amendment, for example, is inoperative in both the Philippines and Porto Rico. On its face it prohibits only the Federal Government and the States from denying or abridging the right to vote on account of sex. Neither the Philippine Islands nor Porto Rico were incorporated into the United States as States by the treaty with Spain and Congress has never extended the United States Constitution to these insular possessions.

On the question of voting in Porto Rico, Congress has expressed itself in Section 35 of the Organic Act of 1917, as follows: " . . . Voters shall be citizens of the United States twenty-one years of age or over, and have such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by the Legislature of Porto Rico: Provided, That no property qualification shall ever be imposed upon or required of any voter."

The Legislature of Porto Rico, exercising its prerogatives, has enacted these qualifications: "Every male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years or over on the day of election, who is not legally disqualified, and who shall have resided for one year prior to the date of election in the municipality where the election is held, shall vote in the said municipality if his name is registered on the election lists . . ."

Also, "Voting shall be obligatory, and every person registered on any voting list on the day of election shall be under the obligation of casting his vote at the respective polling place. Failing to do so, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor . . ."

In the above freedom from property qualification and in the compulsory vote, Porto Rico differs from the Philippines, whereas the latter requires a literary test

(Continued on page 74.)

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES

AUSTRALIAN EQUAL CITIZENSHIP FEDERATION.

After due consultation with officers and members of those associations in various States affiliated with the Australian Equal Citizenship Federation it has been agreed to accept the invitation of the New South Wales Societies to hold the Australian Conference in Sydney, about May 17, 18 and 19 next.

This early announcement, we hope, will give all the affiliated societies and intending visitors ample time to make their plans to attend in good force.

To speak of an Australian Conference of women at once suggests vast spaces to cover; but the time has arrived, we consider, when every effort should be made by Australian women to contact the women of other States on every possible occasion.

In this direction responsibility particularly rests with women members of non-party political associations, such as are federated under this equal citizenship banner, not to confine their activities to questions affecting women and children (important as these are), but to help create a larger national outlook by considering Australia's possibilities in the scheme of things, her relationship to Empire and international affairs; and, in fact, the great opportunity lying ahead—as suggested in our slogan: "An All-Australia Outlook."

Such a gathering should be the means of inspiring us to greater effort in our study of national political policies, and lead us to something like a concerted viewpoint in approaching the Federal House.

The associations are pressed to send a full delegation forward, including proxies, and at an early date a tentative programme will be submitted for their consideration and suggestion.

We particularly appeal for a good West Australian contingent, not only delegates and proxies, but visitors, too, for the reason that this State is on the opposite side of the Continent to New South Wales, and we have an opportunity of demonstrating that we can "leap the distance" if we make up our minds to do it, and this is the psychological moment in the life of our Equal Citizenship Federation.

(Signed) BESSIE M. RISCHBIETH,
President.

ADA BROMHAM,
Hon. Secretary.

Women's Non Party Association: S. Australia.

For many reasons our Association will rejoice to learn that its admired and valued ex-President and Vice-President, Mrs. J. Carlile McDonnell, has been chosen by the Australian Federation of Women's Societies for Equal Citizenship as nominee for the position of Australian woman delegate to the 1927 League of Nations Assembly. Mrs. McDonnell was nominated by every auxiliary society of the Federation (these exist in five States), and so was elected unanimously and unopposed. Her name will be sent in to the Federal Government with strongest recommendations, and we sincerely hope and wish that she may receive the appointment.

Our wholehearted support of Mrs. McDonnell in this matter is based on two important facts. The first is her outstanding qualification for the position. Born in England, she was trained there and on the Continent as a teacher, hospital nurse and social worker, and with a widely humane experience gained also a good knowledge of French. For sixteen years she has resided in South Australia, and has always taken the keenest interest in social work and public affairs. Mrs. McDonnell holds the following offices: Justice of the Peace of South Australia, Vice-President of the A.F.W.S.E.C. (Acting President for one year), Vice-President of the W.N.P.A. (President for three years), Australian member of two committees of the International Women's Alliance (Family Allowance and the

Unmarried Mother and her Child), Vice-President of the South Australian National Council of Women (to which she is a W.N.P.A. delegate), convener of the Council's Parliamentary Committee and of the Suffrage and Equal Citizenship Committee in connection with the International Council of Women, member of Executive of South Australian League of Nations' Union, and one of its official speakers. Her connection with the Union is perhaps her most weighty qualification for the delegateship. From its inception she has been an ardent worker, having held the honorary secretaryship for some months and devoted much time, study and enthusiasm to its propaganda, so that she is well in touch with League activities.

We are pleased to report that the Maintenance Bill, which has been of such anxious interest to the Association, has finally been passed in a satisfactory form. The clause, which secures the continuance of supervision of illegitimate children up to seven years of age, was re-inserted in the Legislative Council, and the Act constitutes the Controlling Board as follows: A paid Chairman and eight honorary members, four of the latter to be women, and no members of Parliament to be eligible. This is a long step from the original proposal of last year for a paid Board of three with no stipulation for women members at all, and it is due to the work of South Australian women that the various improvements in the Bill were gradually made. The W.N.P.A. has done a great deal of hard work in this connection. The National Council of Women has also laboured untiringly, especially during the last week of the session, when Mrs. J. C. McDonnell, the convener of its Parliamentary Committee, watched the Bill most carefully, and made valuable suggestions to the members of Parliament. After all the discussions, special meetings, letters, circulars and interviews which the Maintenance Bill has caused us from first to last, it is a source of rejoicing that a satisfactory issue has been reached. The Board constituted by the new law will administer care of State children, help for destitute persons, and relief to needy mothers for the maintenance of their children.

GERMANY.

Important Bill Passed by the Reichstag.

First I will, to complete the short report in the January issue, and to avoid misconceptions, once more mention the *Law against Obscene and Trashy Literature* which was carried in the Reichstag, in December, by a small majority. It must be understood that this happened not only after a feud "with the publicity mongers," but also against the unanimous protest of the most prominent German authors and literary experts, members of the Prussian academy of literature, and against the protests of progressive circles from widely differing quarters, throughout the Reich. The final vote on the bill, even among party members, was not less divergent than the opinions among organised women. Though they all agreed, of course, as to the necessity of protecting young people from such dangerous literature, and on effective legal measures for this purpose, the opponents apprehend another danger to the liberty of literature and art from the *execution* of such measures by the censorious-board. The law explicitly adjudges an advisory influence on the censorship, i.e., on the lists of bad literature, to the single states, and to the clergy, an influence which may—and will, under given circumstances—turn out a fatal check, not only on obscene and trashy books, but also on genuine literature and art, and national culture.

The Law to Fight Venereal Disease.

This often mentioned bill has after a thorough discussion on January 21st, 22nd and 24th, once again been carried in the Reichstag, and will surely not be vetoed this time by the Reichsrat, as was done two

years ago. It will be remembered, perhaps, that the representatives of the single states governments then refused to sanction the law, because the former Reichstag had decided in favour of a paragraph, permitting quacks to treat non-infectious sexual diseases. The Reichs government then restored the original text, reserving this right to medical doctors only, and in this form brought the bill, once more, before the Reichstag, who, after a hard fight, and in opposition to the majority of the committee, this time decided for the exclusion of quacks.

The essential of the new law which will come into force October 1st is, in short, this: All persons suffering from venereal disease are bound to put themselves under the treatment of a recognised medical doctor, as long as a danger of infection exists. The States shall provide gratuitous treatment for the penniless. The execution and control of the law is consigned to special sanitary centres, and the interference of the police restricted to public disorder. *The regulation of vice is abolished, brothels and special quarters for prostitutes are forbidden.* Persons who, knowing themselves to be contagious, infect others by cohabitation, may be sentenced to imprisonment up to a term of three years. Medical certificates that they are free from venereal disease, shall be obligatory for nurses and nursing mothers.

The Divorce Question in Committee.

A lively and interesting debate took place recently in the law committee of the Reichstag on *legal facilitation of divorce*. The question had been brought forward by motions of the democratic, social-democratic and communist parties. Though positive results cannot be reported, yet one may consider the proceedings as a first, cautious step in this direction. This could be observed already, in the opening address of the Chairman, Dr. Kahl, who would not speak as a party (German people's) member, but out of his personal conviction. Though rather conservative, a religious man, and university teacher on canon law, he strongly pointed out the necessity of greater facilities in view of all discrepancies between present law and life—while the newly-appointed Conservative Minister of Justice, Herr Hergt, declared that, like his Catholic predecessor, he never would issue a government bill for facilitation. The debate was, in fact, a struggle between opposing views throughout the world—a significant struggle between the old principle of *guiltiness* in divorce cases, as laid down in the present law, and the modern idea of incompatibility of temperament and interests upon which the new motions are based. The assertion of a member that a facilitation would mean an injury to women, was refuted by the fact that it was the organised women themselves who most energetically claimed the reform. The four women members of the committee took a very lively part in the three days' debates which were closed by the Chairman's stating that the divergent opinions had united about facilitation in cases of *insanity* and the obligation of sufficient *maintenance*; and, further, that some compromise should be found between the principle of guilt and that of incompatibility of interests. The committee then resolved to ask the government for a compilation of foreign divorce laws, and divorce statistics.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, Feb. 15th.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

At the opening of Parliament on February 8th the N.U.S.E.C. and other organisations tried, both by direct pressure on Members of the Government and through the press, to ensure that some mention of the Government's intentions to deal with Equal Franchise this session would be made in the King's Speech. No reference was made, however, not even with regard to the establishment of the conference to which the Government is pledged. The attention of the House

was called to this omission by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Lloyd George, Lady Astor, Mr. Pethick Lawrence and others. All it has been possible to elicit, however, has been that the Government has the matter "under consideration," and that the Prime Minister will be making a statement in a few weeks.

This we feel to be profoundly unsatisfactory as time is rapidly becoming the essence of the situation, if women are to be enfranchised this Parliament. We hope that the big Mass Meeting we are organising in the Central Hall, Westminster, on the evening of March 3rd, will give expression to the profound disappointment of unenfranchised women at this continued dilatoriness.

The N.U.S.E.C. has been fortunate in winning a place in the Private Members' Ballot, and on April 29th Sir Robert Newman will be moving a Married Women (Employment) Bill, "to prevent the refusal to employ women in the public service by reason only of their being married." This will have the support of several of the women Members.

The Labour Party is introducing a private Member's Bill on Equal Franchise, which will give a valuable opportunity for airing the subject. The Labour Party will also be introducing a Factories Bill, which will no doubt be the same as that introduced by the Labour Government in 1924, in which considerable sex differentiation is made between men and women. Miss Ellen Wilkinson has made an undertaking that she will move amendments to any such bill, to extend the same protection to men as the bill affords to women. Many of the other bills which have won places in the ballot and will be discussed during the year, deal with subjects of particular interest to women, such as the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Bill, and the Midwives and Maternity Homes (Scotland) Bill, care of mentally defectives, etc.

Lord Astor has already got busy in the House of Lords, and has introduced a Bastardy Bill, promoted by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, and a bill to regulate the employment of children and young persons.

E.M.H.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL & POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Great indignation is felt by members of the Alliance at the omission in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament of any mention of a Bill to enfranchise women on the same terms as men, and a resolution to this effect was sent immediately to the Prime Minister. We are redoubling our efforts in the campaign for Equal Franchise, as the matter is extremely urgent if women are to vote on equal terms with men at the next election.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Jane Henderson Ruthven, vice-president of the Women's Enfranchisement League of Johannesburg, and her sister, Miss Henderson, at an informal dinner on February 1st, when she dealt with the question of Woman Suffrage in S. Africa, the difficulties to be overcome and the hope of ultimate victory. On the same occasion we welcomed two of our own members on their return from Japan, Lady Laughton and her daughter, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, the latter gave a very interesting account of the position of women in Japan, which made us more determined than ever to work for the enfranchisement of women of all countries.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Our chief work continues to be on behalf of Equal Franchise, and we are arranging in the near future public meetings in Ashford, Hastings, Portsmouth, Middlesbrough, Glasgow, Dunoon and Edinburgh, to demand that the Government shall bring in and pass into law without further delay an equal franchise measure granting votes to women at the age of 21 and on equal terms with men; and in each of these constituencies we shall try to get a deputation to the local M.P., asking him to bring pressure to bear on the Government to bring in such a measure. We indignantly protested to the heads of the Government against the

omission of equal franchise in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament; and we have urged our friends, both inside and outside Parliament to cease asking for a Conference on electoral reform which can only cause still further delay in the granting of equal franchise. We are co-operating with the Equal Political Rights Committee in its plans to run open-air campaigns in the constituencies on behalf of equal franchise during the summer, in its equal franchise meetings in Hyde Park, and in its Trafalgar Square demonstration in July.

We are co-operating with the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations in its efforts to secure a woman being sent as a fully accredited delegate to the International Labour Conference in May, and women members on the different Committees and Commissions in the League of Nations.

Our Annual Conference will take place in London at the end of April, and the preliminary agenda has now been circulated to our Branches.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

INDIA.

The All-India Women's Conference.

It is a matter for great joy that accounts from all sources agree in declaring that the All-India Women's Conference, held in Poona in the first week of this month, was a great success. This is the first great effort of women all over India to meet and deliberate on problems affecting them as mothers and wives who should share in the work of National regeneration. All the provinces and States in the country have been enthusiastically preparing for it, holding their own Conferences in which subjects to be brought before the All-India session were discussed, and delegates elected for the same. The Rani Saheb of Sangli, as Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates and visitors. H.H. the Maharajee Saheb of Baroda's Presidential Address was really a stirring call to action to Indian women to equip themselves properly for the great mission before them. Important resolutions were passed on compulsory elementary education for girls, moral training based on spiritual ideals, physical education, artistic and manual training, fixing the age of consent for girls at 16 and other important subjects. The gentlemen of Poona showed their appreciation of the ladies' efforts and their readiness to co-operate with them by holding a grand reception to the Conference, Mr. N. C. Kelkar and others being prominent at this function.

A Congratulatory Meeting.

The Women's Indian Association congratulated Srimati Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal, M.L.C., at a special public meeting, held on 19th December, in the National Girls' School, Mylapore. There was a large attendance of members and other ladies, and Lady Sadashivier presided. After a short programme of music, the Chairman of the meeting, Dr. Chinnappa, Srimati Bhagirati Ammal, Srimati Jayalakshmi Kumar, Mrs. Lakshmi and Mrs. Lakshman Rao made short speeches expressing satisfaction at the unique event of Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal being nominated member of the local Legislative Council. They all dwelt on the practical aspect of it, how the presence of a lady doctor, of her position, in the Council would help the cause of women and children, in their education and physical welfare. Dr. Muthulakshmi Ammal's reply was marked by a spirit of real earnestness. She answered most effectively the usual charge made against women that they are ignorant of politics. She said, that while men politicians were clamouring for communal and other sectional benefits, the women presented their claims on no such narrow grounds; and whatever they do and win will be for all without distinction. Women's active part in all departments of national life is sure to have a harmonious and wholesome effect on it.

A Woman President of a Labour Union.

Trade Union movement is very young in India. The hardships of the workers in India in organising themselves are greater than they were in England, owing to illiteracy and ignorance and the general indifference of the public in our country. So the record of successful work of a workers' body, like the Textile Labour Union of Ahmedabad, is a matter for sincere congratulation. The case is also one for great pride when we learn that its President is Srimati Anasuya Sarabhai. Under her and her colleagues' guidance the Labour Union has been carrying on splendid work in all directions. A brief summary of the Welfare Work Department for 1925, is given by "New India":

As regards welfare work, the Union maintains two Dispensaries and a Hospital equipped for surgical work; 9 day and 15 night schools and a nursery school run on the Montessori system; home industry classes to women who cannot work in the mill; a library and reading room; a weekly journal of 5,500 copies circulates freely; and two cheap grain shops. The Union provides also legal aid; cheap loans at 6 1/4 per cent. to pay off previous debts carrying 75 to 120 per cent. interest; advances for current expenses at an easy rate against the prevailing 300 to 1,000 per cent. charged by Pathan money-lenders; Savings Bank facilities; and help to secure compensation in cases of accidents; 77 cases, resulting in the total award of nearly Rs. 10,000, being attended to in the year under report; and further, the task of securing various Municipal facilities for the workers is duly carried out. These are but the bare headings of the extensive work carried out under each of them.

Srimati Anasuya Sarabhai is the sister of the great mill-owner, in the same city, Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai. The brilliant record of her work, therefore, shows the unique contribution which Indian women can make towards the solution of one of the most pressing and difficult problems of the day, namely, the relation between Labour and Capital. The Government should nominate Srimati Anasuya to the Legislative Assembly, where, as in the Provincial Councils, Labour interests are not sufficiently represented. Her presence in the Legislature will be of immense help in framing measures for working people's welfare, especially of the women and children employed in industries. Her noble example can be also followed by other women by taking some interest in the conditions of labourers around them.

Well-Deserved Distinctions.

The New Year's Honours list contains two names of Indian ladies who have been awarded distinctions for their public work. The Kaiser-i-Hind first-class gold medal is bestowed on Srimati Parvathi Ammal (wife of the late Judge, Mr. Chandrashekara Iyer of Bangalore). It is not necessary to describe the reason for this unique honour, to the readers of *Stri Dharma*. As the founder and the moving spirit of the Mahila Seva Samajam of Bangalore, Srimati Parvathi Ammal has done great service to the cause of women in India, and also shown what an Indian woman can achieve. She is a prominent member of the W.I.A. and the Association may be permitted to take legitimate pride at the honour done to her. Srimati Janakibai Bhat, Superintendent of the Poona Seva Sadan, is honoured with the Kaiser-i-Hind second class silver medal. Besides her active work in connection with that great institution in the Western Presidency, she is a veteran of several relief campaigns all over India, and her attention to the needs of women and children in these operations has been of remarkable value.

—*Stri Dharma*.

SPAIN.

We learn from the Marquesa del Ter, President of one of the two Societies affiliated to the Alliance in Spain, that Mme. Plaminkova's lecture tour was a great success. The Marquesa says: "I invited her as

a member of the Real Sociedad Economica de los Amigos del Pais to come to Madrid to give two conferences and one in the "case del Pueblo." We also had an audience with the President of the Council of Ministers, General Primo de Rivera, who received us most kindly, and assured us of his great sympathy with the feminist movement, and that he would give us the vote before very long. Mme. Plaminkova's lectures were translated into Spanish by Senora Martinez Sierra and Senora de Cugat; she was very much liked, and the Press was particularly interested and followed all her Conferences. She certainly caused a sensation here as a Senator, being accompanied everywhere by the Chargé d'Affaires of Czechoslovakia. I think we have gained a great deal by her visit."

Senora de Cugat has also reported the success of the tour, and refers to the fact that some of the papers published the lecture in full. She also tells of the tea given to Mme. Plaminkova at the Lyceum Club in Madrid, which united women of all parties and classes. This Club was only started three months ago with 50 members, and already has increased its membership to 250. Senora de Cugat hopes that a similar Club may be started in Barcelona.

SWEDEN.

In Sweden, where police regulation of prostitution was removed some years ago, a project for a new law concerning vagabondage has just been set on foot. Among those "unwilling to work and dangerous to society" the prostitutes have been numbered, and certain measures to help and punish them are here proposed. A great discussion has arisen around this subject, women generally wishing that prostitutes should be helped. The government has now resolved that the question is to be put aside for some time to ripen.

In the discussion, some positive measures have been suggested which might be taken against the sources of prostitution, while the law has been mostly concerned with its manifestation. Among these measures is sexual instruction in all schools for boys and girls, instruction not only about their own bodies, but also as to the individual and social dangers of sexual misdemeanours. As a rule the children of people living in overcrowded conditions know much about sexual functions, but often in a very wrong and confused way; for these it is quite a different thing to learn to see the facts in an ethical light. Such instruction is now given in some schools, and we hope will soon be extended to all. Directions are now being prepared by the Board of Education.

It is to be desired that instruction in sexual hygiene should also be given to adolescents of both sexes who have already left school, and that an effort should be made to make them understand their responsibility to themselves, to the opposite sex and to the next generation. In recent years lectures about such matters have frequently been given by doctors, not seldom in clubs of various kinds.

Another measure for the same purpose is the care of girls with less than normal intelligence. Researches have clearly shown that the greater part of the girls who are recruits to prostitution are not actually mentally deficient, but less gifted than the ordinary. On this account they have greater difficulty in gaining their livelihood, they have fewer interests in life, they have less restraint, moral and physical, on their sentiments and they are easy to seduce.

In the ordinary parish school, in which children are bound to follow the classes from their seventh year, these sub-normal children form a great difficulty, as they cannot follow the courses and hold back the whole class in trying to keep pace. In all the large towns and in many other places in Sweden, as in several other countries, special "helping-classes" are formed where these children get instruction adapted to their possibilities. Only about fifteen children form each class, and special attention is given to any form of ill-health or defects from which they may suffer. They are given more manual work and less brain work, and the teacher

has to find out the way that best suits each of them so as to get the most necessary elementary knowledge into their heads and rub it in. Even their gymnastic exercises are specially arranged to teach them to pay attention, to listen and obey quickly, so as to drill them for life's necessities. Released from competition with the normally gifted they are much happier and learn better, which gives them a better opportunity to develop into ordinary citizens. But as the parents are often of the same kind as the children, and the homes poor and without the possibility of bringing up properly their too numerous children, it is desirable that even after they have finished school these children should be protected and helped to get work. In small towns, where it is much easier to know the people, the teacher of the "helping class"—who is always a woman—will frequently follow up her pupils for many years, often helping the mothers to find some work suitable for their special powers. But in larger towns this is not possible; the girl will get work and, as the sub-normal are often inclined to do, will change it often or will be dismissed for being too stupid, and will sink lower and lower. It is said that only half of the girls coming from the "helping classes" have a home to rely upon. The others need a working-home or some sort of guardian who could get them work, and to whom they could go in cases of need or difficulty. There is a trustee for the mentally insane, why not for these girls? It would cost some money, but it would be well invested.

The children from the "helping classes" form about two per cent. of the pupils. If they could be given the chance of a useful life and somewhere to go when in trouble in cases where their family is not able to help them, it would certainly save many of the girls from prostitution and from giving birth to very undesirable children. But here a new and still more pressing difficulty arises which is forced upon those who work for sub-normal children: should there be left to them the possibility of continuing a race of unhappy human beings, who demand special care from the community if they are not to sink to becoming the pariahs of society? Without a solution to this problem, the work seems rather hopeless in the long run.

GERTRUD RODHE.

TURKEY.

A Bill has been introduced to prohibit young people under 18 years of age from going to the cinema, special children's programmes being given for them.

Mme. Hurchid Bey, one of the Turkish women in the forefront of advance, is to go to Afghanistan as Matron of Honour to the Queen of Afghanistan, as the Emir wishes the ladies of his country to follow the Turkish women's progress.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League has just forwarded the proposed outline of a conference to be held in early July of this year. The general title will be "Women, Labour, Law and Liberty," and the sessions will be devoted in general to a very careful consideration of the position of women of other than British races who are governed under the British flag.

The British Commonwealth League exists specially to consider problems relating to equal citizenship within the British Empire. Amongst these problems must certainly be reckoned that of safeguarding in every way the interests of women citizens where a *de facto* British Government is in existence. It is surely a definite responsibility lying upon British citizen women to realise their duty of enquiry and investigation amongst women whose opportunities may have been less extensive. An examination will be made of conditions in force for women workers in territories where any degree of forced labour is demanded, and if such labour is demanded from men only, the effect of that condition upon the women will be considered. Authoritative summaries of the amounts spent in the citizen education of women of other than the British

race will be prepared and examined. The problem of responsibility will be considered. The term "British Commonwealth of Nations" is a misnomer if it is used with an eye only to the interests of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Besides the sessions dealing with these relationships and difficulties, there will be a session dealing with follow-up problems arising out of the Migration Conference of 1926. The methods used where women of other races are migrating in numbers, as in Canada, will be fully discussed. The Conference will be followed by business sessions.

A very interesting programme of excursions is in course of arrangement.

Representation will be of two kinds—from affiliated and non-affiliated societies; thus, any group of women residing in a British State may send representatives, though non-affiliated groups will have only limited voting power.

The League has been holding a series of exceedingly pleasant luncheons and social functions. These will be continued at 17, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, London, throughout the year. The season opened with an address from the woman explorer—Mrs. Charlotte Mansfield—who was able to give a vivid picture of native life in Central Africa.

Much interest has been aroused overseas by the work of the League during the Imperial Conference. Special memoranda were presented to the Premiers, and strong representations were made in regard to the wisdom and duty of allowing women a voice in the decisions of imperial policy.

The League has now been in existence twenty months, and is steadily becoming a focus of interest for visiting citizens from overseas. All women who are interested in the great problems of equal citizenship are warmly welcomed to its discussions.

M. CHAVE COLLISSON,
Organiser.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Estimates of Working Population in 1931 and 1941.

The League of Nations has just issued a Memorandum—forming part of the preparatory material for the International Economic Conference to be held in Geneva on May 4—giving estimates of the working population of a series of countries in 1931 and 1941. The estimates made in this Memorandum, which was prepared by Professor A. I. Bowley, Sc.D., F.B.A., at the request of the Economic Section of the League Secretariat, are based on the figures given by the censuses taken about 1910 and 1920, applying to them the death-rate within the age group selected (i.e., all between 15 and 70 years of age), on the assumption that the death-rate will remain constant and leaving out of account the factors of emigration and immigration.

The conclusion is that in the three decades—1910 to 1941—"the working population of the United States of America and of Australia will have increased about 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. respectively, those of Sweden and Japan by 35 per cent. and 32 per cent., that of Italy by 38 per cent., those of Great Britain and of Switzerland about 26 per cent., of Belgium 18 per cent., while that of France will have fallen. In the case of Germany, it is estimated that, while the population aged 15 to 70 actually on the territories now administered by Germany will have increased 34 per cent. on the period 1910-1941, this population in 1941 will be only 15 per cent. greater than the population in the same age-group in 1910 on German territory as it then was."

These figures, it is stated, are certainly an over-estimate in the case of Great Britain and an under-estimate in the case of the United States and Australia, owing to the factor of emigration and immigration. Also, no allowance is made for any amelioration of the death-rate after 1925, except in Sweden.

(Continued from page 69.)

as an alternative of property qualification. In both places it is within the power of the local legislatures to grant women suffrage.

Governor-General Wood has recommended in his official report that suffrage be given to Philippine women, but Governor Towner has not officially expressed himself on the subject for Porto Rico. However, last May and again in December, the Woman's Party urged him to favourable consideration of such a recommendation.

The Woman's Party, while sympathetic toward local action, believes that a swifter course is through the channel of Congress, and therefore is introducing two bills, one to grant suffrage to the women of Porto Rico and the other to the women of the Philippines to the same extent and under the same conditions as men.

The congressional method is a more permanent method for Porto Rico since an act of Congress prohibiting discrimination in voting on account of sex would prevent the local legislature from withdrawing suffrage from the women. Otherwise should suffrage ever be granted by the Legislature of Porto Rico, the latter might sometime later change its mind.

In both the Philippines and Porto Rico there are women's clubs interested in public welfare, but in the matter of working for their own enfranchisement the Porto Rican women seem to be the more active.

There is a branch of the Woman's Party in Porto Rico with a large membership called "Liga Social Sufragista," of which Madame Ricarda Lopez de Rames is the president and Dr. Marta Robert de Romeu is secretary. Dr. Robert de Romeu is director of the Maternity Hospital of San Juan. Among other women who are prominent in the movement for Equal Rights is Muna Lee, the poet, wife of the editor of the newspaper, "La Democracia." The paper is to issue an Equal Rights number, which will be circulated in many countries of South America as well as in Porto Rico.

—Equal Rights.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

In connection with the controversy about the effects on women workers of certain industrial work, we think it may be of interest to give the enclosed extract from the English "Morning Post":—

The fine physique and grace of women employed in heavy industrial work was described in a paper by Dr. Edward P. Cathcart, Gardiner Professor of Chemical Physiology, Glasgow, University, read before the members of the Royal Institution last night.

Professor Cathcart, who was requested by the Medical Research Council to undertake an inquiry into the physical condition of women workers, said the heaviest work noted was that carried out in the chemical works of Glasgow and the brickworks in the Midlands.

"In the chemical works," Professor Cathcart stated, "the girls employed were remarkable for their physique and the grace of their carriage. They all worked barefooted and carried out their various operations with great skill and ease. The astonishing thing was that the majority of these perfect young women—no girl was employed under the age of 16—were born and bred in one of the worst districts in Glasgow. We were told that the mothers and grandmothers of many of the women employed had done the same work before them.

"As evidence of what these workers could do we saw one woman who shovelled 20-25 tons of raw material, lifting it to a height of about 2.5 feet, per diem. Admittedly she was quite exceptional, even in this works.

"In the case of the brickworks, the work done was also very heavy. The girls carrying bricks, although they were permitted to select their own load, as a rule carried over 100lb. at a time for a distance of 70-80 yards, and the women, who conveyed their bricks in barrows, had normal loads of 4 to 4.5 cwts. Here again the good carriage of the women employed was noteworthy."

SECTION FRANCAISE

M. PAUL LAPIE.

La grande presse, qui a annoncé partout la mort prématurée, suite de grippe, de M. Paul Lapie, recteur de l'Université de Paris, a généralement laissé dans l'ombre, en retraçant la carrière de ce travailleur intellectuel modeste et silencieux, de cette attachante figure de savant, qui honorait l'Université française, tout un côté de son caractère: ses sympathies actives pour le féminisme. Et pourtant, il n'est pas une des congressistes françaises ou étrangères assistant à l'ouverture grandiose de notre Congrès de juin dernier, dans le grand amphithéâtre de la Sorbonne, qui ne sache que, si nous avons pu tenir nos assises dans cette atmosphère de haute impartialité et de probité scientifique, c'était à lui, à la confiance qu'il mettait en nous, à son sentiment de justice à l'égard de la cause des femmes, que nous le devons. Insoucieux de l'opportunisme qui retient trop souvent le geste de ceux qui parviennent aux hautes fonctions officielles, M. Lapie n'avait pas plus hésité à nous faire offrir les salons du rectorat comme local de notre Congrès, qu'il n'avait hésité, quelque temps auparavant, à encourager sa femme à travailler activement dans le Comité de l'Union française pour le Suffrage: et là où d'autres se bornaient à des paroles, lui donnait des gages.

Cela dès les débuts de sa carrière, d'ailleurs, dès la publication de son ouvrage de pédagogie philosophique sur *La femme et la famille*; dès son temps de professeur à l'Université de Bordeaux, et de son accession ensuite aux fonctions de directeur de l'enseignement primaire en France, où il marqua sa volonté d'aider à l'émancipation féminine dans l'enseignement, et eut ainsi une si salutaire influence sur les idées féministes du corps enseignant féminin. Aussi est-ce toute notre reconnaissance que nous tenons à exprimer ici à Mme. Lapie, qui en comprendra la valeur, autant que notre meilleure sympathie.

E. GD.

—Le Mouvement Feministe.

FRANCE.

Le Suffrage des Femmes.

La Commission du suffrage universel a préparé une proposition de loi sur la réforme électorale, qui doit venir devant la Chambre, après que le gouvernement aura déposé son projet.

Notre ami, P.-E. Flandin, a proposé au deuxième paragraphe, un texte additionnel comprenant "le suffrage des femmes."

L'ensemble du paragraphe ainsi complété a été adopté par 14 voix contre 0.

Nous remercions la Commission du suffrage universel, que préside un de nos plus fidèles partisans, M. Joseph Barthélemy, député du Gers, de cette manifestation unanime qui nous a été très sensible.

La proposition de loi de M. Trémintin et de ses amis, déposée en juillet 1926, a été distribuée le 28 janvier à la Chambre des députés. Nous publierons dans un de nos prochains numéros, le texte de cette intéressante proposition, qui conclut par un

Article unique

Les femmes sont électeurs et éligibles dans les mêmes conditions et cas que les hommes.

—La Française.

GRECE.

Un Succès Féministe.

La grande Commission de la Chambre qui est en train d'élaborer le projet de la nouvelle constitution s'est occupée de la partie relative aux droits des citoyens grecs.

Dans l'article qui déclare que seuls les citoyens grecs sont admis aux fonctions publiques il a été spécifié sous forme d'interprétation qui sera annexée au texte, que le terme citoyen s'applique aux personnes des deux sexes.

La Commission a reconnu la pleine capacité civile de la femme, mais pour ce qui est de la capacité politique elle a été d'avis à la majorité que rien dans la Constitution ne s'y oppose, mais qu'il faudrait une loi spéciale pour accorder à la femme les droits politiques dans le sens d'égalité absolue.

Si la Chambre adopte cette interprétation les droits fondamentaux de la femme seront consacrés. C'est un grand pas dans la voie de l'égalité; et ce qui est digne d'être retenu c'est que tous les partis, des plus conservateurs aux plus avancés, sont unanimes à déclarer qu'il faudrait laisser libres dans l'avenir les Chambres d'accorder leurs droits politiques aux femmes par une simple loi.

Il faut espérer que cette question ne sera pas ajournée indéfiniment. D'ailleurs les résultats obtenus par l'application du principe de l'égalité dans presque tous les pays civilisés prouvent que les féministes ont bien raison de dire qu'un pays qui n'accorde pas aux femmes leurs droits politiques entrave son propre progrès.

—La Lutte de la Femme.

LETTRE ADRESSEE AUX SOCIETES AFFILIEES A L'ALLIANCE.

Chère Madame,

Conférence Internationale du Travail.

Je viens vous annoncer que la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail se réunira à Geneve le 25 mai prochain, et que à son ordre du jour figurent notamment ces deux objets d'un très grand intérêt pour nous, femmes:

L'assurance-maladie, au sujet de laquelle des études minutieuses ont permis de juger que l'ensemble des législations nationales présentait des analogies suffisantes pour que l'on pût soumettre cette question à une réglementation internationale;

La fixation des salaires minima pour certaines industries non organisées, dans lesquelles les salaires sont exceptionnellement bas.

En effet, presque partout l'assurance-maladie, avec ses branches annexes, telle que par ex. l'assurance maternité, est inscrite au programme des Associations féminines et féministes, et ce sujet touche directement à certains des problèmes qui nous préoccupent, relativement au travail industriel de la femme, à la législation du travail, à la situation économique de la femme dans son ménage, etc., etc. D'autre part les industries non organisées dans lesquelles les salaires sont exceptionnellement bas sont pour la plupart les industries à domicile, pratiquées par des femmes, et pour l'amélioration des conditions de travail desquelles les Sociétés féminines de tout pays ont déjà beaucoup travaillé.

Il me paraît donc que l'inscription de ces deux questions à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail justifie pleinement l'application de l'Al. 2. de l'art. 389 le l'Organisation International du Travail: "Lorsque des questions intéressantes spécialement les femmes doivent venir en discussion à la Conférence, une au moins parmi les personnes désignées comme conseillers techniques *devra* être une femme."

C'est pourquoi je viens vous engager très-vivement à vous mettre sans retard en rapport avec votre gouvernement pour lui demander, en vous appuyant sur cet article, *en tout cas* d'envoyer une femme comme conseillère technique pour chacune de ces questions à la prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail, et si possible, de désigner une femme comme déléguée officielle. Ceci bien que les gouvernements ne soient pas obligés par le texte de l'article que je viens de citer de déléguer officiellement des femmes, comme ils le sont de nommer des femmes conseillères techniques; mais il me semble que, lorsqu'il s'agit de sujets d'un intérêt si direct pour les femmes, il est nécessaire de nommer des femmes à un poste plus important que celui de conseillère technique. Je n'ai d'ailleurs pas besoin

de vous rappeler que le Canada, la Grande Bretagne, la Norvège et l'Uruguay ont déjà envoyé des femmes comme déléguées gouvernementales, et l'Afrique du Sud, l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Canada, Cuba, l'Espagne, la France, la Grande Bretagne, la Grèce, l'Italie, les Indes, l'Irlande, le Japon, la Norvège, les Pays Bas, la Pologne, la Roumanie, le Royaume S.C.S., la Suède, la Suisse, et la Tchécoslovaquie, comme conseillères, aux précédentes Conférences Internationales du Travail. Il ne s'agit donc pas d'un précédent à créer, mais d'une bonne habitude à établir de plus en plus solidement. Et si nous entendons parfois des plaintes, dans des milieux féministes, sur certaines dispositions recommandées par le B.I.T. et qui risquent de léser le droit au travail de la femme, ne devons-nous pas en conséquence nous efforcer de faire représenter le point de vue des femmes à ces réunions?

Je voudrais enfin attirer votre attention sur la nécessité en adressant une demande à votre gouvernement, de lui présenter en même temps les noms de candidates spécialistes de chacune des questions traitées, et accoutumés, cela va sans dire, au travail international. Enfin, dans les pays où nous comptons plusieurs Sociétés affiliées, je ne saurais trop recommander à ces Sociétés de s'entendre entre elles soit pour cette démarche, soit pour la présentation de candidates, car rien n'est plus fâcheux en pareil cas que la manque de coordination des efforts féministes.

Je vous serai très-reconnaissante de bien vouloir me tenir au courant du résultat qu'aurait obtenu vos démarches au sujet de cette prochaine Conférence Internationale du Travail, et de me faire connaître en temps utile les noms des femmes désignées par votre gouvernement, afin que j'aie le plaisir de les voir et de les accueillir à Genève, si elles veulent bien m'informer de la date de leur arrivée dans cette ville.

Veillez croire, chère Madame, à l'assurance de mes sentiments bien cordiaux.

La Secrétaire:

EMILIE GOURD.

L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ANNUELLE DES FEMMES ROUMAINES.

Le Conseil National des Femmes Roumaines a tenu le 12 décembre 1926 son Assemblée générale à laquelle le public intellectuel de la Capitale porte d'année en année un intérêt de plus en plus marqué. Ce qui préoccupe principalement notre Société en ce moment, c'est la "Maison de la Femme," institution qui abritera sous son toit toutes les branches de l'activité féminine; le terrain étant déjà acquis et les plans élaborés, il y est prévu de vastes magasins pour les industries féminines, une salle d'exposition permanente, un restaurant, un home, une bibliothèque, des salles de séances, un vaste amphithéâtre, des salles de cours pour la préparation spéciale des fonctionnaires, oeuvre à laquelle se dévoue spécialement notre Conseil depuis plusieurs années.

Malgré l'effort considérable que demande la réalisation d'un si vaste projet, le Conseil National des Femmes Roumaines a encore assumé d'instituer une "Maison de Relèvement" pour les filles abandonnées, de même qu'une "Maison de Refuge" où les femmes de la campagne qui viennent chercher un gagne-pain dans la Capitale, pourront trouver dès l'arrivée, un gîte qui les mette à l'abri des tentations, de même qu'un bureau de placement qui aura soin de leur procurer du travail.

La Mairie de la Capitale s'intéressant spécialement à ces deux dernières oeuvres, nous pouvons espérer leur très prochaine réalisation.

Le Conseil National des Femmes Roumaines, répondant avec empressement à l'appel du Conseil International des Femmes, a fondé aussitôt la section spéciale "Arts et Lettres" sous la présidence de M^{lle}. Catherine Cerkez, qui a exposé devant l'Assemblée générale le programme de la nouvelle section, dont le premier soin a été de collaborer à la création de l'association des "Amies de Musées" qui vient de s'organiser sous l'égide de l'Union Intellectuelle Roumaine, présidée par la Princesse Cantacuzène.

Voilà bien du travail en perspective pour notre Conseil pour l'année qui vient et qui devra nous apporter de grandes réserves d'énergie nouvelle.

La secrétaire générale,

C. CERKEZ.

LE CERTIFICAT MEDICAL PRENUPTIAL.

Le professeur Pinard vient de déposer sur le bureau de la Chambre des députés, un projet de loi ainsi libellé :

ARTICLE PREMIER.—Tout citoyen français désirant contracter mariage ou remariage ne pourra être inscrit sur les registres de l'état civil, que s'il est muni d'un certificat médical daté de la veille, établissant qu'il ne présente aucun symptôme apparent de maladie contagieuse.

Ce simple article, de quelques lignes,—à supposer qu'il soit voté par la Chambre d'abord, par le Sénat ensuite—serait gros de conséquences, les unes en bien, les autres en mal. Quoi qu'il adienne, le professeur Pinard, vétéran respecté de la puériculture et militant de l'eugénique, aura eu le mérite d'attirer l'attention de l'opinion publique sur l'intérêt, sur la nécessité de l'examen médical avant le mariage. Reste à savoir si cet examen doit être simplement recommandé ou s'il doit être rendu obligatoire et dans quelles conditions?

D'une façon générale, les médecins de tous les pays considèrent qu'il serait avantageux, pour la Société et pour les particuliers, de soumettre chaque individu à un examen sanitaire périodique—annuel par exemple—dans le but de dépister à temps les premiers symptômes d'une maladie latente et d'en enrayer les progrès, alors que la guérison n'est pas au-dessus de nos ressources. Dès lors que l'examen sanitaire périodique paraît très recommandable, il est bien naturel de s'y soumettre, notamment avant le mariage.

Ce principe de l'examen médical prénuptial est à peu près universellement accepté, mais les divergences se manifestent nombreuses dès l'instant qu'il s'agit de le mettre en pratique, et les personnes les mieux disposées à son égard nous posent immédiatement une foule de questions : *Votre examen médical avant le mariage sera-t-il facultatif ou obligatoire? Soumettrez-vous également les hommes et les femmes à cet examen? Sera-t-il pratiqué par un médecin au libre choix du candidat ou par un expert désigné par les pouvoirs publics? Comportera-t-il des sanctions légales? Exigerez-vous un certificat d'aptitude? Quelles sont les maladies ou les tares que vous jugerez prohibitives? Que faites-vous du secret professionnel? N'avez-vous pas peur des erreurs de la science et surtout des erreurs du corps médical?*

Pour ma part, partisan convaincu de l'examen médical prénuptial, je crois néanmoins devoir m'élever contre le projet, si catégorique, du professeur Pinard.

Un des griefs les plus graves que je crois devoir lui faire est la difficulté pour le médecin d'établir que le candidat au mariage "ne présente aucun symptôme apparent de maladie contagieuse." L'examen le plus méticuleux peut être impuissant, entre autres, à révéler l'existence d'une syphilis en période latente. Il faudrait, en tout cas, que tous les citoyens français visés par la loi soient examinés dans un laboratoire bien dirigé, bien outillé, pour subir l'épreuve de la réaction de Wasserman en vue du dépistage de la syphilis et celle de l'examen radioscopique des poumons avec recherche des bacilles de Koch dans les crachats pour le dépistage de la tuberculose, très contagieuse également, comme chacun sait.

Il est, d'autre part, une maladie extrêmement répandue parmi les jeunes gens, la *blennorrhagie*, dont la contagiosité peut persister durant de nombreuses années. Elle rend la décision du médecin le plus instruit souvent fort délicate et, à se montrer trop sévère, on risquerait fort d'interdire un grand nombre de mariages appelés à donner les meilleurs résultats au point de vue conjugal et familial.

Il est aussi à craindre que des médecins, par ignorance, par erreur ou par croyance doctrinale, considèrent comme contagieuse une affection ou une lésion qui ne

l'est en aucune façon. Peut-on admettre qu'ainsi, sur un simple *veto* médical, un mariage puisse être empêché la veille de la cérémonie?

Il n'est pas douteux que si l'on pousse les choses trop loin sans entourer les intéressés des garanties voulues, on risque surtout de favoriser l'union libre. C'est là un des grands écueils de l'examen médical prénuptial obligatoire. Beaucoup de citoyens français se passeront du médecin comme d'autres se passent déjà du maire, du curé et du notaire.

Faut-il donc renoncer à tout jamais à inscrire dans la loi l'obligation d'une mesure sanitaire prénuptiale? Ce serait grand dommage car nous ne pouvons ignorer que certaines maladies comportent de tels risques de contagion pour l'autre conjoint ou de transmission héréditaire pour les enfants, que le mariage doit être formellement déconseillé soit temporairement, soit définitivement.

Que faire donc? D'abord continuer à mener une propagande inlassable en faveur de l'examen médical prénuptial librement consenti. Ensuite, si l'on désire aller plus loin et édicter des mesures législatives, imposer non pas l'examen médical obligatoire, mais seulement un *certificat d'aptitude médicale*, du système scandinave. Les candidats au mariage devraient signer une déclaration établissant qu'ils ne sont pas atteints de telles ou telles maladies, dont la liste sera à préciser. Faites sous la foi du serment, ces déclarations auraient pour effet d'éveiller les consciences au sentiment des responsabilités sexuelles, elles inciteraient les intéressés à se faire examiner au préalable par un médecin et, enfin, elles pourraient fournir aux pouvoirs publics, dans certains cas bien déterminés, des éléments précis pour sévir judiciairement contre les individus qui se seraient rendus coupables, sciemment, du *délit de contamination*. Il faudrait, il est vrai, que ce délit fut admis en France, mais ceci est... une autre histoire que je laisse à d'autres le soin de vous conter.

DR. GEORGES SCHREIBER,

Secrétaire général de la Société française d'Eugénique.

—La Française.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

COMITE DE L'ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LA PAIX.

L'A.I. avait organisé en mai avec l'appui de M. Herriot une grande réunion pour la paix, au Trocadéro. Le succès de cette réunion décida les congressistes à fonder un comité pour la paix. Mrs. Chapman Catt en est présidente d'honneur, Miss Ruth Morgan présidente, et Mlle. Rosa Manus secrétaire. Le siège social est à New York, mais Mrs. Corbett Ashby en Angleterre, Mlle. Rosa Manus en Hollande, Mlle. E. Gourd à Genève le représentent en Europe. Quand le conseil exécutif de l'Alliance s'est réuni en septembre, à Genève, le comité a été constitué avec les délégués de chaque pays affilié et on leur a adjoint une femme expert docteur Gertrude Baumer, membre du Reichstag. Après discussion, on s'est entendu sur les points suivants :

1. Que des conférences nationales sur la cause et la suppression des guerres, (comme celles qui ont été faites aux Etats-Unis) soient organisées dans les pays d'Europe, sous les auspices de groupes pacifistes féminins, et que la plus grande publicité leur soit faite en vue de l'éducation pacifiste des femmes.

2. Que l'objet principal de l'AI était d'aider les femmes à prendre leurs responsabilités vis à vis du gouvernement de leur pays et que sur ce terrain d'entente internationale, les femmes ne peuvent profiter de cette aide qu'en organisant des oeuvres actives.

3. Que les oeuvres en faveur de la Ligue des Nations, dans les pays qui en font partie, étaient, pour commencer, le centre d'activité le plus logique, et que, quand les délégués, représentant un pays à la S. des N. auraient par leur vote signé un traité en faveur de la paix, les membres du Comité de l'A.I. les aideraient à en obtenir la ratification par leurs gouvernements ;

que les conditions différant parfois si complètement d'un pays à l'autre, les comités affiliés pourront fournir au comité central les informations nécessaires. En conséquence, le questionnaire suivant a été envoyé en octobre 1926 :

I.

1. Votre auxiliaire voudra-t-elle organiser, en coopération avec les sociétés féminines, une réunion nationale sur une question spéciale concernant la paix et la S. des N. avant le prochain congrès international de l'A.I. en 1929?

2. Voulez-vous entreprendre une campagne spéciale pour assurer la ratification d'une ou plusieurs conventions et traités de la S. des N. par votre gouvernement?

3. Quels services le comité de l'A.I. peut-il vous rendre?

II.

4. Y a-t-il un enseignement pour la paix et la S. des N. dans vos écoles et universités, et par qui?

5. Pouvez-vous nous renseigner sur les différents groupes sociaux, intellectuels et politiques qui soutiennent ou qui combattent la S. des N. et les efforts pacifistes, c'est à dire : partis politiques, syndicats, sociétés religieuses et philosophiques, journaux, universités, sociétés juvéniles, etc.?

Si une conférence nationale est décidée dans un pays, la présidente suggère que le comité de l'A.I. l'aide à l'organiser et envoie des conférenciers.

Les déléguées nationales sont les suivantes :

Etats-Unis : Miss Ruth Morgan.

Hollande : Mme. Bakker van Bosse.

Brésil : Senhora Geronyma Mesquita.

Tchécoslovaquie : Dr. Irena Malinska.

France : Mme. G. Malaterre-Sellier.

Allemagne : Dr. Fassbinder.

Grèce : Mme. Avra Theodoropoulos.

Irlande : Mrs. Mercer.

Angleterre : Miss K. D. Courtney.

Belgique : Mme. Nisot-Cherix.

Suède : Mlle. Grutter.

Suède : Mme. M. Leche-Löfgren.

Roumanie : Mme. de Reuss Jancoulesco. Suppléante, Princesse Cantacuzène

(près Ruth Morgan).

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

L'Union nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique, la Ligue pour la liberté des femmes, l'Association Sainte-Jeanne ont été déçues par l'omission, dans le discours royal, de toute allusion au projet de loi pour la franchise égale. Une nouvelle campagne va être menée, grande assemblée de l'Union nationale au Central Hall, Westminster, le soir du 3 mars; meetings publics organisés par la Ligue pour la Liberté des femmes dans les grandes villes d'Angleterre et d'Ecosse; grandes démonstrations à Hyde Park et à Trafalgar Square en juillet; pression sur les membres du Parlement, etc. Le parti socialiste compte déposer un projet de loi sur la franchise égale (Bill on equal Franchise) et aussi un projet pour étendre aux ouvriers les lois de "protection" injustement appliquées aux seules femmes et qui limitent leur travail (Factories Bill). Le 29 avril, Sir Robert Newman présentera un projet de loi pour empêcher le renvoi des fonctionnaires mariés (Married Women Employment Bill). Enfin, d'autres projets de loi d'intérêt féminin seront déposés, adoption des enfants (Ecosse), Homes pour les sages-femmes et Maternités (Ecosse), soins des arriérés et des anormaux, etc. Lord Astor a déjà introduit un projet de loi pour la mère non mariée et son enfant, et un autre pour réglementer le travail juvénile.

Mrs. Pankhurst, l'ancienne suffragette militante, est aujourd'hui membre du parti conservateur. Elle vient d'être acceptée par Whitechapel (Londres) comme candidate au Parlement. Miss Wallis a été nommée "Chief Supervisor" au service télégraphique central. Miss Beatrice Edgell a été nommée professeur de psychologie à l'Université de Londres. Miss Lily Baker a été nommée membre du Conseil honoraire de l'Infirmierie royale de Bristol, section de prénatalité.

INDES.

La conférence des femmes hindoues, à Poona, sous la présidence de la Rani Saheb de Sangli, a eu un grand succès. Des résolutions importantes ont été votées : instruction obligatoire pour les filles, enseignement moral spirituel, éducation physique, enseignement manuel et artistique, fixation de l'âge de consentement pour les jeunes filles à 16 ans, etc.

Le mouvement travailliste aux Indes est très récent et il a été rendu difficile par l'indifférence d'un public illettré. Sous la présidence de Mme. Anasuya Sarabahi, l'Union travailliste a fait de grands progrès. Elle entretient deux dispensaires et un hôpital avec salle d'opération, 9 écoles de jour, 15 cours du soir, 1 jardin d'enfants, des cours professionnels pour travail à domicile, une bibliothèque et une salle de lecture, 2 boutiques de graines à bon marché, enfin un journal hebdomadaire tiré à 5500 exemplaires. Elle prête à faibles intérêts, a une caisse d'épargne, et peut assurer une aide contre les accidents.

CANADA.

En octobre, sur le conseil de Hon. J. H. Dillon, une délégation suffragiste s'est présentée au président du Congrès du travail en séance à Québec, pour lui demander d'appuyer le mouvement des femmes pour l'obtention des franchises, provinciales et autres, de la province de Québec. Après quelques objections, il accepta. Le Congrès vote à l'unanimité une résolution en faveur de cette demande. Après de nouveaux pourparlers, les chefs travaillistes décidèrent de mettre le suffrage féminin à leur programme et ils invitèrent quelques suffragistes notoires à les accompagner à l'Assemblée législative de Québec, et à présenter leurs propres revendications. Mrs. Sampson y prit la parole et demanda au gouvernement de comprendre dans les projets de loi de cette session un bill donnant la franchise complète aux femmes de la province. La délégation a été reçue très courtoisement, mais aucune promesse n'a été faite. L'Hon. J. H. Dillon a été depuis nommé ministre. (D'après Mrs. I. Scott).

AUSTRALIE.

Un projet de loi pour l'allocation de 5 shillings par semaine aux enfants au dessous de 4 ans dont les familles ne gagnent pas plus de 364 livres par an, a été déposé par Mr. Baddley, ministre du Travail. Les patrons y contribueront en versant 6 % sur les feuilles de salaires. Les domestiques sont exclus du bénéfice de cette loi. (Nouvelle-Galles.)

Mrs. McDonnell a été présentée au gouvernement par la Fédération australienne des sociétés féministes, comme candidate déléguée pour l'assemblée de 1927 de la Société des Nations. Née en Angleterre, elle y a fait ses études et travaillé comme institutrice, infirmière d'hôpitaux, organisatrice d'oeuvres : elle a aussi une bonne connaissance du français. Elle est actuellement juge de paix en Australie.

Le projet de loi sur les pensions alimentaires a passé sous une forme satisfaisante. La clause qui assure la surveillance des enfants illégitimes jusqu'à 7 ans a été réintroduite au Conseil législatif : un Comité se composant d'un président payé et de 8 membres honoraires (à l'exclusion de membres du Parlement) en contenant 4 femmes, assurera cette surveillance. Ce comité administrera les fonds pour les enfants assistés, les indigents et les mères dans le besoin. (Australie du Sud.)

SUEDE.

Un projet de loi vient d'être déposé pour la répression du vagabondage. Comme les prostituées ont été comprises sous la rubrique "Réfractaires au travail et Dangereux pour la société," il a été résolu de rechercher les causes de la prostitution et d'essayer de les combattre par : l'enseignement sexuel dans les écoles de garçons et de filles, non seulement au point de vue de l'hygiène, mais au point de vue moral et social ; enseignement aux adolescents pour leur montrer leurs responsabilités à l'égard de l'autre sexe, de la société et des générations futures : Des classes particulières ont déjà été établies pour les jeunes filles arriérées qui sont, plus que les autres, soumises aux tentations par leur faiblesse de volonté et d'intelligence et par leur

incapacité de travail. On leur donne un enseignement moins difficile, moins intellectuel et plutôt professionnel. L'éducatrice les suit, s'intéresse à elles après leurs classes et les aide, quand elle le peut, à trouver un logement et du travail. Ces arriérées forment 2% du contingent scolaire. La société a tout intérêt à leur assurer aide et protection (d'après Gertrud Rodhe).

ALLEMAGNE.

La loi contre la littérature obscène, qui a été votée par le Reichstag, en décembre, à une faible majorité, a été combattue, non seulement par les agents de publicité, mais par des auteurs distingués et des critiques littéraires. Tous étaient d'accord sur la nécessité d'une mesure pour protéger la jeunesse, mais on craint pour la liberté de l'art et de la littérature en général.

La loi pour la lutte contre les maladies vénériennes a passé au Reichstag, en janvier, après une longue discussion. Elle avait été repoussée au Reichsrat, il y a deux ans, parce qu'on y avait annexé un paragraphe permettant aux charlatans de traiter les maladies sexuelles non contagieuses. Le gouvernement a repris le texte original, réservant tous les droits aux docteurs et le texte a passé, non sans difficulté. Le loi, qui sera appliquée en octobre, oblige toute personne atteinte de ces maladies, à se faire soigner par un docteur reconnu, tant que la contagion est possible. Le traitement sera gratuit pour les pauvres. La réglementation de la prostitution est abolie, les maisons de tolérance et lieux analogues sont prohibés. Toute personne coupable d'avoir sciemment répandu la contagion sera emprisonnée ; un certificat de santé sera exigé des infirmières et des nourrices.

La commission législative du Reichstag a discuté longuement un projet de loi sur l'extension des facilités du divorce. Le Dr. Kahl, quoique conservateur et religieux, s'est déclaré en faveur de cette mesure, plus en rapport avec les nécessités de la vie ; mais Herr Herge, ministre de la Justice, s'y oppose. Les quatre femmes, membres de la commission, sont en faveur de ce projet, surtout pour le cas de folie d'un conjoint, et demandent, au nom des femmes, que l'on trouve un compromis entre le principe de la culpabilité et celui de l'incompatibilité des intérêts. La commission demandera au gouvernement un surcroît de renseignements sur les lois de divorce étrangères (d'après Marie Stritt).

Le bourgmestre de Berlin, pendant son absence, a été suppléé par la Conseillère d'Etat Klara Weyl, qui a été en même temps présidente du conseil des magistrats. Six femmes viennent de passer l'examen pour la section de police criminelle de Berlin. La première école officielle pour ménagères sera inaugurée à Pâques, à Berlin ; les cours dureront un an et comprendront : cuisine, jardinage, hygiène générale et puériculture.

ESPAGNE.

La Marquise del Ter et senora de Cunat nous apprennent que les conférences de Mme. Plaminkova, sénatrice de Tchecoslovaquie, ont eu un grand succès à Madrid et dans d'autres villes. Le général Primo de Rivera a recue la conférencière, avec la marquise Del Ter, présidente d'une des deux sociétés féministes affiliées à l'Alliance internationale ; il les a assurées de toute sa sympathie pour le mouvement féministe et leur a promis le vote sous peu. Une réception a été offerte à Mme. Plaminkova au Lyceum Club de Madrid. On espère fonder bientôt un second Lyceum à Barcelone.

ETATS-UNIS.

Bryn Mawr College offre chaque année 8 bourses à des étrangères qui ont 3 ou 4 ans d'Université et qui connaissent l'anglais. Elles pourront donc lire les conditions à la rubrique "United States."

Le Président Coolidge a nommé Mrs. Tillinghast commissaire pour l'immigration à Boston. L'association américaine des collégiées, qui représente plus de 300 collégiées d'arts libéraux, etc., l'une des premières associations collégiales des E.U., a élu Miss L. R. Briggs présidente. Elle est la fille du Dean de l'Université de Harvard. C'est comme présidente du Collège de Milwaukee Downer qu'elle s'est montrée remarquable.

MADELEINE RUDLER.

ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP, LONDON.
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1926.

GENERAL FUND.			
RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances 1st January, 1926:—			
Deposit Account, Standard			
Bank of South Africa	200 0 0		
Cash on Current Account,			
Barclay's Bank	463 1 0		
Cash in hand, Mlle. Gourd...	7 9 8		
Petty Cash in hand	0 2 5½		
Loan to British Overseas			
Committee	30 0 0		
		700	13 1½
Receipts during the year:—			
Donations	12 4 2		
Do., Leslie Commission	837 4 3		
		849	8 5
Members' Fees	151 19 1		
Report Receipts	24 11 7		
Affiliation Fees	62 17 4		
Tenth Congress Fund	1228 0 5		
Rome Congress Pledges	284 0 1		
Paris Congress Pledges	213 11 10		
Sale of French Securities transferred during the year from Credit Lyonnais, Paris	42 16 8		
Miscellaneous Receipts	14 1 2		
Mlle. Gourd, Receipts from Sale of "Suffrage des Femmes," less Expenses	3 1 10		
Interest on Deposit Accounts	10 8 0		
		2,314	17 10
Balances 31st December, 1926:—			
Deposit Account, Standard			
Bank of South Africa	200 0 0		
Do., Barclay's Bank	547 3 1		
Cash on Current Account Do.	507 8 2		
Cash in hand, Mlle. Gourd...	10 11 6		
Petty Cash in hand	5 8 11½		
		1,270	11 8½
		£3,585	9 6½

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
£3,585 9 6½

"JUS."		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Subscriptions	170 5 0	Printing	318 9 8
Cash Sales	8 11 10	Salaries	187 12 8
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	48 0 0	Rent	25 6 9
Transfer from General Fund	331 5 2½	Miscellaneous	26 12 11½
	£558 2 0½		£558 2 0½

I have examined the above Statement with the Books and Documents of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. The English Banks have certified as to the correctness of the balances held by them.

106, St. Clement's Church, Clement's Lane,
Lombard Street, E.C.4.
26th January, 1927.

M. M. HOMERSHAM, M.A.,
Incorporated Accountant.

SUISSE.

Le Comité Central de l'Association Suisse pour le Suffrage féminin, a tenu sa première séance de l'année, à Berne, le 23 janvier, avec un ordre du jour très chargé par l'examen de nombreuses questions. C'est à la propagande—propagande dans les cantons où il n'existe pas encore de Sections, propagande par la presse, par des publications, voire même par des petits objets, propagande par les relations entre Sections, etc.—qu'a été consacrée la majeure partie des débats ; et le C.C. a pris acte avec satisfaction du résultat encourageant des conférences de Mme. Gillibert-Randin dans le

Valais, comme des efforts de Mlle. Keyser, avocate à Soleure, pour organiser une Section suffragiste dans ce dernier canton. Il a été également mis au courant de l'envoi régulier, tous les 15 jours, alternativement en français et en allemand, d'un bulletin de presse féministe à de nombreux journaux suisses, hebdomadaires aussi bien que quotidiens, envoi qui semble donner des résultats encourageants, bien que le contrôle des nouvelles parues soit difficile à opérer : tous les suffragistes sont sollicités de collaborer à ce contrôle, en envoyant au Secrétariat central, Bonstettenstrasse, 16, Berne, les coupures de nouvelles féministes signées S.F.

et paraissant dans la presse qu'ils lisent habituellement. (Il est vrai que parfois des rédactions suppriment cette signature en publiant ces nouvelles.) — Une sous-Commission spéciale a été nommée pour étudier le plan d'une brochure utile à la propagande que le C.C. a décidé d'éditer sans tarder, et une autre Commission pour établir la façon dont exposerait l'A.S.S.F. à la "Saffa," la participation à cette grande manifestation féminine devant être aussi pour nos idées une excellente occasion de propagande. En outre, un crédit a été voté à la Commission des Cours de vacances, avec demande à cette dernière d'étudier la possibilité d'organiser un Cours de vacances en automne dans le Tessin. — Les affaires internationales ont également occupé le C.C., qui a décidé à ce sujet un certain nom-

bre de démarches, et ratifié les nominations dans les Commissions de l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage des Femmes de Mmes. Leuch (Commission de la nationalité de la femme mariée), et Hänni, avocate (Commission pour l'égalité civile entre hommes et femmes), et de Mlles. Bünzli (Commission d'égalité de la morale), G. Gerhard (Commission des Allocations familiales), Grütter (Commission d'action pour la paix et la S.d.N.), et Gourd (Commission des femmes agentes de police). — Enfin, la date de l'Assemblée générale de 1927 a été fixée au samedi 4 et au dimanche 5 juin (samedi et dimanche de Pentecôte), la réunion de cette Assemblée générale devant coïncider avec la célébration du vingtième anniversaire de la fondation de l'Association vaudoise pour le S.F. E. Gd.

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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."

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IN CHINA TO-DAY

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT.

The present torrent of events in China is carrying the women along with it, arousing in them an interest hitherto unknown in political happenings. We hear from Wuchang, the new centre of the Canton government—"Any group of women you get into will surely talk about the new government—who ever heard us so interested in change of government? . . . And the intelligence and enthusiasm with which they discuss!—they're as eager in hearing some item as groups we are familiar with at home would be listening to a piece of choice gossip! . . . The one man wasn't too enthusiastic about the new régime, but we women folk were all able to give a reason for the faith that is in us!"

Possibly one reason for the enthusiasm of women for the Kuomintang (or People's Party) is that among its democratic principles it urges the freedom and equality of women. Among handbills, scattered by the thousand over the city of Wuchang, after the capture of that city by the Cantonese army, we find one issued by the Woman's Movement of Hupeh:

"WOMAN'S MOVEMENT OF HUPEH.

We women of Hupeh for several thousand years have suffered under political, economic and legal oppression. Propriety, ethics and all sorts of social customs and habits have bound us. Long ago we lost our rights as humans. From whom has this suffering come? It was because we ourselves didn't apply ourselves, we didn't know how to unite and strive, and fight for our rights as humans. At the same time the sphere of darkness meant oppression or us, like a deep root that couldn't be budged—so for several thousand years we were mere things, useless things in society.

Now that the Revolution has extended to Hupeh, and the National Government Committee have come, we want to welcome them, because they are the people's officials, because they have given the people freedom from suffering, and because they seek the people's good. Our suffering was so very deep that we have limitless hope in these officials; we believe they will give us economic and political equality with the men; that they will revise the unequal laws; that they will do away with all laws that harm or hinder women, and will protect the rights of women; that they will get rid of the terrible proprieties and ethics and all the bad things that have bound women. We especially believe that, following the plans of the Kuomintang, this government can help women to have utter equality, economically, politically, and legally, with the men.

Fellow women of Hupeh! This is our chance to seek freedom and equality. A thousand times over,

we don't want to lose this opportunity. In the midst of this political freedom we want to spread and strengthen our organisation. We want to foster our ability so that we can stand under the banner of the Women's Movement. Strive to get our rightful benefits. Fellow women—we want to remember, "In union is strength." So we want to unite our various groups, to watch that the officials give women their political benefits, so that the good for which we strive can be enjoyed by others.

Fellow women—in this great meeting of welcome and joy we must use our strength, set up our groups, and add ten thousand times to our strivings. Our mottoes are:—

Away with old laws!
 Set up a new constitution!
 Decide upon women's property rights!
 Spread the laws against foot-binding!
 Widen the movement for the education of the country women!
 Establish a women's law school!
 Set up penalties for selling women and taking secondary wives!
 Away with old proprieties, ethics, and social customs that bind women!
 Freedom of marriage and divorce!
 Establish supplementary schools for farmers, workers and women!
 Let all organisations as far as possible take in social service workers!
 Set up public institutions for poor children!
 Carry out the latest political plans of the Kuomintang!

Cheers for the people of China!
 Cheers for the officials of China!"
 The Woman's Movement began some years ago in Peking, and in one or two of the larger cities, in official and educational circles. In Wuchang, where the present writer attended its first formal meeting, four years ago, its membership was almost entirely among the young teachers and senior pupils in government and private girls' schools—the qualifying "young" is used advisedly, since the majority of women teachers in China are young, owing to women's education being a comparatively recent step (see below), and also owing to the fact that until quite recently it was almost unheard of outside Christian circles that a woman should remain unmarried. The objects of the Woman's Movement in the various cities varied somewhat, but in every case some of the aims were: the suppression of foot-binding and of concubinage, equal educational opportunities for men and women; freedom of choice of the

marriage partner (who has always been chosen by the parents, often soon after birth). In some cases the aims embraced touched the industrial sphere, such as the abolition of child labour, equal pay for equal work. At a recent meeting of the Woman's Movement in Wuchang one speaker (a Chinese) said that there are five different kinds of women's movements: religious; rights for mothers; political equality; labour; and revolutionary; and the only complete one is the last. When an American Y.W.C.A. secretary visited the headquarters, expressed her sympathy and asked if she might be allowed to join, she was told that it was for Chinese only, but that as it was a world movement there might be a foreign women's section later on.

Although the Woman's Movement is now found in various parts of the country, as far as we know there is no movement of women definitely organised on a national scale outside of the churches. The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Young Women's Christian Association have national organisations and strong international affiliations. At the last meeting of the World's Committee of the latter, China was represented by the wife of a professor in one of Shanghai's Christian Colleges (now herself Principal of a girls' high school), and the Dean of Women of Peking Christian University.

The Education of Women.

From the concluding sentence of the foregoing paragraph it is clear that women are taking the highest positions in the educational world of China. Before the Revolution (1911) education for girls was confined almost entirely to a few official families, and those reached by the efforts of Christian missionaries. Since the Revolution, great strides have been made by the government (national, provincial and local) in education both for boys and girls, but even so, four years ago, when an Education Committee gathered what statistics it could, only 2 per cent. of the girls of the country were found in school, compared to more than 20 per cent. of the boys. One province differs considerably from another; the province of Hupeh in central China may be quoted as an average; there, there is only one High School for Girls (excluding Christian schools) in the entire province with a population of 30 million. This is established in Wuchang, the provincial capital, where there is also a Normal School, and a very few women students in co-educational colleges. In the leading educational cities, Peking, Nanking, Shanghai and Canton, women students to the number of some hundreds are found in institutes of higher education, some of which are co-educational. With higher education of women so recently established, it is obvious that the great obstacle to progress is the very limited number of suitable women teachers.

The political turmoil of recent years has also produced another great hindrance to any education, whether of boys or girls, namely, the state-supported schools have often been left without funds. A recent letter from a teacher in Peking states that last autumn a particular school could only grant its teachers 20 dollars (£2 10s.) in three months, and many had been obliged to close down altogether. This has been a familiar story in every city for years past. Generally speaking, institutions of college rank are supported by the central government; of high school rank, by the provincial authorities; and of primary grade, by the local authorities; and all of these have been forced, time and again, to hand over educational funds to the war-lords.

Education is definitely part of the programme of the Kuomintang (Cantonese or People's Party), at least primary education in order that illiterate may be eliminated.

In no country is higher education more democratically enjoyed than in China. This has been for thousands of years the tradition of the country, the son of a poor farmer in a remote village has always had the opportunity of becoming a graduate of the highest standing. This admirable tradition fortunately persists, and although the provision for the education of

girls is limited, that which there is is open to, and enjoyed by, girls in every rank of society. In the high school and normal school of Wuchang, mentioned above, there were girls sent on scholarship from distant country districts, many of them coming several days—one as much as ten days—journey by road or water.

There are two characteristics of high school and college students, both boys and girls, which immediately strike the Western observer; first, their vivid interest in politics, their actions in this direction, and their influence in this sphere. Their first definite (and astonishing) achievement in this realm occurred in May, 1919, when by a well-organised, nation-wide strike (i.e., refusal to attend classes), they so roused public opinion that their two objectives were gained; namely, the dismissal of three government leaders, known to be traitors, and the government's refusal to sign the Paris Peace Treaty.

The second characteristic is their enthusiasm for social service, the most general form of which is popular education—night classes and vacation schools; also lectures on citizenship, campaigns against social evils, and so on.*

As regards Christian education of university standing for women, there are ten or twelve institutions, in Peking and the provincial capitals, the majority of them co-educational. In some, a Medical School is included; in Canton there has been for many years a women's medical school doing admirable work. Outside of Christian organisations, there is no medical school for women attaining any recognised standard.

Women in the Professional, Business and Industrial World.

As in the history of women in every country, it is in the educational sphere that the largest group of Chinese professional women is found. The number of doctors is steadily increasing, and a considerable number of girls enter the nursing profession, the large majority under Christian auspices. There is, at least in Christian circles, a uniform standard of nurses' examinations, and a steady effort to raise the required amount of general education among them. Business openings for women are few; as yet there is an almost negligible number in offices, telephone exchanges and so on, though for some years there has been at least one bank managed and staffed entirely by women. There are a few instances where the daughters of some big business firm are on the managerial staff, such women having occasionally taken the opportunity to study business methods in America and Europe.

By far the largest number of women are occupied in agriculture and home industries, but women by the thousand are to be found in factories, chiefly in the silk and cotton mills. The majority of these are married women, struggling to keep a home together, in addition to working twelve hours, or even longer, at the machines. So much has been written in the press of recent years concerning the conditions of industry in China, that this theme need not be elaborated here. Suffice it to say that there are the beginnings of trade unions among these women, but amongst an almost wholly illiterate population any advance along these lines must necessarily be slow.

The imagination must be set to work on the realisation of the startling contrasts to be found in China, the illiterate majority, three-quarters of whom live in rural areas, living the life of a thousand, or even five thousand years ago, and the educated few, living, one might almost say, the life of to-morrow, certainly not one minute behind the women of the most advanced country (as far as women are concerned) of the West.

In view of the fact that 99 per cent. of women in China marry at an early age, a few words concerning the "average woman" may not be out of place. We quote the following from the Staff Year Book of the Y.W.C.A. of China:

*For a further development of conditions and trends of education in China, see "China To-day through Chinese Eyes," Student Christian Movement, 2/6. Ten essays by leading Chinese.

"Woman's place in the fabric of everyday society is also not a negligible one. The mother, or the wife of the eldest son, rules in the home. Birth, marriage and death—the great realities of life, are within her province. A rebellious young daughter-in-law has to submit to her authority. Many a young man with modern ideas on marriage has given in to the overwhelming influence of his mother, who martial the clan against him. She rules sometimes with a rod of iron, a masterful old woman. But often she is a quiet, plainly dressed, self-possessed little lady, speaking not very much, scolding not at all, getting things done by requests instead of commands. The great household of husband, sons and daughters, daughters-in-law, children, servants, relatives and hangers-on, proceeds smoothly under her capable direction. Her husband relies on her advice; sometimes she helps him in his business affairs. Relations and friends come to her with their troubles—in fact she bears a close resemblance to the ideal wife of Proverbs.

"Any one who has lived in a family presided over by a woman of this type realises that hers is ability of no mean order; this is a real achievement.

"A distinguished visitor said lately to a brilliant Chinese woman, 'I cannot get over my surprise at the way your women who have always been accustomed to seclusion have suddenly emerged into public life, with so little sense of confusion and self-consciousness.' Her answer is worthy of recording. She said, 'The Chinese woman has always been part of a community, and not an isolated individual. When a bride comes into a new family, she needs all her training, tact, courtesy and self-possession, to meet the difficult position of learning to be an acceptable member of the big new family. Nothing could be a harder ordeal than this. To come into public life simply means practising these qualities in a larger sphere.' This does serve to explain in large measure the poise and the freedom from self-consciousness which is such a marked characteristic of the Chinese woman of education."



Cantonese Women. Reading from left to right: A doctor on the staff of Women's Medical School; Secretary of Girls' High School; General Secretary, Y.W.C.A., Hong Kong; Dean of Women, Canton Christian College.

THE KUOMINTANG.

Since so many enquiries are made concerning the Kuomintang, constantly referred to in the daily press, it may be advisable to explain something of its nature and origin. The title is composed of three words meaning country—people—party; (min-kuo is the usual phrase for republic), the Kuomintang is therefore the National People's Party. It originated in Canton, in the work of Sun Yat Sen (sometimes called Sun Wen), who for forty years carried on revolutionary propaganda, which has now issued in the programme of the Kuomintang. His Three Principles—the People's Equality, the People's Rights, the People's Will, form the slogan of the People's Party. As may be seen from the daily press in any country, opinion differs considerably concerning the present rapid progress of the Cantonese army, and the spread of the Kuomintang principles.

Their literature is full of the ordinary democratic appeals, "Have a People's Assembly," "Establish

right of free speech," "Down with militarism," "Oppose imperialism." There is clearly a sharp division (as in all revolutions) between the extremists and the moderates; there seems to be no doubt that the extremists are under Soviet influence, while the programme of both parties is full of constructive ideals, far different from the military campaigns of the war-lords of whom we have heard much during recent years.

A few foreign comments on the situation may not be out of place. Remembering how definitely anti-foreign and especially anti-British the Kuomintang is said to be, it is noteworthy that personal relations seem untroubled. We quote from a Scotch Y.W.C.A. secretary in Wuchang:

"The final act of the long campaign of anti-British agitation, which has been going on with great vigour since the nationalist government came into power in this centre, began last Monday, when great demonstrations were arranged on both sides of the river. In Hankow the demonstration was directed particularly against the British concession . . .

"In contrast to all these happenings I have found the Chinese whom I know personally more cordial than ever and even some girls whom I didn't know well and who are now revolutionaries, give me most friendly smiles when I see them on the street. There have been a good many days on which we have not gone out. We allow ourselves to be guided entirely by Miss Liu (Chinese General Secretary, Y.W.C.A.) as to whether we go to the Association or not. She is so wise. One thing I am delighted about is that she has accepted her position as general secretary now quite definitely, so I am really working now under the direction of a Chinese woman. Of course it is quite obvious in the present conditions that the leadership must be Chinese. She has evidently won for herself an even more assured place in the city than she had two years ago. She is in touch with all the leaders of the women's organisation connected with the revolutionary party, most of whom are former government school teachers. She is herself a member of the women's organisation though not a member of the nationalist party. The women's organisation seems to be doing some quite good work. Their main purpose is to preach the principles of the revolution, and to see that women get their share in the reforms which are to be instituted. They have helped a girl whom we were interested in who was being forced into a marriage with a good-for-nothing man. . . .

"One of the cheering things is the loyalty of Chinese friends. Yesterday one former member of our Committee came to see me to 'apologise for the things Chinese people had been doing to foreigners.' . . . As if we didn't have plenty to apologise for.

"Almost all Christian schools have had to close on account of propaganda. So far as I know only one boys' school and two girls' schools are running. No government schools are running except those which are to train propagandists and organisers for the nationalist party, so education is practically nil at the moment in this part of China. One could easily be pessimistic and say that business is rapidly approaching the vanishing point also. Perhaps that is the price that has to be paid for the birth of a new spirit in the nation. I do believe it is that in spite of all mistakes and excesses."

The outcome of the present struggle cannot be foretold, but from many Chinese quarters come requests which may be summed up as follows: "This is the revolution of the people's mind. It has excesses—every revolution has—and no one can as yet gauge them against the permanent gains, but we beg of you to have, as much as in you lies, patience and faith in this tremendous change, in which we with all our hearts and minds believe."

Finally, the statement of our National Committee in China may be quoted as indicative of the bulk of moderate, informed opinion of the Chinese concerning the Kuomintang, "In the present people's movement, whatever its outward political manifestations

may be, we find the deepest aspirations of our people expressed."

PROGRESS DURING REVOLUTIONARY DAYS.

Although the Revolution is affecting a large section of the population, there are certain geographical areas which are hardly touched, and here, and in even in disturbed centres, advance is recorded by the Y.W.C.A., and doubtless other organisations could give an equally satisfactory account of conditions in certain places. From Mukden (Manchuria) comes the news that the Y.W.C.A. now has its own building, the funds for which were raised locally. The invitation (translated) to the dedication of the building runs as follows:—

"Having organised three years ago, the Y.W.C.A. has outgrown its rented quarters, therefore beginning in 1923 we held a building campaign which resulted in 25,000 Fengtien currency. This spring we bought a piece of land outside the Great Eastern Gate and started to build a new building. It is completed now, and we are setting November 27 as the date on which to celebrate. We hope you will come. If you care to send us a greeting in writing, we shall feel greatly honoured."

A new venture in Shanghai along industrial lines is having at present rather a precarious existence. It is the first definite women's 'settlement' in China, and we wish it every success. One of the originators gives the following account of it:—

"The Industrial Department of the Shanghai Chinese Y.W.C.A. has opened a centre in Chapei, a district of Shanghai outside the International Settlement. It is at once the place of the greatest concentration of silk filatures—about forty-five of the total number of seventy-eight in Shanghai being in this neighbourhood—and the abode of the most radical labour thinking, and the worst water supply. At least a dozen large filatures are in the immediate vicinity. The 'centre' is a Chinese house in an alley, the ground floor of which is free for such activities as will develop, and in the upper floor of which dwell two Chinese and two foreign secretaries—Miss Kyong, industrial secretary, and Miss Sung, a trained nurse who is now a regular member of the staff, and who will give half time to this and half time to membership work; Miss Haass, industrial secretary with the National Christian Council, and Miss Hinder, industrial secretary with the Shanghai Y.W.C.A.

"Though the 'settlement' is but a few weeks old, there is hope that work will evolve which will be of importance. The theory is that, ultimately, the question of the improvement of conditions of labour is labour's fight, and any contribution which can be made to the emergence of an intelligent leadership, informed of the significance of the coming of large scale industry into China, among the silk women, is worth while. To this end, there will be value in getting into touch with the filature girls, for the kind of education which can be done with them, through clubs or other methods; in touch with the forewomen, on the goodwill of whom much depends, for their education on the question of how minor authority in the filatures has a part to play, and perhaps working toward the establishment of a forewomen's council in the district; into touch with those in higher authority, anxious to perfect their English—and at such stage that certain significant reading can be done with them, followed by discussion. All these beginnings have already been made. There is hope.

"The Health Department of the new Chinese Municipality of Shanghai and Woosung has asked to use the premises for the purpose of a vaccination clinic three nights weekly. This, as working toward an industrial clinic, is a good beginning—if this should be considered the way to work. The settlers have gone with no ready-made programme. They have gone to Chapei to live. Neighbours call with readiness, and stay for long periods. But the settlers are glad."



Y.W.C.A. Secretaries, Canton.

REVOLUTION AND RELIGION.

Since the Revolution of 1911, and increasingly in the present Revolution, there is a strong anti-religious bias. At the present time criticism is levelled especially against Christianity, which is regarded as the religion of the imperialistic West, its origin being ignored. During the last fifteen years the student and educated classes of China have tended to think of all religion as being "mere superstition." On the other hand there is also a tendency towards creating new religious societies; both these characteristics are to be found in many countries to-day. The present fury of criticism directed against Christianity, against both Chinese and foreign Christians, has concentrated the attention of those both within and without the church on its weaknesses. This is a sobering experience, and may well bear good fruit, bringing into being a church that is more truly Chinese, as well as stronger and more in earnest than at present. A Christian professor in the Christian University in Peking writes:

"The demands on Christianity are these. First, it must present to the thoughtful of to-day a religious life of power, thoroughly ethical, profoundly critical and discriminating, and completely loyal to God. Secondly, it must become adjusted to its social and intellectual environment, so that from this time the religion of Christians should be an inner growth rather than an external imposition even in appearance. No religion brought into a country from outside can become indigenous unless it becomes a growth from within and makes its own natural and living adaptations and improvements. Thirdly, there should be a reasonable interpretation of the deep religious experience of the believers, a Christian rationalism that is free, yet based upon the facts of the spiritual life. Fourthly, those who believe must now work to Christianise and create a new community in China. Christianity stands for a redeemed and new humanity, in the form, at first, of a brotherhood, then of a society, and then of a nation which is a part of the whole of humanity."*

*See "China To-day through Chinese Eyes."

BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER STUDY AND REFERENCE.

- "Women in Industry in the Orient."
Women's Press, New York. \$1.50 (may be ordered through the World's Y.W.C.A. office, 6/6).
- "China To-day Through Chinese Eyes."
Student Christian Movement, London, 2/6.
- "The China Year Book 1926-27."
Tientsin Press, China,
or Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., London.