

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

The Monthly Organ of THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE

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NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Zurich. We publish on another page the preliminary programme of the Study Conference to take place at the end of February, and we regret that a combination of circumstances, and the necessity for our paper to go to press rather early, prevented us from giving any notice of this Conference in our last issue.

This Conference is being organised under the joint auspices of the Alliance itself and of its Peace Committee. We have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Miss Dorothy A. Heneker as an organiser. All our readers will surely know Miss Heneker as the very active Director of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. We hope that this Conference may be followed by another in May, for which we have received a very kind invitation for Warsaw from the Polish Auxiliary, the Association of Women for Social Service. The aim is to stimulate interest in those problems of feminism and peace which are so particularly urgent at the present day, and we hope that they may be of real service to these causes, both nationally and internationally.

In Zurich we are also holding a meeting of the statutory International Committee of the Alliance, when the Board and Presidents of Auxiliaries hold council together, on the day immediately preceding the Conference, February 26th, and we hope that this may be a real international occasion.

We publish a portrait of Madame Annie Leuch, President of our hostess society, the Swiss Woman Suffrage Association, who is already engaged in the first stages of local organisation. In our next issue we hope to be able to give fuller details.



Headquarters. Since the last issue the Alliance has moved its offices from the Vauxhall Bridge Road, where it has been for nearly ten years. Though we are still not housed in very palatial style,

our new home is more comfortable and more cheerful, and we hope that many visitors will find their way there. It is between Victoria Station (for convenience) and Buckingham Palace (for distinction!), and should be very easy to find. Everyone who knows the difficulties of moving an office, with its multiplicity of papers and records, will feel a certain sympathy with the Headquarters staff and will make some allowance if correspondence is delayed, and if they find the present issue of our paper wears a slightly distracted air. The Headquarters Secretary *cum* Editor, for instance, is actually typing this note on a suitcase precariously balanced on a chair, because the beautiful new desk designed to make her labours easier has not arrived according to promise. Electricians are still hovering in the background, there is still a gentle aroma of paint, and papers still have a slight tendency to be

found in unexpected places. But when all is complete we are going to be as proud as peacocks of our pleasant colour scheme, both light and gay, and shall greatly enjoy showing it off to you all.

Motors and Morals. Miss Neilans, Member of the Alliance Board and Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, has very kindly supplied us with information on a very real danger to health and morals which has arisen owing to the wide use of road transport. We feel sure that the

conditions must be very similar in all countries and that the matter calls for intelligent treatment, while women must be on the watch lest attempts are made to deal with it simply by penalising women and girls. In a recent issue of a British paper there appeared a streaming headline, "The Menace of the Lorry Girl," referring to the high incidence of venereal disease among road transport drivers. The implication is, as usual, that it is all the women's fault, though it is impossible to believe that in these days of open discussion and widespread public warnings, any man is ignorant of the risks he takes if he chooses to practice promiscuity. As Miss Neilans says truly, "There is temptation and opportunity for both the girl and the man and what comes of it depends on their personal character in each case." These drivers are mostly young, they have a life of strain and monotony which to a large extent cuts them off both from regular home life and from normal recreation and social intercourse. The system of road houses and refreshment bars frequently open all night can very easily be used, and is used, by the professional prostitute to ply her trade.

But there is the other side. A girl seeking work or trying to get home when out of work, often obtains a lift from a lorry driver. This is often given or offered in good faith, but sometimes there is a pretty clear intimation that she is expected to pay for it with her person. Or without any ill intention on either side, these two young people find themselves together in conditions which lead quickly to a free and easy intimacy which may lead them on with certainly no more blame on one than on the other. But the consequences may be serious for the girl. She may be infected, she may find herself pregnant, and so slip into the ranks of the prostitute.

There can be no easy remedy. Fundamentally the only safeguard is exactly that high and equal standard of morals which we advocate. But while regulations might be made forbidding drivers to take up women, that could not prevent them from visiting the roadside cafés where the real temptation probably lies in wait, while it would put a stop to the offer of help which may sometimes be sorely needed. Better conditions for road transport workers would help, and in the meantime girls should be warned, and constantly warned, against the risks they run in accepting a lift from any unknown man.

Welfare of Seamen. This looks a rather remote object of discussion in our international woman's paper. But some of our readers may remember that at the last Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference a few years ago, the Alliance and other women's organisations were disturbed by a proposal on the agenda that the work of women in bars, etc., in port areas should be prohibited, with the idea of protecting seamen from solicitation. That recommendation was not adopted and now that we have the report of the recent Maritime Conference, we are glad to note that there was adopted the amendment to that recommendation laying down that the employment in public houses in dock areas of young persons of either sex under a certain age should be prohibited. This does seem to be a measure of protection for youth rather than for seamen, but we shall none of us quarrel with it for that reason. Mlle. Gourd, in communicating the results of the Conference to the Chairman of the Alliance Equal Moral Standard Committee, acknowledged some uneasiness as to another recommendation prohibiting entry into the docks and harbour area generally of undesirable persons. She learnt that this referred chiefly to traders in drugs and was not a disguised method of excluding women. We hope that, in practice, it will not lead to attempts to exclude women with the inevitable concomitant of a system of bribery.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The suffrage movement was initiated by Mrs. Chapman Catt, who visited Manila in 1912, and who woke the women up to a consciousness of their impotence in political affairs. Since then Filipino women leaders have brought the question forward. A petition, signed by 18,000 women, asking for a joint legislative hearing, was presented and granted. Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison recommended to the Legislature that women should be given suffrage; a bill was introduced, but no action was taken on it. From 1912 to 1929 the Legislature kept up a game with women: once every three years a Woman Suffrage Bill would be introduced into either House or the Senate, but they were not acted upon concurrently. In 1929, when the women were better organised, the House of Representatives passed the Bill for suffrage for literate women, while men were allowed to vote on a property qualification.

In 1933, Governor-General Frank Murphy arrived, and in his first message to both houses he strongly recommended woman suffrage. On November 6th of that year the Senate passed the Bill of the House, with the amendment that it be made effective on January 1st, 1935, and the Bill became law on December 7th, when the Governor signed it. Women celebrated the event jubilantly, not anticipating that the victory was to be short-lived.

The flimsy reason given by the Senate for deferring the date of the measure coming into effect was that women had not time to prepare themselves for the general elections to be held in June, 1934. After these elections, no others took place to give women the chance to exercise their voting rights. Instead, the Constitutional Assembly drafted the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which repealed the Suffrage Law not yet in effect. Article V of the Constitution, which made the 1933 law null and void, states:

"Suffrage may be exercised by male citizens who are 21 years of age and over and who are able to read and write. . . . The National Assembly shall extend the right of suffrage to women if in a plebiscite which shall be held for that purpose within two years after the adoption of the constitution not less than three hundred thousand women possessing the necessary qualifications shall vote affirmatively on the question."

The women fought desperately against this Article V, and to strengthen their campaign organised a General Council of Women, composed of representatives of different women's organisations. Nothing could move the Assembly, and in 1935 the Constitution was submitted to the people, and by virtue of the 1933 law the women could vote at the plebiscite. They were in a dilemma whether to vote against a Constitution unjust to women and be branded as unpatriotic, or to vote for it and then try to have it amended. They chose the latter course as the lesser evil, and 200,000 women went to the polls. Now they must campaign for the plebiscite on woman suffrage provided for in the Constitution. So far the National Assembly has made no move to pass a law authorising the plebiscite. A Junior Federation, composed of girls from 14 to 18, was organised in November, 1935, and in May and June will carry out a Citizenship Survey (house-to-house census) to determine how many women will be qualified to vote in the plebiscite and to win over women who are found to be opposed or indifferent to woman suffrage.

NOTE.—We are indebted for the above interesting particulars to Mrs. How Martyn, who has been making a world tour. There seems to be something particularly mean in the men of a community which has just achieved its independence from foreign control grudging freedom to their own women which they had granted while under that control.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

INTERNATIONAL STUDY CONFERENCE.

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND.

February 26 to March 1, 1937.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME.

(Subject to alteration).

Thursday, February 25.

Meeting of Alliance Board, with lunch offered by Mrs. Corbett Ashby to Board Members and members of Swiss Committee.

Friday, February 26.

Morning & Afternoon: Meeting of Alliance International Committee (Board and Presidents) with lunch offered by the Swiss Auxiliary.

Evening:

8 p.m. MEETING WITH YOUTH GROUPS. Presiding: Leader of Youth Organisations.

Saturday, February 27.

Morning:

10—12.30. OPENING SESSION.

Presiding: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

1. Speeches of Welcome.
2. Presiding: Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Peace Committee.

Round Table Discussion: "How can Nations ensure their Freedom and Independence to-day?"

Rapporteur and short speeches from delegates of various countries.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (for presentation to final session).

12.30—2.30. LUNCHEON, given by the International Peace Committee of the Alliance.

Presiding: Miss Rosa Manus.

Guests to include prominent personalities.

Speeches.

Afternoon:

3—6 p.m.

SECOND SESSION.

Presiding: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Round Table Discussion: "Why the Vote must be won."

- (a) Its value to women, the family and the social order.
- (b) A two-year plan of action.

Rapporteur and short speeches from delegates of voting and non-voting countries.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (for presentation to final session of Conference).

Evening:

8.30—10 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING.

Presiding: Madame Leuch.

Subjects: Democracy and Women's Suffrage. Is there a place for Women in the Government of a country?

Unemployment and Women's Work. Solidarity, National and International.

Sunday, February 28.

Morning:

10—12.30. THIRD SESSION.

Presiding: Mademoiselle Gourd.

Round Table Discussion: "Women's Work and Unemployment."

- (a) The economic consequences of sex distinctions in the Labour Market.
- (b) How to secure and use equal opportunities for training and employment.

Rapporteur and short speeches from delegates of various countries.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (for presentation to final session).

ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE POUR LE SUFFRAGE ET L'ACTION CIVIQUE ET POLITIQUE DES FEMMES.

CONFERENCE D'ETUDES INTERNATIONALE.

À ZURICH, (SUISSE).

du 26 février au 1 mars 1937.

PROGRAMME PROVISOIRE.

(Sous réserve de modifications ultérieures).

Jeudi, 25. février.

Réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'Alliance, avec déjeuner offert par Mrs. Corbett Ashby aux membres du Comité de l'Alliance et du Comité suisse.

Vendredi, 26. février.

Réunion du Comité International de l'Alliance (Comité Exécutif et Présidentes des Sociétés affiliées), avec déjeuner offert par la Société suisse.

Soir: 20 h. MEETING PUBLIC POUR LA JEUNESSE. Présidence: La déléguée d'une association de jeunes.

Samedi, 27 février.

Matin: 10 h.

à 12 h. 30. SEANCE D'OUVERTURE.

Présidence: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

1. Allocution de bienvenue.
2. Présidence: La présidente ou la vice-présidente de la Commission de la Paix.

Discussion par groupes (Round Table Discussion): Comment les nations peuvent-ils aujourd'hui garantir leur liberté et leur indépendance?

Un rapporteur introduira la question et la parole sera donnée aux délégués de différents pays.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (à présenter à la séance de clôture de la conférence).

Déjeuner de 12 h. 30 à 14 h. 30 offert par la Commission de la Paix de l'Alliance.

Présidence: Mlle. Rosa Manus.

Invitations à des personnalités de marque.

Discours divers.

Après-midi:

15 h. à 18 h.

DEUXIEME SEANCE.

Présidence: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Discussion par groupes (Round Table Discussion): "Pourquoi faut-il obtenir le droit de vote."

- (a) sa valeur pour la femme, la famille, la société.
- (b) un plan d'action biennal.

Un rapporteur introduira la discussion et la parole sera donnée aux délégués de pays affranchis et non-affranchis.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (à présenter à la séance de clôture de la conférence).

Soirée: 20 h.

30 à 22 h. MEETING PUBLIQUE.

Présidence: Mme. Leuch.

Sujets: La démocratie et le suffrage féminin. Y a-t-il place pour les femmes dans le gouvernement d'un pays?

Chômage et travail féminin.

Solidarité nationale et internationale.

Dimanche, 28 février.

Matin: 10 h.

à 12 h. 30. TROISIEME SEANCE.

Présidence: Mademoiselle Gourd.

Discussion par groupes (Round Table Discussion): Le travail féminin et le chômage.

- (a) les conséquences économiques de la différence entre les sexes sur le marché du travail.
- (b) Comment assurer aux femmes, au point de vue légal comme dans la pratique l'égalité en matière de préparation professionnelle et d'emploi?

Un rapporteur introduira la discussion et la parole sera donnée aux délégués de différents pays.

Discussion—RESOLUTION (à présenter à la séance de clôture de la conférence).

12-30-3 p.m. LUNCHEON offered by the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship to representatives of the leading men's organisations of Switzerland.
Subject of Discussion: How men voters can help to promote Women's Suffrage in Switzerland.

Afternoon:
3-30-4.

CLOSING SESSION.
Presiding: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Order of Business:

- (a) Presentation of Resolution on Women's Suffrage. Voting.
- (b) Presentation of Resolution from Peace Committee. Voting.
- (c) Presentation of Resolution on Women's Work. Voting.

4-6 p.m. Private Meeting of Alliance Board with Members of the Swiss National Board and the Swiss Presidents.

Presiding: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.
Subject of Discussion: What can the International Alliance do to forward a two-year plan of action in Switzerland?
Open Discussion with speakers from the floor.

Evening: Informal Reception offered by Swiss Auxiliary to all Conference members.

March 1. and 2.:

Meetings of Alliance Board.

YOUTH AND FEMINISM.

As a result of the Alliance Board Meeting in Amsterdam last May, Miss Alison Neilans was invited to return in November to address the women students in the Dutch Universities on 'Feminism,' with special reference to the philosophy of feminism and the urgent need for young women of to-day to interest themselves in their own rights, liberties and responsibilities and to ensure the continuance of their freedom. Travelling expenses were paid partly by the International Alliance and partly by the Dutch Societies in the Alliance. Continuous hospitality was given by the Students' Committees in each centre and the arrangements for the meetings were admirably carried out by Miss Lichtenbelt of Utrecht, President of the Women Students' Union. Miss Neilans spoke to the students in the following Universities: Rotterdam, Leiden, Groningen, Utrecht, Amsterdam, and had an informal lunch meeting with those of the University of Delft; the average attendance was about fifty. Everywhere she was received with the most friendly welcome, beginning with an informal dinner, followed by an hour's speech: it was obvious that, while interested in having a foreign speaker as their guest, the students were not conscious, before the meetings, of any very active interest in feminism as a subject of present-day importance. But the address achieved a complete change in this attitude and the audiences listened with an intent and growing enthusiasm which broke out immediately after the speech in most interesting discussions and questions, often continuing until after 11 p.m.

Certainly, the aims and objects of the International Alliance are now well understood by the Dutch women students and everywhere they have been received with deep interest and understanding, while in several centres the enthusiasm was almost overwhelming.

NOTE.—Miss Neilans asks us to thank all the Dutch Women Students' Committees for their hospitality, their charming gifts, and their wonderful response. She also says that two other University Groups, one a Catholic College, from outside Utrecht, sent over ten representatives to the Utrecht meeting.

Déjeuner: 12 h. 30 à 15 h. offert par l'Alliance internationale aux représentants des principales organisations masculines en Suisse.

Sujet de discussion: Comment les électeurs peuvent-ils contribuer à faire progresser le suffrage féminin en Suisse.

Après-midi:

15 h. 30 à

16 h. SEANCE DE CLOTURE.

Présidence: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Ordre du jour:

- (a) Présentation et vote de la résolution sur le Suffrage féminin.
- (b) Présentation et vote de la résolution de la Commission de la Paix.
- (c) Présentation et vote de la résolution sur le travail féminin.

16 h.-18 h. Réunion privée du Comité de l'Alliance internationale avec le comité de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin et les présidentes des sections suisses.

Présidence: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.
Sujet de discussion: Que peut faire l'Alliance internationale en faveur d'un plan biennal d'action suffragiste en Suisse?

Libre discussion (entre les membres de l'assemblée).

Soir: Soirée familière offerte aux participantes à la Conférence, aux présidentes des Sociétés nationales affiliées à l'Alliance, et au Board de l'Alliance Internationale par le Comité Central suisse et les suffragistes zurichoises.

1er et 2. Mars:

Séances du Comité Executif de l'Alliance.

JAMAICA.

All delegates to the Alliance Congress in Istanbul will remember Una Marson, the young delegate from Jamaica, who had such a well-deserved success. Miss Marson has just returned to Jamaica in the hope of being able to do some active work to improve social conditions. Miss Marson had a very warm welcome from her fellow country men and women, but it is sad that she has to note that the white element was conspicuous by its absence.

However, there is good news that some money will be available from a private source for social work in the villages on rural institute lines and Miss Marson has been asked to help with the organisation. She hopes that she may start this work in January and we wish her the fullest possible measure of success, as all who have heard her speak about conditions in Jamaica know the great need.

GREAT BRITAIN.

We regret that we were unable to include the following brief note from the Women's Freedom League in our last issue:—

On October 23rd Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided at a one-day Conference on 'The Status of Women,' at which more than thirty societies were represented. The Resolutions adopted dealt with: Equal Status of Men and Women; Status of Women in Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories; the Position of Women in Bermuda; the Position of Native Women; Equal Pay; Industrial Legislation; Arbitrary Powers regulating Women's Work; Disinheritance; Discriminations against Women as Prostitutes; Women in the Churches. By large majorities the Conference voted for equal consideration for women with men in the State and this without reservations. We were delighted to have with us Mrs. Butterfield, who has recently been appointed by the Governor of Bermuda as one of a Commission of three to visit and report on the Colony's Mental Hospital.

On Friday and Saturday, December 11th and 12th, the League will hold its Christmas Fair in the Central Hall, Westminster, to be opened at 3 o'clock on Friday by Miss Yvonne Arnaud, and on Saturday, at the same hour, by Miss Vera Brittain. The decorations are being

carried out by Miss Edith Craig, Ellen Terry's daughter. There will be many stalls—the Alliance has one, and there will be side shows, competitions, etc. Mrs. Corbett Ashby will preside at the opening on Friday, and Mrs. Sadd Brown on Saturday.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Argentine. A Women's Peace Conference was organised by a Joint Committee representative of many women's organisations, in connection with the Conference of the American Governments meeting there in November. The society affiliated to the Alliance, the Suffrage Association, was one of the participating societies and kindly sent us the notice. We shall hope to have a report on the results of the Conference, which was attended, we believe, by Miss Josephine Schain, Chairman of the Alliance Peace Committee.

Canada. An amendment to the Electoral Act of the Province of Quebec to give women the provincial franchise, was defeated by 49 votes to 21. It is very disappointing, as we hoped that the change of government might have proved favourable to women.

Cuba. There are two women acting as Legation Secretaries for Cuba, one in Berlin and one in Santiago di Chili.

Great Britain. For the first time in history a woman, Miss Horsbrugh, M.P., moved the address in Parliament thanking the King for his speech on its opening. The Press congratulated her on the success of her speech, which was both tactful and not without humour. She truly said that she could be sure that "no woman had ever done it better."

Japan. It may surprise many people to learn that this year the Japanese Medical Women's Association celebrated its Jubilee, that is its fiftieth anniversary. The women of Japan fought hard and successfully for this right and if they did that fifty years ago, we may surely hope that it will not be long before they attain those equal political rights for which they are now fighting.

NEW ZEALAND.

The Pensions Amendment Act, recently passed by the new Labour Government, is much praised. Old age pensions, already granted at 65 to men and 60 to women, are increased to 22s. 6d. a week, and the time of previous residence in New Zealand has been reduced to twenty years. Naturalised aliens are now admitted; a little land or small existing income does not debar the claim, but for every pound of such income a pound is deducted.

Widows' pensions are increased to £1 a week, plus 10s. for each child under 15, up to a maximum of £4. 10s. od. weekly. This pension is also paid to deserted wives, the Government taking the responsibility of tracing the husband. Any child that was previously maintained by the husband but is now maintained by the applicant, is counted as the applicant's own. The whole family income is not to exceed £78. 10s. od. a year, and the children's income ceases at 15, the mother's income also ceasing when the last child reaches 15.

New ground has been broken in granting pensions to blind or incapacitated persons, after ten years' residence in New Zealand.

JESSIE MACKAY.

AUSTRIA.

The National Council of Austrian Women invited the women who attended the International Council of Women's Congress in Dubrovnik to come to Vienna on their way home. Delegates of fifteen countries, including the Scandinavian countries, England and the U.S.A., accepted the invitation and spent several days in Vienna. The National Council gave a very popular reception with music and there was a big meeting, over which the President of the Council, Marie Hoheisel, presided. We have not space to give the list of speakers, who were united in declaring that women all over the world are ready to defend the rights they have gained after a hard struggle. They also emphasised women's solidarity in work for world peace and the education of young people in peace ideals.

The visitors had the opportunity of seeing many social institutions and of visiting art galleries, etc., under expert guidance. Austrian women have to thank all their guests for coming and for their speeches.

GISELA URBAN.

REVIEWS.

MOSLEM WOMEN ENTER A NEW WORLD, by Ruth Frances Woods. George Allen & Unwin, Museum Street, London. 12/6.

This long and extremely interesting book, giving the results of a survey of the status of women in the East made by Miss Woods, who must be well known to very many of our readers for her international work, particularly in connection with the World's Y.W.C.A., calls for a fuller review than we can hope to find space for.

It is written in a pleasantly easy style, has many interesting illustrations from photographs, and conveys a picture of changes in eastern life far wider than its title suggests. Not that Miss Woods has not faithfully kept to her subject, but she treats it as it should be treated, regarding the status of women as an inevitably integral part of the whole life of a community. The information on many matters is detailed and carries conviction as being absolutely reliable and unbiassed. The sections deal with Social Change (the veil, marriage, polygamy and divorce, family life); Education; the Economic Role of Women; Health; other changes. There emerges a picture of the half pathetic, half hopeful desire of the moslem woman for a wider sphere. Much courage is needed and also much caution, and on the whole these women seem to know instinctively when to exercise the one or the other.

A few haphazard quotations while they cannot give any adequate idea of this long book, so packed with interest, may reveal something of the acuteness and wisdom of the author's observation. "The East, I have noticed, adopts quickly and easily, without mental strain, the material civilisation of the West. In the spirit of fatalism characteristic of the East, he regards whatever is as entirely natural." From a speech of Pandit Moti Lal Nehru, the Indian leader: "Religion as practised to-day is a great separatist force—it prevents the development of healthy and co-operative life," on which Miss Woods comments "To-day in the Eastern world nationalism, and not religion, is the controlling spirit." The chapters on the custom of the veil and of purdah are specially full and interesting, and we quote the following without comment: from a speech of the Shah of Iran to women: "It is not too much to say that formerly half the population of our country was not counted." "An Iranian woman expressed the handicap of the veil as keeping women always 'prisoners to sex.'" "By far the greater number (of men) is actuated by a feeling of protective possession of the women in their families and satisfaction with the *status quo* which ensures their authority." There is much minute information about the practical details of the change from veils to hats, from braided hair to the latest bob or shingle; about dancing and the cinema, things which make a vivid picture of change. But the book must be read and we can only end by recommending it to all who are interested in the immense changes now taking place in the East, whether they are particularly interested in the women's movement or not.

NEARING THE ABYSS, by Lord Davies. Constable & Co., London. 3/6.

The sub-title of this book is "The Lesson of Ethiopia", and it is an urgent plea that the nations should make something real out of collective security under the League of Nations before it is too late. We nearly all believe that another world war would mean the destruction of our world, and yet hardly any of us do anything to try to stop the slide downwards into war. The

author's remedy is that the countries should really face up to the necessity of making sanctions against an aggressor country effective and practically deterrent. The following quotation may perhaps be given as expressing his views shortly: "To join a talking shop is one thing; to become a member of an international authority is quite another. If the latter has become a necessity, it is not merely a question of counting heads but hearts—sincerity, honesty and loyalty to the New Commonwealth of Nations are the things that really matter. Nations imbued with these sentiments will not hesitate to give mutual guarantees for their future good behaviour. In other words, they will be prepared to submit themselves to the rule of law which involves participation in the creation of an Equity Tribunal and an International Police Force. A league, though relatively small in numbers, but whose members are sincerely animated by a supreme common purpose, is worth more and will exert a far greater influence and authority than a huge collection of nations whose union, in the words of Rousseau, 'is formed and maintained by nothing better than chance.'

That may be true, but to-day we sadly ask ourselves whether there are left enough sane nations to form a League which could hope to have enough authority and power to exercise a restraining influence on the others? But this book is a suggestion for action and for that reason alone is worth reading.

THE FUTURE OF SEX RELATIONS, by Ralph de Pomerai. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co., Ltd., 68-74, Carter Lane, London. 3/6.

This book is one of the To-day, To-morrow and After series and in a brief form is a study of the problem of sex, how it has been treated in the past, how it is now in a state of transition, and what should be its future. The subject is not one which falls immediately within our programme and we cannot deal very fully with this book. It is, however, a question with which every human being is inevitably concerned because in one way or another this problem has got to be settled and settled rightly by every individual who wants to have a life reasonably harmonious and satisfactory. This book is a serious study and the conclusion it comes to seems to us a good and sensible one, since it lays on each individual the responsibility of directing his own life according to his needs, but never forgetting that he is a social being and an atom in a whole cosmic environment—'He must adjust his desires, aptitudes and concepts in such a way as to permit their harmonious co-operation and satisfaction.' Surely the conception of harmony, the exercise of toleration and the conscious exercise of the will to make one's own life as complete as possible are ideas which can hardly conflict with any right-thinking person's beliefs?

HONOURABLE ESTATE, by Vera Brittain. Victor Gollancz, Ltd., 1936, London. Price 8/6.

This latest book by the well-known author of "A Testament of Youth" will be most welcome to all connected with the woman suffrage movement and indeed to all taking an intelligent interest in modern politics. We follow the fight for the ultimate freedom of woman and for social reform, the rise of the working classes and, as an outcome of the Great War, the attempt at a world organization to ensure peace. In a well conceived and cleverly developed novel, the author makes these problems centre in two families. Janet Rutherford, wife of a clergyman, mother of a boy, turns by inclination and in reaction against a frustrated life towards woman suffrage work, strongly sympathising with the militant group. A deep friendship with a famous woman dramatist becomes the essence and tragedy of her life. The younger generation, as represented by her son Denis, plays a prominent part in the following chapters in the atmosphere of the industrialised Midlands so familiar to the author. Ruth Alleydene, daughter of a pottery magnate, intellectually trained and by temperament a pioneer, experiences the war. It shatters her individual happiness, but gives her width of experience. She becomes a Labour leader, eventually a M.P., and last, but not least, the wife of Denis Rutherford, with whom she sets up the "Honourable Estate" on higher and more modern standards. Beyond the problems inherent to woman suffrage and social reform the book dwells on religion, morality, education, political systems. If from a literary point of view we venture to suggest that concentration on a closer basis might have been to the good, yet the very breadth affords an outlook on the different currents that are creating a new epoch. The book, in the first place as stands to reason written for a British public, is of general interest. The problems touch humanity as a whole. Historic persons mount the stage. The scene shifts from England to France, from Russia to the United States. Incidents from the history of the big organizations enliven the more epic periods. Some of the situations in the first chapters may strike one as somewhat exaggerated, but in the course of events characters grow convincing and scenes poignantly real and pathetic. The author's outlook on life, her rational and uncompromising philosophy of development, provides the general background.

D.V.N.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

NOUVELLES BREVES DE TOUS PAYS.

Republique Argentine. Une Conférence des Femmes pour la Paix a été organisée par un Comité représentatif de plusieurs associations féminines qui s'était tenu en novembre alors que la Conférence des Gouvernements américains était réunie. Miss Josephine Schain, présidente de la Commission de Paix à l'Alliance, suivit la Conférence et nous enverra sans doute un rapport.

Canada. Un amendement à la loi électorale de la province Québec avec pour objet d'octroyer aux femmes le vote provincial, a été repoussé par 40 votes contre 21.

Cuba. Deux femmes ont été nommées secrétaires de Légation: une à Berlin, l'autre à Santiago de Chili.

Grande Bretagne. Pour la première fois dans l'histoire du Royaume-Uni, une femme, membre du Parlement Miss Horsbrugh, a proposé la résolution de remerciements au Roi pour son discours d'ouverture. Ses paroles furent pleines de tact et d'humour—"Aucune femme dit-elle ne peut se vanter de l'avoir jamais mieux fait."

Japon. L'Association médicale féminine du Japon célèbre cette année le cinquantième anniversaire de sa fondation. Cela semble étrange qu'une égalité professionnelle féminine ait été établie il y a si longtemps et qu'aujourd'hui, cependant les femmes aient tant à lutter pour la conquête de l'égalité politique.

Nouvelle Zélande. L'Amendement à la loi sur les Pensions voté par le nouveau Gouvernement travailliste a été très bien reçu. Les retraites pour la vieillesse déjà octroyées à 60 ans pour les femmes et 65 ans pour les hommes sont montées à 22 shillings $\frac{1}{2}$ par semaine, et la durée de résidence en Nouvelle Zélande réduite à 20 ans. Un lopin de terre ou une petite rente n'empêchent pas le droit à la retraite, mais le total des revenus, rente et retraite ne doit pas dépasser une certaine somme. Les pensions de veuves sont montées à une livre sterling par semaine plus 10 shillings pour chaque enfant au-dessous de 15 ans jusqu'à un maximum de quatre livres et demie par semaine. Cette pension est aussi payée aux femmes abandonnées par leur mari et le Gouvernement prend la responsabilité de la recherche du mari. Le revenu de la famille ainsi secourue ne peut dépasser £78 10s. par an; la pension des enfants cesse à 15 ans, et celle de la mère, quand son dernier enfant a atteint l'âge de 15 ans. Les aveugles ou infirmes, résidant en N.Z. depuis 10 ans, ont aussi droit à une pension.

Autriche. Le Conseil National des Femmes autrichiennes, a invité les membres du Congrès à Dubrovnik à s'arrêter à Vienne, sur le chemin du retour. Un grand nombre de déléguées de quinze pays comprenant les Pays Scandinaves, l'Angleterre et les Etats-Unis passèrent ainsi plusieurs jours à Vienne. Une réception fut offerte par le Conseil à Vienne et il y eut une grande réunion sous la Présidence de Marie Hoheisel. Les discours insistèrent sur l'importance de la solidarité féminine et l'éducation de la jeunesse pour la paix du monde.

Jamaïque. Toutes les déléguées du Congrès de l'Alliance à Istanbul se rappelleront Una Marson, la jeune déléguée de Jamaïque, qui souleva l'enthousiasme de ses auditeurs. Miss Marson vient de retourner en Jamaïque comme travailleuse sociale et a l'intention d'organiser des Associations rurales dans les

villages. Ses compatriotes dit-elle l'ont chaleureusement accueillie mais elle a regretté que les blancs de Jamaïque soient restés à l'écart.

Grande Bretagne. Le 23 octobre dernier, la Women's Freedom League organisa une Conférence présidée par Mrs. Corbett Ashby sur le Statut Civil de la Femme. Plus de 30 sociétés étaient représentées. Des résolutions furent adoptées sur les sujets suivants: Statut civil égal pour hommes et femmes; Statut civil des femmes dans les Colonies, Protectorats et mandats; Position des femmes aux Iles Bermudes; Position de la femme indigène; Salaire égal; Législation industrielle; Réglementation arbitrale du Travail féminin; Lois sur l'héritage; Discrimination contre la Prostituée; les Femmes dans l'Eglise. La Conférence s'honorait de la présence de Mrs. Butterfield nommée par le gouverneur des Bermudes, membre de la Commission de 3 personnes qui doit inspecter les Institutions d'aliénés de la Colonie.

LA CONFERENCE D'ETUDE DE ZURICH.

Nous publions plus haut le programme préliminaire de cette conférence d'étude qui aura lieu fin février et qui est organisée à la fois par notre Alliance et sa Commission pour la Paix. Nous avons la bonne fortune d'avoir comme organisatrice Miss Heneker, ex-Directeur de la Fédération Internationale des femmes employées dans l'Industrie, le Commerce et les professions libérales. Nous espérons qu'au mois de mai un autre Conférence tiendra ses séances à Varsovie. A Zurich notre société hôtesse sera l'Association pour le Suffrage des Femmes Suisses dont la Présidente est Madame Annie Leuch.

Priées de noter notre changement d'adresse: 12 Buckingham Palace Road, Londres.

LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES AUX PHILIPPINES.

La situation des Philippines est curieuse. Jusqu'à l'année dernière ces îles étaient une dépendance américaine et recevaient leur gouverneur des Etats-Unis. Depuis une visite de Mrs. Chapman Catt à Manille en 1912, une Société suffragiste philippinaise s'était constituée; plusieurs projets de loi avaient été acceptés tour à tour, mais jamais en même temps, par la Chambre des Députés, ou le Sénat qui se renvoyaient la balle. En Décembre 1933 le Gouverneur Murphy apposa sa signature à un bill de franchise qui ne devait avoir force de loi qu'à partir du 1er janvier 1935.

Après les élections de Juin 1934 où par conséquent les femmes ne purent voter, le Parlement des Iles Philippines, désormais indépendantes, s'organisa en Assemblée Constituante et promulgua une Constitution. Surprise: la loi sur la Franchise Féminine, paraphée par le Gouverneur Murphy disparaissait totalement de la Constitution de la Nouvelle République avant même d'avoir été appliquée.

A la place (Article V.) il était dit que "le droit de suffrage serait étendu aux femmes, si, dans un plébiscite, à tenir avant deux ans, 300,000 femmes possédant les titres requis votaieent affirmativement sur cette question."

Les Philippinaises, organisées en Conseil général des Femmes, lutèrent désespérément contre l'Article V. Mises au pied du mur et ayant le droit de vote plébiscitaire pour la ratification de la Constitution, elles pensèrent d'abord boycotter celle-ci, mais trouvèrent en fin de compte plus sage de l'accepter quitte à combattre l'Article V. ensuite—200,000 femmes allèrent aux urnes.

Depuis, on n'a pas entendu parler de plébiscite féminin. Les organisations suffragistes cependant s'y préparent. Une fédération de jeunes filles de 14 à 18 ans est en train de préparer un recensement civil de

maison à maison afin de dresser les listes et gagner à la cause suffragiste les hostiles ou les indifférentes. C'est une énorme tâche.

LE FÉMINISME ET LA JEUNESSE.

Une des conséquences de la réunion du Board de l'Alliance à Amsterdam, en Mai dernier a été l'invitation adressée à Miss Alison Neilans de parler aux jeunes universitaires de Hollande sur le Féminisme, insistant particulièrement sur la philosophie du mouvement et le pressant besoin de s'intéresser à leurs droits et responsabilités, de s'attacher à cette liberté qui leur semble si naturelle et qui pourtant a été si durement conquise et pourrait bien leur être arrachée.

Miss Neilans passa à Rotterdam, Leyden, Groningen, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Delft. Une moyenne d'une cinquantaine de jeunes filles à chaque centre universitaire écouta son discours, prononcé en anglais.

IRAN.

(Suite et fin.)

Si une attention spéciale a été prêtée à l'instruction de la jeunesse, la question de l'instruction des femmes adultes n'a également pas été oubliée par notre gouvernement. Ainsi, à la suite de l'initiative prise par le ministère de l'instruction publique, une première société officielle féminine a été créée au mois de mai 1935. Cette société, dont j'ai l'honneur d'être le membre du présidium, porte le nom de "Kanoune Banevan" (foyer féminin) et le ministre de l'instruction publique a présidé personnellement à la séance d'inauguration. Cette société déploie une activité de plus en plus croissante dans les différentes régions de la vie féminine. Elle comprend quatre sections—section des sports et de la culture physique, section de bienfaisance (aide aux femmes et enfants indigents), section de littérature et des sciences, sections théâtrale et musicale.

La section des sports a largement participé, de concert avec la section de la culture physique du ministère de l'instruction publique, à l'organisation du scoutisme dans toutes les écoles de jeunes filles, et ceci avec assez de succès, comme, rien qu'à Téhéran, nous comptons au bout d'une seule année, plus de mille jeunes filles faisant partie des troupes régulières des éclaireurs. Et cette section a organisé des cours de tennis, de volleyball et de gymnastique pour les adultes, qui fonctionnent avec beaucoup de succès, car les femmes iraniennes s'adonnent actuellement avec un grand entrain à la culture physique, aussi bien qu'à la culture intellectuelle.

La section de bienfaisance a organisé des classes gratuites pour l'instruction des femmes analphabétiques et la section de littérature a élaboré, de son tour, des cours de langues étrangères. A l'heure actuelle, elle est en train d'organiser une société féminine littéraire.

Ceci n'est, sans doute, qu'un très bref aperçu de l'activité de notre société féminine. Après le dévoilement général, c'est à dire, à partir du mois de janvier dernier, toute une série de sociétés féminines similaires a été inaugurées dans différentes villes de l'Iran—(Meched, Rezayeh, Recht, Pehlivi, Chiraze, Espahan, etc.).

Après la question d'instruire les femmes pour les rendre dignes de leur nouvelle position dans la vie sociale, se posait la question non moins importante de les pourvoir des moyens d'existence indépendante, c'est à dire de leur donner la possibilité d'assurer leur vie au point de vue économique. C'est pour dissoudre ce problème que le ministère de l'instruction publique projeta, et réalisa déjà en partie, l'ouverture des écoles professionnelles pour les adultes. Des écoles d'accoucheuses, d'infirmières, de sténographie, et dactylographie, de couture et de ménage, seront ouvertes dans toutes les principales villes de l'Iran.

Pour ce qui concerne les écoles supérieures, nous n'avons pas d'écoles spéciales pour les femmes, car à partir de l'année scolaire écoulée, toutes celles qui sont munies de diplômes d'études secondaires sont acceptées dans les écoles supérieures existantes. C'est ainsi qu'en automne 1935 40 jeunes filles ont été reçues à la faculté des lettres de l'université de Téhéran.

Le service des bureaux et des ministères a été également ouvert aux femmes, et nous comptons déjà un nombre assez considérable de femmes-employées des banques et de différentes autres institutions sociales.

Ainsi, comme vous le voyez, mesdames, si les femmes iraniennes ont été fort arriérées sur la voie du progrès, nous nous trouvons par contre dans des conditions très favorables pour nous rattrapper, car non-seulement rien n'empêche à l'heure actuelle notre acheminement vers une vie nouvelle, non seulement nous n'avons pas à lutter contre un gouvernement hostile à l'émancipation

des femmes—ce qui a été le cas dans beaucoup de pays (et entre autres de pays européens!)—mais notre gouvernement même, présidé par notre noble souverain, nous guide sur le chemin du progrès, nous assiste dans nos premiers pas encore mal assurés.

Dévoilées au mois de janvier, les femmes iraniennes, au mois de septembre, de cette même année, ont déjà une déléguée à la Société des Nations. D'ici là, le progrès est considérable! Bien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'être cette première femme désignée par le gouvernement pour une mission officielle, je ne suis néanmoins ni l'unique, ni la meilleure qui serait digne d'une telle charge, et je vois derrière moi surgir toute une génération nouvelle de jeunes filles libres, avides de travail, de science, et de progrès!

FATEMEH SEYAH,

Membre suppléant de la délégation iranienne à la Société des Nations.

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