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THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

THIS being in some sense a holiday number, the Editor would like to send good wishes for successful and restful holidays to all our readers. Those who work hard in our cause have need of a break in their labours: not only the physical rest, so especially necessary for those who live in the crowded noisy towns of our present-day civilisation, but even more a mental change. All workers, even though they may not have to submit to the regular hours and more or less monotonous occupation entailed by professional work, must feel at times the need to get away from the circle of non-individual work, and to expand their own individuality. It is easy for any occupation or any cause to become a mental tyrant—something which takes hold of one to the detriment of one's complete and whole personality, so that one emits ideas which, real and genuine when they first seized hold of the mind, may become mechanical and empty of significance to oneself, and, therefore, inevitably to others. Fresh inspiration may come from without, but it must germinate within if it is to give fruitful results, and sometimes this can only happen when the surface mind has got away from its usual circle of ideas and is apparently occupied with things far away. A little frivolous and apparently purely selfish enjoyment may be a duty, and women have certainly a great need to learn the value of relaxation.

We publish in this issue a most suggestive article by Gisela Urban on the change in the standard of beauty for women. It does certainly seem to be true that while details of changing fashions have little significance, and are often reproduced from age to age, something more fundamental has happened in recent years. Is it, in fact, a permanent change? Shall we ever go back to long skirts, elaborate methods of hairdressing, and all the clogging trappings from which we are now so happily free? At the moment, women's dress is not only as light and as little hampering as it has perhaps ever been, but

it is also less differentiated for the various occasions of social life and as between different standards of life. For the busy woman who does not desire to have to spend too much time over the problem of dress, things are much easier: the same frock will, at a pinch, do for day or evening, or for town or country. That is surely all to the good. If we think we are losing a little in variety, is that not the inevitable trend of things in our day, and have not women paid too high a price in time and money in the past for "distinction"? It is obvious that simplicity has not as many variants as elaboration, but few would deny that simplicity has a better chance of coming nearer to beauty.

In our English contemporary, the *Woman's Leader*, for July 3, there is a paragraph commenting on the—women—extraordinary difference in value given by English law to life and property as shown by the mild sentences awarded to those convicted of such offences as cruelty to children compared with the often very heavy sentences meted out to offenders against property. Without being familiar with the legal codes and practices of all countries, it nevertheless appears probable that a somewhat similar view prevails throughout the world. And this is the possible explanation given by the *Woman's Leader*: "Can there be some relevance in the fact that the creation of wealth is the chief concern of men; that of life the chief concern of women. That is an interesting suggestion, and a glance through a list of new laws passed in different countries since women got the vote, shows that they are nearly all concerned with the human side of life. Is not this the best answer to that eternal question: What good has women's suffrage accomplished? If it has helped to bring into prominence human values, then may we not truly claim that that is just exactly that fresh contribution which suffragists claimed women would bring into public life, and which we are frequently twitted with

having failed to produce? It is so often said that the women's vote does but duplicate that of men—nothing could be better if it means that by the mere fact of having a little power women have made men also conscious of the importance of human values, so conscious that both will work for them together.

We have the pleasure of welcoming the appearance of another woman's paper, this time in Turkey. *La Voix de la Femme*, edited by Mme. Nezhie Mouhiddine, is the first paper of the kind to be published in Turkey, and marks a great step forward for the women of that country. We offer our cordial congratulations to Mme. Mouhiddine and her collaborators, and rejoice much on our own account that we shall now have available a source of accurate information about the doings of Turkish women.

THE EDITOR.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF OFFICERS OF THE ALLIANCE.

Villeneuve, July 21-23.

THE Board has just concluded its meeting at the Hotel Byron, Villeneuve, on the Lake of Geneva—a delightful spot chosen by the forethought by Mlle. Gourd, so that comfort, quiet, and beauty should all help to make work a pleasure. The members present were Mrs. Corbett Ashby (president), Frau Lindemann, Dr. Luisi, and Dr. Ancona (vice-presidents), Miss Sterling (treasurer), and Mlle. Gourd (secretary). Regrets were sent by those members who could not arrange to attend, and a telegram of sympathy was sent by the Board to Frau Schreiber Krieger, who was prevented by sudden illness from carrying out plans for coming to the meeting. Much regret was felt by the Board at not being able to welcome their new colleague, Mme. Malaterre Sellier, but as the next meeting is to take place in Paris, probably early in November, that pleasure will no doubt be theirs then.

The date of the Tenth Congress had already been decided by correspondence, as published in our June number—namely, May 23-30, 1926. A draft programme has been drawn up which will be sent to all auxiliaries for approval and comments immediately after the summer holidays. This programme allows for preliminary meetings of the Board and International Committee of the Alliance to begin on May 20, and for separate meetings of the five Standing International Committees to take place before the actual plenary meetings of the Congress begin. The formal opening of the Congress will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 23, when the President will make her speech of welcome, and when the Congress will receive official greetings from the French auxiliary, and probably from French official bodies. Sunday morning has been left free for meetings of the national delegations, and by this means it is hoped that delegations will be able to decide on their joint attitude to the various items to be discussed by the Congress.

A plan showing the organisation of the Congress, the work of the various special committees appointed for different pieces of work, and the needs of the secretariat was submitted. It is hoped that the decisions taken will ensure the smooth running of the Congress in every way. The French auxiliary is already busy with its plans and with the difficult task of finding a suitable hall. In addition to the programme of the business sessions of the Congress, a most interesting programme of public evening meetings has been adopted, and some novel suggestions have been made so as to allow the delegates to meet and talk to each other informally during the time of the Congress. This is a very important aspect of international meetings, and the Board is very much alive to the importance of allowing time for the exchanging of views and the making of friends.

A draft for the call, or official invitation to the Congress, was considered and adopted, and it is hoped that this also will be ready for sending out early in the autumn. Associations in several countries are considering applying for affiliation to the Alliance, and there is good hope that the representation at the forthcoming Congress may be even wider than that at Rome.

Several amendments to the Constitution of the Alliance, tending to make it respond more closely to actual needs, were also considered, but it is not pro-

posed to formulate these suggestions for recommendation to the auxiliaries until after the next meeting of the Board.

Formal reports from the chairman of the International Standing Committees were not asked for, as it is unfortunately still the case that information necessary for such reports is by no means complete. We must again appeal to those countries which have not sent in replies to the various questionnaires, to do so without delay. It is so very important that these reports should reach the auxiliaries in sufficient time to allow of their consideration by the delegations before they leave for the Congress. If the societies have not this information before them, it is impossible for them to instruct their delegations in the view to be taken when the questions come before Congress. In order to secure that when these committees meet they shall consist of members who have had time to study the questions, the decision taken at Bale not to accept further nominations was upheld. This applies, of course, only to the actual members: the conferences of these various committees will be open to all members of the Congress, and, as already stated, are to be held separately and not simultaneously, so that those interested in more than one of the special questions will be able to attend.

The question of finance, always important, is doubly so with a Congress impending. An international Congress is a very expensive affair, and the Alliance has not, of course, the funds in hand to meet these expenses: the money must be raised both for this purpose and for the subsequent needs of the Alliance. It is hoped that all affiliated societies will realise their responsibility in this matter, and they will receive in due course a request for their co-operation together with a statement showing just what the needs of the Alliance are.

As always, Mlle. Gourd submitted a most interesting report on the work done in connection with the League of Nations. The success of the steps taken to secure the nomination of Miss Rathbone to the Consultative Committee on Traffic in Women and for the Protection of Women, in conjunction with other women's international organisations, was formally reported. At the last meeting of this committee, as already reported in our last issue, Miss Rathbone secured that the question of family allowances should be put on the programme of study of the committee, and Dr. Luisi similarly secured the study of the question of child marriage and the age of consent. Consideration was given to the steps to be taken to secure women members of the League Committees on Slavery and on the Codification of International Law. The question raised in our last month's issue as to the refusal of pilot certificates to women aviators by the International Committee on Aerial Navigation was also considered, and the action to be taken to try and get this decision altered.

Closely concerned with this work was the question of the co-operation of the Alliance in the Standing Committee of representatives of international organisations, proposed by the International Council of Women. A formal resolution of adhesion was passed, Mrs. Corbett Ashby having already attended the first meeting of the committee in accordance with the provisional assent given at Bale.

The Board sent a letter of thanks to Signor Mussolini for his support of the Women's Administrative Franchise Bill in the Italian Chamber, thus making good the promise he made at the Rome Congress. Representatives were appointed to represent the Alliance at the Save the Children Fund Congress, at the Congress on Esperanto, at the International Peace Congress, etc.

Finally, reference must be made to the tea party given by Mlle. Gourd to give Swiss suffragists of the region an opportunity of meeting the members of the Board. This was a very pleasant informal function, and strolling about the charming garden of the hotel, with its perfect views of the Lake of Geneva, formed a very pleasant interlude to the rather strenuous sessions of the Board. A very cordial vote of thanks was passed to express the gratitude of the Board for this gracious hospitality of Mlle. Gourd, and also for the immense trouble she had taken in making the arrangements for accommodation, arrangements which every one felt could not have been improved upon.

A SWEDISH WOMAN SENATOR.

MISS KERSTEN HESSELGREN is a member of the Senate—the Upper House of the Swedish Parliament, and she was the first woman to be elected to Parliament at all. She was actually standing for the Lower House, though without any chance of success, as her party, the Liberals, was known to be unlikely to get in their candidate for the constituency. She did not even know that she had been nominated for the Senate, as her name had to be put forward in a hurry, and the first news of her election came to her in a newspaper. The Swedish Senate is elected by County Councils grouped into districts, and though the normal period for which a Senator is elected is eight years, owing to a reconstruction measure, Miss Hesselgren's period was for five years only, one of which is still to run. She represents the district of Göteborg, and she is a Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Social Law. Miss Hesselgren is the principal woman Factory Inspector of Sweden, and is, therefore, peculiarly well-fitted to deal with these questions.

The right of women in the Swedish Civil Service to equal pay with men has just been granted by Parliament, a Bill giving them equal rights for promotion to all grades having been previously adopted. Not all the present women employed will get the full benefit, but all those entering in the lower grades will find the way of equality open before them—with two exceptions. One is that women will receive one less periodical increase of salary than the men are to receive. The second is that if a woman is married and has children under fifteen, it is open to the head of her department, if he considers that her Government work is suffering in consequence of her double duty, to put her on half time and half pay. She cannot be dismissed for this cause, but she does, of course, lose seniority. Women feel that though the actual recognition of a possible difficulty is not unreasonable, it is unfortunate that a woman cannot apply for this half-time employment, but that it must be, nominally at any rate, the result of loss of efficiency on her part.

Miss Hesselgren states that the industrially employed women in Sweden are altogether opposed to any form of protective legislation. They voted against the prohibition of night work for women brought in by law in 1909, and they are still opposed to this restriction. They point out that with an eight-hour law in force, it is more than ever unnecessary, and they are trying to secure at least the possibility of exception. As an instance of the difficulties created, Miss Hesselgren referred to a certain branch of the bakery trade, which is entirely in the hands of women, except that owing to this restriction a separate staff of men has to be employed from ten to midnight, and from four to five in the morning. There is a regulation by which women may be forbidden to do work which is considered physically or morally harmful to women, but there is only one case in which action has been taken, namely, in the case of women loading ships with wood fuel. In this case Miss Hesselgren was sent to make investigations, and was able to secure that the prohibition applies only to women under twenty-one.

Miss Hesselgren is passing through London on her way back from the first Conference of the International Industrial Welfare Association. The history of the organisation is that in 1922 there was a meeting of welfare workers in Archeron, at which nine countries were represented. It was decided to form an International Committee, with one representative from each of these countries, to draw up a constitution and programme for an international association, and to call a conference in three years' time. This conference has just been held in Flushing, June 19-27, with about one hundred and fifty delegates representing eighteen countries. These delegates were welfare workers, representatives of the employers and the workers, factory inspectors, etc. The resolution to form an International Association was carried unanimously, and a Council was appointed with two representatives from each country represented, with a President, four Vice-Presidents, and two Secretaries. Miss Hesselgren herself has been elected President; and the membership is a personal one, open to all those who are actually doing or are specially interested in social work. The main object of the Association is to emphasise the importance of the human side of industry.

THE ONLY WOMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT IN AFRICA.

The Legislative Assembly of Southern Rhodesia has the only woman member of Parliament in the whole of the Continent. Mrs. Tawse Jollie has sat in the Assembly since 1920, and has done much for the Responsible Government Party, which recently secured representative Government for the Colony, without fusion with the Union of South Africa. Mrs. Jollie is specially interested in educational questions, and is also a competent deputy manager of her husband's ranch. Before the days of suffrage for women in England, Mrs. Tawse Jollie was one of those who most ardently opposed the granting of the suffrage for women, and now, by the ironical turn of fate's wheel, she is profiting by the experience gained in opposing the reform which has made her present position in Rhodesia possible.

THE WORLD'S WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The 12th Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. was held in Edinburgh last June. Over one thousand delegates, representing 60 countries, were present, under the presidency of Dr. Anna Adams Gordon, who came over from the United States with a large body of American delegates. Among others, delegates spoke from India, South Africa, and China, and Lady Astor was one of the speakers at the big evening meetings. Members of the Alliance, whatever their particular views on the temperance question, always remember that the W.C.T.U. has been a consistent supporter of women's suffrage, which it has done much to forward in British Dominions such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

THIS League, formed to secure equality of Liberties, Status, and Opportunities, between men and women in the British Commonwealth of Nations, replaces two older bodies: the British Dominions Women's Citizens' Union and the former British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The League held a very successful two days' Conference on July 9 and 10.

The Conference was opened by Lord Cecil, who gave a lucid and interesting address on the importance to every citizen of the foreign policy of the Empire. While realising the need of full consultation with the Dominions on matters of foreign policy, Lord Cecil dealt with some of the difficulties which were apt to arise, especially where decisions had to be adopted without delay. The business of this first session was the question of political equality, and distinguished speakers from many parts of the Empire dealt with the position in their respective countries. Mrs. Corbett Ashby presided, and explained that the new League now being founded would co-operate with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, and promote within the British Empire the objects of the Alliance. The following resolutions were passed unanimously, and also a resolution dealing with the position in South Africa, and another congratulating the women of Newfoundland on their recent victory:

Political Equality.

This Conference notes the pledge of the Government to deal with Equal Franchise and calls upon the Government to introduce and pass through all its stages, a Bill establishing equal voting rights at the same age and on the same qualification for men and women in the next session of Parliament. This Conference would strongly deprecate attempts to link up the question of Equal Franchise with any controversial change in the existing system which would inevitably prejudice its chances of success.

This Conference calls upon the British Government to amend the Government of India Act (1919) in such a way that women may be eligible for election or nomination as members of the Indian Legislature or Provincial Councils by the passing of a resolution to that effect in the Chambers and Councils.

This Conference calls upon the British Government when granting or amending a Constitution in any British Possession to include equal voting rights for men and women; and further, it calls upon the Legislatures of all such Colonies as have a measure of self-government to take immediate steps to grant such equal rights where they do not already exist.

This Conference expresses its sympathy with the women of Bermuda on the failure of the equal suffrage bill in the Legislature, and calls upon that Legislature to re-introduce and pass into law a similar bill without delay.

The subject of the afternoon session was the Equal Moral Standard, when Lord Astor presided, and Miss Alison Neilans was the chief speaker. Lord Astor paid a well-merited tribute to the work of Miss Neilans. Other speakers were Mrs. Basu (India), Miss England (New Zealand), and Mrs. Laws (Kenya).

The following resolution was carried unanimously:

Equal Moral Standard.

This Conference, while recognising the advance which has been made in many parts of the British Commonwealth towards an equal moral standard in law and its administration, calls upon the British Governments, at home and in the Overseas Dominions, to extend this principle of moral equality throughout all their legislation, and particularly in regard to the laws governing marriage and divorce, illegitimacy, prostitution, street order and venereal disease.

This Conference urges upon all women the importance of examining the administration of law, and guarding against "measures of exception" being applied to women under pretext of morals.

This Conference calls upon the British Home Government to take all the necessary steps to ensure the speedy permanent abolition of all measures of regulation and of all recognised brothels in the British Crown Colonies.

On the second day, July 10, the subject was: "Some Legislative Inequalities." Miss Macmillan dealt with the Nationality of Married Women, and excellent speeches on the Marriage Laws in various parts of the Empire were given by representatives from the Dominions, the chair being taken by Mrs. Britomarte James (Victoria).

In the afternoon the important subject of Economic Equality was discussed, with Lady Rhondda presiding, and later Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Mrs. Oliver Strachey reviewed the position, and dealt with some of the reasons of existing inequalities. Miss Chave Collisson (Sydney) gave an admirably compressed account of conditions in Australia, and the Hon. N. M. Joshi, of the Indian Legislative Assembly, read an interesting paper on conditions in India.

The following resolution was carried:

Economic Equality.

This Conference holds that the economic position of women within the British Empire is far from satisfactory, and believing in the principle of equality, declares:

1. Equal pay for equal work must be established.
2. The existing division and subdivision of labour into "men's" and "women's" work must be replaced by a free field.
3. No obstacle must be placed in the way of the employment of the married woman.
4. Protective legislation in industry other than that dealing with maternity must be based upon the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.
5. The economic value of the work of women in the home must be recognised.

And calls upon the Societies represented to take action along these lines.

At the close of the Conference an emergency resolution was passed unanimously calling for the appointment of at least one woman to the Slavery Committee of the League of Nations.

We congratulate the organiser, Miss Chave Collisson, on the success of the Conference. The address of the British Commonwealth League is 17, Buckingham Street, W. C. 2.—*The Catholic Citizen.*

THE EQUAL MORAL STANDARD.

In Belgium the Burgomeister of Antwerp has decreed the closing of houses of prostitution: in Brussels the question is still under discussion, as there is a certain desire to replace police supervision by supervision on the part of the medical service. The Canton of Geneva, in Switzerland, has decreed the closing of such houses as from November next.

Doubtless all our readers have read in the papers of their own country an account of the horrible tragedy which occurred at Strasbourg on the occasion of the 47th Fête de Gymnastique, when boys of from 16 to 18 years, and some even as young as 13, stood in queues outside the maison tolérée of the town. The account of this terrible sight given by those who tried to save at least the younger ones from inevitable degradation is intolerably distressing. Although the law prohibits such houses from receiving boys under 18, no attempt was made by the police to enforce this rule. If there are any women, mothers of sons, who have hesitated as to the possible good of a system of regulation, they have surely only to read the history of this ghastly orgy to take their stand once and for ever on the side of abolition.

In Great Britain, Lady Astor has introduced in the House of Commons the Public Order Bill, which is designed to remove the injustice whereby a woman known to the police as a "common prostitute" may be convicted for solicitation on police evidence alone, and to make all those, men or women, who cause annoyance in public liable to arrest on evidence given by those who have actually to complain of such annoyance.

AMERICA'S FIRST WOMAN DIPLOMAT.

By RUBY A. BLACK.

MISS LUCILLE ATCHERSON, America's first woman diplomat, is now on her way to Berne, Switzerland, where she is to be the third secretary of the American Legation. Miss Atcherson entered the ranks of the diplomatic service in 1922 when she passed the diplomatic service examinations. She was in the Latin American Division of the State Department for two years.

Just before Miss Atcherson's promotion from the ranks to the foreign service, Mrs. Lindsay Lucy Patterson, of Winston-Salem, N. C., who had strong political backing, was refused the post of American Minister to Siam. Mrs. Patterson is the first woman on record as asking for a post as minister to a foreign country. As a hard worker in the Republican Party, Mrs. Patterson felt that she might obtain the support of President Coolidge for a post in the diplomatic service. She was recommended for the post by the Republican State Committee of North Carolina. Mrs. Patterson is 50 years old, a widow.

Miss Atcherson was the first woman to pass the foreign service examinations, in December, 1922. She is now 31 years old, and is a graduate of Smith College. She is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Before her entrance into the foreign service Miss Atcherson was secretary of the University of Chicago. Her work in the State Department was regarded as of the highest type.

Miss Pattie Field, of Denver, Colo., is another woman who has just passed the examinations for entrance to the diplomatic and consular service, and is now on duty in the State Department. She was the only woman among the twenty candidates who took the examinations. Miss Field is 24 years old, and a graduate of Radcliffe College. She has also studied in France and is a fluent speaker of the French language. She is to take a course in the Foreign Service School of the State Department.

Miss Atcherson's post in Switzerland carries a salary of \$3,500.

Few women have ever served as diplomats from any country. During the transitory Bela Kun government in Hungary, Mme. Rosiker Schwimmer was appointed Hungarian minister to Switzerland, but Bela Kun was overthrown before she had an opportunity for active service. The world's only woman envoy at the present time is Mme. Kollontai, who is Soviet Russia's minister at Oslo, Norway.—*Equal Rights.*

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

DENMARK.

DANSK Kvindesamfund held its annual Congress in Odense from 13th to 15th June.

Though the most important subjects of the President's Report on the past year's work have already at the time of occurrence been mentioned in *Jus*, some few points may be of interest.

Women in Clerical Offices.

Although the Danish Church has for some years been in lack of clergymen, because an insufficient number of young men have taken up the study of theology at the university, and although a certain number of women have passed the necessary examinations, it has not been possible to have a bill passed admitting women to clerical work. As a makeshift, laymen have been ordained as pastors.

Last autumn Dansk Kvindesamfund and women theologians addressed themselves to the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs, asking him to introduce the necessary bill admitting women to clerical offices.

The Minister asked the bishops and the Theological Faculty about their views, and some of the bishops as well as the faculty were of the opinion that no objection of principle can be raised against women as pastors, especially in certain offices.

The Minister also sent a questionnaire to all parochial councils (Menighedsraad*) asking:

(1). If they approved that women be admitted to all clerical offices on the same conditions as men.

(2). If they approved that women be admitted to certain clerical offices, which ought to be particularly suited to women, for instance, in prisons for women, charitable institutions, etc.

Neither of these questions obtained a majority for an affirmative answer, but a large minority (5,389 Yes, against 7,948 No, and 2,450 blank votes) would give women the restricted admission to clerical work expressed in the second question.

The Minister then presented a bill to Parliament admitting women to clerical offices in women's prisons and charitable institutions, but this bill was buried in a Committee, and the question is still unsolved.

Measures Against Sexual Offenders.

During many years Dansk Kvindesamfund has asked for better legislative protection against sexual offenders (particularly recidivists), dangerous for women and children.

Pending a new Criminal Law, which is under preparation, and which will bring new provisions on this point, the Minister of Justice of our social-democratic Cabinet, *Steincke*, has shown much interest in this question, and carried a special Law (of 11th April, 1925).

According to this law, preventive measures may be taken against persons whose mentality is defective—sexual abnormality included—to a degree resulting in criminal actions which endanger public security. Such persons may, by sentence of Court, be placed in, or retained at, hospitals or establishments of segregation as long as judged necessary for public security.

Persons who have been punished for sexual offences, or attempts, may, by injunction of the Ministry of Justice, be forbidden to buy or drink alcohol, to sojourn in public parks or forests, in the vicinity of schools or children's playing grounds, as well as bathing places.

(Such an injunction has already been given to a person having served his punishment for sexual offences against children).

To persons who incur measures of security according to this law, a guardian is appointed to assist him and take care that such measures should not be maintained for a longer period than necessary.

* Councils elected of members of the congregation and who have, *inter alia*, the right of nomination to clerical offices in their parish.

50 Years' Jubilee for the Opening of the Copenhagen University to Women.

In June, 1875, the Copenhagen University was opened to women, and four women passed the students' examination.

To celebrate this event, a committee of University women, Miss Clara Black, Dr. Estrid Hein, and Dr. Phil. Lis Jacobsen, are preparing a book with contributions from University men and women, as well as a commemorative festival at the University. For practical reasons this will take place in September, and at that time I shall report about it.

LOUISE NEERGAARD

(Corresponding Secretary, Dansk Kvindesamfund.)
Copenhagen, July, 1925.

FINLAND.

AT present Finland is preparing to receive the World's Congress of Nurses. About 500 foreign guests are expected to attend this congress, which is to be held in Helsingfors July 20-25. We feel it a great honour to our country, that this world organisation, the International Council of Nurses, are coming to visit our country. It is a pride and joy for us women in general, especially when we know that the organiser of our nurses and our nursing, Baroness Sophie Mannerheim, at present is the head of the international organisation of nurses. This congress of broadminded, highly-qualified women will, we earnestly hope, be of value for women in our country, working in other branches also, giving impulses to devoted work and endurance in efforts.

ARNI HALLSTEN-KALLIA.

GERMANY.

The "German Women's Week on the Rhine."

THE most important event for the women's cause was in the course of the last weeks the great convention which, in connection with the Millennium celebration in the Rhineland, was called by the women of Cologne, and took place from June 22nd to 28th. Numerous delegates from all parts of the Reich had accepted the invitation, and filled the old, renowned "Guerzenich" and the huge halls of the exhibition where the meetings were held. The leading thought of the proceedings was "The Renewal of the Family," which was treated from its various ethical and social points of view, by prominent speakers of widely differing political opinions and religious convictions. Interesting papers were read on "Woman and Family," "Professional Education of Housewife," "Mothers and Daughters," "Mothers and Sons," "Women's Service to the Family," "Women in Public and Social Life," "The Economic State of the Family," "The Importance of the Family for the State," "Family, Nation, Country." As a significant feature of new Germany, it may be mentioned that all the women speakers on this occasion were holders of prominent public, political or administrative offices—as Members of Reichs, or States Parliaments and City Councils, as ministry or government councillors, etc.

In connection with this remarkable gathering, about twenty Rhinish and national women's organisations had arranged special conventions, or their annual meetings, in Cologne, during the same week; as for instance, the Rhinish Westphalian Women's Association, the National Association of the Hausfrauen, the Union for Women's Clothing and Culture, various national and provincial organisations of Teachers, Social workers of all kinds and grades, religious societies, etc. With regard to the predominance of the Catholic population in the Rhineland, it was evident that many of the organisations, as well as of the speakers at the general meetings, belonged to the Catholic Party, or at least represented Catholic world-views. But, as they carefully avoided one-sidedness, their speeches made a deep impression upon the whole audience. This was especially and emphatically reported of Frau Weber, Ministry Councillor and Member of the Reichstag, who

spoke on "Family, Nation, Country," and of Canon Pater Ortsiefer's speech on "Mothers and Sons."

In delightful and attractive social gatherings, official receptions, boat excursions on the Rhine, etc., the old City of Cologne once again confirmed its well-founded renown for hospitality, and all those who participated unite in their assurance that in this respect, as in all others, this wonderful "Women's Week on the Rhine" will always be a delightful memory for them.

The Ninetieth Birthday of a Pioneer.

On July 14th the venerable initiator, and, through many years, indefatigable leader of the anti-alcoholic movement in Germany, Otilie Hoffmann, Bremen, has finished her ninetieth year. A genuine, kind, warm-hearted, motherly woman, she was, at the same time, one of the bravest, most valiant fighters for the great cause, and is known as such, not only in Germany, but all over the world, in the great international community of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, whose German branch (Deutscher Bund abstinenten Frauen, at present, "Deutscher Frauenbund für alkohol freie Kultur") she founded in 1904. Otilie Hoffmann's enthusiasm for the cause was first aroused in England by Lady Carlisle, in whose house she lived for several years as teacher of German—she became a devoted friend of the family. When she returned to Bremen, she took up the great work of her life, the struggle against the terrible enemy of family and people's welfare. And a hard struggle it was, at that time, in Germany. I well remember how, even at conventions of progressive women, Otilie Hoffmann was received with an incredulous smile, and often met with the cold shoulder from women who afterwards became her zealous adherents and co-workers. But with her wonderful optimism and perseverance she went her way, step by step winning more and more friends and helpers for her cause among men and women, and an increasing understanding from the public. Though we are still very far from a complete success, as many most unpleasing and reactionary occurrences clearly show, one may well say that scarcely any social movement has spread as rapidly in Germany as the struggle against alcoholism. That the organised woman's movement has taken up the work, and is fighting in the forefront of this struggle, is mainly due to Otilie Hoffmann. Her seventieth and eightieth birthdays were celebrated officially by her native city, Bremen, as well as by her many co-workers in the Reich. This time her state of health would not allow such homage, but all her old comrades throughout Germany and in other lands will have remembered the revered leader in love and gratitude.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, July 18, 1925.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

THE attention of the N.U.S.E.C. has again this month been concentrated on the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, which, at the time of writing, has just passed through its Committee stage. Many of the amendments which the N.U.S.E.C. initiated have been carried, and many concessions made to meet the points referred to in last month's number of the paper. The age up to which children's allowances can be paid under the Bill has been raised to 16. The difficulty of the elderly man and woman who, having been insured most of their lives, find themselves unable to remain in industry until 65, has been met by providing that under certain conditions the man from the age of 60, and the woman from the age of 55, may become voluntary contributors for a payment of something under 6d. a week in the case of the woman, and 10d. a week in the case of the man. The woman insured up to the time of her marriage who marries an uninsured man is to be provided for by the rather topsy-turvy method of allowing her husband to become a voluntary contributor by virtue of her contributions. This gets over the difficulty that a married woman, not being allowed

to become a voluntary contributor for administrative reasons under the Health Insurance Act, was not allowed to become a voluntary contributor for the purpose of an Old Age Pension under this Act, as the Government insists on insurance under both these Acts being interlocked. By the new proposal—except in those cases in which the husband is unwilling to contribute—it will be possible for a woman married to an uninsured man to gain the same advantages as those married to insured men. The special disqualifications attached to Widows' Pensions have been removed at the almost unanimous wish of the House. We expect that this Bill will be through its final stages in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords before Parliament rises for the Summer Recess.

The Guardianship of Infants' Bill has now passed through all its stages in both Houses and will shortly become law. This will mark the end of the first round of a very long fight. Immense improvements have been made by the Bill in the position of the mother. The final struggle for complete equality between mothers and fathers with regard to their children must be postponed until experience has been gained under the new Act of exactly where the new shoe will pinch.

The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill has again been before the House of Commons, where, unfortunately, the Government has succeeded in persuading the House to oust the amendment passed by the House of Lords, and referred to in our last month's issue, by which, in cases of separation between the husband and wife, the Court should be empowered to divide the furniture.

The appointment of the Duchess of Atholl as Substitute Delegate for Great Britain at the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations has given great satisfaction to many women, although it must be admitted we had hoped that England would lead the way this year by appointing a woman as full delegate. The Duchess, if not in complete agreement with the N.U.S.E.C. with regard to equal franchise, has unrivalled experience in public work, and will, we are convinced, take pains to ascertain the views of the various women's organisations on questions which specially concern them, and will in all respects be a worthy representative of this country.

N.U.S.E.C. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens.

It is still not too late to book places for our Summer School at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, from August 25th to September 8th. The following are the five sections into which the School will be divided: (1) The Status of Women; (2) the Administration of Justice as it especially affects Magistrates; (3) Problems of urgent importance of interest to Social Workers; (4) the League of Nations and International Affairs; (5) Political Party Ideals.

The section which will perhaps be of greatest interest to the readers of this paper is that dealing with International Affairs, which contains the following lectures and lecturers: (a) Security and the Pact (Mrs. W. T. Layton); (b) The Work of the International Labour Office (Mr. H. B. Butler, C.B., deputy director of the International Labour Office); (c) The Right of Private War (Mr. W. Arnold Foster); (d) Reparations and the Dawes Report (Mr. W. T. Layton, Editor of "The Economist."); For further information apply to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15, Dean's Yard, London, S.W. 1.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Our Clyde Coast campaign is now in full swing, nightly open-air meetings being held at Rothesay Pier Head, and in the daytime at Largs, Dunoon, Millport, etc., the subject at every meeting being one or more of the objects for which the Women's Freedom League is working. Our paper, *The Vote*, as well as our pamphlets, are finding a ready sale in Scotland.

This month we have added two new publications to our list: "What We Have and What We Want," by Muriel Pierotti, setting out in one part what the women of this country have gained since their partial political enfranchisement in 1918; and in the second part what

remains to be won by women before they have secured full equality with men as regards status, opportunities, rewards and responsibilities. The other pamphlet is "Women and Politics," a reprint of Charles Kingsley's article which appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine*, October, 1869. Even in that year this distinguished churchman wrote: "As things stand now, the average woman is more educated, in every sense of the word, than the average man; and to admit women would be to admit a class of voters superior, not inferior, to the average man."

The Women's Freedom League is still pressing for a satisfactory reply from the Home Secretary in regard to a definition of Open Court. The Home Office, so far as the Press is concerned, has assured the *Newspaper World*, acting on behalf of newspapermen, that no case can be heard, tried, determined, or adjudged by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction except in Open Court. We contend that an Open Court includes the public as well as the press, and that therefore women, as part of the general public, ought not to be excluded from the Court in cases in which children or women are the plaintiffs or defendants. We have also written to the President of the Board of Education, the Minister of Labour, and the Secretary for Scotland, asking that suitable and experienced women should be appointed to the Committee which is to inquire into our system of education in its relation to the employment of young people. The Minister of Labour, in replying to us, expressed the view that the personnel of such committees should consist of people with the best brains, irrespective of their sex, but we have pointed out to him that it is absolutely necessary that women with special knowledge and personal experience of the public system of education in Great Britain, and the prospects of young people securing and retaining suitable employment, should be on this Committee, in view of the fact that there are many thousands of unemployed girls as well as many thousands of unemployed boys. As for "best brains," if Ministers would take the trouble to make inquiries, they would discover that the best brains of the community are not the monopoly of one sex.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

INDIA.

Gurudwara Bill.

IT has been very fine to read of the demand that has been made by the Sikh women for equality of voting powers. We noted last month that the Bill had the defect of ignoring the claims of women to the franchise. This was specially wrong, as the Sikh religion recognises the equality of man and woman and the rights of women. There were many meetings held by the Sikh women, and demonstrations in Amritsar, demanding equal rights with men in the franchise. In a matter so closely affecting the religion of the Sikhs and their sacred shrines of worship as is this Bill, it is of first importance that the Sikh women should have their voice heard and their equality conceded. We hear, unofficially, that the Government is favourable to admitting the change in the Bill giving the suffrage to the women. We trust that this is true, and that the Sikh women will be rewarded for the courage and vigour that they displayed in making their demand, and their far-sighted wisdom in seeing the need and hearing the call of their womanhood's honour, and instantly responding. The Women's Indian Association has sent an appeal to the Punjab Government to do justice to the Sikh women.

Protection of Children in Bombay.

The Bombay Children's Act is a big step forward in the care of the children of that Presidency. It provides first that "children who are deserted, destitute and wandering should receive the protection of the law, and be afforded shelter in homes under the orders of a magistrate. The Act also provides for the punishment of offenders who ill-treat children, and grants protection to children against cruel guardians and relations. The last important feature of the law is the provision of a special judicial procedure for child offenders. This ensures that children who commit crimes through

immaturity of understanding are reclaimed and given an opportunity of reclamation under proper care, instead of being dealt with as ordinary criminals."

Additional clauses are proposed to be added: (1) Making it an offence for an adult who is drunk in the streets, to have in his charge a child under seven years old, or to give a child any intoxicating liquor; (2) will empower police to search a child (boys only), and if found, to confiscate any tobacco or smoking mixture; and making it an offence to sell tobacco to a child, or to incite a child or young person to bet or borrow money, etc. We most sincerely hope that these excellent amendments will be added to the original Bill. There is such a need for the protection and care of young children in our great cities that we heartily welcome this Act of the Bombay Legislative Council, and commend its example to the other Councils of India. Here in Madras we have got a Children's Act, but it is, in many ways, not efficient or satisfactory, and needs much amendment, which we hope soon to get effected.

Hindu Woman as Temple Trustee.

Probably for the first time in South India for many centuries, a woman has become a trustee of a great Temple. Her husband died, and as there was no son, it appeared that the wife was entitled to act as trustee. The case went before the court, and her claim has been recognised, and the lady has expressed her readiness to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Devasthanam Committee is still disputing the claim, but it seems to be incontestable. We hope the matter will be settled soon, as it will be of inestimable good to have the influence of women in the management of the Temples. We congratulate our sister on her courage in pressing her right in the face of narrow opposition and on the victory that she has practically now won.—*Stri Dharma*.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

IT was said by Goethe that "he who would be free must win his freedom afresh every day." This is certainly true of the enfranchised women in the feminist movement. Even in the Irish Free State, where women have possessed the status of equal citizenship for three years, women's organisations still have to work for that "inclusion of an adequate number of competent women" on Commission and on Public Boards for which they have so long contended. A few women are included on some of the various commissions set up by the Government, as for instance on the commission to enquire into the Relief of the Sick and Destitute Poor, but the "adequate number" is still a moot point. In the recent Local Government elections fifteen women have been returned to the Urban Councils, and four to the County Councils. The small number is due to the shortage of women candidates. Elections are expensive, and women seem to have an incurable objection to the restrictions of a group programme. In one constituency in County Dublin, for example, a well-known woman was approached by every group, but preferred to stand as an Independent. Among those returned were several members of the Irishwomen Citizen's Association, well known for work in connection with Child Welfare, Public Health, etc. I have already referred in this journal to the problem of Local Government in Ireland. Reconstruction is inevitable, possibly on the American or German lines. In the last number of the *Irish Statesman*, A. E., poet, mystic, and practical economist, writes: "The belief that democratic rule means the glorification of the amateur at the expense of the professional is the fallacy responsible for the worst defects of the existing system of Local Government. County Councillors have taken into their own hands work that should have been left to trained officials, with results that have gone far to shake the faith of the ratepayer in the representative principle." This feeling was expressed by a County Donegal voter who inscribed on his ballot paper (thus spoiling it, of course): "None of the eighteen worth voting for. Give us two Commissioners, or God help doomed Tironnail." There is not much inducement to contest an election when the Council may be swept away at any time. The housing question, always a pressing problem in Dublin, has become a

national scandal. The Commissioners, who took the place of the Dublin Corporation two years ago, are striving to cope with the need, and Public Utility Societies are doing their utmost. The Irish Women Workers' Union has formed a Central Housing Council, representing all societies and individuals concerned. A Housing Week will be held in October, and it is hoped to induce investors to support the various public loans and Public Utility Societies which are trying to raise the money for building. The I.W.W.U. has also succeeded in inducing the Government to utilise some disused military barracks for dwellings, a form of beating swords into ploughshares well adapted to present needs. Efforts are also being made to induce educated women to act as rent collectors in the tenement houses. This method has been employed with great success by the Alexandra College Guild. Twenty years ago the Guild acquired some houses in the slum area, put them into decent order, and let them at moderate rents as tenements. The rental now pays all expenses of upkeep and leaves a small profit. To this result the constant effort of the rent collectors to educate the tenants in the necessary decencies of housekeeping, and to raise the whole tone of the tenements, has in no small measure contributed. The Guild deserves public thanks for thus demonstrating that tenement property can be maintained in decent order, and yet return a profit.

The Women's National Health Association continues its efforts to improve the standard of public health. A few figures show that their work has not been without result, even under present conditions of unemployment and high cost of living. Last year's rate of mortality among infants was the lowest on record, and the death rate from tuberculosis in 1923 showed a reduction of 36 per cent. as compared with the rate for 1911, the year when legislation first came into operation. The last annual report shows once more a steadily increasing membership of the Baby Clubs, another indication that in Dublin, as elsewhere, women appreciate friendly and skilled advice, and the opportunity for social intercourse.

The same steady progress was recorded by the United Irishwomen at their last annual meeting. To quote A. E. again: "When the tempests have passed, the bent grasses lift their heads." The storms of recent years are over, and the beneficent work of these societies can now be carried on with a fair chance of success. The men and women who aspired to "ride the whirlwind and direct the storm" are passing perforce to the back of the stage, and their place is being taken by those who are working for an Ireland in which happy and prosperous lives can be lived. Looking over it all, one wonders sometimes at the slow rate of progress. Women have been in political life in the Irish Free State on equal terms with men for three years. Yet sorely needed legislation, such as the amendment of the laws regarding the position of the unmarried mother, for which the Irish Women Citizens have pressed steadily, is still delayed. One is reminded of some amusing passages in the evidence given before the Liquor Commission now sitting. A strong agitation has been organised against the system of "mixed trading" which is carried on by the spirit grocer. One worthy publican, in discussing the point, pleaded for the retention of mixed trading, as "the presence of women in public houses raises the moral tone."

The business of politics, like the business of liquor selling, has hitherto involved much mixed trading. Has the entry of women into political life raised its tone? It is difficult to say, but at least the political world has recognised that Health, and Child Welfare, Housing, and kindred subjects can no longer be thrust into the background. After all, three years—and these years following a revolution—are not very long.

DORA MELLONE.

NEW ZEALAND.

MUCH feeling has been roused among reformers, especially women, by a recent movement of the Health Department towards a form of compulsory notification indicated in the long ago report of the Committee on Venereal Diseases. Legislation was outlined and discussed, but the thorny subject

was always postponed, really the result of the determined attitude of the women. Early this year it was agreed to secure the results aimed at by departmental regulations, a form of bureaucracy much resented even by many who think the necessity warrants drastic action. Late last month the Minister of Health, Sir Maui Pomare, submitted a draft of the projected regulations to the Board of Health, which approved of their immediate adoption. It is proposed that sufferers of both sexes are all to seek medical treatment, strict secrecy being promised. If the patient fails to persevere till cured, his case will be notified confidentially by the doctor to the Director-General of Health. The Director-General may order any person he believes to be infected to submit to medical examination, followed, if proved diseased, by treatment; disobedience being punished by a fine of £20. The Director-General will have power to detain diseased persons in hospitals to secure isolation, such persons having right of appeal to a stipendiary magistrate. Where free treatment is necessary, it will be given by the State. Medical men are required to warn patients not to marry until medically certified as cured. Fines are provided for knowingly infecting another person, or for working where food could be infected.

Protests have been made by the Women's Christian Temperance Union against a policy hitherto proved to be followed by invidious, one-sided, and ineffective action, and against government by regulation. Clinics for V.D. have been established for some time, though not yet on a wholly satisfactory basis. Long agitation for such preventive measures as women police, raising the age of consent at least to eighteen, and segregation of the unfit, has been fruitless, though the latter issue, segregation, is much under review at present, owing to a disquieting report of the Committee on Mental Degeneration and the rise of unfit population under the present loose system.

Since there is, in addition, much evidence of the set-in of moral laxity and insobriety among young people, the treatment of V.D. calls for the gravest and most instant thought. Not a few prominent social workers feel that the situation demands compulsory, though confidential, notification when patients fail to seek, or continue, proper treatment. Most of the women leaders, however, do not share hopes of effective reform, while the Director-General's "reason to believe" still leaves the old loopholes of fatuity and injustice.

Action on this, as other important issues, stands to be affected by the recent death of Mr. Massey. New Zealand mourns an honourable and single-minded leader. Little is known of the political tendencies of the new Premier, Mr. J. G. Coates, and fusion between the party in power and the Liberals seems imminent. The platform of the Labour Party covers much more of the legislation desired by women. The session precludes the December election and Prohibition poll. Prohibition in New Zealand is frankly rated as a women's question, being endorsed publicly by the National Council of Women, tacitly accepted by all earnest centres of reform, and pursued as the primary aim of the powerful and active W.C.T.U. As usual, money talks, and *laissez-faire* clogs the wheels of progress, so no prediction can be hazarded regarding the December results.

Local Government elections, held late in April, were not barren of gain, at least in Christchurch, where the Labour leader, Mrs. Elizabeth McCombs, maintained her seat on the City Council by a huge majority, coming second on the vote list. Mrs. McCombs is the sister of Miss Christina Henderson, of the W.C.T.U., and the National Council of Women. Another woman worker, Mrs. Herbert, headed the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board poll, supported by two other women members, while two women were already on the Canterbury College Board of Governors. Auckland has long boasted of at least one woman member of the City Council, and has again returned Miss Ellen Melville. Wellington, Auckland, and Dunedin each returned two women for the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, and Timaru returned one.

Two of the four New Zealand delegates to the Washington Conference in May, return this month: Mrs.

Fraer and Miss Kane. Mrs. Carmalt Jones is now in England, and Miss Lyea Taylor remains in America to study Child Welfare. Miss Taylor is a solicitor of Wellington, and received a cordial welcome from the Welfare organisation in the United States.

All points to a half-year of tense struggle, though as yet no women candidates for Parliament have announced themselves. For feminists this year it may be said that the outstanding issue is Prohibition.

JESSIE MACKAY.

Christchurch, June 6.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

LOOKING backward and looking forward are always such interesting diversions to the vacation mind. With activities of well-organised groups somewhat lessened during these summer months, it seems important to focus attention on women who have been particularly prominent in the public eye recently, or whose position may place them in the front ranks of public life during the next year.

Hardly a week passes but there is added evidence of woman's increasing importance in public life. Since 1920 there has been a sane and steady increase in the actual number of women in public office, as well as in the kinds of office held by women. In 1922 there were 84 women elected to legislatures, and in 1924 there were 128 women elected to state legislatures. In addition, we have two women governors, women in Congress, a woman member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, women bureau chiefs of Government departments, women mayors, women in the diplomatic service, women judges, and, in fact, virtually every available office has had a woman incumbent.

Early this spring there were evidences that only two women would sit in the next congress—Mrs. Mary Norton, of New Jersey, and Mrs. Florence Prag Kahn, of California, but a recent special election in Lowell, Mass., gives assurance that a third, Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, will be there. Mrs. Rogers was elected from a normal Republican district, and will be the first woman from New England to sit in Congress.

Mrs. Rogers is the third woman elected to the House of Representatives to succeed her husband on his death. Mrs. Mae Nolan, of San Francisco, was the first, and she served in the Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth Congress, while Mrs. Kahn was elected at a recent special election to succeed her husband in the next Congress.

This growing tendency of women to step into offices held by their husbands is provoking much comment. It has not been confined to Congress. There is no doubt that the success of Mrs. Nellie T. Ross, who succeeded her husband as Governor of Wyoming, has been encouraging and inspiring to many other woman aspirants who have basked in the sunshine of their husband's political career. The popularity of the so-called movement has spread to state offices, to mayoralty positions, and even down to the small posts in villages.

There is a report, not fully confirmed, but just as interesting without confirmation, that Judge Florence E. Allen, of Ohio, the only woman Supreme Court Justice in the United States, may be the Democratic candidate for United States Senator against Frank B. Willis, the present Republican incumbent. If Judge Allen consents to be a candidate in 1926, the Senatorial race in Ohio will be a national affair, at least to women voters. Without a doubt, Judge Allen's candidacy would have the heaviest support of women, regardless of party, than any other woman candidate on the horizon to-day. Women everywhere are awaiting word from Judge Allen, but as yet no announcement is forthcoming from this capable jurist. The election is not until November, 1926, and political wisecracks in Ohio are withholding comments and announcements.

Women fared well in the Indiana city primaries recently. Mrs. Charles Ritter heads the list as the Republican candidate for Mayor of Hartford City, and reports from the state show 27 women candidates for city clerk; eight have been nominated for treasurer. Women have one or more places on the tickets in twenty-four cities.

Mrs. J. Paul Goode, who represents a Chicago district in the Illinois General Assembly, and is the wife of a University of Chicago professor, made several deductions at the close of her first term in the Assembly. Mrs. Goode is one of four women serving in the body.

"We have been touched by the unmistakable warm-hearted friendliness and concern that many members of the Legislature have shown toward us," Mrs. Goode said. "We must have been very trying 'conscienceless objectors' at times, for though we are well aware that government must necessarily be made up of compromises, we are too new to be sure just what compromises we wish to make; and we know that by making them too soon we might lose our way. So we have had to look for fundamentals and vote those fundamentals quite rigidly. This puts us first in one camp and then in another, which, of course, pleases nobody, but which so far has been accepted with remarkable patience.

"More confidence between representatives and their constituents appears to be necessary for effective legislation. This lack of confidence can be ascribed to apathetic elections."

Recently Mrs. F. Louis Slade, chairman of New York State League of Women Voters, was asked what have women accomplished in her state since they gained the vote. Among many things Mrs. Slade said:

"What has been accomplished is qualitative rather than quantitative, and is due to the efforts of many individual women, and to many important organisations as well as to the League of Women Voters. The list of legislative accomplishments may be short, but that is due in part to the wise reluctance of women to go into the business of legislation before they have had some education in active citizenship.

"One important accomplishment in this state is the securing of equal representation of men and women on the party county committees. The county committee in our system wields constant and powerful influence, not only in the choice of candidates, but on their course after the election. We are now asking for equal representation on the state committees.

"Until this year, fathers, brothers, and unmarried women were favoured by the courts as administrators of children's estates. Now mothers and sisters and married women may be appointed, the court considering only the question of which person can best manage the estate. A more directly human question has been that of guardianship, and mothers have now equal right with fathers to be appointed guardians of their own children."

Of those women holding high authoritative posts outside of the pale of politics, none is more interesting than Miss Linda A. Eastman, chief librarian of the Cleveland, Ohio, Public Library.

Cleveland has the third largest circulating library in the United States, and Miss Eastman has seen the library grow from a small nucleus of books to a mammoth educational system. Thirty-two years of Miss Eastman's life have been devoted to the library profession, seven of which have been crowned with distinction as chief librarian.

Miss Lucille Atcherson, the first woman diplomat from the United States to be assigned to a foreign post, will formally enter upon her new duties at Berne, Switzerland, the end of this month. Miss Atcherson sailed from New York on July 4, and met friends in Cherbourg for a motor trip through France, before proceeding to Berne. Miss Marguerite Owen, who is secretary of the department of legislation of the National League of Voters, had the honour of escorting Miss Atcherson to her new post. Before joining Miss Atcherson for the motor trip, Miss Owen and her brother had passed three weeks in England.

Much interest is already being shown in the announcement that the Tenth Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will take place in Paris next May. A large representation from the United States will be the aim of leaders, and the fact that Mrs. Corbett Ashby will preside as President for the first time, will, no doubt, attract many of her devoted friends from the States.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

THE WOMAN IN CHILE,

HERE has been published recently a law by virtue of which married women are authorised to retain any money earned by themselves, instead of handing it over to their husbands, which has been the customary procedure hitherto. Another article of the same law enables women to serve as witnesses, thus removing us from the category of "children, idiots and women" under which the Civil Code had placed us for very near a century. Huxley, the great biologist, who for more than 40 years was the foremost British champion of the new scientific doctrine of evolution, says that the measure of a country's progress can be determined from the status of its womenkind. If the women of Chile were to be judged by what the Civil Code has afforded us, a most miserable idea of the civilisation of our country would be formed. Fortunately, however, between the woman the Code shows, to the astonishment of the world, and the real woman as she actually is, there is a difference which I am very proud to recognise does not admit any comparison.

Chile is particularly favoured in respect to her race. If it is true that our race is the product of the mixture of Spanish and Araucanian Indian blood, it is also true that our race is completely free from coloured or Asiatic mixture.

The Chilean woman has inherited from the Spanish woman a high conception of duty and morality, carried sometimes to an incredible limit, even to sacrifice. The Araucanian indomitable blood, however, which runs through her veins, and which, if conquered, was never defeated, has also caused her to undertake this great struggle in order to shake off the yoke of slavery from the man, who has been up till now the only ruler of her life.

In Chile the married woman has entirely forfeited her independence, and the husband is the sole administrator of his wife's property as well as of his own.

For all these sad reasons which affect principally the married woman, the feminist movement as it is understood in Europe and in the States made little progress with us, because we need first of all to fight for our independence of mind and conscience; and I do hope that the day is not very far off when the privileged position of the British woman will shine for us. The brave women who have defied social prejudice—in my country stronger than law itself—will not want any other compensation than the certainty that their daughters will receive the fruit of their efforts.

The Chilean woman, before commencing the great struggle for her liberty, has proved that she is as capable as man to fight for her life. The first Chilean woman, Dr. Eloisa Diaz, who obtained her degree as Doctor in Medicine, was not only first in our country, but in the whole of South America. She enjoys a great esteem and reputation in her own special line. Since then, many more have followed her example, and their skill is recognised both at home and abroad. About the same time, Miss Matilde Troup surprised the Supreme Court of Justice with her brilliant thesis to secure the degree of Advocate. A good number have also followed her footsteps, and practise at the Bar with great success. Engineers, chemists, teachers, etc., have flourished, and still continue to do so.

Amongst the notable sculptors, Rebeca Matte de Inguez has distinguished herself, and her genius is a glory to her country, her works having enriched the artistic treasures of the world. She is also very well known in Europe, especially in Rome, where she lives at present. In music, painting, and in all kinds of artistic and literary manifestations, the Chilean woman has always been the leader of the South American culture and civilisation. The same applies to the fashion fields: she is the most feminine feminist.

Our great poetess, Gabriela Mistral, has newly arrived in Chile after a very triumphant tour through Europe, the States, and the principal countries in South America. In the later years important posts in Government places are being filled by women.

There is no divorce in Chile, but only separation, which has always been strongly condemned by society.

Much has been done to have the Divorce Bill approved in Parliament, and this, according to the latest information in my possession, will soon become the law of the Republic. In this respect, the Uruguayan women are more ahead than us. I, personally, do not believe in divorce, not only because I am Roman Catholic, but because for me there are no human Powers capable of erasing marriage. I think, however, that divorce is absolutely indispensable in some cases.

I have only told of the wrongs of our laws with all its nakedness, in order that the great success obtained by us in our great journey may be fully appreciated, and also the triumph which, while climbing our first steps, has accompanied us.

In our Civil Code there is a clause which is not in the British Code, and I treasure it as one of our most precious gifts: a Chilean woman who marries a foreigner does not lose her nationality. I wish that this black point, darkening the rights of freedom of the British woman, will only be a summer cloud. In every country women are very patriotic and they will never agree to lose their nationality. I am sure that no British woman will be found to love less her country because she has married a man from another country. We do not cease to love our mother country when we love our husband.

I do not wish to finish these notes on the Chilean woman, written in haste, without first formulating a wish which I trust I shall be able to see materialised one day: That the woman, without any distinction of nationality or of creed, shall form one only will and power, in order to co-operate to the moral and material improvement of the women for the benefit of humanity. It is in union that strength lies. Let us not forget that with this we only praise God for His most perfect work: the human race, and that it was upon us that He laid the burden of being their mother, and of guiding their first steps. Let us convince men that in claiming equal rights of freedom and citizenship we are not going to be their rivals, but their co-operators, and men must not forget that the priceless gift of intuition was only given by God to women.

DELLA SEGEN.

CUBAN WOMEN HOLD CONVENTION.

Mrs. Pilar Houston, an official delegate of the National Woman's Party to the Second National Congress of Women that met recently in Havana, Cuba, reports that the convention was an outstanding success. Mrs. Pilar Morlon de Menendez, president of the federation, opened the congress and briefly outlined its purposes. She then introduced General Gerardo Machado, President-elect of Cuba, who said in part: "Women are just as intelligent and more honest than men, and their efforts are usually directed in the best interests of their country."

"The same political rights and privileges that are given to men should be given to women."

"When I take office on May 20, I hope to give Cuba an honest and efficient government, and in this endeavour I am counting on the help and co-operation of the women of the country."

Carlos de la Rosa, vice-president elect of Cuba, made a short address in which he endorsed the remarks of General Machado, and approved the programme of the Federation.

Representatives of nearly all of the 70 organisations of the Federation were present on the platform at the opening of the congress. The delegates were welcomed by the president of the Federation, and representatives of the foreign organisations responded with greetings from their respective presidents.

Mrs. Pilar Houston delivered a message and presented Mrs. Menendez with a beautiful bouquet, combining the colours of the society. Other delegates who brought greetings were Miss Lolo de la Torre, representing the Woman's Party; Miss Josefina Odio, Logia Humanidad de Portugal, and Mrs. Delores Warren, Capitulo Humanidad de Portugal. Messages were also delivered by delegates of the different provinces of Cuba, and a report was made by the secretary of the Federation, Mrs. Angela Hevia de Bas.—*Equal Rights.*

PERSIA.

IN 1898 a fourteen-year-old Persian girl started the movement in Persia for equal educational rights for boys and girls. Before that date there were boys' schools and no girls' schools in the country. But in 1898 the first school for girls was started in the city of Ispahan, nominally under an adult woman, but really under the care of this fourteen-year-old child.

For five years before, dressed as a boy, she had attended school with her brothers and taken additional instruction at home. Her mother had encouraged her in this course, and none outside her own family suspected what was being done. Then she opened the school, taking care that nothing contrary to the Persian religion be taught therein. This disarmed criticism. Her example encouraged others. Since 1900 more than 60 schools for girls have been started in Persia. In 1911 these were all taken over by the public-school system under the Minister of Education, and the curriculum of the boys' schools was extended to them. In 1916 a special tax for education having been levied, ten new schools for girls were opened in the capital city, Teheran. Girls' schools are still lacking in the provinces, but an agitation to supply them is being carried on by the woman's paper in Teheran, *Zavane-Zavan (The Voice of Woman)*. It is regrettable that the name of the young heroine who began this work is not mentioned in the report.—*Stri Dharma.*

THE NEW WOMAN'S BEAUTY.

A CONSEQUENCE OF THE NEW LIBERTY OF WOMEN.

By GISELA URBAN (Vienna).

IT has for a long time been well known that feminine beauty was judged differently at different times, that the figure of women has undergone certain changes in conformity with these judgments. In the reflection of art we can see best how the ideal of feminine beauty was stamped by time, by people's way of living, their tastes, their civilisation, by the wide or narrow scope of their intellect. A mass of critical treatises informs us about the changes in women's figures, and the authors try to find a solution of the problem, according to their artistic, scientific, or sociologic standpoint.

We women accept all these statements as truths not to be contradicted, and do not even reflect how all these criticisms came about: if they refer to real facts, if they are the products of merely personal conceptions, or—let us say it quite plainly—if they are the results of a purely masculine point of view. And as we, owing to the inactivity of the feminine will-power, owing to the lack of courage for a free utterance of feminine opinions, which so easily meant "ridicule" and "subjectiveness," had hitherto made this masculine method of observation our guide, we have not yet endeavoured to look at the changes in women's appearance from another point of view—namely, the cultural position of women.

Just now, however, a change of women's figures is taking place, which ought to induce us to investigate the causes of this phenomenon. In order fully to understand this change, we must look at the women's portraits of former times. Invariably, we see there what men at the time given, loved in women, whether it was gentleness, gracefulness, purity, modesty, womanly dignity, motherliness, or individuality, temperament, pride, intellect, sensuality, refinement, splendour of body, passionate love. Let us close this object-lesson with women's portraits of the 'sixties till 'eighties of the last century. These portraits are perhaps the most eloquent painted documents in reference to the position of men towards women, in which culture is crystallised. In those times, men rose, surrounded by a new political atmosphere, from subjects to citizens. In their exaggerated self-esteem they looked down on women still more, instigated to this attitude by the beginning of the women's movement, which threatened to impair their absolutism. How did the feminine figure develop at that time under the influence of the overbearing, more power-

fully exercised masculine rule? We see broad hips, slender waists, a full bosom, a mass of simply-plaited hair, or artistically piled-up locks. Nay, we even see the despotic fashion of the "tournure," which was only devised to accentuate the hip-line, this most characteristic mark of womanliness, and thus to increase the difference in the appearance of the sexes.

And how does the present type of women look? The heaving bosom, the rocking hips, the wasp's waist have disappeared; likewise the pressing crown of hair, and with it many other attributes of feminine beauty, highly valued in former times. The "belle" of to-day must be boyishly slim. The less her shape is rounded, the more vigorously her limbs stretch themselves, the more pleasing she is to the eye. In place of the "Gretchen" head, or the later architectural hairdresses, which caused so much labour to the fair, there is the "bobbed head," or the coiffure which, with a piquant wave over the ears, and a simple knot, makes a similar impression. Does not this coiffure, as well as the boyish shape with its litheness and agility, suggest that the woman of to-day has different ideals, different aims in life, a different mentality from her mother and grandmother? That she lives in an altered state which influences the development of her body and the ideas of women's beauty?

Up to the last decade, man ruled absolutely in the civilised countries. It was he who, by dint of his predominance, also formed the ideals of beauty, and as he denied human rights to the woman and restricted her activity to her special feminine tasks, he also formed the conception of woman's beauty according to his purely sexual estimation of her. Even the outward appearance of women had to proclaim the difference between the sexes, in order to raise the self-esteem of the man, and to fill the woman with the sense of her inferiority. Thence came the accentuating of the secondary sexual differences and the traditional idea that only women with long hair, showing full forms, were beautiful.

The predominance of man has been shaken. Everywhere women have awakened, and demanded the right of individuality, also equal and full human rights. They do not want to be valued only as sexual beings; they have to fight their way like men in the hurry and cruelty of professional life. Woman has become man's competitor and fellow-worker, and also his comrade at games and sports. And even if man feels differently towards his feminine colleague or comrade than he does towards his male fellow, it is a fact that he has no longer the power to dictate to her how she is to develop her body in order to please him; and, on the other hand, woman in the feeling of freedom, of energy, of estimation, shakes off the remembrance of the time of her subjection and passive existence, and looks for new forms of expression of her inner growth, her personal experience, her human striving. What lies nearer to her than to express the change in her existence by her outward appearance? Now it is the woman who can set up an ideal of her own beauty. What she likes, we can see quite plainly: the reverse of her former self, boyish lines, an unhampered body, freedom to choose her coiffure and clothing. The laced-in, high-bosomed and broad-hipped woman, whose clothing did not meet the requirements of hygiene, has become the slender, short-dressed, corsetless and collarless female appearance of the present day, who cares less to be admired for her picture-like features, small hands and feet, but rather for a smart, fresh look, an individual note, and—as the bobbed head and the jumper dress prove—for quickness and promptness in her toilet.

Is not man angry at this change? One should think he would be. But he also sees that a woman can no longer be judged by the ideal of beauty still ruling in the Oriental countries, which demands a splendid shape of body. Under the influence of the new feminine beauty he also strives to reach in his own appearance the same ideal—i.e., slenderness and litheness, springy elegance in comfortable clothes. Nay, even the beard, once praised as the greatest ornament of strong manliness, has disappeared. This may mean that man does no more endeavour to accentuate the difference of sexes. But it may also be taken as a proof that this accentuating is only a result of masculine predominance. And this recognition makes us expect that according to the researches of the

German scholar, Professor Dr. Mathilde Vaerting, laid down in her standard work "The New Foundation of the Psychology of Man and Woman" (Professor Dr. Vaerting writes: "The predominance of one sex is based on the artificial production of contrasts between man and woman, the equality on the maintaining of the similarity designed by nature")—in the coming times of total equality, not the differences, but the similarities of the sexes will be pleasing, and that in those times only, the true feminine type of beauty, required by nature and consciously shaped by women, will be fully developed.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE.

This Conference, held at the British Empire Exhibition Conference Hall at Wembley on July 16-17, was a great success. It was opened by the Duchess of York, and the speakers included many well-known women: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss Hesselgren (the Swedish Senate), and many others, in addition to the technical experts on the subjects discussed. Miss Wilkinson spoke on the industrial organisation of women; Lady Rhondda referred to the necessity for fathers taking their daughters into their business as they did their sons; Miss Haslett gave an address on vocational psychology. Miss C. Griff, Miss H. M. Davis, Miss V. Holmes, Miss Partridge, Miss T. J. Dillon, and Miss Ethel Bailey, from the United States, spoke on technical questions of Engineering. Miss Burlton gave an address on Salesmanship; and Mrs. Hoster told of work as a business woman in the City. Miss E. E. Wilson, of the Institute of Industrial Welfare Workers, dealt with the question of the possibilities of advancement for women in industry; and Miss C. U. Kerr, of the Industrial Welfare Society, took as her subject "The Effect of Welfare Work on Health and Efficiency." It will be seen that the field covered was a wide one, and justified the title of the Conference—the first of its kind ever held by women.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

[These paragraphs are taken from varied Press sources, and their accuracy is not vouched for by our National Auxiliaries.]

ARGENTINE.

Suffrage for native or naturalised Argentine women over 22 years of age is advocated in a Bill recently presented by the Radical Deputy, Leopold Bard.

AUSTRALIA.

A Legal Firm of Women.

Miss Mary C. Kitson, LL.B. (Mrs. Julian Jenison Woods), and Miss Dorothy C. Somerville, B.A., LL.B., are the principals of the first legal firm of women to practise in South Australia, possibly in the whole of the Commonwealth. The senior partner, Miss Mary Kitson, was the first woman to be admitted to the South Australian Bar, and to practise as a solicitor. She took her LL.B. in 1916.

Elections in Tasmania.

Three well-known women citizens of Tasmania stood for Parliament. Mrs. Lyons is the wife of the Premier, and Mrs. Brunel is his mother-in-law, while Mrs. Waterworth, who stood as the Women's Non-Party Political League candidate for Denison, is very well known, represented Tasmania at the World Conference of the International League at Washington last year, and also attended many meetings and conferences in London and elsewhere during last summer. The election seems to have resulted in the success of Mrs. Lyons.

An Australian Woman and the British Association.

Miss E. A. Allen is to read a paper on "Some Results of an Experimental Research into Character and Temperament" at the forthcoming meeting of the

* Published by G. Braun'sche Hofbuchdruckerei und Verlag, Karlsruhe i.B. Three volumes. The third volume has not been published as yet. The first volume has been translated and published in English under the title, "A Study in the Sociology of the Sex Differentiation."

British Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held at Southampton.

CANADA.

On June 4 the Canadian Dominion House of Commons debated at length the principle of sex equality in divorce. Mr. J. T. Shaw, Independent member for Calgary, introduced a Bill embodying substantially the same change in existing law as was embodied in our own recent equalisation measure. That is to say, it exacts the same standard of fidelity from the husband as the existing law exacts from the wife. Two amendments irrelevant to the principle of equality and seeking to impose restrictions upon the right of divorced persons to remarry were negatived. Mr. Shaw's Bill subsequently passed its third reading by 112 votes to 61.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mrs. A. W. Moore, of the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, the *Review of Reviews*, and *T.P.'s Weekly*, is among the delegates who will attend the imperial Press Conference in Australia.

HOLLAND.

Princess Juliana, heir to the throne of Holland, will be entered next September as a law student at Leiden University.

IRELAND (NORTHERN).

A private member's Bill has been introduced into the Senate of Northern Ireland. It is a Summary Jurisdiction Bill designed to equalise the state of the law as between Northern Ireland and this country. Mr. Leslie, who introduced it, said that no Act applicable to Northern Ireland legalised separation, and a woman who had to leave her husband was left without any statutory provision. The Government did not oppose the second reading (which was carried), but made it clear that no facilities for its further progress could be afforded. They undertook, however, to bring forward legislation of their own as soon as they had a clear indication of the views of the public.

PALESTINE.

A split on the question of woman suffrage took place in Jerusalem on June 16 at the session of the National Assembly of Palestine Jews. The progressive wing stood for full suffrage and the right of women to membership in the Assembly. The orthodox opposed, and finally seceded. Later these recalcitrants issued a call for a separate organisation opposed to the admission of women.

SOUTH AFRICA.

To Mrs. Frances Grigg has fallen the great honour of being the Cape's first woman barrister. She was admitted in mail week, and within a few minutes of taking the oath was conducting her first case.

U.S.A.

A Lead from New York.

It was reported from New York recently that the Episcopal Church in the United States proposes, among other major alterations, to exclude the word "obey" from the marriage service.

A Woman Captain.

The sea-going vessel Ruth Martin, of American registry, is the only one so far to be commanded by a woman captain. She is Mrs. Jennie Crocker, of Cliftondale, Mass., a graduate of Pugsley's Nautical School. Her husband is first mate on the same vessel.

A Woman Coal-mine Owner.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports that an American woman, Mrs. Nettie L. Macomber, has succeeded her husband in the general managership of what is believed to be the largest lignite coal-mine in the United States, valued at a million dollars. For the past 25 years Mr. and Mrs. Macomber have worked together as business partners, Mrs. Macomber being not only familiar with all phases of mine operations, the problems of production and distribution, but also enjoying an unusually close relation with the miners and their families, which make her services specially valuable. She is also familiar with all parts of the mine, which embraces 2,700 acres of lignite coal land; has a personal knowledge of the miners and employees, who sometimes number as high as 400 during the busy season; and has always been ready to help them with sympathy or aid.

BOOK REVIEWS.

HANDBOOK OF CHRISTIAN AND LITURGICAL ROME: THE LITURGY. By M. A. R. TUKER. Price 7s. 6d. Published by A. and C. Black, 4, Soho Square, London.

This useful little book has been written by one of our subscribers, and we are very glad to have an opportunity of recommending it to those of our members who are contemplating a visit to Rome during the present Holy Year, or, indeed, to those who may at any time be attending festivals of the Church in Catholic countries. To all those, whether Catholic or not, who desire to understand the liturgy of the Catholic Church, this book should prove an invaluable guide. It not only gives the history of the various services and ceremonies, but also gives the text, so that those who wish to follow intelligently the services at which they may be present will find them clearly set out in Latin and English. Even if an actual visit to the great centres of Catholicism is not in immediate contemplation, the historical survey of the liturgy is bound to be of interest, and there is in the scholarly and yet simple way in which the facts are set forth something which guarantees the authority of the writer and the reader's ability to follow the explanations given. Many non-Catholic visitors to Rome and elsewhere must have had the experience of wondering vaguely where they can seek for expert explanation of the ceremonies they witness: here it is to be found, accompanied by a well-arranged index which enables one to get just the piece of information desired without the confusion of mind engendered by studying too vast documents in a hurry. The chapter setting out the Feasts of the Church, and the appendix containing the Roman calendar, will be eagerly consulted by those who desire to know what is the reason for finding a special church "en fête" at the moment of their visit.

MARY WOLLSTONECROFT. By Madeline Linford. Published in London by Leonard Parsons, and in Boston, U.S.A., by Small, Maynard and Co. Reviewed by Sophie Treadwell.

This book about the woman who is generally acknowledged as the great pioneer of the modern feminist movement, is a clear, straightforward, sympathetic piece of work. It recreates the story of this woman's life by a plain narrative of its external facts, illumined by copious quotations from her own writings.

One is in the grip of two feelings on putting the book down. One wonders what, after all, is Mary's claim to greatness, and one knows the answer. Tragic, defeated Mary! Passionate, brilliant Mary! Mary who proclaimed much and achieved of that much—nothing, and is great, nevertheless, simply from the fact of this proclaiming.

Mary proclaimed the rights of women, and she proclaimed them rather badly. It is a pompous, stilted proclamation weighed throughout with platitudes. Yet Mary's entire external claim to greatness rests upon it, and it is a rightful claim because at the time she did it it was a momentous, a revolutionary thing to do. She wasn't the first of her time to say it, but she was the first of her time to proclaim it in a voice that by its very clearness and courage demanded attention.

Mary Wollstonecroft lived at a time when the Western world was obsessed by the idea of rights—the rights of man. Tom Paine was helping to win a revolution in America with four pamphlets. In England, William Godwin was writing "Political Justice" (the book that later was to have such a profound effect on the spirit of young Shelley). In France, there was the great and bloody revolution that was to bring it all true in a day.

Mary was born in 1759; the second of six children, of a couple with "claims to gentility," but now in "reduced circumstances," as the clichés of the time put it. Her father seems to have been an ill-tempered, even cruel man, who drank to excess. It is undoubtedly true that Mary's lifelong hatred of the marriage state had its source in her own childhood's knowledge of her own father and mother. When this mother finally died, after a life of suffering and humiliation, her last words

were: "Just a little more patience and all will be over." "Thank God," said her valliant daughter some years after this, "I have not been patient."

Mary grew up in an atmosphere of care, unhappiness and poverty. She was the eldest daughter, and most of her childhood was given to helping in the bringing up of younger brothers and sisters. What pleasure the poor child found was mostly from her own imagination. When she was sixteen she had the good fortune to find a new and devoted friend in a clergyman who was as cultured as he was eccentric. The natural brilliance of the young girl's mind awakened his interest and he undertook her education. She gave herself to this new and fascinating task of acquiring knowledge, as she did to everything else throughout her life, with passionate intensity; and advanced so far that she was finally acceptable as a governess, and even, when twenty-four, as the head of a girls' school. (Although, to speak justly, the requirements for these positions at that time were modest in the extreme.) In her spare time she read Rousseau and wrote a novel called "Mary."

When Mary was twenty-nine years old she made her first great flight out of the life that surrounded and encompassed her (she was to make others). When she was twenty-nine she announced in a letter to her sisters, "I am going to be the first of a new genus." In other words, she was going to be a woman supporting herself by writing. She adds, "I tremble at the attempt; yet, if I fail, I only suffer."

She established herself in cheap lodgings in London and laid in a stock of new quill pens. When Mary announced herself as "the first of a new genus" she was almost, if not literally, claiming the truth. There were other women writers, but it is doubtful if there were any actually attempting to depend upon writing for their living: Fanny Burney had published "Evelina," and Hannah More was well along in her career, though Jane Austen and Maria Edgeworth were still too young to be heard from.

She became a reader for Mr. Johnson, the great publisher of the time, and also a regular contributor to the *Analytical Review*, a philosophical journal started by him in 1788. (This step marked Mary's first great proclamation for herself and other women, the first proclamation of the several she was not really to achieve. It proclaimed her right to economic independence in the work she wanted to do, but really she was now and many times later in her life a sort of ward on the bounty of the good and powerful Mr. Johnson.)

Fuseli was enjoying a relatively happy married life when he knew Mary, but she proclaimed her right to the closest mental intimacy with him. For weeks she was his daily companion, "sharing his mind as she (his wife) shared his heart." She acknowledged him as the "prop of her existence." When Mr. and Mrs. Fuseli went to Paris just before the revolution, Mary went too. "I cannot," she said, "live without the inspiration of his presence. I have never known another being with his fineness of soul, his quickness of apprehension, his lively sympathy." She was passionately in love with him, and in a short time Fuseli left Paris for Rome to escape the awkward complication.

It was then that Mary met Gilbert Imlay, the charming, gallant American, as experienced in his knowledge of women in love as Mary was limited in her knowledge of men in the same condition. Mary by this time had written her pamphlet, "The Reply to Burke," and was in the process of writing her "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," and proclaiming as part of her philosophy that "marriage as it has become is wrong, but that an attachment in some degree permanent between persons of the opposite sexes is right."

Imlay became her lover. She also proclaimed, "It would seem that one reason why men have superior judgment and more fortitude than women is undoubtedly this—that they give a freer scope to life and by more frequently going astray enlarge their minds. Variety is an animating principle of nature." But later when Imlay, realist that he was, began to put this animating principle into practice, he wrecked Mary's life.

It was then that she acknowledged "there are arguments which convince the reason while they carry death to the heart."

Mary here became the mother of a daughter known as "Fanny Imlay," and Mary herself was forced by the dangers and oppressions of the time to seek refuge under the name of Mrs. Imlay. (Still another defeat of passionate principle in the cold grip of reality.)

Some years later, when Imlay had gone finally and definitely out of her life, she began her relation with William Godwin, the great philosopher, who had waited forty-four years to find "a real partner capable of being the true companion of my mind, the improver of my powers." This relation was to be, according to her philosophy, a free union of free souls, but in no time Mary found she was to become a mother, and listening to the counsel of the philosopher Godwin, who acknowledged "I am bold and adventurous in opinions, not in life," and at Mary's expostulation, went on, "that does not please you, and yet it is the only reasonable, the only helpful way for people in this day to be. Consider the loss of usefulness which stigma brings, the natural ties of children which necessitate the duration of any connection which, if tampered with, must end in misery. Accept the ceremony which you disdain, because then, and then only, in a world like this are you actually free to do as you please."

And so Mary, the opponent of marriage, Mary, who had said, "I will not submit to an institution I wish to see abolished," was married, and some months later Mary, the author of the "Vindication of the Rights of Woman," died in childbirth.

This brief resumé of her life seems a history of futility, a history of defeat, a story of gallant gestures fizzled into futility.

Mary is great, not for the bigness of her achievement, but for the greatness of her dream. All her strength was given to trying to clear just a little place around herself, just a little place from which to soar. What would have been Mary's fate had she been born a few years later—now, perhaps, when so much of the way is clear? She was ahead of her time because she said: "I do earnestly wish to see all distinctions of sex confounded in society, unless where love animates the behaviour."

Would she be ahead of her time now because she said: "Women as well as men ought to have the common appetites of their nature. The attempt to raise ourselves above human beings is ridiculous. We cannot expatriate our passions, nor is it necessary we should. Better pray for the fortitude to pursue our happiness. It includes our utility by a natural and direct path"—*Equal Rights*.

FAMILY WAGE AND CHILD INSURANCE.

By ELLA ANKER (Norwegian).
Translated by Inga Hawkins.

(Continued.)

[The Alliance has not pronounced in favour of Family Allowances, but is studying the question. We are therefore glad to publish this article, but do not hold ourselves responsible for the statements made or the opinions expressed in it.—THE EDITOR.]

About 4,000 children die now in Norway the first year of their lives. The most common reason is they are born feeble because of the mothers' hard conditions while they carry them. But still worse is the great number that die before the time because the mothers have not strength to bear them.

From doctors' reports from these countries the number of children's deaths are as follows: In Norway, 8,000 per year; in Sweden, 18,000 per year; in Denmark, 11,000 per year; in Germany, 30,000 per year; in France, 12,000 per year; in Belgium and Holland, 2,500 per year; in Switzerland, 14,000 per year.

What does this show? There is an end to what a woman with child can stand.

It is the fact that the loss of children begins after the third or fourth child. The mother is worn out. She is badly nourished. She is neither able nor willing to have more. A domestic animal gets plenty of food and

rest in this condition, but the mothers, especially in the 100,000 small homes in the big towns, work constantly, and also have cares, and must produce the new generation.

With these sad conditions we have to face birth control. One may judge this, deplore it, punish it; but this condition will not stop now before the mother and child get better conditions.

The community must offer the mother better conditions, or else the nations' future will stop. It is this fact that at last has shaken people out of their carelessness. What does it show for the mothers' needs and the loss of children in homes?

France is the first country to grow uneasy. France has started a system favouring the family. In the Great War France saw what they owed to the mothers of the land. In April, 1917, France introduced a wage for the State working-men under a certain age. Afterwards it was given to all the workmen of the State.

A man gets higher wages after each child that is born until the child is from 16 to 21 years old. The sum added each year for one child is 500 francs, the second child 500 francs, the third child 850 francs, and for each child born after the third 850 francs is added. It means a help, although it is, of course, not what it costs to keep them.

This family wage is now also introduced in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Austria, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Serbia, and Russia. The French State began it; now three-quarters of France gives the family wage to their workmen. The railway companies pay an extra sum to the fathers, and they also give one direct to the mother after each child's birth.

But still more wonderful was it when all the big industries in France began to give also the workmen a family wage. The metal factories at Grenoble began first.

Many followed. They had all seen what the family suffered in the expensive time, and they all gave their workmen extra for their children.

WOMEN JURORS.

By Hon. CHARLES L. GUY

(Justice of New York Supreme Court, for the New York County Grand Jurors' Association, 1925).

THE question whether women should be called upon to perform service as jurors should be considered from two points of view: First, whether it is a privilege or right which should be granted them upon request or demand; second, whether it will be beneficial to the community.

As to the first question, the answer is that jury service is no more a matter of right or privilege than military service, as to which no one questions the right of the State to make such selections from its citizenship as will best promote the public welfare.

There is nothing about jury service for which women are unfit because of their sex, and in some respects they are possibly better qualified than men of the same age, intelligence, and experience. In the first place, women on the average are better educated because, by reason of their past exemption from a large number of duties performed by men, they have had greater opportunities for attendance at school or high school or college, and have been able to continue such attendance for a longer period than young men, but have been by reason of such exemptions deprived, through lack of personal experience, of one of the most vital factors in education; and they seriously need that kind of education which heretofore has been limited largely to men—the education which comes from larger experience in the affairs of life.

I see no reason why the State should not use their services wherever it will promote the welfare of the State.—Extract from article in *Equal Rights*.

FRANCE.

The Grand Prix de Rome for painting was conferred by the Académie des Beaux-Arts on Mlle. Odette Pauvert, aged 21, for her picture, "La Légende de Saint Ronan." Mlle. Pauvert is the first French woman painter to gain the distinction.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

JUGO-SLAVIA.

Zenski Pokret—le mouvement féministe—est fondé à Belgrade en 1920. La formation de cette société fut une expression vive des tendances et des besoins de notre société d'après guerre. Cette première société dans notre pays, dont le caractère est purement féministe, entreprit le devoir de grouper les femmes des différentes professions, et de diriger leur activité collective vers un seul but: l'affranchissement économique et politique de la femme. Considérant le travail de ménage comme une profession d'ordre principal, on tâcha d'introduire au comité même, un certain nombre de femmes, mère de famille, ne s'occupant que de leur ménage et de leurs enfants. Ainsi organisé, Zenski Pokret entreprit des grandes actions, qui ont un caractère général, répondant le mieux aux besoins réels de notre milieu. Nous devons remarquer, non sans regret, que malgré tous nos efforts, et toute notre bonne volonté, nous n'avons pas réussi jusqu'à présent, de faire introduire les ouvrières manuelles comme membres actives de notre société. Toute effort, d'organiser une collaboration régulière avec leurs organisations, n'a jamais donné de bons résultats. Pourtant, nous avons réussi, tout de même, dans plusieurs reprises, d'obtenir leur concours, lorsque nous entreprenions des actions, qui avaient pour but d'améliorer leur sort ou le sort de leur famille. Ces organisations ouvrières ont toujours un caractère politique, où les femmes sont fortement influencées par leurs collègues hommes, c'est pourquoi on ne peut guère leur faire comprendre qu'il existe une complexité des questions à résoudre dans notre société d'aujourd'hui, qui sont en dehors des partis politiques et qui nous touchent de tout près, nous autres femmes, dépourvues dans notre pays de l'égalité politique et juridique.

Pour atteindre le but posé, Zenski Pokret dirigea son activité dans deux directions:

1°. De contribuer à l'amélioration de l'instruction de la femme de ville ainsi que celle de la campagne et d'éveiller chez elle le sentiment de devoir civique.

2°. De mener une lutte énergique, pour obtenir l'égalité de l'homme et de la femme devant la loi, ainsi que dans la société en générale.

Pour instruire la femme des villes on organise des conférences traitant des questions féministes et sociales, et on lutte pour obtenir le plus grand nombre d'écoles pour les jeunes filles.

Pour instruire les femmes dans la campagne, les membres de notre comité vont dans les villages et organisent des cours spéciaux pour les femmes de la campagne. Ces cours ont un caractère d'école de ménage, qui durent 2-4 mois, où les femmes obtiennent aussi les premières notions de l'hygiène. Il existe chez nous à la campagne, un grand nombre d'illettrés, c'est pourquoi on donne aussi des cours d'alphabet; ces cours de ménages ont donné des résultats merveilleux.

Ne possédant pas encore des droits politiques et se trouvant dans une position très défavorable devant la loi en général, la femme dans notre pays doit lutter pour obtenir l'égalité avec les hommes. C'est avec de très grands efforts collectifs que nous réussissons à faire nommer des femmes dans les différentes postes pour lesquelles elle a acquis l'instruction spéciale et possède des capacités nécessaires. Après des grandes luttes, nous avons arrivé à voir en, 1923, la première femme obtenir la chaire à l'Université de Belgrade, en 1924 la femme entra au barreau, et nous exigeons, momentanément, la faire nommer juge. Nous la voyons déjà avancer dans l'administration centrale du gouvernement et occuper des postes de plus en plus intéressants dans les entreprises privées.

Notre parlement est en train de faire des nouvelles lois et nous tâchons d'obtenir, autant que possible, l'égalité entre homme et femme. Ne possédant pas des droits politiques, nous n'avons pas nos représentants au Parlement qui pourrait défendre notre point de vue et nos intérêts; pour faire entendre, tout de même, la voix de la femme, nous avons organisé une commission des femmes juristes et expertes qui étudient tous les projets

de loi et donnent un rapport de leur étude. Zenski Pokret intervient alors auprès du gouvernement et auprès de Parlement, demandant de satisfaire aux exigences de la femme. Avec de très grands efforts et une propagande considérable, notre organisation a le plaisir de marquer toutes les années des nouvelles succès féministes. L'opinion des hommes politiques éminents ainsi que les résultats magnifiques de la collaboration de la femme dans les différents domaines de la vie publique, nous donne espoir de voir bientôt notre femme entrer au Parlement—mais la lutte qui nous attend de venir jusqu'à la demande beaucoup de courage, et nous ne fléchirons pas. COMITÉ DE ZENSKI POKRET.

EGYPTE.

Enregistrons comme une victoire pour le monde féminin, la décision de la "fondation de quatre nouvelles écoles de filles"; trois écoles primaires et une école secondaire. Le programme de cette dernière sera identique à celui des écoles correspondantes de garçons. Nous attendons avec joie l'ouverture de ces écoles qui nous sont déjà promises.

Le gouvernement égyptien, enverra un délégué officiel au "Congrès de Genève pour la protection de l'enfance."

Nous accueillons cette nouvelle avec d'autant plus de joie que les questions à l'ordre du programme: "Hygiène et Médecine"—"Assistance et Prévoyance Sociale"—"Education et Propagande" sont d'un intérêt primordial pour ce pays où la mortalité infantile est si élevée et où les lois protégeant l'enfance n'existent pour ainsi dire pas.

Nous espérons que nos délégués de retour en Egypte se feront un devoir d'exiger du gouvernement de bonnes lois assurant à l'enfance tout le développement physique et moral dont elle a tant besoin.—*L'Égyptienne*.

URUGUAY.

Après une longue campagne menée par Dr. Luisi en faveur de l'éducation sexuelle, on peut signaler une victoire pour nos idées.

Le Gouvernement de l'Uruguay a décidé la création d'une Chaire d'Hygiène Sociale à l'École Normale supérieure de Montevideo, dans le but spécial de préparer les institutrices et les institutrices à l'application dans les écoles primaires de l'éducation biologique des enfants.

La doctoresse Paulina Luisi a été chargée d'organiser l'enseignement de cette Chaire. La doctoresse Luisi a l'intention de mettre en pratique le plan et les méthodes d'enseignement sexuelle qu'elle a développé dans sa thèse au Congrès d'Hygiène Sociale et Education Prophylactique de Paris en 1923.

UNE HÉROÏNE NATIONALE ROUMAINE.

Le monument de Caterina Teodoroiu a été inauguré le 31 mai, dans la ville de Slatina (Olténie), en présence de S. M. la reine Marie. Des discours ont été prononcés par le général Mardaresco, ministre de la Guerre, l'archevêque Dumitresco et Mme. Sanda Matei, représentante de la Ligue Nationale des Femmes roumaines. Ce monument, œuvre du sculpteur Mataoano, représente le lieutenant Caterina Teodoroiu, courant sus à l'ennemi. Il a été dressé sur la grand'place de Slatina.

Caterina Teodoroiu était une jeune paysanne d'Olténie. Ayant suivi son frère au front pour l'exhorter et l'encourager, elle prit son fusil le jour où il succomba. Faite prisonnière à la bataille du Jiou en même temps que plusieurs de ses camarades, elle se jeta sur l'un de leurs gardiens, lui arracha son arme et le tua. Le panique causée parmi les Allemands, par cette agression inattendue, permit à la jeune fille et à ses compagnons de s'échapper. Rentrée dans la lutte, Caterina est blessée, puis dirigée sur un hôpital de Moldavie. A peine guérie, elle demande à retourner au front. On lui accorde le grade de sous-lieutenant et le commandement d'une compagnie du régiment de ligne 43 Olt. Caterina Teodoroiu mourut à la bataille de Marasesti (été 1917) en conduisant ses soldats à la victoire.

FRANCE.

Au Sénat.

M. Louis Soulié, sénateur de la Loire, a déposé le 4 juin une proposition tendant à accorder aux femmes l'éligibilité à toutes les fonctions publiques. Ce serait évidemment un moyen élégant de résoudre la question posée par l'élection des conseillères municipales, sans se prononcer cependant sur le suffrage des femmes. Un certain nombre de parlementaires se rallieraient aisément à cette solution mais peut-être préféreront-ils cependant continuer à opposer la force d'inertie à toute réforme féministe.

BELGIQUE.

Les Femmes Reclament le Vote.

Tous les membres de la Chambre ont reçu, de la part de la Fédération belge pour le suffrage des femmes, la lettre suivante :

Monsieur le député,

C'est avec une pénible surprise que nous avons lu le texte du projet gouvernemental relatif à la composition du corps électoral provincial pour 1925.

Le nouveau ministère s'appuyant sur deux partis qui ont l'un et l'autre à leur programme le suffrage féminin, nous devons compter que, respectueux de la convention signée en octobre, 1921, il inviterait les bénéficiaires des concessions que fit alors la droite, à exécuter à leur tour les engagements librement et solennellement contractés.

Nous pouvions y compter d'autant plus que la plupart des ministres actuels s'étaient alors engagés personnellement à voter le suffrage provincial féminin avant les élections de 1925.

Or, l'attitude négative du gouvernement met gravement en péril un progrès qui, dès 1921, était considéré par l'opinion publique comme virtuellement acquis, puisqu'il était garanti par la signature du ministre de la justice de cette époque, M. Vandervelde, et celle de vingt-neuf mandataires socialistes.

Nous n'ignorons pas que la principale objection de nos adversaires, tant socialistes que libéraux, est la répercussion du suffrage provincial sur la composition du Sénat. Mais il est inadmissible que cette considération purement électorale fasse échouer à une réforme de justice et d'intérêt national.

Nous revendiquons hautement pour toutes les citoyennes belges la liberté d'opinion et le droit de faire valoir cette opinion dans toute la sphère d'influence ouverte aux électeurs provinciaux.

Les conseils provinciaux décident de multiples et importantes questions qui intéressent les femmes autant que les hommes; et celles d'entre nous qui sont appelées à participer à la gestion des communes constatent que l'autorité provinciale exerce une influence considérable—voire une véritable tutelle—sur la vie communale. Aussi, le vote à la province est-il pour les femmes le complément nécessaire du vote à la commune, dont elles ont su faire—de l'aveu de tous les partis—un usage judicieux.

Nous faisons appel à la fermeté des députés de la droite: la plate-forme électorale de l'Union catholique comportait le suffrage provincial féminin, et ils se sont engagés à le faire aboutir.

Nous faisons appel à la loyauté des députés socialistes signataires de l'engagement de 1921, et nous les prions de ne pas renier leur signature.

Aux parlementaires (de quelque parti qu'ils soient) qui ne sont liés par aucune promesse, nous rappelons que le vote féminin fonctionne dans les deux tiers des pays du monde; que nulle part on ne s'en plaint, et que nombreux, au contraire, sont les hommes d'Etat qui se félicitent d'en voir bénéficier leur patrie.

Quand le projet gouvernemental sera discuté à la Chambre, un amendement sera proposé, étendant le suffrage provincial aux femmes.

Au nom des trente-quatre associations féminines représentées par les soussignées; au nom des 225,000 signataires des pétitions féminines de 1919 et 1921 pour l'obtention du droit de vote, nous faisons appel au sentiment de justice des parlementaires non encore ralliés à la cause électorale. Nous demandons avec instance que, le jour où cet amendement sera soumis au vote, s'ils ne veulent pas l'adopter, ils veuillent du moins s'abstenir,

et qu'ils ne se mettent pas en travers d'un progrès social dont les résultats seront bienfaisants pour la Belgique dans le domaine de la province comme sur le terrain communal.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le député, l'assurance de notre considération distinguée.

Pour la Fédération Belge pour le suffrage des femmes: la présidente: Jane BRIGODE; la secrétaire générale: Louise VAN DEN PLAS.

Pour le Conseil national des femmes belges: la présidente, (s.) M. VAN DE WIELE; la secrétaire générale, (s.) Elise SOYER.

PALESTINE.

Lettre Adressée au Comité National par la Ligue des Femmes Juives.

Genève, 3 juin, 1925.

Waad-Leumi, Jerusalem (Comité National).
Messieurs,—

Ayant pris connaissance du fait qu'à l'occasion des prochaines élections à la III^{ème} Assemblée Nationale Juive de Palestine, certain groupes de l'orthodoxie juive ont organisé une campagne en vue de priver les femmes juives de droits de suffrage, qu'elles y exerçaient depuis 5 ans, nous nous permettons de vous adresser au nom de la "Ligue des Femmes Juives," la déclaration suivante:

Solidaires en tant que femmes et en tant que juives de nos sœurs de Palestine, nous protestons énergiquement contre cette tentative de commettre une flagrante injustice à l'égard des femmes juives de Palestine, qui dans le travail de reconstruction de la Palestine ont fait preuve de tant d'abnégation et de tant d'héroïsme. La femme juive de Palestine participe en grand nombre dans l'activité scolaire et médicale; comme "Haluzi" pionnière dans le domaine agricole et industriel, elle exécute scrupuleusement les travaux les plus pénibles, qui lui ont valu non seulement l'admiration unanime des juifs, mais devant les quels s'inclinent avec respect des nombreux non-juifs.

Citons entre autres M. William Rappard, Membre de la Commission des Mandats à la S. de N., qui l'a dit à Genève tout récemment dans une conférence sur son voyage en Palestine.

Priver les femmes juives de Palestine, qui se distinguent par un si noble patriotisme, de leurs droits de suffrage, ce serait commettre un acte si revolant de lésés-droits, que toutes, femmes juives, nous nous sentirions lésées par cette injustice.

C'est pourquoi nous vous prions de ne pas céder à l'assaut des forces ténébreuses qui tendent à compromettre la renaissance nationale et sociale du peuple juif, et de permettre à la femme juive de partager effectivement les responsabilités de l'administration de la chose publique, droit qui lui revient de par sa personnalité humaine et dont elle s'est montrée digne par son admirable activité patriotique des dernières années.

Veillez agréer, Messieurs, l'expression de nos sentiments les plus distingués.

CORALIE LEBACH, Présidente.
ROSA ABERSON, Secrétaire Générale.

LA SUISSE.

Chez nous, un mouvement féministe s'esquisse au moment où nous écrivons ces lignes, l'Association genevoise pour le suffrage et la Ligue d'électeurs amorçant une campagne suffragiste à l'occasion du projet de réforme administrative présenté par le gouvernement.

On sait en effet qu'une des tâches les plus impatientement attendues du nouveau Conseil d'Etat était, après le sauvetage financier du canton, une réorganisation complète de son administration devenue nécessaire, tant au point de vue politique qu'à celui de la réduction des dépenses. Or cette réforme touchant à l'organisation des communes, et le Conseil d'Etat ayant dans plusieurs circonstances manifesté des sympathies féministes, on aurait pu espérer que le projet contiendrait une reconnaissance des droits féminins en matière municipale—ceci d'autant plus qu'il limite tellement les compétences

des communes, que ce n'aurait pas été courir le risque d'une bien grosse inconnue que de conférer aux femmes le droit de vote. Quoi qu'il en soit, il n'en a rien été, et le projet gouvernemental est muet à cet égard. C'est pourquoi l'Association pour le suffrage a immédiatement relevé le gant, et s'adressant soit au Conseil d'Etat, soit au Grand Conseil, auquel le projet gouvernemental a été soumis, a demandé que l'on profite de cette vaste transformation de l'organisation communale pour introduire enfin en Suisse cette réforme que tant d'autres pays ont réalisée, ou vont réaliser. L'exemple de l'Italie et de l'Espagne d'un côté, de la France de l'autre, aux deux pôles des conceptions politiques, constitue un argument solide sur lequel nos suffragistes n'ont pas manqué de s'appuyer.—E. Gd., *Le Mouvement féministe.*

LE FÉMINISME EN CHINE.

JUSQU'EN 1912, date de la fin de la monarchie en Chine, la loi matrimoniale a été très défavorable aux femmes. Elle les ignorait simplement, et donnait aux hommes un pouvoir illimité; femmes et filles, par exemple, n'avaient pas le droit d'hériter. Un proverbe chinois dit que jamais la femme n'est indépendante: enfant, elle est soumise à son père; épouse, à son époux; mère, à son fils. La Chinoise ne prenait aucune part à la vie de société; son nom n'était que rarement mentionné dans les invitations; et, même dans les avis mortuaires, les parentes du défunt n'étaient pas nommées.

La notion du divorce n'existait pas, et le mot divorce manquait à la langue chinoise: l'époux ne divorçait pas: il répudiait sa femme, il la chassait. Il lui suffisait pour cela de l'un de ces sept motifs suivants, inscrits dans la loi matrimoniale: que la femme ne donne pas le jour à un fils; qu'elle soit infidèle; qu'elle ne s'entende pas avec ses beaux-parents, ou n'ait pas assez de prévenances pour eux; qu'elle soit insupportable ou querelleuse; qu'elle vole; qu'elle soit jalouse; qu'elle soit malade.

Ce qui peint bien la triste situation de la femme chinoise, c'est qu'à la mort de son mari, elle ne pouvait se remarier, mais devait servir jusqu'à la fin de ses jours dans la maison du défunt. Si son mari s'absentait pour un voyage ou pour affaires, elle était exclue de la société comme une veuve, et devait servir ses beaux-parents. Quant à l'époux, s'il quittait la maison, il lui était loisible de se remarier, et de garder avec lui cette deuxième femme.

Les prétendus avantages dont jouissait la femme chinoise étaient les suivants: elle disposait librement du gain de son mari; et—ce qui est une de ses grandes passions,—elle exerçait l'art culinaire. L'attachement de la femme chinoise à sa cuisine est proverbiale. Eloignée de son foyer, elle y revient sans cesse par la pensée; et, même au bout du monde, ce qui lui manque le plus, c'est sa cuisine. Ce qui est intéressant aussi, c'est la situation de la mère, qui, après la mort du père, s'installe chez l'aîné de ses fils, ou bien, à tour de rôle, chez ses différents fils. La mère est extrêmement respectée de ses enfants; elle exerce sur eux une influence très grande, et même décisive. On peut citer par exemple le cas du général Tschin-Juen-Buen, qui, malgré les instances du Parlement, refusa de démissionner comme premier ministre, jusqu'au moment où sa mère intervint, et où il se retira immédiatement.

Tel fut le sort de la femme chinoise jusqu'à la Révolution; toutefois, l'infiltration de la civilisation européenne encouragea ses tentatives d'émancipation. Les femmes chinoises participèrent activement à la Révolution de 1912, dont le succès leur valut de grands avantages. La chute de la monarchie a fait disparaître l'ancienne loi matrimoniale; et les Chinoises sont en voie d'obtenir les droits dont les Européennes jouissaient au siècle passé.

La Chine est un pays immense, dont la population dépasse celle de l'Europe entière. Et, de même qu'en Europe l'émancipation des femmes n'a pas atteint le même degré dans les différents pays, toutes les provinces de la Chine n'en sont pas au même point. La province de Hu-Nan, au centre du pays, qu'on appelle parfois "l'Ecosse chinoise," est la plus avancée; les femmes y font déjà partie du Conseil de la province. Puis viennent les trois grands ports; Tientsein, Shanghai, et Canton,

où les femmes ont fondé beaucoup de sociétés et ont déjà accompli de grands progrès. Dans les autres parties du pays, il se fait une active propagande, en particulier par de nombreux journaux, en vue d'obtenir des réformes. Jusqu'à présent, l'on ne peut cependant parler de succès que pour la province de Sze-Tchuan, l'une des plus riches, et à laquelle on donne quelquefois le nom de "France chinoise."

Pour que le mouvement progressât plus rapidement, il faudrait une propagande intense, pour laquelle les moyens actuels dont on dispose sont insuffisants. La culture intellectuelle, l'argent, et une grande énergie en seraient les facteurs indispensables; quelqu'un d'entr'eux vienne à manquer, et le travail de propagande est inefficace. Beaucoup de Chinoises vont à l'étranger; mais peu d'entr'elles possèdent une bonne culture générale; la plupart se contentent d'une spécialisation; elles deviennent institutrices, docteurs en médecine, ou employées de commerce. Il est intéressant de noter qu'il existe à Shanghai une banque dont tout le personnel, de la directrice aux domestiques, est exclusivement féminin. Une femme, Mlle. Soume Tcheng, est avocate; mais elle est actuellement à Paris. Ces dernières années, nombres de femmes et de jeunes filles se sont vouées au cinéma. Puis, il y des femmes écrivains et journalistes, comme Mlle. Sin-Yin-Tan, rédactrice du grand quotidien *Chung-Hwa-Sing-Pao* (La Nouvelle Presse du Pays-des-Fleurs du Milieu). Dans sa réclusion, la femme chinoise s'occupait volontiers de littérature, et les écrivains jouissent de la plus grande considération. La littérature chinoise est très avancée, et les femmes se plaisent à la cultiver. Ce que les Chinois apprécient le plus, c'est premièrement la poésie, puis, une belle écriture, et enfin, la peinture. Mme. Sophie Chang-Thou, présidente du séminaire de Nankin, est une poétesse distinguée.

A Pékin, des femmes ont construit et dirigent entièrement une grande maison de commerce, la "Compagnie 1-5-1" (1 dollar, 50 cents, 10 cents). Shanghai possède une Ecole de droit pour femmes, qui est très fréquentée. Elle est dirigée par Mme. Sue-Sun-Ji-Pin, femme du ministre de la Justice, M. Sue-Tchain. (En Chine, la femme garde son nom en se mariant.)

Le mouvement féministe a déjà obtenu de beaux résultats: premièrement, le mariage obligatoire a été supprimé; et, depuis la fête du Nouvel-An 1920, la séparation des hommes et des femmes dans la société a été officiellement abolie. De même, un homme ne peut plus conserver une deuxième épouse. Et enfin, les Universités ont été ouvertes aux femmes.

Beaucoup de Chinoises se consacrent à l'instruction populaire, et enseignent gratuitement dans les écoles, comme Mme. Yung-Chu-Chi-Wai, femme de l'ex-président du Conseil des ministres. En ce moment, les femmes travaillent spécialement à la création d'écoles professionnelles.

La Chine, cet immense empire, qui abrite le plus grand peuple de la terre, se trouva réduite, au commencement du XIV^{ème} siècle, sous la dynastie Song, et à la suite de guerres malheureuses, à un petit territoire, moins étendu peut-être que la Suisse ou que l'Autriche actuelle. Cependant, le peuple était fort, et recouvra sa grandeur. La Chine est de nouveau un grand pays, l'héritier de l'importante civilisation asiatique orientale. Sa petitesse momentanée, pendant une période de l'histoire, ne lui a point nu. Je pense que toutes les civilisations sont solidaires; c'est pourquoi je saluerai avec joie la collaboration internationale des mouvements féministes. Je puis affirmer ici que la langue chinoise n'est pas si difficile à apprendre pour les Européens qu'on veut bien le dire. C'est comme si l'on disait que la distance de Shanghai à Vienne est très grande: elle n'est pas plus grande de Vienne à Shanghai, et un Chinois a tout autant de peine à apprendre une langue européenne. Il en a même davantage, puisqu'il étudie plusieurs langues, et il lui manque la grande faculté d'adaptation que l'Européen acquiert par son éducation.

Pour mon compte, après avoir passé mes examens de pédagogie à Nankin, pour lesquels j'ai dû étudier les langues étrangères, j'en suis arrivée à la conviction qu'au

fond, je ne savais rien; c'est pourquoi je me suis rendue à St-Mary's Hall où, en six ans, j'ai appris tant bien que mal quelques langues européennes. C'est pourquoi je voudrais vous dire bien haut cette seule parole: "Il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte!" Je lutte pour l'idée de la coopération féministe internationale, et je vous invite à mener cette campagne avec moi.

Femmes d'Europe et d'Asie, unissez-vous, et entendez-vous!

D. LEIGH-WANG.

(Le Mouvement Féministe: N.D.L.R.—Mme. Leigh-Wang, qui fut en septembre dernier la correspondante attitrée d'un grand journal viennois à la V^e Assemblée de la S. d. N., paraît ignorer l'existence de nos grandes Associations féministes internationales, le Conseil International des Femmes et l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage, qui ne demanderaient qu'à accueillir l'adhésion des féministes chinoises organisées.)

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Grande Bretagne.

Union Nationale des Sociétés pour l'Égalité Civique.

Le projet de loi sur les pensions aux veuves, aux vieillards et aux orphelins vient d'être discuté à la Commission. On a élevé à 16 ans l'âge de l'allocation pour les enfants. Les hommes au-dessus de 60 ans et les femmes au-dessus de 55 ans qui ne sont pas bénéficiaires de la pension de vieillesse pourront payer une cotisation qui leur donnera ce droit. Les femmes bénéficiaires de l'assurance qui épousent un homme non assuré pourront obtenir la continuation de leur assurance par l'intermédiaire de leur mari. Les exceptions faites contre certaines catégories de veuves sont supprimées. Le projet de loi sur la tutelle des enfants a passé aux deux chambres et aura bientôt force de loi: l'égalité absolue entre le père et la mère, demandée par les féministes sera discutée quand on aura expérimenté la loi actuelle.

Société des Nations.—La Duchesse d'Atholl a été nommée déléguée suppléante pour la Grande Bretagne.

Cours de vacances pour les magistrats et les citoyennes.—Les cours auront lieu à St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, du 25 août au 8 septembre. Il y aura 5 sections: 1^o Le statut des femmes; 2^o l'administration de la justice; 3^o problèmes importants relatifs aux œuvres sociales; 4^o la Société des Nations et les affaires internationales; 5^o les idéaux des partis politiques.

Ligue de la liberté des femmes.

La campagne féministe faite en Ecosse est en pleine activité. Des réunions de plein air ont été organisées et deux nouvelles publications ont été lancées: 1^o Ce que nous avons obtenu et ce que nous voulons obtenir; 2^o les femmes et la politique. La ligue a demandé au Ministre de l'Intérieur une définition exacte du mot "public court": un tribunal ne pouvant pas être appelé public lorsque les femmes en sont exclues, comme il arrive dans certaines affaires de viols. La ligue a écrit aux Ministres de l'Instruction publique, du Travail et au Secrétaire d'Etat pour l'Ecosse pour demander que des femmes qualifiées soient nommées dans les comités qui s'occupent de l'enseignement professionnel, car il y a des milliers de jeunes gens et de jeunes filles sans métiers. Le Ministre a répondu que les comités devront s'assurer à l'avenir le concours des meilleurs intelligences sans distinction de sexe.

Ligue de l'Empire britannique.

Cette ligue, fondée pour assurer l'égalité des libertés, status et opportunités entre les deux sexes, dans tout l'Empire britannique, a tenu une conférence très importante les 9 et 10 juillet. Sous la présidence de Mrs. Corbett Ashby, la conférence du 9 a été inaugurée par Lord Cecil, et des orateurs de toutes les parties de l'Empire ont rendu compte des travaux de leur pays. Les résolutions suivantes ont été votées. La ligue fait appel au gouvernement: 1^o pour qu'il accorde, à la prochaine session, la franchise égale aux deux sexes, au même âge et avec les mêmes qualifications, sans attendre une modification générale du système actuel de suffrage; 2^o pour qu'il amende l'acte du gouvernement hindou afin que les femmes deviennent éligibles; 3^o pour que toute mesure prise dans un dominion, pour amender la constitution, accorde les

droits de vote égaux aux deux sexes; 4^o la ligue envoie toute sa sympathie aux femmes des Bermudes qui n'ont pas obtenu le vote et demande que le bill soit présenté de nouveau. A la session de l'après-midi, présidée par Lord Astor, "l'égalité de morale des deux sexes" fut le sujet discuté. La résolution suivante fut adoptée: La conférence fait appel au gouvernement pour qu'il étende le principe de l'égalité morale des deux sexes à toute sa législation, spécialement aux lois concernant le mariage, divorce, illégitimité, prostitution, ordre des rues et maladies vénériennes. Le 10 juillet, le sujet traité fut: les inégalités législatives. Sous la présidence de Mrs. B. James (Victoria), Miss MacMillan traita de la nationalité de la femme mariée, et d'autres oratrices parlèrent des lois du mariage dans les différents Dominions; l'après midi, sous la présidence de Lady Rhondda, on discuta de "l'égalité économique." L'assemblée vota une résolution pour que toutes les sociétés de l'Empire prennent des mesures en vue d'obtenir l'égalité économique sur les principes suivants: 1^o salaire égal pour travail égal; 2^o suppression de toute subdivision du travail entre hommes et femmes; 3^o liberté de travail de la femme mariée; 4^o suppression des législations dites protectrices des femmes, autres que celles relatives à la maternité; 5^o reconnaissance de la valeur économique du travail ménager.

Irlande.

Bien que les femmes aient depuis trois ans l'égalité des droits avec les hommes, il s'en faut qu'elles appartiennent en nombre suffisant aux commissions. Quelques-unes font partie des commissions nommées pour le relèvement des pauvres malades et abandonnés. Aux récentes élections locales, 19 femmes ont été nommées aux conseils municipaux, et 4 aux conseils de comtés. Ce faible résultat est dû à l'insuffisance du nombre des candidates. Les élections sont coûteuses, et les femmes semblent avoir une répugnance incurable à accepter les restrictions d'un programme de parti. Plusieurs des élus appartiennent à l'Association des Citoyennes irlandaises. La reconstruction du gouvernement local est inévitable; on adoptera peut-être le système américain ou allemand. L'amateur prend trop souvent la place du spécialiste. La question du logement, toujours aiguë à Dublin, est devenue un scandale national. Les commissaires qui ont été substitués, il y a deux ans au conseil municipal et les sociétés d'utilité publique font de leur mieux. L'Union des Ouvrières irlandaises a constitué un comité qui représente toutes les sociétés et toutes les individualités intéressées. Une semaine du logement se tiendra en octobre; on espère amener les capitalistes à soutenir les divers emprunts publics et les sociétés qui s'efforcent de trouver l'argent nécessaire. L'union des ouvrières a obtenu du Gouvernement la transformation de quelques casernes en maisons d'habitation. On essaie aussi de faire toucher les loyers des maisons populaires par des femmes bien élevées; cette méthode a été employée avec beaucoup de succès par l'Alexandra College Guild, qui a acheté, il y a 20 ans, quelques maisons dans les quartiers pauvres; les loyers suffisent maintenant à l'entretien et laissent un petit bénéfice. Ce résultat est dû en grande partie aux efforts de ceux qui reçoivent les loyers pour apprendre aux locataires à tenir leurs logements en ordre. Des remerciements publics sont dus de ce chef à la Guild.

L'Association Sanitaire féminine continue ses efforts pour élever le niveau de la santé publique. Ceux n'ont pas été dénués de succès. La mortalité infantile n'a jamais été aussi basse que l'an dernier; la mort par tuberculose a montré en 1923 une réduction de 36% sur 1911, l'année où la législation fut promulguée. Le dernier rapport annuel révèle un nouvel accroissement du nombre des membres des sociétés enfantines (baby clubs).

Le même progrès continu a été constaté par les "Irlandaises unies" à leur dernière assemblée.

Cependant les progrès généraux y sont lents. On attend toujours l'amélioration des lois sur les filles-mères, à laquelle les "Citoyennes irlandaises" ont poussé sans défaillance. Devant la commission des boissons alcooliques, un digne marchand de vin a soutenu le système du "commerce mixte," que pratiquent les épiceries-débits,

en disant que la présence des femmes dans les débits élève le ton moral. Une forte agitation a été organisée contre le système.

L'entrée des femmes dans la politique en a-t-elle élevé le ton? En tout cas le monde politique a reconnu que la santé publique, le bien-être des enfants, le problème du logement, et les questions connexes ne pouvaient plus être rejetées à l'arrière-plan.

Danemark.

L'Union danoise pour le suffrage a tenu son congrès annuel à Odense du 13 au 15 juin. Mentionnons quelques points intéressants:

Les femmes dans les offices ecclésiastiques.—Quoique l'église danoise ait manqué d'ecclésiastiques et que beaucoup de femmes aient étudié la théologie, l'église reste fermée aux femmes, tandis que des laïques ont été ordonnés pasteurs. L'an dernier, les femmes théologues se sont adressées au Ministre des Cultes pour obtenir une loi en faveur des femmes. Le Ministre consulta les évêques et la Faculté de Théologie. Beaucoup d'entre eux répondirent qu'aucune objection de principe ne pourrait être élevée contre les femmes. Le Ministre présenta un projet de loi en faveur de l'admission des femmes dans le clergé des établissements charitables et des prisons, mais ce projet a été enterré dans les cartons du Ministère.

Mesures contre les offenses sexuelles.—Une loi spéciale votée le 11 avril, 1925, porte que des mesures peuvent être prises contre tous les anormaux capables de violences sexuelles. Ces malades seront gardés dans des maisons de santé jusqu'à ce qu'ils ne soient plus dangereux. Le Ministre de la Justice peut faire défendre aux personnes, condamnées pour offenses, d'acheter ou de boire de l'alcool ou de séjourner dans les parcs publics ou dans le voisinage des écoles, terrains de jeux, etc.

50^e anniversaire de l'entrée des femmes dans les Universités.—Un rapport sera fait en septembre sur cette question.

Finlande.

La Finlande se prépare, sous la présidence de la Baronne de Mannerheim, à recevoir le congrès international des infirmières. On attend environ 500 étrangères à Helsingfors.

Allemagne.

Convention de Cologne.—L'événement le plus important pour la cause des femmes a été la grande convention organisée par les femmes de Cologne pour le Millénaire du Rhineland du 22 au 28 juin. L'idée directrice des conférences a été le renouvellement de la famille, au point de vue éthique et social: La femme et la famille; enseignement professionnel et ménage; mères et filles; mères et fils; service des femmes dans la famille; les femmes dans la vie publique et sociale; état économique de la famille; importance de la famille dans l'Etat; famille, nation, pays. Comme trait significatif de la nouvelle Allemagne, toutes les oratrices étaient des fonctionnaires éminentes ou des membres du Parlement, des conseillères générales ou municipales. Outre cette Convention, 20 sociétés rhénanes et nationales avaient organisé des conventions spéciales.

90^e anniversaire d'Ottilie Hoffmann, Bremen.—Cette femme a été pendant des années à la tête du mouvement anti-alcoolique d'Allemagne. Elle a fondé en 1904 la ligue anti-alcoolique.

Hollande.

La princesse Juliana, héritière du trône de Hollande, s'est inscrite pour septembre prochain à l'université de Leyde.

Indes.

Le Bill Gurudwara.—Les femmes Sikh ont demandé l'égalité des droits politiques, le bill les ayant ignorées, quoique la religion Sikh reconnaisse l'égalité des droits. Le gouvernement paraît favorable à une altération du bill en leur faveur. L'association des femmes hindoues a envoyé un appel au gouvernement du Punjab pour qu'il leur soit fait justice.

Protection des enfants à Bombay.—L' "Act" sur les enfants est un grand pas en avant. Il déclare que les enfants qui sont abandonnés, "destitués" ou errants recevront la protection de la loi, et des "Homes" leur

seront ouverts. D'après l' "Act," seront punis ceux qui maltraitent les enfants. Ceux-ci seront protégés contre la cruauté de parents ou de tuteurs. Un point important est la création de tribunaux d'enfants. On se propose d'ajouter des clauses additionnelles telles que: les ivrognes accompagnés d'enfants au-dessous de 7 ans seront punis; il sera permis à la police de confisquer le tabac trouvé dans les poches des enfants et ceux qui leur en vendront seront punis, de même que ceux qui leur prêteront de l'argent ou les inciteront à parier ou à jouer de l'argent.

Femme hindoue dans le consistoire d'un temple.—Pour la première fois depuis des siècles une femme a été élue.

Perse.

En 1898, une jeune persane de 14 ans a fondé la première école de jeunes filles. Pour arriver à ce but, elle avait, pendant 5 ans, sur les conseils de sa mère, suivi les mêmes classes que ses frères; elle s'était déguisée en garçon. Depuis 1900, plus de 60 écoles de filles ont été ouvertes. En 1911, le Ministre de l'Instruction publique leur a étendu les règlements des écoles de garçons. En 1916, une taxe spéciale pour l'enseignement ayant été levée, 10 nouvelles écoles de filles ont été ouvertes à Téhéran.

Rhodesie.

La Rhodesie du Sud a la seule femme député de tout le Continent. Mrs. Tawse Jollie a siégé à l'Assemblée législative depuis 1920, et a fait beaucoup pour assurer le Gouvernement représentatif dans la Colonie, sans fusion avec l'Union du Sud Afrique. Elle s'intéresse particulièrement aux questions d'éducation et dirige aussi avec compétence, comme directrice adjointe, le ranch de son mari. Jadis anti-féministe ardente, elle fait aujourd'hui profiter la cause de l'expérience qu'elle a acquise en le combattant.

Etats-Unis.

Il ne se passe pas de semaine que les femmes ne gagnent en importance dans la vie publique. Depuis 1920, le nombre des femmes dans les offices publics a augmenté régulièrement. En 1922, il y avait 84 femmes élues dans les parlements des Etats, et en 1924, il y en avait 125. De plus, nous avons 2 femmes gouverneurs, 2 femmes dans le Congrès, 1 femme dans le Comité du service civil, des chefs de bureau de Ministères, des maîtresses, des femmes dans le service diplomatique, des juges, etc.

Mrs. Mary Norton a été élue au Congrès de New Jersey; Mrs. Florence Prag Kahn, dans celui de Californie; Mrs. Edith N. Roger le sera bientôt dans le Massachusetts. Mrs. Roger est la 3^e femme élue à la chambre des représentants; elle succède à son mari. Miss L. A. Eastman a été nommée bibliothécaire en chef de la bibliothèque publique de Cleveland; c'est la troisième bibliothèque des Etats-Unis. En Indiana, Mrs. Charles Ritter tient la tête de liste comme candidate républicaine pour être maire de Hartford City. Il y a aussi 27 candidates pour l'office de clercs; 8 ont été nommées trésorières. En réponse à la question sur les progrès obtenus par les femmes depuis qu'elles ont eu le vote, Mrs. Slade a dit: Ce qui a été accompli est en qualité plutôt qu'en quantité. Une des victoires est la représentation égale des femmes et des hommes dans les Comités de Comtés (ces comités ont une grande influence); elles demandent une représentation égale dans les comités d'Etat.

La première femme diplomate américaine, Miss Lucille Atcherson, est partie pour Berne, où elle sera troisième secrétaire de la légation américaine. Entrée dans la carrière en 1922, elle a travaillé dans la Division américaine latine du Département d'Etat pendant deux ans.

Juste avant la nomination de Miss Atcherson, Mrs. Lindsay Lucy Patterson, de Winston-Salem, N.C., s'est vu refuser le poste de Ministre au Siam. C'est la première demande de ce genre qu'une femme ait faite. Ses forts appuis politiques lui avaient fait espérer le patronage du Président Coolidge; elle avait été recommandée par le Comité d'Etat républicain de la Caroline du Nord. Elle a 50 ans, et est veuve.

Miss Atcherson est la première femme qui ait passé (dec., 1922) l'examen du Service diplomatique. Elle a

31 ans, et a pris ses grades à Smith College. Elle est née à Columbus, Ohio. Elle a été auparavant secrétaire de l'Université de Chicago.

Miss Pattie Field, de Denver, Colo., vient de passer ses examens et travaille dans le Département d'Etat. Elle était la seule femme parmi les 20 candidats. Elle a 24 ans, et a pris ses grades à Radcliffe College. Elle a aussi étudié en France et parle français couramment.

Le traitement de Miss Atcherson sera de 3,500 dollars. Très peu de femmes ont jusqu'ici servi comme diplomates. Sous le gouvernement de Bela Kun, Miss Rosika Schwimmer avait été nommée Ministre de Hongrie en Suisse, mais elle n'a pas eu le temps d'entrer

en fonctions. La seule femme qui représente son pays à l'étranger maintenant est Mme. Kollontai, Ministre de Russie à Oslo, Norvège.

Canada.

Le 4 juin, la chambre des communes a discuté le principe de l'égalité des sexes dans le divorce. Mr. Shaw a présenté un projet de loi demandant les mêmes principes de fidélité chez les hommes et chez les femmes. Deux amendements tendant à imposer des restrictions au mariage des personnes divorcées ont été repoussés. Le projet de loi de Mr. Shaw a donc passé à la troisième lecture par 112 voix, contre 61.

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