

WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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IS PATIENCE A VIRTUE?



The Zurich Suffrage Group has kindly allowed us to reproduce this picture of Swiss women submissively listening to the thanks of the President for their notable contribution to the Defence Loan, and his promise to reward them by taking even greater precautions to file their Woman Suffrage Petition safely in his drawer.

The cartoonist has certainly made these women the picture of submission, each one of them a Patient Griselda. Do we who look at it feel admiration for their virtue? We do *not*: they fill us with an unregenerate desire to give them a good shaking, and that is exactly the emotion which the Suffrage Group must have hoped to arouse in every woman's breast. We

hope that the recent Study Conference in Zurich did administer a slight and very friendly shock to the satisfaction with their conditions which some women feel in Switzerland—and by no means only in Switzerland.

Patience with children, with the afflicted, with those in fact who are for any reason less developed or less fortunate than ourselves is surely a virtue. But women like to think of men as their equals not their inferiors, so in this case the exercise of patience is not called for when men are behaving badly, disregarding justice and exhibiting a very unfounded sense of superiority.

MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

Every single one of our readers will, we know, learn with the deepest regret that Miss Macmillan, who has for some time been under treatment for heart trouble, recently had to be taken to a nursing home owing to the formation of a clot in her leg, and eventually had to have the leg amputated. In spite of the condition of her heart, she stood the operation wonderfully well and there is every hope of her making a good recovery. All our sympathy and good wishes go to her with our grateful remembrance of all the work she has done for the women's movement and for our Alliance.

NORTHERN FEMINIST CONGRESS.

A Northern Feminist Conference took place in Stockholm 5-7 March with many delegates from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and was a great success. Among the conveners were Fredrika Bremerförbundet and Svenska Kvinnors Medborgarförbund.

The conference was held in the Town Hall and at the opening session the crown-princess of Sweden assisted. Mrs. Lizinka Dyrssen gave a few words of welcome and three further presidents, one for each country, were appointed. The Swedish Open Door Branch and the National Federation of Professional Women were elected members in the Northern Co-operation Organisation.

The principal subjects for discussion were: Social Maternity Assistance, Nationality of Married Woman, Financial Position of the Divorced Wife, Women's Work.

A public meeting was held the 5th March with the following speakers: Miss Kerstin Hesselgren (Sweden): Women's Work; Mrs. Margarete Bonnevie (Norway): Right to marriage for professionally working women; Miss Helle Cannelin (Finland): Women's work at home and away from home; Mrs. Gloerfelt-Tarp (Denmark): The principle of Equal Pay.

The 6th March a dinner was offered by the Swedish societies at which Mrs. Ellen Hagen presided and spoke on the importance of Northern co-operation. Many speeches were made by representatives from the different countries.

At the closing session, the 7th March, closer Northern collaboration was discussed and it was decided to meet next time in Copenhagen 1940.

PEACE

The I.P.C.

The Executive of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies, recognising the valuable work of the I.P.C., is proposing a form of closer collaboration between the two bodies, possibly by their mutual affiliation to each other.

The International Co-operative Alliance has decided to adhere to the I.P.C.

The successive issues of the I.P.C. Bulletin give a vivid impression of the amount of active work being done in the different countries. We regret that space does not permit us to give examples.

One of the finest undertakings which have been planned in connection with the International Exhibition in Paris is without doubt the construction of the Peace Pavilion. For the first time, a whole building is to be devoted to the efforts of mankind to preserve peace and to the work of the League of Nations.

The Peace Pavilion is being built on the Place du Trocadero, at the very entrance to the Exhibition grounds. It covers an area of 10,000 square feet. In the centre rises a column 250 feet high, bearing the names of 30 men* who have deserved well of mankind

*Why no Women.—Ed.

by reason of their work for peace. Around this is the Pavilion, which takes the form of an immense circular gallery.

The Pavilion is being constructed thanks to the initiative of the International Peace Campaign. Their proposals are being put into effect by an organising committee, composed of representatives of the Campaign and of the great international organisations—in particular the Societies for the League of Nations. The necessary funds have been raised by contributions from French authorities and organisations, and by gifts and subsidies from England, the United States, Czechoslovakia, etc.

The Women's Peace and Disarmament Committee.

An English-speaking Study Group will hold meetings on the Actual International Situation and renewed attempts to break the International Deadlock, with a session on the Work of the League of Nations and the I.L.O., from August 25th to September 2nd.

The Committee urgently appeals for funds to meet its modest budget of £1000. That means that it needs merely 1000 women interested in peace to give it £1 a year.

INDIA.

Those who have followed the rather complicated question of woman suffrage in the new Constitution for India, will know that there are certain educational and property qualifications for voters, and that different communities have special constituencies "reserved" for them in the Provincial Legislatures, among these reserved constituencies being some for women in all the Provinces, except the North West Frontier Province. Women are also, however, eligible to stand as candidates in the other constituencies.

The way in which women, including those in purdah, came to record their votes was one of the striking features in the recent elections. In spite of considerable difficulties as to registration as voters, to which we referred in a previous issue, a large proportion of qualified women were registered and went to the poll. In some cases the percentage of women recording their votes was larger than that of men. In the North West Frontier Province, which had no reserved seats for women because the position of women there was supposed to be too "backward", over 71% of women eligible as voters exercised their right.

The success of the women candidates in cases where they stood in general constituencies is surprising. Full results are not available at the moment this is being written, but we take from the "Bulletin of the Indian Women's Movement" (price 4d. or 2s. 6d. a year from Mrs. Lankester, 62, Plough Lane, Purley, Surrey) the following: for the Bombay Legislative Council (the Upper House), Mrs. Hansa Mehta was elected, and in the Upper House in the United Provinces, Begum Aijaz Kudsia. In general constituencies, for the Provincial Assemblies, Shrimati Vidywati Rathore defeated by a large majority a well-known liberal; Shrimati Sharmada won in Dehra Dun; Mrs. Uma Nehru in Farkuhabad; Mrs. Sunitidevi in Rae Bareilly, and Srimati Lakshmi Ammal in Bombay. All these women were candidates for the Congress Party and their success is undoubtedly due to that fact. But it is no less encouraging because after all most women M.P.'s in every country are party candidates.

It is stated that including the women members for the reserved seats, there will be more women in Indian legislatures than in any other country. The fact that women were successful in the general constituencies in opposition to men candidates shows that they were right in protesting against the system of reserved

HUNGARY.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK.

This year the second Women's Week will be organised in Budapest from August 5-12, under the patronage of the Archduchess Magdalen. Its object is to foster women's understanding as a factor in world peace, to promote friendship between the women of Hungary and of other countries, and to show visitors the characteristics of Hungarian home and social life, sport, folklore, etc.

The Programme is a very full one, the meetings being very generously interspersed with parties and sightseeing. There are sports, visits to social institutions, excursions by train, boat and motor, gipsy music, peasant dances: a perfect kaleidoscope of entertainment and instruction.

The address of the Central Organising Committee is: Harmincad u.6, Budapest V., and there is a special office in London, at 177, Regent Street, W.1. in charge of Miss Georgie Bogyo.

ECUADOR.

Mme. Plaminkova, as President of the National Council of Women of Czechoslovakia, having seen in the press a statement that there was a proposal to take away woman suffrage in Ecuador, has addressed to the President of the Republic of Ecuador a protest based on the universally good results of woman suffrage in her own country. We regret that space does not permit the publication of her letter in full.

The Alliance is making further enquiries into this matter, as it is stated that the Assembly of Ecuador will at its next sitting be discussing a new Constitution, and that the question of woman suffrage will arise. We know that under successive constitutions this right has been acknowledged, though it has not been exercised and, with Mme. Plaminkova, we gravely fear that if it is now stated to be one of the points to be raised it must be because there is a proposal to withdraw it.

FRANCE.

The Senate has adopted the Bill on the Civil Rights of Married Women known as the Renoult Bill, but with some unfortunate amendments in the form sent up to it by the Chamber. It is natural that in the French women's papers which have, of course, been full of this question for a long time, one does not find any simple recapitulation of the whole Bill, but it does apparently put an end to the civil incapacity of the married woman, so that in future she will be able to bring actions at law, make contracts, open a bank account, obtain a passport, etc., with the formal consent of her husband. But the amendments accepted by the Senate, in spite of the opposition of the Government and the work of the feminist group, lay down that the husband is the head of the family, in that capacity he chooses the family domicile which is therefore that of the wife; moreover he may refuse to permit his wife to exercise any separate profession. These marital rights of the husband may in certain cases be abrogated, and the wife has the right to appeal against him to the courts. But, alas, valuable though what the Bill would accord to women is, in this form it is absolutely no vindication of the complete right of every woman to be a "person" in herself, and does not abolish in French law the objectionable principle of a woman's subjection in marriage.

The Bill having been amended, will go back to the Chamber. It remains to be seen whether in its new form it will be accepted there. If the Chamber strikes out the new clauses, it may mean a long or even an indefinite delay.

women's seats, which were put into the constitution to ensure the representation of women. Had such special seats not existed, it is probable that more women would have been put up as candidates for the others and would have stood an equally good chance of securing election.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

An International Conference on *Esperanto and Modern Life* will be held in Paris, in the Exhibition Buildings, from May 14-17 next. It may be remembered that the Alliance Congress at Geneva in 1920 adopted a Resolution in favour of this international language and recommending its teaching in state schools. The address of the Secretariat is: 34 rue Chabrol, Paris Xe.

The *British Commonwealth League* is holding its thirteenth Annual Conference in London, at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, Gt. Russell Street, from May 26-28. The keynote of its programme this year is Democracy: the rights and duties of women under democracy and its contribution towards world peace, together with a section on the social, economic and political equality of the sexes. The address of the League is: 17, Buckingham Street, London W.C.2.

From June 25-27 there will be an International Congress on *Christian Marriage* in the International Exhibition, organised by the Association for Christian Marriage, a section of the Action Catholique Française, the address of the Secretariat being 86 rue de Gergovie, Paris XIVe.

The *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* will hold its next Congress at Luhacovice, Czechoslovakia from July 27-31, under the title of "For a new International Order," under which it will deal with many burning problems of the day. Secretariat: 12 rue du Vieux Collège, Geneva.

The *Fourth Pan Pacific Women's Conference* will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from July 12-24. Miss Mary Bollert, Dean of Women at the University of British Columbia, as head of the Canadian National Group is in charge of the programme. The Headquarters of the Pan Pacific Women's Association are in Honolulu, Secretary Miss Ann Satterthwaite.

The *International Council of Nurses* will be holding its international Congress in July in London, the date and place are unfortunately not known. We have, however, received notice of a Red Cross International Bazaar in aid of the *Florence Nightingale International Foundation* to be held at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, on July 7th and 8th, and probably this has been organised to fit in with the Congress. This Foundation was established as a memorial to Florence Nightingale by the International Council of Nurses and the League of Red Cross Societies, in collaboration with Bedford College and the College of Nursing, to create scholarships from foreign countries and the British Dominions to enable students to take advanced courses in branches of nursing at the College and other institutions in London.

As already announced in a previous issue, the *International Abolitionist Federation* will hold its International Congress from May 20-22 at the Musée Social, 5, rue Las Cases, Paris VIIe., and not in Lille as stated in our previous notice.

From June 27-30, the *National Council of Women of France* is organising a Conference on Women's Activities in the Salle des Ingénieurs des Arts et Métiers of the Paris Exhibition. One day will be devoted to International Women's Activities. For information apply to: Mme. Chevalie-Maresq, Hon. Secretary N.C.W., 29, rue St. Placide, Paris VIe.

We regret to announce the death of Mlle. Chaptal, so well-known for her work for nursing and child welfare. She was a member of the League of Nations Child Welfare Committee for which she carried out an enquiry into the question of children in moral danger. She was also closely connected with the International Council of Nurses.

We see in "La Française"—from which much of the above information is taken, that women fulfilling the professional conditions, may be registered as voters for the Chamber of Commerce of St. Pierre et Miquelon.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women are up in arms against the unjust discrimination contained in the Contributory Pensions Bill which has just passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons. The Bill proposes to allow voluntary participation in State Insurance for men up to an income limit of £400 a year, but for women only up to £250. This means that a woman with an income of over £250 when the Bill comes into force will be debarred from obtaining a pension of 10s. a week at the age of 65 without income limit. When it is remembered how very many women have family claims on their earnings, how difficult it is for them to retain employment as they get to middle age, and how impossible it must be to save enough to live on in their old age, it will be seen how cruel this discrimination is, affecting as it does the very woman who is probably most alone in the world, the single woman or widow. But it is the flagrant injustice of excluding from the benefits of this new legislation a whole class of tax-payers simply on the ground of sex that rouses an almost wondering indignation. These women must nearly all be voters, women preponderate as electors in every Parliamentary constituency—how then can this be done, as it will be done, with impunity? Alas, the reply must be that it is because women have not yet learnt to think about, much less defend their own interests. They still acquiesce in that lower status, that position of dependence, that humble estimate of their worth which has been incalculated into their minds as a sex for centuries, and as individuals from their very birth.

And oh, it does matter. That a woman should face old age with less security than a man—that is a cruel injustice. But far, far more than any isolated instance, is the bitterness of knowing that still we hardly count, that our interests, our opinions are disregarded to the manifest injury of society as a whole. We are good citizens, less law-breaking, less criminal, more conscientious on the whole than men, with greater thought for the things that pertain to the peace of nations individually and collectively, but we do not count. This article in our little paper will reach only those who know these things, but we would like to hope that it may be just one more reminder to them to do just a little more in their personal relations, above all to assert the equal worth and dignity of women; never to let the implied sense of difference and inferiority to go unchallenged.

To turn to a happier mood, we announce two Coronation Dinners to take place in London in May. St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance is entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Lyons, the Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth and his wife, at their dinner on May 31st at the Criterion Restaurant, tickets 7s. 6d. from the Secretary, 55, Berners Street, W.1. Everyone who attended their Jubilee Dinner two years ago will want to have this opportunity of meeting and hearing Mr. and Mrs. Lyons again, not to mention the other distinguished speakers.

The Women's Freedom League's dinner will be on May 7th at the First Avenue Restaurant in High Holborn, tickets 6s. 6d. from the office at 144, High Holborn. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence will preside in the absence of the League's President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, in the States, and the speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Vera Brittain, Professor Winifred Cullis and Mrs. How-Martyn—a team which promises to be both interesting and witty.

JAMAICA.

Through the kindness of Miss Harriet Newcomb we receive from time to time news of the efforts Miss Una Marson is making to arouse a greater interest for social and political questions. One of her ideas is to help to resuscitate the Drama League, for which she has completed a play she wrote while she was in London. That may seem rather outside the scope of serious work, but her idea is a good one, namely, that one of the first things to do is to get people to come together for a common object, and sometimes play before work may be a good motto. Then she is an active contributor on social and women's questions to a new review called "Public Opinion," of which we have received several copies. This paper shows that Miss Marson is certainly not alone in desiring to see her countrymen wake up and make a real effort to improve their standards. The problems of Jamaica are not simple, because it has, like other countries, a history which has left accumulated complications, but one of her great difficulties is to persuade her own people—and that means largely the coloured people—to tackle them. Can Miss Marson help to start the women on the path towards community service? They have the franchise as a first step but indifference and reaction are almost worse foes than injustice because they are so amorphous.

U.S.A.

As our readers know, our President is going to the States to take part in the Centenary Celebrations at Mount Holyoke College. It is rather sad to know that on the imminent retirement of Dr. Mary Woolley, the Trustees have appointed a man to succeed her. "Equal Rights" has a very thought-provoking article on this question entitled "Are Women being educated to a Dead End?" The history of this College is largely written round women as Presidents and administrative officers. Dr. Woolley has raised the endowment from \$560,000 to almost \$5,000,000, doubled the number of students and the faculty. The article stresses the fact that in none of the men's colleges, in none of the co-educational colleges, in none of the special law, medical and technical schools are women at the head. If in the field of education there is so very little chance for women to obtain leading positions, to what end are they entering the purely academic field? The article quotes Dr. William Welch, for many years head of the Medical Faculty at the John Hopkins University: "Women, like men, can never become truly eminent unless they receive the reward of their labours. How long are other women going to permit women scholars to be compelled to make bricks without straw?"

This is a woman's college and in all its 100 years it has always had a woman president, as indeed one would expect. If all such posts were open to, and to a fair degree held by women, whatever the nature of the College—for men, for women, for both—there would not be the same ground for anxiety, but this is not the case. And there is a possible further danger: if there are no rewards for women in this field, why should parents pay for such a training? University training is good in itself, no doubt, but parents in very many cases have to take a strictly practical view of what their children are going to get out of it in a material sense.

REVIEWS.

THE PREVENTION OF FUTURE CRISES IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM. By Robert Bosch. Constable & Co., London. Price 1s. 6d.

The title of this book explains itself. Robert Bosch was the founder of the great electrical concern in Germany, the products of which are known even to the totally ignorant in these matters. He is a great industrialist and also a great social reformer, being the first employer to introduce the eight-hour day in Germany. The measures he advocates are listed as: Reduction of Hours of Labour; Not increased Wages, but decreased Prices; Ways and Means of Price Reduction; Cartels, Supervision of Cartels; End of the Class War. He defends capitalism as against socialism, admitting that the present capitalist régime is not the highest form of economic activity, but that a Socialist State would be worse.

It is not within our competence to express an opinion on the views given in this book, but with his conclusion all will agree: "When we can create once more a situation in which confidence in the future exists, the task will be much easier. The civilised world has now recognised that things cannot be allowed to go on as hitherto. We may therefore hope that one day even the politicians will see reason." The success of any system can really only be measured in terms of the human happiness and well-being it gives to the individual. On that depends ultimately all real hope of peace. It is therefore well worth while for those who have not closed their minds to all other ideas save some one single political creed to study these suggestions from a man of great capacity, great experience and great public spirit.

POPULAR NUTRITION AND THE HOUSEWIFE; A MEMORANDUM PREPARED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD. By Emmy Freundlich. Published by the Guild at 17, Great Prescott Street, London, E.1.

This is also a study of economic principles definitely from the Co-operative point of view. It is based on replies to a questionnaire sent out by the International Guild dealing with import duties; reduction of prices through co-operation; production by the Co-operatives; control of prices and supply; education of housewives and the family in nutrition questions; adulteration of food. The information obtained is extremely interesting and shows what valuable work has been done by the Women's Co-operative Guilds. The conclusions are summed up in the following programme: Recognition, both in family, socially and at law of the work of the woman in her home as a valuable social and economic service; the participation of women in all enquiries and investigations affecting the social and economic position of women or the interests of consumers and their organisations; instruction in housewifery and study of the economic and technical aspects of domestic economy with special courses for the wage-earning woman and the woman at home, in order to promote efficiency in domestic work and to protect the health of the women; the provision through municipalities and Co-operative Societies of all technical aids to housework; legislative and administrative recognition of the public utility and special social functions of Co-operative Societies.

TEN YEARS' ACTIVITY OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. Palais Royal, 2 rue de Montpensier, Paris.

This is the English version of the pamphlet reviewed in our columns some time ago. It gives a brief review of the rise of private international organisations during recent years, and shows how whatever their immediate object may be they are necessarily by the fact of their internationalism interested in the preservation of good international relations. It was in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1924 in regard to the education of youth in the ideals of world peace that this Committee was formed. It came into being in 1925 and now groups together 30 international bodies. Its work consists largely in the joint study of different aspects of education in the interests of peace, and other questions affecting young people which specially fall within the sphere of the League's Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. Very briefly may be mentioned the following questions which have been dealt with: literature for young persons; the functions of public libraries in disseminating information on the League; school text books; the cinematograph; travel permits for students; exchange and tours for school children; moral disarmament; unemployment among young intellectuals.

The work of this Committee is too little known in general and we strongly recommend the study of this booklet to all who are interested in the peace movement, as showing a real practical means towards greater co-operation.

THE A.B.C. OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT. By Anna Nilsson.

There has just come to us a copy of this pamphlet in Polish. That means that it is not, alas, possible for us to read this

latest and evidently much fuller edition of an old friend. But it serves to remind us and our readers of this extremely useful booklet, now available in many languages. Any reader who wants a short handbook on peace should write to the author, (Miss Anna T. Nilsson, Realskolan, Malmö, Sweden) and ask for particulars as to the edition in whatever language is desired, and it will be strange if it be not forthcoming.

DIE RECHTSLAGE DER FRAU IN OESTERREICH, published by the Erste Verein österreichischer Lehrerinnen, Wilhelm Exnergasse 34, Vienna IX. Price 40 Groschen.

This booklet showing the legal position of women under the 1934 Constitution and the laws passed between 1934—1936 is reviewed in the current number of "Die Oesterreicherin." It is often so extremely difficult to obtain reliable information about these matters that we are glad to mention it here for the benefit of all of our readers who can read German and who desire to study these questions.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

In the last issue of the Belgian women's paper, "Egalité," there is given the text of a Bill, presented by Mme Spaak, Senator, and others, for the regulation of domestic service. We looked forward to finding a proposal calculated to raise the status and conditions of this cinderella of professions, but, in fact, the Bill deals with hours, conditions of work, accommodation, payment of wages, notice of dismissal or of leaving, etc., on lines which must surely already obtain in the service of reasonable and decent employers, though possibly in few countries are they laid down by law.

In the same paper there is a note on the steps taken by the Norwegian Government to set up courses in domestic science all over the country, but for the benefit of the actual housewife more than for the training of girls for domestic work as a profession.

In the April number of "The Labour Woman," the organ of the British women in the Labour Party, there is an article on the organisation of domestic workers in Denmark, where, as long ago as 1899, a Domestic Workers' Trade Union was founded. This Union has a really constructive programme based on the necessity for proper training and professional status for the domestic worker. In 1906 it opened a school in Copenhagen, with a six-months course free, and courses of two months for more advanced students at a small charge. The school has steadily grown and is now an independent institution, managed by a Board consisting of three representatives of the Domestic Workers' Union, one each from the Danish Women's Association, the Copenhagen City Council and the Danish Ministry of Commerce, in order to qualify for a State grant. There are a variety of courses open to any Danish woman over 16, at a small charge, and the school runs its own boarding house and public restaurant and shops to sell jams, cakes, etc., and a laundry.

Apart from this, the Union itself carries on its own work of recruiting members and defending their interests. It has been able to conclude working agreements for its members with State and municipal institutions, and with some private employers. At first all its members were women, but recently a few men have been admitted. It has a standard of conditions, including an eight-hour day for workers, both living in or outside their place of employment; a standard wage, with payment for overtime; a free afternoon each week and every other Sunday completely free; summer holidays with pay, etc.

The difficulties of organising domestic workers are great, but it is surely time that women should really try to tackle the problem of raising the status and conditions of a profession in which they represent so great a proportion of workers. There seems no other solution than something on the lines indicated above. Organisation is essential, training is essential, and it seems an illusory hope that employers can be educated into making conditions substantially better until they are

faced with the existence of trained and organised women. The importance increasingly attached to what is called Domestic Science really affects the actual worker very little. It provides a profession for the more or less intellectual worker and may help the housewife to improve her technique, but something much more immediately practical is required for the rank and file who have to sweep and dust, wash and cook, whether the materials provided for them contain a sufficient number of calories or not.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Great Britain. Miss A. Royalton Kisch, a member of the Alliance, is certainly the youngest Chartered Surveyor in England. She has been awarded the Chartered Surveyors Institution post graduate scholarship which will enable her to spend a year at Newnham College in research into problems of rural housing. She has just come back from lecturing in English and German in Hungary and Austria.

Iran. For the first time a woman, Mme. F. Sayah, has been appointed as a Professor in the University of Teheran, to the Chair of European Literature.

Philippines. By the time this issue appears we shall know the result of the plebiscite on April 30th when women qualified under the abortive woman suffrage act, will vote whether or no the act is to be implemented. We wish them a smashing victory.

Portugal. We have just learnt that there are three women members of the National Assembly, Dr. Maria Candida Parreira, a lawyer, Dr. Domitila de Carvalho, a doctor and Dr. Maria Guardiola, a teacher. In the Corporative Chamber Mme. Maria José Novais, is the only woman, and represents Private Assistance.

Puerto Rico. Dona Maria Perez de Armirotty has won a seat in the Senate for the Liberal Party. As far as we know she is the first woman member.

Siam. Dr. Pierra Hoon is to be the first woman doctor in Bangkok, where she will act as Professor of Gynaecology.

Switzerland. Mme. Schoenauer-Regenass has been appointed a member of the Federal Price Control Committee as a representative of the housewives and consumers.

Syria. Miss Bourone Tarazi is the first woman to be called to the Bar in Damascus.

Turkey. It is stated that women are now liable for military service, not as fighting units, but for other work either at the front or at the base according to age.

U.S.A. The United States Supreme Court has reversed its own recent decision that minimum wage laws for women only are unconstitutional. Last June the Court decided that such laws would tend to deprive women of employment and a fair chance to find work; now it says that they protect them.

YOUTH.

The growth of a youth movement is one of the outstanding phenomena of the post-war years. It is rather a vague term and must cover a very great variety of organisations or groups. Sport and what is so inelegantly known as "hiking" were probably the things which gave the first impulse towards a sense of common interests, or so it seems to one who is long past the age when instinct tells you something of what your fellows are thinking about. Student associations there have always been, but this was something different. In some countries there are an incredible number of

organisations roughly grouped as forming a "Youth Movement" and certainly one of the links between the young people in the different countries is the question of peace. Last year there was the big World Youth Congress in Geneva, which is having its work continued through a Committee, with an office and Secretary in Geneva working with national committees. This is definitely an effort to link up young people in the cause of world peace, but in pursuing that aim it may happen that young people are led to criticise the whole political and economic policy of their countries. In Canada, for instance, the Canadian Youth Congress has drafted a "Canadian Youth Act" in the form of a Parliamentary Bill which deals with peace and collective action through the League of Nations, reduction of armaments, etc., but also with the revision of education, provision of employment and other very immediate problems facing young people.

Where the woman's movement is concerned, it will be remembered that in connection with the Congress in Berlin in 1929—and Germany is perhaps the true cradle of the youth movement—there was a big open-air Youth Demonstration. At our recent Conference in Zurich there was a packed Youth Meeting, from the young Chairman of which, Mlle Sulzer, there has sprung a proposal to set up a Youth Committee within the Alliance—an experiment which the Board decided to carry out and which is now being formed.

This sense of common interests among young people is surely a new thing, and a hopeful thing, but it should be absolutely free from any feeling of sex division. If we welcome the idea of the co-operation of young women it is because we hope that they will permeate their whole generation with the ideals of the woman's movement without its having to be a woman's movement. If that sounds like a paradox, surely every true feminist will agree that there is nothing we desire so ardently as to see our movement disappear because common human interests and rights are so completely identified with just human beings, neither male nor female, that it is no longer necessary. If this rather vague "Youth Movement" can achieve that it will accomplish something very basic in the regeneration of human society.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Miss A. R. Kisch, membre de l'Alliance, est certainement la plus jeune femme métreur diplômée (Chartered Surveyor) en Angleterre. L'Institut des Métreurs diplômés (chartered surveyors) lui a octroyé une bourse qui lui permettra de passer un an à Newnham College pour préparer une documentation sur le problème de l'habitation rurale. Elle revient de Hongrie et d'Autriche où elle a fait une série de conférences en Anglais et en Allemand.

Iran. Mme F. Sayah a été nommée professeur de littérature européenne à l'Université de Téhéran.

Philippines. Nous saurons sous peu le résultat du plébiscite sur le vote des femmes.

Portugal. Nous apprenons que l'Assemblée nationale comprend trois femmes députés. Dr. Maria Candida Perreira, avocate; Dr. Domitila de Carvalho, docteur-médecin; Dr. Maria Guardiola, professeur. A la Chambre Corporative, Mme Maria José Novais est la seule femme et représente l'Assistance Volontaire.

Puerto-Rico. Dona Maria Perez de Armirotty a gagné un siège au Sénat, pour le parti libéral. Elle est probablement la première femme sénateur.

Siam. Dr. Pierra Hoon va être la première femme docteur à Bangkok où elle est nommée Professeur de Gynécologie.

Suisse. Mme Schoenauer-Regenass a été nommée membre du Comité Fédéral de contrôle des prix, comme représentante des ménagères et des consommateurs.

Syrie. Miss Bourone Tarazi est la première femme appelée au Barreau de Damas.

Turquie. Les femmes peuvent être désormais appelées pour le service militaire non pas dans les unités combattantes, mais dans des sections spéciales soit au front, soit à l'arrière.

E.U.A. La Cour suprême est revenue sur sa décision qui déclarait un salaire minimum pour les femmes, contraire à la constitution. L'année dernière la Cour avait déclaré que la loi du minimum tendait à accroître le chômage pour les femmes; Aujourd'hui la même Cour assure que la loi du minimum est une protection.

France. Du 27 au 30 juin, le Conseil National des Femmes organise une Conférence qui doit montrer les diverses activités des femmes, à la salle des Ingénieurs des Arts et Métiers de l'Exposition.

Hongrie. Cette année une Semaine de la Femme va de nouveau être organisée en Hongrie, du 5 au 12 août, sous le patronage de l'archiduchesse Magdeleine. Son objet est de favoriser les échanges de sympathie et de montrer aux visiteurs à la Hongrie coutumes nationales, sport, folklore, etc.

Suisse. La Patience est elle une vertu? Telle est la question qui nous vient aux lèvres en considérant le dessin humoristique, que le Groupe de Zurich nous permet de reproduire à notre rôle page.

Le Président remercie les femmes de leur Patriotisme et promet de les récompenser en gardant soigneusement au fond d'un tiroir la Pétition pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

France. Le Sénat a adopté la loi Renault sur la capacité civile de la femme mariée mais avec plusieurs malencontreux amendements. A l'avenir une femme mariée pourra passer un contrat, avoir un procès, ouvrir un compte en banque, obtenir un passeport, le consentement du mari étant réduit à une formalité.

Mais le mari est toujours déclaré chef de la famille; c'est lui qui choisit le domicile, et il peut refuser à sa femme l'exercice d'une profession.

L'épouse il est vrai peut demander au tribunal l'abrogation de ces droits maritaux.

On voit cependant que le chemin vers l'égalité est semé d'épines. La Chambre n'a pas encore accepté le projet de loi ainsi amendé, et il est possible que les amendements soient rejetés par elle — d'où nouveaux délais et nouvelle attente.

Congrès féministe du Nord. Une conférence des Associations féministes des pays du Nord s'est tenue à Stockholm du 5 au 7 mars avec nombre de déléguées du Danemark, de la Finlande, de la Norvège et de la Suède, ses organisatrices, entre autres étaient: Frederika Bremerförbundet et Svenska Kvinnoars Medborgarförbund.

La Princesse héritière de Suède assistait à la séance d'ouverture. Les principaux sujets de discussion furent: l'Assistance maternelle et sociale; la nationalité de la Femme mariée; la Position financière de la Femme divorcée; le Travail des Femmes.

Pensions en Grande Bretagne.

Les femmes s'élèvent vainement contre la discrimina-

tion injuste du Projet de loi sur les Retraites qui vient d'être discuté par les Communes en seconde lecture.

Le Projet permet une participation volontaire aux Assurances Sociales, pour les hommes jusqu'à la limite de 400 livres par an, et pour les femmes jusqu'à 250 livres seulement. Quand on songe aux charges de famille de tant de femmes, à leur difficulté de garder un emploi passé l'âge mûr, et d'économiser pour leurs vieux jours, on est frappé de la cruauté de cette discrimination. Hélas! les femmes, qui sont électeurs n'ont pas encore appris à défendre leurs intérêts. En général, elles acquiescent passivement à ce statut inférieur par un atavisme qui est le résultat de plusieurs siècles de dépendance.

LE SERVICE DOMESTIQUE.

Dans le dernier No. du Journal belge "l'Egalité" est donné le texte d'un projet de loi, présenté par le Sénateur Mme Spaak et ses amis, pour la réglementation du service des gens de maison.

Ce projet n'a pas pour but de relever le Statut de cette Cendrillon des services, mais de régulariser les conditions du travail domestique et il est certain que ces conditions existent déjà dans nombre d'intérieurs où les maîtres traitent humainement leurs domestiques.

Dans le même numéro nous lisons que le gouvernement norvégien organise des cours d'économie domestique dans tous les districts mais plutôt dans le but d'éduquer la ménagère que de préparer des jeunes filles à prendre du service dans une maison.

Le No. d'Avril de "Labour Woman" l'organe des femmes du parti travailliste britannique relate l'organisation des travailleuses domestiques au Danemark, où un Syndicat de domestiques existait dès 1899. Ce syndicat a un programme constructif basé sur la nécessité d'une éducation professionnelle et d'un statut social pour ses membres. En 1906 il a ouvert une école à Copenhague qui donne à ses élèves un enseignement ménager gratuit pendant six mois, et des cours avancés pour élèves plus âgées à un coût d'inscription très modeste. Cette école est aujourd'hui une institution indépendante gouvernée par un comité ainsi composé: trois déléguées du Syndicat des domestiques, une déléguée de l'Association des femmes danoises, un autre Conseil municipal de Copenhague, et un autre du Ministère du Commerce; ce dernier, par là, est autorisé à accorder une subvention.

L'Ecole a son propre hôtel pension, sa blanchisserie, son restaurant et sa boutique qui expose gâteaux, confitures, etc., pour la vente.

Le Syndicat recrute ses membres et défend leurs intérêts. Il a déjà pu conclure des contrats collectifs avec l'Etat et des municipalités et des contrats individuels avec des maîtresses de maison. Au début tous ses membres étaient des femmes mais récemment des hommes ont été admis. Le statut de travail inclut la journée de huit heures; un salaire normal avec paye pour travail supplémentaire; une après-midi libre par semaine; un dimanche entièrement libre par quinzaine; des vacances payées.

Cette organisation présente un modèle pour les pays où le problème domestique est si difficile à résoudre: si d'une part les maîtresses de maison sont de plus en plus convaincues de la nécessité d'humaniser et de régler les conditions du service, d'autre part les domestiques qui se présentent doivent avoir une certaine capacité et une réelle éducation ménagère.

JEUNESSE.

L'extension des groupes juvéniles est un des phénomènes les plus remarquables des années d'après-guerre. Le terme est vague et couvre des associations diverses dont le but est soit le sport, les excursions ou autres amusements — mais qui, par l'esprit de

camaraderie qui les anime forment un lien avec d'autres associations juvéniles par delà les frontières et en ce sens travaillent pour la paix. L'année dernière, nous avons eu le Congrès mondial de la Jeunesse. Son comité demeure à Genève et établit un contact avec les groupes nationaux. Certains de ces derniers n'ont pas peur de critiquer la politique de leurs gouvernements. Tel le groupe du Canada qui a préparé un projet de loi sur la paix et l'action collective, mais aussi sur la réforme de l'éducation, la distribution des emplois et d'autres problèmes intéressant la jeunesse.

En ce qui concerne les femmes, on se rappelle sans doute, qu'à notre Congrès de Berlin en 1929, il y eut une démonstration en plein air du mouvement pour la jeunesse.

A notre récente conférence de Zurich nous avons eu une réunion nombreuse du mouvement pour la Jeunesse, et sa présidente Melle Sulzer se propose d'organiser un groupe de jeunes au sein de l'Alliance avec l'approbation du Bureau.

Nous espérons évidemment voir se continuer parmi les jeunes notre mouvement féministe, sans qu'il y soit impliqué une division des sexes. C'est l'égalité

qui est notre but et nous ne désirons qu'une chose: voir notre mouvement disparaître après sa tâche accomplie.

CONFERENCES INTERNATIONALES.

- (1) Esperanto et la vie actuelle. Paris, Exposition, 14 — 17 Mai.
- (2) British Commonwealth League. May 26 — 28. Y.W.C.A., Russell Street, London.
- (3) Action Catholique française: le Mariage Chrétien. 86 rue de Gergovie, Paris XIV².
- (4) League internationale des Femmes pour la paix et la liberté — à Luhacovicz, Czechoslovakia. Juillet 27 — 31. Secrétariat — 12 rue du vieux collège, Genève.
- (5) La 4ème Conférence pan-pacifique des Femmes à Vancouver, Canada. Juillet 12 — 24. Secrétariat à Honolulu.
- (6) Conseil International des Infirmières — en Juillet.
- (7) Fédération abolitionniste internationale — Mai 20 — 22, au Musée Social — 5 rue Las Cases, Paris VII².

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