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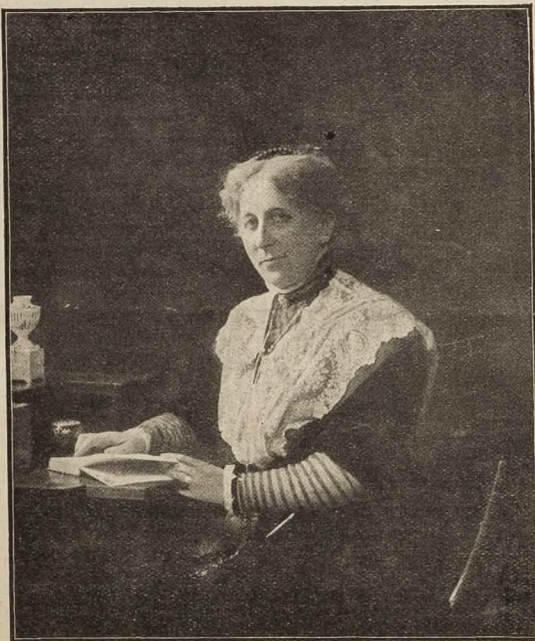
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In memoriam

MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

IT is with the deepest regret that we learn at the moment of going to press of the death of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger. Mme. Schlumberger had been connected with the work of the Alliance since 1911, when she came to the Stockholm Congress as a delegate for France. At Budapest in 1913 she was elected a member of the Board of Officers of the Alliance, and became its first vice-president at the Geneva Congress in 1920.

As president of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes since 1912 she did valuable work for women's franchise. In addition to her life-long interest in work for the re-education of young girl first offenders, she was con-



nected during the war with many activities for assisting war victims in France.

From 1920 till the Rome Congress Mme. Schlumberger was chairman of the Equal Moral Standard Committee of the Alliance, and she had also served on the corresponding Committee of the International Council of Women. Mme. Schlumberger was keenly interested in the work of the League of Nations, and was one of the French representatives at the International Conference on Traffic in Women and Children at Geneva in 1921.

Both the Alliance and the cause of woman suffrage in France have suffered an irreparable loss.

THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

"STRAWS show which way the wind blows": and I think that very often casual little paragraphs in the press give a truer impression of how much leeway women have still to make up as regards their personal dignity and status than lengthy consideration of their legal disabilities. A line or two in a paper the other day gave the trivial information that the nurses in a certain institution were forbidden to have their hair bobbed because the patients objected! Can anyone imagine the patients in any institution in which men are employed, requesting that they should be forbidden to part their hair in the middle? This information would hardly seem to be of great public interest—why should a reputable paper bother to print it? Is it not because an obscure instinct prompts the male journalist to seize on anything which shows women in a depreciatory light? Women are still to be "the eternal minor," still to be advised and ordered as to their personal concerns, and, alas! still to be shown as submitting to such interference.

Our Great Britain notes this month are naturally concerned with the general election, which will take place just too late for the results to appear in our November issue. There is one fact about the woman candidates which is worth noting, and that is the number of quite young women who are standing. It is often regretfully noted that the younger women seem to stand outside the woman's movement and outside those aspects of public work with which women have so far been principally concerned. It is comforting to discover that they are at any rate well represented as candidates, and one must presume that a woman member of "under thirty" will be reasonably anxious to secure that when she stands for re-election her contemporaries of her own sex shall be able to exercise the surely less responsible function of casting a vote.

I am informed that in Poland—and I know the same experiment has been made in some towns in Germany—two urns are provided at the polling booths, and the women throw their ballot papers into one and the men into the other. The suggestion is made that this provides an interesting piece of information as to how women vote, and might be extended to other countries. Why? Here is a function in which for once women are regarded as citizens, and yet even here the old, old idea of sex is to be dragged in without the shadow of a reason except that continuing desire for differentiation at all costs. There is another thing: in the manifestos published by the leaders of the British parties there are little bribes offered to the women electors, and yet to the ordinary person it must seem difficult to think of any policy or piece of legislation which can affect women and not men—always with the one exception of the Equal Franchise Bill, which two of the parties have not referred to at all. It does seem to suggest that party politicians still think of their women constituents as the "uneducated voter." A woman cannot understand such things as foreign affairs or unemployment (but doesn't she just!), but must have a few matters affecting "women and children" made easy for her limited understanding.

We are publishing this month an article about women in the Swedish Government service. In Great Britain also women are having a hard, and, alas! so far a losing fight to secure the equality which was formally promised them after the war. They are told that it is financially impossible to give the women equal pay: in practice it seems equally impossible to give the woman promotion to the higher posts even though she would still be drawing a proportionately lower salary! "Economy" prevents her getting an equal wage, but does not operate in giving her advancement. I do not think anything is to be gained by concealing the fact that there is a great economic reaction all over the world against the woman worker. Let women face the truth: for only so can they be keyed up to continue the fight. The crude fact is that until women can get a more equal status every little victory they may win is precariously held, and every

action is liable to need fighting over again. I would paraphrase a well-known saying, and say: Solidarity, solidarity, and again solidarity! How is it possible for any woman who has once recognised the need for women's solidarity to think that now the millennium has arrived and without further struggle women can take their place alongside the men with equal opportunities not only for advancement, but for service? In London yet another of the big hospital medical schools is closing its doors to women, although at the moment of need both as regards money and personnel it eagerly welcomed the woman student, and indeed professed itself pledged "to the principle of co-education." And women doctors, women students, and women subscribers are powerless to prevent it—would they be if they were willing to recognise that for a long time to come women must be women first and other things after? THE EDITOR.

THE FIFTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

THE Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations came to an end on 2nd October. The main interest of the work at Geneva this year lay, of course, in the drafting of the protocol for the pacific settlement of international disputes, and it was to this protocol that the concluding days of the Assembly were devoted. Never in the history of international affairs has a document of such momentous importance been drafted in such a short time. Barely three weeks elapsed between the presentation by Dr. Benes, of Czecho-Slovakia, of his original draft and the presentation to the Assembly of the finished article. The reason why such extraordinary expedition proved possible was that for the first time in the annals of the League all the nations represented at Geneva were genuinely anxious to co-operate and not to hinder in the common task. This spirit of co-operation was by far the most noticeable feature of the Fifth Assembly. The speeches delivered on the last two days varied from the brilliantly cold and legal exposition of M. Politis to the tremendous Gallic oratory of M. Briand, who set the seal on the indefatigable work of the French delegation with one of his oratorical efforts. The protocol itself is now before the Governments of the world, and it is for them to decide whether they will sign it and present it to their respective Parliaments for ratification. The position of Great Britain with regard to signature and ratification is extremely important. In order that the protocol may become operative even in the smallest degree it must be ratified before 1st May, 1925, by three out of the four Great Powers (Great Britain, France, Japan, and Italy). France has already announced that she will sign; but if the House of Commons of Great Britain refuses to ratify it, then it is likely that Italy will follow our lead, and the whole work of the Assembly will fall to the ground. At the same time, the British people cannot be asked to ratify a document of such vital importance unless they fully understand the contents of that document, and it is for the enlightened Press of this country to do its utmost to explain and elucidate to the people the meaning and importance of the protocol, so that Great Britain by ratifying may show her earnest desire to lead the movement towards the general reduction of armaments and permanent peace and stability.

It is customary for the British Government to send one woman as a substitute delegate to the Assemblies of the League of Nations. This year their choice fell on Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, whose work for peace as a member of the Executive, both of the Union of Democratic Control and the Women's International League, made her a particularly suitable representative at an Assembly the main subject of whose deliberations was disarmament. Mrs. Swanwick had followed the work of the League from the beginning, and as the authoress of a book on the Covenant was already well acquainted with its principles and machinery. As a member of the Fifth Committee she acquitted herself well and worked energetically. She was *rapporteur* on the refugee work which is still going on under Dr. Nansen, and effectively defended its value against attacks by certain delegates who consider that it is outside the scope of the Covenant. "These refugees," she said, "are the result of our corporate failure all the

MRS. ALLEN, M.A., LL.B.

MRS. ALLEN is the third woman to be appointed by the Australian Government as a substitute delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations. Mrs. Allen was born in New Zealand, and was one of the first women there to take a law degree. She never practised, however, but took up journalism, being the first—and apparently the only—woman appointed as Parliamentary correspondent by a leading newspaper. She was not welcomed by her male colleagues in the Press Gallery of the House of Parliament; indeed, they refused to allow her in, and a petition had to be presented to Parliament by newspapers which claimed they could appoint such representatives as they chose without regard to sex. Now Mrs. Allen holds an unassailable position in the Australian Press, being chief of the women staff on the big Melbourne



world over to make the world a fit place to live in. This is a great moral issue which we cannot avoid." She pointed out that in order to make peace it is necessary not only to prevent war, but to eliminate the causes of war, and stressed the importance of the League's humanitarian work in any effort to attain that end. Mrs. Swanwick's speech on "Disarmament" in the Assembly was described by another delegate as one of the most beautiful speeches that have ever been delivered from its platform. "I am not afraid," she said, "to address the Assembly as a woman, because modern life has shown some women who have looked into the future and realised the great responsibility of women. We English are proud to number among our patriotic women Edith Cavell, who said that patriotism was not enough. It has been said that arbitration is going to take the place of war, and that security will be attained. It is to be hoped that security will be of a different kind from that which women have been promised by men all down the ages. We should not forget the cry of Astyanax: 'Remember that when you turn your arms against each other, brothers, the first victim is the child.'" —ARCHIE MACDONELL (*The Woman's Leader*).

THE SLAVERY COMMISSION.

THE question of slavery has been before the League of Nations for some time. In June, 1924, the Council examined a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General, and a report by M. Branting regarding the possible candidates for membership of the competent body, which, in accordance with the wishes of the Assembly, it had decided to appoint to continue temporarily the inquiry on slavery. The following eight men were invited to accept, and accepted, membership of this Committee on Slavery:—M. Freire d'Andrade (Portugal), former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Member of Permanent Mandates Commission; M. Louis Dantes Bellegarde (Haiti), former Minister of Haiti in France, First Delegate of Haiti to the Assembly of the League of Nations; M. Delafosse (France), former Colonial Governor-General, Member of the French Colonial Academy; M. Gohr (Belgium), Director-General in the Ministry for the Colonies; Mr. H. A. Grimshaw, representing the International Labour Organisation; Sir Frederick Lugard (Great Britain), former Governor of Nigeria, Member of the Permanent Mandates Commission; M. Ban Rees (Netherlands), former Vice-President of the Council of the Dutch East Indies, Vice-President of the Permanent Mandates Commission; M. le Commandant Roncagli (Italy), Secretary-General of the Italian Geographical Society. This temporary Commission on Slavery held its first session from July 9th to 12th, at Geneva, under the chairmanship of M. Gohr. All the members of the Commission were present. During the session the Commission held seven meetings and considered the scope and methods of its work. *Headway* (published by the League of Nations Union) reports that a good deal of difference of opinion existed as to the extent of the field the inquiry should cover, but in the end a programme was drafted which ensures an inquiry more thorough and comprehensive than any yet undertaken. This programme will include the consideration of:—(1) Slave raiding and the enslaving of free persons; (2) Slave dealing—i.e., traffic in persons enslaved already; (3) Domestic slavery; (4) Acquisition of girls by purchase disguised as dowry; (5) Adoption of children with a view to enslavement; (6) All forms of the pledging or enslaving of persons for debt; (7) Measures of compulsory labour, public or private.

We understand that the members appointed to this Commission were so appointed because they were experts. Our view is that experts alone are not sufficiently competent to deal in a comprehensive way with this question in all its human relations. The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) has for months past pointed out that women should be included in this Commission; and, in view of the above programme of its work, our readers will agree with us that the inclusion of women is an immediate and urgent necessity.

—The Vote.

daily "The Argus," and also on the "Australian," a weekly which has an enormous circulation all over Australia. Apart from her Press work, Mrs. Allen is keenly interested in social work, especially in child-welfare. Mrs. Allen considers that every country ought to include a woman in its delegation to the League Assembly, not only because of the work she can actually do in Geneva, but because on her return home she can in a very special way interest the women of her own country in the League's work, and in general make them conscious of the link that binds them to the women of other countries.

RUSSIA.

AS we unfortunately get no direct news from the women of Russia, perhaps our readers will be interested in some information received from a reliable source on certain aspects of the Soviet laws.

Sex education is given in schools, and by means of exhibitions efforts are made to bring home to the people the dangers arising from neglect of hygienic precautions, and also to teach them the true facts of birth and how to rear their children.

Only civil marriage by registration is recognised, and both parties have to produce certificates of health. Divorce is simple and cheap; the only cause is the desire of either party to end the marriage, and the procedure is that a notice of dissolution has to be posted at the court for a certain period, after which there is a formal hearing of the case, and the decree is at once granted. There is, however, a court of appeal. The children of divorced parents have to be supported by either parent, according to their means.

The obligation of support of the other partner is laid equally on both husband and wife. A woman need not take her husband's name: sometimes he takes hers, or possibly a compound name is used. Neither spouse is compelled to follow the other in case of a change of domicile.

With regard to illegitimacy, no difference is recognised between children born in or out of wedlock. Their law simply states: "A child is a fact and the basis of the family."

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

IT will be remembered that at the Copenhagen I.C.W. Executive a resolution was passed, with infinite regret, relinquishing the long-looked-for visit to Washington for the Quinquennial Council, because of the difficulty of obtaining a representative attendance on account of the economic conditions prevailing in so many countries, which would prevent National Councils from sending delegates, and which would also prevent several officers from being present. Under these circumstances, the renewed invitation from Austria was accepted.

On hearing of this decision, Mrs. Philip North Moore and the National Council of Women of the United States wrote and cabled most kind assurances to the effect that the American National Council, realising the difficulties mentioned, were prepared to contribute \$20,000 towards the travelling expenses of delegates, and would also provide hospitality for all duly appointed delegates desiring such hospitality during the fortnight of the Quinquennial Meetings, in the same way as Canada had done during the Quinquennial of 1909.

At the request of Mrs. Moore this information was circulated, and a fresh vote of the members of the Executive was taken (by correspondence) by the I.C.W. President, with the result that there was a majority of 29 in favour of going to Washington.

The National Council of Women of Austria very courteously expressed their willingness to fall in with whatever decision the Executive might make, and promised to endeavour to send delegates to Washington. The Board of Officers are now occupied in framing a scheme whereby the generous contribution of \$20,000 promised by the American Council may be made use of in the best way possible, so as to secure a representative attendance of I.C.W. workers at the Quinquennial.

Information regarding all arrangements for the Quinquennial will be sent out as soon as possible by the Corresponding Secretary.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Annual Meeting in Brighton.

THE National Council of Women held its annual meeting and conference in Brighton, the "Queen of Watering-places," from 6th to 10th October, the meetings being held in the Dome; while the inquiry office, book-room, and rest-room were conveniently housed in George IV.'s Royal Pavilion, these buildings having been placed at the disposal of the Council free of charge. The special subject selected for consideration this year was the Call to the Younger Generation, which was specially voiced at the opening meeting for girls, when the Dome, seating 2,500, was packed to its utmost, members being turned away from the doors. The meeting was an unqualified success, the girls listening with the keenest interest to the lively address from the chairman, Lady Astor, and to the speeches by Miss Isabel MacDonald, whose mother spoke at the last Conference held in Brighton in 1900; by Mrs. Wintringham; Miss Cumberbich, who spoke on openings for social service, paid and unpaid; and Mrs. George Morgan, who gave an inspiring address on the Spirit behind Work. At the opening session of the Council the delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Brighton. After the presidential address and the presentation of the annual report and finance report, the numerous resolutions appearing upon the agenda were considered. It was felt that the resolutions as a whole were possibly less contentious than in previous years, but nevertheless several of them evoked very lively discussion. One resolution called upon the Home Secretary to give effect to the recent recommendations regarding the employment of policewomen by including them in the police regulations; whilst another urged the appointment of collecting officers in all petty sessional courts. It was felt that one of the chief difficulties in securing their appointment would be overcome if the clause limiting their remuneration were repealed. Other resolutions, which may assist in solving the housing

problem, urged the appointment of women on every Housing Committee and the employment of trained women as house property managers, on the methods initiated by Octavia Hill. One subject which had not before been debated at Council meetings urged the preservation of the beauty of the countryside, and deplored the tendency to litter public parks and gardens with rubbish. The speakers urged that much might be done in training children in tidy habits and encouraging them to feel a pride in keeping their villages, etc., beautiful. Apropos of this resolution, much heartburning was occasioned when a sudden gust of wind carried away the paper wrapping round a delegate's sandwiches on the Friday afternoon excursion! The burning question of domestic service aroused, as usual, much interest, one of the speakers urging that servants should be regarded as Princesses and not Cinderellas. The commonsense view, however, prevailed that every girl, no matter what her situation in life, should receive some training in domestic science. Resolutions in favour of sex equality as regards the franchise, equal pay and the work in the Civil Service, were carried practically unanimously.

At the evening meeting on the "Call from the Home" for Homemakers, Mrs. George Morgan occupied the chair, and Colonel Levita, chairman of the Housing Committee of the London County Council, and Captain Reiss, of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, spoke on the vexed question of housing; while the Rev. R. L. Gwynne, chairman of the Kent Migration Committee, urged the claims of homes overseas. The Call from the Nation for good Citizens was voiced by Mrs. George Cadbury, who drew attention to the apathy which was so prevalent that few people troubled even to record their votes. Lady Emmott presided, and Mr. Cope Morgan (the son of the president) and Lady Nott Bower urged the claims of citizenship, Lady Nott Bower stating that it was only because people were so ignorant that they found Local Government dull. At the last meeting under the chairmanship of Lady Frances Balfour the Council was fortunate in having so eminent an authority as Viscount Cecil, who spoke on the work of the League of Nations, dwelling especially upon the fifth Assembly at Geneva and the clauses laid down in the protocol with regard to disarmament. Mr. Keen gave a considered address on International Co-operation in Trade and Finance.

One session of the Council was devoted to the consideration of international questions, when Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon brought forward for consideration the various resolutions which had been accepted to be placed upon the agenda for the quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women in Washington in May, 1925.

The social side of the gatherings was amply provided for, a reception to the Executive Committee having been given by the local Council on Tuesday, and to all the delegates, by the Mayors of Brighton and Hove, on Thursday evening, at both of which many international visitors were present. On Wednesday visits were paid to the schools and hospitals in the neighbourhood, including the famous Roedean School; while on Friday a delightful series of excursions were arranged to Arundel Castle, when the delegates were entertained by the Duchess of Norfolk; Chichester Cathedral, when tea was given by the Bishop and Miss Burrows at the Palace; Hewtimber Place, by invitation of Countess Buxton; the Heritage Craft Schools, etc.

BOOK REVIEWS.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF THE CAUSES OF WAR.—The International Council of Women has now published the Report of their Conference held at the British Empire Exhibition in May last. This is a most valuable document for all people of goodwill, whether their main propaganda is directly to work for peace or not, since the speeches dealt with such a variety of questions that affect the life of everybody. Peace is so obviously the first necessity for the carrying out of any of the reforms which good citizens have at heart that a study of the causes of war and a greater understanding of how they may be prevented from

operating is one of the first duties of those who care for the betterment of the world. In this report there are discussions on education, the rights of women to full citizenship, the training of young people, intellectual co-operation between nations, the rights of minorities, international organisation in matters of health, medicine, and nursing, economic interdependence, international co-operation in industrial and social questions, the democratic control of foreign affairs, etc. The speakers were drawn from many nations, and were experts on the subject with which they dealt: but it is not only for the information to be obtained from it that this Report will be valued, it is perhaps even more for the stimulus it gives to thought and discussion. A member of the Board of Officers of the Alliance has made the suggestion that societies should obtain this report and build up from it a whole syllabus of meetings for the forthcoming winter, and this excellent suggestion has already been brought to the notice of our national presidents. There is, too, a tremendous encouragement in this Report for all who care for international understanding: what a vast amount of international work actually in being it reveals! If political international understanding makes its way but slowly in the hearts of the peoples, it is evidently not so with humanitarian work, and this realisation of common needs and problems must in the end affect the point of view of the nations in all their relations with each other.

NINTH REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE. Orchard House, Great Smith Street, London.—This report will be found of interest to all those concerned in the problems of an equal moral standard, and not only to British readers. The Association is the British branch of the International Federation for the Abolition of State Regulation of Prostitution, and was founded by Josephine Butler, the great protagonist of this world movement. The abolition of regulation is a principle to which the Alliance is committed, and the statement of principles as well as the account of the national and international work undertaken by the Association, must surely strike a sympathetic note for every feminist. This can never rightly be classed as a "woman's question," but it is one in which women are vitally and specially concerned, and the justice, the sanity, and the spirit of humanity of the views here expressed have an irresistible appeal to those who truly care for that "liberty with responsibility" which is the only right basis of progress. The whole question of prostitution and immorality is one which all too easily lends itself to exaggeration and emotional loss of balance, and an organisation which faces it with sanity and careful accuracy is an incalculable boon to those who want to know the real state of the case without having time to give close personal study to it. The Association is appealing for funds, and it is difficult to think of any object to which support could better be given by those to whom the equal and honourable status of womanhood is the cause nearest to their hearts.

ENQUÊTE SUR LES LIVRES SCOLAIRES.—The Carnegie Foundation for International Peace has published the results of an inquiry made into the school books now in use in the countries which participated in the late war. The principal object of this inquiry was to discover what attitude was taken towards the causes and results of the war. The seven countries of Europe principally concerned have been included, and each separate inquiry concludes with a summary of the conclusions drawn from it, but there is no attempt made to sum up a general impression, which would, indeed, perhaps inevitably prove somewhat misleading. One does nevertheless get such an impression, which may be roughly given as that while the bitter side of patriotic feeling is not on the whole encouraged, there is not very much attempt to see the problem of world harmony as a whole. The teaching of history is inclined to remain more national than general. Thinking people who care for peace are always conscious that the greatest hope must ever lie in the training of children, and this book is therefore of great interest to those who want to study the educational aspect. The Carnegie Foundation would welcome criticism of the form or scope of the inquiry: the address

is, Le Centre Européen de la Dotation Carnegie, 173, Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, Vi.

STANDARDS FOR A SOCIALISED COURT FOR DEALING WITH SEX DELINQUENTS, published by the American Bureau of Social Hygiene, 370, Seventh Avenue, New York City.—Special courts for sex delinquents exist in some of the big American cities, and this little pamphlet is based on a study of those actually in existence so as to take from them and from the special knowledge of its compilers a standard for such institutions. To social workers who are concerned with the question of how the law deals with such cases, this pamphlet will be of interest, even though there may not exist elsewhere a counterpart of the American system.

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS WOMEN'S HOSPITAL LEAGUE: ANNUAL REPORT.—This organisation exists in order to provide professional women with a means of obtaining proper medical and nursing care in illness. The Report shows that its membership is growing, and asks those interested to note that there has been a change in the secretaryship. The secretary now is: Miss Philippa Strachey, 35, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

ANCILLA'S SHARE. Published by Hutchinson and Co., Paternoster Row, London. The sub-title of this book is "An Indictment of Sex Antagonism," and although it was published anonymously it is now known to have been written by Elizabeth Robins. It is a book which no woman who calls herself a feminist and no woman who cares for peace should fail to read. Its first thesis is that women, in order to work coherently and successfully for their proper share in the world—a proper share in money, in power, in influence,—must first boldly face the fact that men are full of antagonism to women, that they are still in fear of woman's influence; that it is useless to insist on the gains of women, on the hard-won and still more hardly held political and economic rights which have been grudgingly granted, and to suppose that the tide has definitely turned, and that men as a whole now realise that women's full co-operation is not only just, but necessary. Women did not choose that there should exist a sex solidarity in place of a human solidarity; the sex solidarity of woman is the complement of the sex solidarity of men. Men chose to be solid in defence of their position of mastery; women necessarily—even if largely unconsciously—became solid because of their common enslavement to that mastery. Consciousness of that solidarity came slowly among women: let us not lose it before we have won for ourselves such a recognition of equal value that *without question* both sexes shall be free to make their common contribution to human welfare. For a time women must forbear trying to force on man a co-operation for which he—and perhaps she also—is not ready. Let her rather concentrate on the co-operation of women with women: it is women who alone can show what women want and what women can do; it is for women to show that they believe in and trust their own sex; for them to refuse to take the man-made view of women's needs and capacities, to refuse to acquiesce in that relegation of women to a sphere in which her sex alone counts; and finally to free man against his will from his age-long misconceptions. Miss Robins pleads for a study of the past and of former feminine personalities by women who are qualified to bring to light the largely unrecorded facts of women's past history, and who can bring to that study the interest and the understanding which the male historian must almost inevitably lack. She sounds the call to women to create for their fellow-women that atmosphere of hope and confidence that is the only forcing-ground for achievement for most people; to protest unweariedly against the constant, small belittlements of women in the press, at the playhouse, in public, and in private; not to join the political parties where they may be given work but seldom any real voice, but rather to give their energy and time to work for the non-party women's organisations. Finally, she shows that work for the woman's movement is not to work for a small thing and to seem to magnify it at the expense of the big things, but rather to work for the first essential qualification to undertake those big things with hands and brains that shall not be hampered by an

undercurrent of animosity and the constant reminder of inferior status.

The urgency of this question lies in the fact that at this moment we are living in a world faced with catastrophe. Women have no time to wait for the slow process of evolution unaided, to wait for a possible gradual dying-out of the sex antagonism in order that they may help to save civilisation. If women wait on that shadowy hope of progress, the end of the world as we know it will be upon us before we have got even one hand free to fight for it. Men already speak with gloomy resignation of the "next war," and indeed with reason, since it is difficult to see what steps men have taken to alter the conditions which make war possible. It is this, this constant apprehension of war, that makes women's need for freedom an urgent need. She must win that first, and win it quickly, if she is to have a hope of saving the civilisation that means fully as much to her and her children as it does to men. Men don't want her help, dread it; let her make haste so to show them that help is there, that when the moment comes she will be able to make her contribution and not compelled to stand helplessly by while ruin falls on both men and women.

This is a long book and a rather complicated book, but it is written with a singleness of aim and a wit and wisdom that do not make it hard reading. The above view of it is but a partial one, but perhaps it may help to show that here is a call to women to feel still that passionate partisanship to their own cause which the reaction of war and partial victory here and there have made to glow a little dimly.

A LETTER FROM TRANSYLVANIA.

Dear Mrs. Bompas,—Enjoying my short holidays here, in my old native land, Transylvania (formerly the eastern part of Hungary; now, since 1918, belonging to Great Roumania), I beg to send you this time, with your kind editorial permission, instead of the usual report from Germany, some news about the suffrage cause in this far-away country. I hope it will be of interest for you, as well as for the readers of *Jus*, though for valid reasons I must confine myself to the state of things with my special Saxon countrymen—*i.e.*, the old German colonist people who, in the twelfth century, were called to the land "behind the woods" by Hungarian kings, and endowed with many privileges. Of these they have still retained—though, in the course of time, many of them have been abolished, and their territories have been incorporated with the whole of the State,—their autonomy in church and school matters. In the Hungarian as well as in the Roumanian legislative bodies they always formed a separate national group, and so it was self-evident that also in the suffrage question they would, as a party, keep their distinct standpoint, which, of course, originally was strictly anti-feminist—if the question was raised at all. As I myself was the innocent cause that the stone began to roll, and that things completely changed when the question came up in Parliament, and as this instance shows some characteristic features in the international suffrage movement, I may be allowed to give a short account of it.

When the Hungarian Suffrage Association prepared for the splendid Congress of the Alliance in Budapest, 1913, and was propagating the suffrage idea in all parts and among all the nationalities of the country, they invited me to lecture in the German districts of Transylvania. This I did in April, 1912, in the five largest towns, in crowded public meetings, with Rozsika Schwimmer and Vilma Glücklich in the chair. The immediate result was a long and ardent controversy among the public and in the press, whereat the opponents (including almost the whole clergy) were in overwhelming majority. My brother, an enthusiastic young friend, and two prominent Saxon members of Parliament, were the most valiant champions among the few supporters. But the leading women in the whole "Saxon land" were aroused, began to organise, sent in petitions, and in a large number took part in the Budapest Congress.

This usual beginning of the well-known long and hard suffrage struggle all over the world, very soon, and quite

unexpectedly, came to a good end, *within the Saxon people*. A short time afterwards, the Government's Bill for a general suffrage reform was brought before the Hungarian Parliament, and, alone of all parties, *the Saxons unanimously voted for woman suffrage* under the same conditions as the men. This wonderful and, for the uninitiated, quite incomprehensible change—which, however, had no practical result, as woman suffrage was defeated at that time—was not at all the consequence of a change in principle, but simply was due to utility reasons. The Bill, though providing for a considerable extension of the suffrage, still made it dependent on a certain standard of knowledge and education (Intelligenz-Census). As the Saxon women *altogether* were, thanks to their good schools, qualified as voters, they would have more than doubled the votes, and, consequently, the weight of the Saxon party, while the percentage of the qualified women belonging to other nationalities would have been much smaller.

When by the revolution, 1918, woman suffrage was established in Hungary, the Transylvanian women could not make use of it, as the country at that time already had become part of Roumania. The Saxon party, however, held the same position in the Roumanian Parliament as they had done in the Hungarian, and when the Bill for municipal woman suffrage was discussed and carried, they again stood unanimously for the extension of woman suffrage for Parliament also. As an important advance, I may also mention that during the last years a remarkable change in public opinion has taken place among the Saxon people and politicians with regard to women's position and woman suffrage. It is evidently due to this change in principle, and by no means only to practical reasons, that, for instance, since 1921, within their Saxon Church (Evangelische Landeskirche) the women have got full suffrage in all church and school matters.

The question of woman suffrage is still pending in Roumania, and the women's organisations will have to struggle hard for its happy solution. When it will come, whether sooner or later, I cannot tell; but this I know—whenever the question is brought before Parliament the women will be sure to get the most energetic support from the Saxon members.

I hope, dear Mrs. Bompas, you will be glad to hear of this development of our cause in my old home, as I was glad to tell you about it.—With kind remembrance, sincerely yours,

MARIE STRITT.

Schässburg-Sighisoara (Roumania), Sept. 20.

A SWEDISH INQUIRY.

Report on Pay of Women Civil Servants.

THE Committee appointed by the Swedish Government in 1921 to investigate the wages and old-age pensions of female employees of the State has recently presented its report in a volume of nearly 300 pages. The Committee suggests a common wages system for male and female employees, with provision for the application of the family wage principle.

Taking as starting point the principle that the work done by women in the service of the State should not be more expensive than that done by men (*i.e.*, equal wages for the same amount of work), the Committee finds that a certain difference in the wages paid to male and female employees is justifiable on the following grounds: (1) The rate of sickness among the female employees has been proved to be greater by more than 40 per cent. than that of the men; (2) women occupy a special position as regards old-age pensions, having regard to their lower qualifying age (generally three years lower than for men) and their longer average life; (3) the ratio between the quantitative output of work of men and women; and (4) certain other factors, such as the liability of men to conscription, and the impossibility of the State ignoring wage conditions on the general labour market. Exceptions from this general conclusion, however, are proposed for female employees who attain the higher grades of the

(Continued on page 28.)

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FOR the third time within two years the country is faced with a general election. For the N.U.S.E.C. this means not only a strenuous time helping the women candidates, but it means, too, that the Bills on which so much labour has been spent will again be scrapped. The Equal Franchise Bill, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Legitimacy Bill, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, were all well on their way to become law. Now the whole work will have to be begun again from the beginning with a new Parliament. And it is not the first time this has happened! None of these Bills was new when the last session started; some of them are being cast into the melting-pot for the third time. It is like the games we played as children. The dice brings one's man on to a particular square in the board; there is some obstacle, and one goes back to the beginning. The only difference is that now it is not a game which is involved, but the vital interest of living women and children. It is not surprising that the women, whatever their party views, regret the election.

As far as the party manifestos can be regarded as a true sign of what we may expect from the three parties, it seems as if the Liberal Party had least to offer in connection with feminist reform. Of the definite measures for which women have been pressing during the last session only widows' pensions finds a place in their programme, and then only as part of a broad scheme of insurance; and it is certain that a comprehensive insurance scheme, with its many elaborations and difficult actuarial problems, could not be quickly passed into law. The Conservatives also refer to widows' pensions, and would introduce a contributory scheme. What the Labour plan for widows' pensions may be is not made clear from their manifesto. They state that a scheme would have been laid before the House this session if it had not been for the election, but they do not state whether it would be on contributory or non-contributory lines. It is known, however, that an influential section of the Labour Party is in favour of non-contributory pensions. The Labour Party also mentions equal franchise in their manifesto, the only party which does; but we cannot forget that the measure for equal franchise which was before the House was due more to an active group of private members, both Liberal and Labour, than to the Government, which in spite of frequent pledges was not willing itself to take the initiative in this matter. Equal guardianship, legitimacy, and women police, the other reforms which the women's societies were pressing, are all mentioned in the Unionist manifesto; here is a valuable series of pledges should the Unionist come into office. The League of Nations, in which the women of this country feel a special interest, is also mentioned in the Unionist manifesto; it is omitted from the Liberal manifesto, and referred to by implications only in the Labour manifesto. Nevertheless, the records of the two last Governments make it clear that the strengthening of the League of Nations is at least as likely under a Labour as under a Unionist Government.

But it is not only to the party manifestos that the women are looking. There is the vital and exciting question of the women candidates. There will be some consolation for an unwanted election if it means more women members. There are forty-three women candidates standing—thirteen Unionists, eight Liberals, twenty-two Labour, and one Independent Labour. The eight women members, we are glad to say, are all standing again for their present constituency. Two of them, the Duchess of Atholl and Miss Susan Lawrence, won their seats at the last election by only a very small majority, so that the result of the fight this year will be awaited with some anxiety. Of the remaining thirty-four women candidates, half of them are standing for the first time; half of them have stood before, though not in all cases for the same constituency as last year. For the most part they have stiff fights ahead of them, though in

one or two cases the majority against them is a small one. Miss E. B. Mitchell (Liberal) is contesting Lanark, a seat held by Labour by a majority only of 230; Miss K. Spurrell (Labour) is fighting a Liberal candidate in Totnes with a majority of 502; whilst Miss Sayle, who is standing as Labour candidate for Hemel Hempstead, has only a majority of 17 against her. It is encouraging that these candidates, who have not stood before, should have been given constituencies to fight where only a small turnover of votes would send them in. We have already passed the days when women were given only hopeless constituencies. Of the other contests the one which will perhaps be of most interest to the readers of this paper is that of Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who is standing as Liberal candidate for Watford. She has contested a hopeless seat three times already; we trust she will have better luck with this one. Her opponent, Mr. Dennis Herbert, is one of the most persistent of anti-feminists in the House, so there is a double reason for hoping to see her successful.

In the midst of the turmoil of the election other aspects of women's interests must not be forgotten. There has been one unfortunate episode lately—the closing of the medical school at St. Mary's Hospital, one of the largest of the London hospitals, to women. Women were admitted there, as at other hospitals, during the war, to prevent a financial collapse. But now that they have served their turn, and though co-education has been an admitted success, the hospital no longer wishes to admit women students. The explanation lies in a temporary tendency to overcrowding in the medical profession and the fear of women's competition, but this is an utterly reactionary and ungrateful way of dealing with the situation. This is not the only profession where women's position is rousing comment from one side or the other. Both in the teaching profession and in the Civil Service the women's campaign for equal pay is going steadily on. The Government was pledged to the principle of equal pay; nevertheless, differentiation of pay continues. In the educational world there are frequent complaints of the increase in the number of women teachers in comparison with men, but still a premium is placed on the employment of women by the lower salary. The fact is that the professional woman is faced at present by the reaction of the war enthusiasm for her work, and she has many battles still to win.

W. A. E.

NOTE.—Since writing the above, Mr. Asquith has informed the N.U.S.E.C. that the Liberal Party still stands for political, legal, and economic equality for men and women; and Mr. Baldwin has stated that "the Unionist Party are in favour of equal political rights for men and women, and desire that the question of an extension of the franchise should, if possible, be settled by agreement."

W. A. E.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

ON October 9 Parliament was prorogued and the general election fixed for October 29. On the evening of October 10 the Women's Freedom League held a public meeting in Essex Hall, London, at which the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting of representatives of twenty-four organisations wholly or mainly consisting of women expresses deep indignation that British women are for the fourth time since their partial enfranchisement having to face a general election with unequal voting rights with men, there being now nearly five million voteless women over the age of 21 against a little over a quarter of a million of voteless men over 21. It therefore calls upon the heads of all political parties to make a definite statement without delay that they will make the removal of this injustice to women one of their first legislative measures, should they come into office."

When the parties' manifestos appeared, we pointed out at once that there was no promise in any of them to secure equal voting rights for women with men. We

characterised the Labour Party's paragraph headed "A Word to Women" as a hypocritical whine. We keenly resented that in the Conservative Party's paragraph headed "Women and Children" the rights of women as citizens were mixed up with protective measures for children; and we were specially indignant that the Liberal Party had not thought it worth while to say one word about women's special and vital interests.

Since the publication of these manifestos the Liberal and Conservative Parties have issued statements to the effect that the equal enfranchisement of women will be one of their objects in the next Parliament.

In the meantime we have issued a wide appeal to our members and friends to give every possible support to the women candidates, irrespective of the party for which they are standing. Our members and friends are working hard in several of the women's constituencies, for we believe that the return of women to the House of Commons is the quickest and the surest way of getting all the reforms for which we are working. Where no woman is standing we are sending a questionnaire to the men candidates, asking them detailed questions about the support they will give to the various equality measures for which we are working.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

HUNGARY.

THE first woman has been elected to the Board of the Actors and Actresses' Federation.

The Reform Church Convention has decided to admit women to the theological faculty of the University in Debrecen, which, like all other theological high schools, was formerly closed to them. By this decision women may attend regularly the lectures of this theological faculty, and may pass their examinations under the same conditions as men. Notwithstanding, they cannot become or serve as clergymen, but may merely act as teachers of religion in primary and secondary schools. Even before this decision one woman was admitted to this theological faculty, and now serves as missionary in Yugoslavia.

INDIA.

Women Demand Entrance to the Councils.

THE agitation of Indian women for the right of entering Legislative Councils and higher Legislatures goes ahead briskly. Mrs. Faridooji Rustoomji, of the Women's Indian Association, organised a most successful and influential meeting of ladies in Simla, presided over by Lady Shafi, to bring to the attention of the Reforms Enquiry Committee now sitting in Simla the strong views of women on this question. The following resolution was passed unanimously by the meeting after being moved by Mrs. Deep Narain Singh, and seconded by Begum Shah Nawaz: "This meeting of Indian women belonging to different parts of India places on record its very strong opinion that the disability of women to stand as candidates for the Legislatures be removed forthwith, and that the rules under the Government of India Act be amended accordingly." The meeting sent forward to the Reforms Committee a logical and convincing memorandum, and later Mrs. Deep Narain Singh went before the Committee as a witness on this question and made her points very clear to them. There is still a month during which the Committee will be sitting, and women's associations are requested to hold meetings of support of the action of the Simla women and to send forward to the secretary of the Reforms Enquiry Committee, Simla, their resolutions on this vital matter. The Women's Indian Association has also sent forward a memorandum in which they add to the request for Council entry that of the removal of the clause of sex disqualification for the franchise for the whole of India. They ask the Committee to recommend the Government to extend woman suffrage to all the Provinces. Two sentences from the memorandum sum up the position. "It is an anomaly that women may not be members of the Legislatures in the Provinces where they are granted the right to vote."

"We very much resent the position that our sisters in the single province of Burma should be able by a resolution to enter their Legislatures while this should be closed to even the most advanced women in the rest of India, a position which is simply intolerable."

Indian Women in Public Life.

Madras Presidency is going to be famous for the number of women it is appointing as members of its Public Boards. During the last month two new women municipal Councillors have been appointed, Mrs. Krishnavenamma for Cocanada, and Miss Babayamma for Rajahmundry. It has fallen to the lot of Madanapalle to be the first place outside of Bombay City to appoint the first Indian woman magistrate in the person of Mrs. Jayalakshmi Ammal, B.A., daughter of Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliar, M.L.C., who has recently been on the National Convention Deputation to England. We heartily congratulate this young lady on her notable entry into public service. She received most of her education in the Benares Theosophical College for Women, where the principles of altruistic service are ever on the lips of the teachers. The presence of these ladies in these positions of responsibility is very promising for the future of the country. They are all members of the Women's Indian Association. We hope especially that they will exert themselves to secure the inclusion of girls in all schemes for compulsory primary education.

—Stri Dharma.

NEW ZEALAND.

September 15, 1924.

IN the work of the session there is little progress to report as yet. The main measure of concern to women, the Justices of the Peace Bill, brought in by the leader of the Opposition, had a good passage in the Lower House, but was thrown out in the Upper House—a body threatened with extinction years ago, but still unsuperseeded and still powerful to hinder reform.

Organised feminism, however, is increasingly active, both in the Women's Christian Temperance Union and in the National Council of Women. Full reports of the Council's Conference this month are not yet out, but valuable work was done. The superannuation of nurses, already mooted by many public men, was urged, together with equal pay for equal work. The Labour Party strongly pressed the principle of equal pay for women teachers a few days ago. Although this is not conceded, our women teachers are not paid ungenerously at present, and resent the unequal status of women teachers in the higher grades at least as much as the inequality of salary.

The appointment of two women to the Board of Governors, Canterbury College, and the importation of a highly qualified woman inspector of home science schools throughout the country, are decided steps forward, and the Minister for Education has expressed his approval of the appointment of women inspectors for the State schools.

Certain fatalities in a private maternity hospital roused Parliament to appoint a Royal Commission on Maternal Mortality, statistics having become alarming—a contrast to the distinction as to lowness of infant mortality shared by our country with Norway. Heated public discussion ensued all over the country; accusations against careless hospital heads and nurses were met by counter-accusations against careless visiting doctors spreading infection; while the merits and demerits of anaesthetics in childbirth were freely handled. Blame was laid upon no one class in the report, on the heads of which nothing has yet taken shape, but it is certain that the good start made by the late Mr. Seddon in founding the St. Helen's Hospitals must soon be followed up by further protective legislation for the motherhood of the country. Sir Mari Pomare, our Minister of Health, has spoken with refreshing candour on the good work of midwives as compared with that of men doctors.

Indirectly, a most important step is being taken towards maternal safety and child betterment in the inauguration this week of a Food Reform and Anti-Cancer League in Christchurch. A Christchurch medical

man, Dr. H. T. Thacker, lately returned from a tour of Europe and America, has lectured effectively on the dangers of cancer and tuberculosis as caused by false dietary. The movement is not wholly vegetarian, but is aimed at the dangers of meat-eating and of over-refined flour and sugar, with over-eating, wrong drinking, and the use of de-vitalised tinned foods. The founders of the League expressly desire to carry on the labours of Dr. Truby King in Infant Life Preservation, by a reformation in feeding the young after babyhood, though the call is addressed to all yet unroused to the dangers and fallacies of modern diet.

The League of Nations Union is receiving fair support from the women of New Zealand, and a wider sense of the need for a higher internationalism is growing. Christchurch. JESSIE MACKAY.

SEPTEMBER, 1924, marks the thirty-first anniversary of the passing of the Women's Franchise Bill. Many years later the last Parliamentary disability was removed, and now women are eligible as M.P.s. Yet, strange to say, they are not yet eligible as J.P.s or jurors. But though legal disabilities are removed, there is a strong prejudice still against the new departure. Public opinion needs educating, and it is the work of our women's organisations to do this. We claim for woman an absolute liberty to do whatever she can do best. This for her sake and the sake of our Dominion, which has a right to the best service that every citizen can render her.

How We Won the Vote.

To Mrs. Muller belongs the honour of being the pioneer worker for the enfranchisement of women in New Zealand. Mrs. Muller, an English lady, left England in the ship *Pekin* in 1849, and she landed at Nelson in January, 1850. In 1852 she married the late Dr. Muller, who became Provincial Secretary of Nelson when the provinces were constituted. For some years before leaving England, the injustice of the laws towards women was impressed on the mind of Mrs. Muller; it was therefore hardly to be wondered at that, living in New Zealand, and associating with such nation-builders as Sir William Fox, Alfred Saunders, Sir David Munro, and others, Mrs. Muller should feel that in this new land women as well as men should be free. Quietly and unobtrusively, in frequent conversation with those early law-makers, Mrs. Muller suggested the equity of the enfranchisement of women; but while for the greater part they listened with courteous apathy, there were some, Sir David Munro among them, who were heartily shocked at so scandalous a suggestion. Dr. Muller, too, was strongly opposed to woman suffrage. A good and learned man, an affectionate husband, he was rigid in his views as to the impropriety of women manifesting an interest in politics. It is probable, too, that his position as an administrator of the law strengthened his disapproval of his wife taking part in an agitation for its reform.

In this painful dilemma, Mr. Charles Elliott, a relative, came to the rescue. Mr. Elliott was not only a member of Parliament, but more important still, was the proprietor of the *Nelson Examiner*, which at that time was probably the most influential newspaper in the colony. He proved himself to be a real friend in need. Carefully preserving Mrs. Muller's anonymity, he received and forwarded her correspondence, placed the columns of his own paper at her disposal, and procured publication for her articles in papers in other parts of the Colony. Certainly among the men who have rendered unacknowledged service to the cause of women in New Zealand the name of Mr. Charles Elliott stands high. In 1869, Mrs. Muller, under the nom de plume of "Femina," issued a pamphlet entitled "An Appeal to the Men of New Zealand." Its publication drew from John Stewart Mill a most encouraging letter, and a copy of his "Subjection of Women," just then published. Finding that the time for the complete emancipation of women had not arrived, Mrs. Muller turned her energies in the direction of obtaining some immediate relief, and had the satisfaction of seeing the Married Women's Property Act passed. Advancing

years and the difficulty of conducting a secret propaganda compelled her to relinquish her work. One of her most cherished wishes was that New Zealand should lead the way in the enfranchisement of women. Mrs. Muller lived to see her desire accomplished. Over eighty years of age, living at her home, New Amersfoort, Blenheim, frail in body, but with a youthful heart and still vigorous intellect, Mrs. Muller rejoiced to see the work begun with pain and difficulty 50 years before, brought to a successful completion. Mrs. Muller passed away in July, 1902.

On August 8, 1878, Dr. James Wallis moved: "That in the opinion of this House the electoral disabilities of women should be entirely removed, and that the same rights and privileges should be granted to women as to men."

Whatever may have been the immediate causes for the Bill being dropped, there can be little doubt that the time was not ripe for the passing of so important a measure. It was meet and right that the work begun by Mrs. Muller should be continued and completed by women.

In February, 1886, a Convention of delegates was held in Wellington, and a chief governing body for the Colony, known as the N.Z. W.C.T.U., was constituted. Among the many departments set up was that known as the Franchise Department.

On August 19, 1890, Sir John Hall's Woman's Franchise Bill was read for the first time; the motion was carried by 37-11. In 1891 interest was growing, as shown by Mrs. Sheppard's annual report. Large and successful meetings were being held, leaflets circulated—all of which created interest. The petition forms, which had been sent out during the previous year, were collected and prepared for presentation to Parliament, and it was found that the signatures numbered 10,085. On August 24 Sir John Hall moved the second reading of the Female Suffrage Bill; the Bill passed its second reading by a majority of 25. The second reading was rejected on September 10 in the Upper House. In 1892 fresh petitions were circulated, and when ready for presentation to Parliament no fewer than 20,274 signatures had been obtained.

In September, 1893, the Bill finally passed both Houses and received the Governor's signature. Women were from that time electors, though it was not for over a quarter of a century that they won the right to be elected. —The White Ribbon.

UKRAINIAN WOMEN OF EASTERN GALICIA.

THE Ukrainian women of Eastern Galicia have their own organisation, which consists of about thirty societies spread over different districts of the country, with their centre in the capital, Lwow.

This year they celebrated the fortieth jubilee of the existence of the first feminist society in Stanislawow. This society was the first which did not limit itself to exclusively philanthropic activity, like all other societies of that time, but put as its aim to create a new type of woman—namely, women who were responsible citizens with all the rights of free citizens. It was founded by the first Ukrainian feminist in Galicia, Natalie Kobrinska. To-day the feminist organisation of the Ukrainian women of Eastern Galicia represents a party which counts a great deal in public life. Unfortunately, it is not possible to spread its activity over all parts of Ukrainian territory that is to-day under Polish government, as the administrative authorities do not allow it. Every year a congress of Ukrainian women takes place in Lwow. At the last one, that took place in April, 1924, the following themes were discussed: a (1) Exposé of the organisation of the societies all over the country; (2) the need of spreading the activity of the societies into villages. b (1) The influence of women on social life through the education of children; (2) the economic independence of women; (3) women and the co-operative system. c Information about the results of the feminist movement.

Lately the feminist organisation began to spread its activity over the villages, where we find favourable

ground. The Ukrainian peasant women have been through a thorough evolution during the last ten years. They are interested in the public life of their village, specially in questions of schools and education. There exist already several villages where a woman is at the head of a co-operative shop or even of the committee of the national school. (These are committees for the purpose of creating Ukrainian private schools where the Polish public schools are not sufficient for the number of pupils.) The Ukrainian peasant woman is to-day the most enthusiastic visitor of the national libraries, "Proswita," which propagate popular knowledge all over the country by means of literature, lectures, etc. These peasant women, of course, must be instructed about their rights and duties, all the more so as all of them possess the right of voting for Parliament.

The pupils of Ukrainian private schools, as well as those of the illegal high-schools that have existed for some four years in Lwow, being excluded from all public offices, are obliged to look for a living elsewhere. A part of these young men and women go willingly to the villages to teach there; for them the feminist central office at Lwow has worked out a plan of special courses of practical knowledge, such as clothmaking, sewing, cooking, gardening, and the like. At the same time, the pupils will be enlightened about feminist questions. The teachers will help to improve the housekeeping and farming, forming by this a new type of peasant woman.

The attitude of the villages towards this project is a highly favourable one, and some villages have already declared that they feel the need of a teacher and are willing to offer him complete material support.

The Ukrainian feminist organisation is in continual contact with the international organisations of women. Ukrainian delegates take part in foreign congresses, and afterwards give account of those congresses at home. Our "comitée pour la défense des droits des femmes" was received into the International Suffrage Alliance at the Congress in Rome last year. This fact met with great sympathy from all Ukrainians, and they hope that, united with such a strong and powerful organisation, they will be able to do still better work at home.

Lwow, July, 1924.

MARIE STRUTYNSKA.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AMERICAN women are looking forward with much pleasure to the Sixth Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women, which will meet in Washington, D.C., May 4 to 14, 1925. Delegates from thirty-four countries representing 36,000,000 women are expected, and officers of the National Council of the United States are making plans for the largest gathering of women ever recorded in Washington.

Thirty-nine national organisations, with a membership of more than 11,000,000 women, are included in the National Council, which is headed by Mrs. Philip North Moore. American committees will start immediately to make preparations for the lengthy programme, on which will be featured representatives from nearly every country in the world. Special plans will be made for the entertainment of the delegates. The Convention is recognised as the greatest clearing-house in the world to give women a common ground upon which they may meet to discuss problems affecting the womanhood of all nations.

Because the high rates of exchange in many of the smaller countries would make the expenses of their representatives unduly burdensome, it was originally planned to have the 1925 gathering in Vienna. Through the co-operation of the Carnegie Foundation, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National League of Women Voters, and many other organisations that responded to the appeal for funds to finance the quinquennial, it was possible to call the Convention in Washington.

Even though, at this writing, election day is still a few weeks away, it is not too early to predict one outstanding result of the 1924 Presidential election. If signs do not fail, and the awakened civic consciousness expresses itself as it is expected to, the electorate will pile up a record

number of ballots on November 4. The get-out-the-vote campaign, inaugurated by the National League of Women Voters to bring out a majority vote in the 1924 election, has become very popular. Everywhere, in the city and in the country, public-spirited men and women have caught the spirit of the drive for "more votes." Ever since the initiation of the campaign by the National League early in 1923, organisation after organisation has endorsed the idea, and now in the shadow of the great national election there is an army of co-operating groups.

One of the means devised by the League to stimulate interest in voting is the conduct of a cartoon contest. A prize of \$250.00 will be awarded to the artist whose published cartoon is "best calculated to arouse general interest in voting and increase attendance at the polls." Bruce Bliven, Miss Elizabeth Frazer, William Hard, David Lawrence, Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson, William Allen White, and Miss Katharine Ludington, the latter an officer of the League, are to judge the cartoons.

Ten women are seeking a seat in the House of Representatives. Of this number, according to recognised political prognosticators, it is doubtful if more than one or two will be successful on November 4. Mrs. Mary Norton, of Jersey City, nominated by the Democratic Party, is believed to be assured of her seat in the next Congress. She is running in a normally Democratic stronghold, and has the support of many women of other political faiths. Mrs. Norton has devoted much of her time to public welfare work, and has been instrumental in establishing first-class hospitals in her native State of New Jersey.

It is interesting to note at this time the nomination of Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, of Syracuse, New York, for Secretary of State of New York on the Republican ticket. This is the first time the Republicans of New York State, said to be the most conservative of conservative Republicans, have placed a woman on their State ticket. Mrs. Knapp held the only political office a woman could hold in her home-town county prior to the enfranchisement of women in the State. She was district superintendent of schools, and had supervision of 300 teachers. She is now head of the College of Home Economics in Syracuse University.

"What John does, Mary can do" has been well exemplified in the case of Mrs. Katherine Mayo Cowan, of Wilmington, who was sworn in as mayor of the city of Wilmington, North Carolina, on September 23, to succeed her late husband, James Hill Cowan.

Women have been honoured by the appointment of Miss Margaret M. Burnet, of New York City, as special attorney to the office of the Attorney-General of the United States. This is said to be the first appointment of a woman to this position. Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt is an assistant Attorney-General, and is not known as a "special attorney." Miss Burnet will assist William W. Hoppin, assistant Attorney-General, in charge of the Customs division of the Department of Justice, in handling litigation connected with the Tariff Act.

While many States have had women in their legislatures each year since the suffrage was granted to women, New York State cannot boast of that distinction. For three years it has been without a woman legislator, but 1925 will witness the seating of the fifth woman in the State Assembly. She is Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves, of St. Lawrence County, whose victory in a stiff primary fight is "as good as an election" in that Republican county. The other four women legislators sat in the Assembly in 1920 and 1921.

Prepared to make 1924-1925 a banner year in the development and accomplishment of its unpartisan political programme, the National League is outlining an intensive schedule of activity for its vast membership. Plans already mapped out for its Sixth Annual Convention, to be held in Richmond on April 15 to 22 next, indicate that the programme will offer much in its array of national and international speakers. It will be the League's first Convention in the South. It will be the first League Convention presided over by Miss Belle Sherwin, of Cleveland, who was elected president last April. The Virginia League of Women Voters, of which

Miss Adele Clark, of Richmond, is president, is preparing to be hostess to hundreds of delegates from all parts of the country.

The schedule calls for making the World Court the major measure in the League's legislative programme. Under the direction of Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York City, head of the Department of International Co-operation to Prevent War, State and local leagues will unite with the National League leaders in bringing to the attention of the Senate the "overwhelming sentiment for favourable action on the World Court." In addition, the League, through its State organisations, will bend every effort toward the ratification of the Child Labour Amendment during 1925, when forty-two legislatures are in session. Miss Julia Lathrop, first vice-president, will assume the leadership of the League's ratification drive.

Women are taking such an active interest in the immigration problem that the League has just appointed a special committee to study the question with a view to forming a policy on the question involved, and to report its findings to the Executive Council in Richmond next April. The committee is headed by Miss Frances Perkins, a widely known sociologist, who is now a member of the New York State Industrial Board, and a former director of the Council on Immigrant Education. Other members are Miss Lathrop and Miss Edith Abbott, dean of the graduate school of social service administration of the University of Chicago.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

THE WOMAN VOTER'S WORK IN SOCIAL HYGIENE.

[It will be recalled that Mrs. Webster was a member of a special commission appointed by the National League of Women Voters, which travelled through Europe last summer, to study women's work and the Peace movement. She was also one of the U.S. delegates to the ninth Congress of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, in Rome, in 1923.]

THERE has been a committee on social hygiene ever since the National League of Women Voters was organised. The committee looks upon its work from the viewpoint of the voter, and it undertakes to remedy only those conditions which can be attacked by citizens through the power of their suffrage. The committee is carrying on no original work; its programme is not technical. It takes the findings of experts and shows women voters what these findings mean in terms of government and politics.

The social hygiene programme adopted at the annual Convention of the National League for 1924-25 is a programme of doing. It is not an entertainment. The keynote is study and visiting. The committee holds that no one can come and lecture to women voters and present facts with anything like the clearness with which they can find them for themselves. The committee believes that the facts are there at hand in their own communities, and that all the citizens have to do is to look for them. The programme is based upon the assumption that there are three reasons why women as voters are interested in social hygiene. First, because women are held responsible for sex offences; secondly, because women are likely to be the innocent victims of infection; thirdly, because women as voters can bring about a different order of things.

Since the goal of social hygiene effort is the single standard of morals, it seems only logical that voters should begin work by replacing the statutes which make the double standard legal. So long as there is a double standard on the statute books and in law enforcement, no effort to educate for a single standard of morals will be wholly effective. We have been taught that there can be no morality that is not based on justice, and an injustice to the "common prostitute," as she is termed in law, is an injustice to all women. The committee believes that there will not be a different order until women voters realise the injustice of arresting and bringing to trial only one offender in an offence it takes two to commit, just as there will be no reduction in infection until women voters understand and maintain that crime

and disease are two separate and distinct things; that the treatment of one should in no way be influenced by the existence of the other, and that neither is peculiar to one sex.

After these steps League women may sponsor such educational and preventive measures as the community may provide, but, as voters, their first responsibility in social hygiene is to bring about the removal of discriminations against women in law and in administration.

The National League recorded for the third consecutive time against the compulsory examination of persons suspected of sex offences, by a unanimous vote.

ANN WEBSTER,
Chairman, Social Hygiene Committee,
N.L.W.V., U.S.A.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

Women and the Koran.

That was an attractive picture of the Muslim theory of religious conduct painted by Mr. Yuseif Ali at the conference of "Living Religions" in the Imperial Institute. The position of woman, he declared, was elevated by the Koran to equality with man, it being laid down that "women are men's twin halves." God, through Mahommed his messenger, enjoined men to treat women well, for they are mothers, sisters, wives, and aunts. The most valuable thing on earth is a virtuous woman. Female rights are sacred and must be maintained. Women are equal to men, both in moral and spiritual advancement.

CHINA.

A girl student at the Government Normal School in Nanking drowned herself rather than marry the man designated by her parents. This girl, after having exhausted her powers of persuasion to obtain freedom of choice, intimated that her suicide would awaken parents to the folly of persisting in this ancient custom.

DENMARK.

The Legislature is to consider Bills, already approved by the Cabinet, to abolish its army and navy; to do away with military and naval conscription, War Office, and Admiralty; reduce the land forces to 7,000 frontier guards, and its naval force to five boats for fishing inspection, a surveying vessel, one larger vessel, three motor-boats, twelve seaplanes; to reduce the annual military and naval expenditure from 60,000,000 kroner to 11,000,000. Of course, this is not complete disarmament; Denmark's population is only about three and a half million, so an army of seven thousand is no mere police force. But this small country evidently thinks the way to keep out of war is to have the minimum of warriors or war implements.

GERMANY.

Threescore years and ten are no hindrance to Mrs. Anna Bohn in keeping the lead as the best swimmer in the Berlin Swimming Club.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Lady in the Lobby.

Except on the night of Lady Astor's Parliamentary debut, when two lady journalists were specially admitted, the Press Gallery at Westminster up to now has remained an exclusively male preserve. But now the first lady lobbyist has arrived. She is Miss Stella Wolff Murray, and she represents a picture paper.

London Medical School for Women.

Fifty thousand pounds is being raised in London to endow three chairs for the London Medical School for Women, to be named after the founders—Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Sophia Jex-Blake, and Dr. Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson.

Married Woman.

In a new book, "The Economic Position of the Married Woman," by Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, the point is stressed that the wife should be no longer considered as "maintained," but that she should be publicly recognised as a vital contributing factor in the home in co-operating with the wage-earner. The book is published by the Oxford University Press (England).

First Woman Surveyor.

First of her sex, two years ago, to pass the final examination of the Surveyors' Institute, Miss Irene Martin has now set up her own office in Finsbury Square, London, where she will value property for mortgage, carry out surveys, and engage in all the many other branches of her profession. Before qualifying as a surveyor, Miss Martin, who was already a B.A. of London University, acted as the chief assistant of Miss Jeffreys, the only woman Crown Receiver, who manages a large estate in North-West London with thousands of tenants. Miss Martin is still in the twenties.

INDIA.**Dr. Annie Besant's Jubilee Meetings.**

A number of towns held women's meetings on the 25th August to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Annie Besant's first speech in public, which she delivered on August 25, 1874, on "The Political Status of Women." The meeting in Madras City was particularly successful. The premier social reform worker and social leader of South India, Lady T. Sadasivier, presided; the hall was beautifully decorated with the flags of all nations, representatives of the five continents garlanded Mrs. Besant's portrait, and all these factors created an impressive international atmosphere around the proceedings. Speakers dealt with the various sides of Mrs. Besant's public work, such as religion, education, politics, philanthropy, etc.

Travancore.

Almost the first administrative act of the Maharane Regent of Travancore has been to appoint Mrs. Poonen Lukose to be Durbar Physician, or head of the State medical service. Mrs. Lukose is the first woman in India to hold so high and responsible a post. She has also been nominated as a member of the Travancore Legislative Council, the first woman member of any Indian legislative body. Mrs. Lukose holds degrees from Madras University and the University of London. She is a member of a well-known Syrian Christian family in Travancore.

JAPAN.

The women and girls of Japan during the last decade have established themselves firmly in educational and commercial positions which previously had been denied them absolutely. As teachers, saleswomen, clerks, and typists, they have ably demonstrated their capabilities. The ranks of the nurses and telephone operators are their monopolies. A survey conducted recently by the social bureau of the municipal government shows that only 13 per cent. of the women engaged in work of this nature are married. In general, their ages range from 16 to 22.

NORWAY.

Prohibition still obtains in Norway. Their lawmaking body on July 16, by a vote of 63 to 49, rejected the Government's Bill to abolish prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating liquors.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The town of Port Elizabeth has unfortunately rejected the first woman candidate to stand for its City Council. The branch of the Women's Municipal Association who put up this candidate are, however, struck by a curious coincidence—namely, that during their campaign the City Council passed the "Clean Milk Regulations" which had before repeatedly been thrown out, which does suggest that the campaign succeeded in awakening consciences hitherto asleep. Perhaps it is this effect of the woman's vote everywhere which most truly shows its great importance.

New York.

The Controller-General, who holds the Governmental purse-strings, has ruled that all married women employees of Uncle Sam who wish to be carried on the payroll must adopt their husbands' names. They will no longer be permitted to enrol, as many of them have done in the past, under their maiden names. The Lucy Stone League, organised to fight for the right of married women to retain their own names, has jumped upon the offending official with all the logic and eloquence at his command. And the public is with them. Thousands of men and women who took the League's object rather lightly have suddenly risen up and said, "There's more in this than meets the eye." The Press is surprisingly unanimous against the Controller-General.

Illinois.

Giskilwa, Ill., has the honour of counting Mrs. Matilda Hodge, past 80 years of age, as the oldest active woman printer in the world.

U.S.A.**A SWEDISH INQUIRY.**

(Continued from page 22.)

public service (grades 15 and over). In such grades, to which promotion is made according to proved merit, men and women would nominally receive the same rate of wages; but the actual wages of women would be lower than those of men by an amount corresponding to the contributions which men have to pay towards pensions for their widows and children.

Subject to these exceptions, the wages of female employees in the various grades would, under the proposals of the Committee, be lower than those of male employees by the following percentages: Grades 1 to 6 (the lowest), 14 per cent.; grades 7 to 9, 12 per cent.; grades 10 to 12, 10 per cent.; grades 13 and 14, 8 per cent. Women at present employed would be brought under the existing wage scales for men in grades 1 to 12. Posts which have hitherto been reserved for women, with the exception of those the nature of which demands that they must be occupied by women, would be open to men at the rates applied when they were filled by women.

The Committee also deals with the question of the family wage, and suggests that this principle should be applied to both male and female employees of the State. The family allowance proposed would amount to between 240 and 1,200kr. a year, according to the position of the employee on the wages scale and the number of children he or she has to maintain. It is suggested that the child allowance for the lowest grades (1 to 4) should be paid until the child has attained the age of 16 years; for grades 5 to 7, until 17; for grades 8 to 11, until 18; for grades 12 to 16, until 19; and for grades 17 to 19 (the highest), until 20.

The women members of the Committee state in a memorandum that they do not consider the proposed solution of the women's wages question satisfactory from the point of view of principle, nor final; but, having regard to the financial position of the State, and in order not to run the risk of postponing the coming into force of the new Act relating to the eligibility of women for State employment, they have considered themselves bound to agree to the proposal now submitted.

Another member of the Committee (a Civil servant of high rank and a Conservative member of Parliament) dissents from the proposal that the family allowance should be paid to married women on the same terms as to men. He suggests that, as in the case of the existing allowance on account of cost of living, the family allowance should be paid to a married woman only when her husband, on account of complete or partial incapacity for work, is virtually unable to contribute to the maintenance of the family.

The representative of the lower grades of the service, in a note of reservation, declares himself unable to agree to the proposals concerning family allowances. The principle, he says, has been applied in Sweden only during times of crisis; it has hardly been applied anywhere but

in State employment; and it is not regarded by the employees themselves with any favour.

(Statens offentliga utredningar, 1922: 62.)

Extract from *Industrial and Labour Information*, Vol. IX., No. 4, January 28, 1924, p. 29.

Statement by the Department of Social Welfare.

In the year 1923 the Riksdag passed a law containing provisions concerning the employment of women in the service of the State and in other public services. This law was approved by the King in June, 1923, and will come into force on a date to be determined by the King and the Riksdag.

It is urged, however, that the coming into force of the law should be delayed until the conditions regarding salary and pension of the established women have been determined. A committee appointed in 1921 to consider the question of salary and pension published its report in October, 1923. In November, 1923, at the request of the King, the Department of Social Welfare issued a statement in which they expressed their opinions on the report of the Committee. The following is a summary of this statement:—

The Committee's proposal to alter the existing system of payment of State employees discusses two principles of general importance: (1) Different scales of payments for "family" and for "non-family providers," and (2) different scales for men and women.

The so-called "family allowance principle" is quite foreign to the existing system of remuneration of State servants, and the Department would deem it neither right nor expedient for the State to adopt this principle at a time when it is employing a large number of women of whom the majority would not be family providers.

The most important point to be considered when recruiting a staff is the fitness of each person for the post he or she is to hold—not his or her responsibilities. The scheme of family allowances advocated by the Committee cannot be considered satisfactory. It would obviously be unfair to persons who have to provide for parents or other relatives. Many persons also who are not family providers have incurred such a heavy debt while students, or owing to other circumstances, that their financial position is a very difficult one, and, where they have to help relatives, it becomes impossible for them to assume the responsibilities of a family; many "family providers," on the other hand, are in a good financial position, which is often due to marriage. State servants without family responsibilities would often be in a worse and certainly not in a better position than the majority of those with family responsibilities. For this reason, and apart from the question whether equal pay is right or not, it is inexpedient that a State servant should receive a smaller salary because he is not a "family provider." It would be obviously unfair that a person of medium efficiency and in good financial circumstances should receive a larger salary than a highly efficient person in poor financial circumstances, simply because the former has family responsibilities. Even where the two persons in question are equally efficient, the difference of remuneration will inevitably be a source of discontent.

The Department cannot accept the arguments put forward by the Committee in favour of family allowances, and is of opinion that other means of giving help to persons with family responsibilities should be adopted.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The Department is quite unable to agree with the Committee's recommendations that men and women should receive different rates of pay for the same work. To allow women to compete with men for vacancies in the State Service and then to give women a smaller salary than men doing the same work cannot be considered equitable, and the idea should not be entertained. The Department considers that the only rational manner of dealing with the question is that the rate of salary should be based on the nature of the work, and that in every case the most efficient person and the one best suited to the particular task required should be appointed, whether this person be man or woman, or has family responsibilities or no

family responsibilities. If the State secures the best possible servant in every case it also secures the cheapest service.

The Committee has further stated that women should receive less salary than men because their sickness incidence is greater and their output of work less. The Department considers the work in the State service is sufficiently varied to allow of each person being placed on work suitable to his or her sex where he or she can give good results; it is therefore not just to differentiate in remuneration owing to sex or to family responsibilities. The differentiation should be solely on the grounds of greater or lesser efficiency. The principle followed in recruiting for the service of the State should be that remuneration is proportionate to the nature of the work and is not higher than what is required to obtain a competent staff. The sound principle of open competition should be followed, no regard being paid to sex or family responsibilities. Women will gradually enter more spheres of employment, and greater numbers will do the same work as men. It will then be easier to compare output, and to form an opinion of the aptitude of each sex for different types of work. The Department is of opinion that if the Committee's proposal for lower salaries for women were adopted the State would tend to employ more women.

The Department considers that the principle of equal pay for equal work should be adopted in the State service and there should be no differentiation on sex grounds.—*Sociala Meddelanden*, No. 4, 1924.

—Opportunity.

HORTENSIA—A ROMAN MATRON.

BY JANET FOUTS.

HORTENSIA comes down to us in the glow of a single great deed.

These are the circumstances which led to her address—the first public plea, so far as we know—on behalf of women's rights: In the year 43 B.C. Rome was drained of its resources by civil wars, and the triumvirs decreed that the estates of fourteen hundred matrons were to be subject to confiscation. The women came together in a distracted meeting, turning to this citizen and to that, but not a single man dared undertake their defence; so at length they begged Hortensia to speak for them.

It was at peril of her life that she led the little band into the forum that day. At first the very boldness of such public appearance seems to have shocked the men into quiescence. The crowd parted before her; Hortensia gained the tribunal and addressed the triumvirs.

"Why should we women pay taxes," she said, "when we have no part in the honours, the commands, the statecraft, for which you men contend against each other with such harmful results? Because this is time of war, do you say? Let war with the Gauls or the Parthians come, and we shall not be inferior to our mothers in zeal for the common safety; but for civil wars may we never contribute, nor ever assist you against each other!

"Consider that if you take away our property you reduce us to a condition unbecoming our birth, our manners, our sex. If we have done you wrong, proscribe us. But if we women have not voted you public enemies, have not torn down your houses, destroyed your army, or led another one against you; if we have not hindered you in obtaining offices and honours, why do you visit upon us the same punishment as upon the guilty whose offences we have not shared?"

When she had finished, the triumvirs were angry that women should venture to address them so; that they should dare to demand from the magistrates reasons for their acts. They ordered the lictors to drive the plaintiffs away from the tribunal with their fasces; and this was done until cries were raised by the multitude outside. When they met the day following, the magistrates found it expedient to reduce the number of women listed from fourteen hundred to four hundred. Such had been the dignity and force of Hortensia's demand!

But it has taken women twenty centuries to appreciate her argument that "taxation without representation is tyranny."

—Equal Rights.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LIVRES FRANÇAIS

Du Prix du Roman.

Le prix de l'Académie Goncourt fut assez longtemps le seul décerné par un jury privé. Tandis que les prix de l'Académie Française faisaient peu de bruit, le lauréat des Goncourt devenait aussitôt célèbre. Aujourd'hui plusieurs autres jury littéraires se sont formés; cependant leurs récompenses excitent toujours l'attention publique. Elles échoient rarement à des femmes. Cette année par exception a vu deux lauréates: Mademoiselle Jeanne Galzy (prix Fémina), et Madame Paule Régner (un tiers du Grand prix Balzac). Leurs livres annoncent-ils des romancières d'avenir?

Celui de Melle Jeanne Galzy: "Les Allongés" n'a rien d'un roman. C'est du reportage sur une de ces colonies de malades que l'on voit en certaines stations balnéaires. Aucune intrigue. Le sujet c'est la vie, c'est l'âme de la douloureuse multitude qui vient ici guérir ou mourir. Et ce sujet est traité supérieurement.

L'auteur malade elle-même et soignée dans une clinique, dégage de l'assemblée lamentable où elle figure, un drame multiple, issu de la rencontre de la commune misère avec des situations et des caractères différents. Reportage, mais reportage d'artiste, où tout: le cadre, les êtres, leur douleur, leur résignation ou leur révolte est rendu sensible par une traduction émue et subtile. Et reportage de philosophe, par lequel s'exerce un lucide et noble esprit.

On ferait un bréviaire optimiste du malade avec les phrases caractéristiques des malheureux "Allongés." Tout le sens en tient dans celle-ci: "les malades ne pensent pas seulement pour souffrir, mais aussi pour accepter la souffrance." Et dans cette autre: "Comme c'est long un jour sans souffrir."

Joubert a vanté avec esprit les agréments de l'état de maladie; mais était-il un vrai malade? Il y a ici bien autre chose que de l'esprit. Le cantique à la vie de demimorts, en qui s'éveillent des joies inconnues de ceux qu'ils appellent "les vivants." Joies du souvenir et de la charité, créés par ce que la sensibilité humaine a de plus délicat et de plus généreux. Il faut lire les pages délicieuses où l'auteur analyse son plaisir à voir danser une jeune fille, et le plaisir rétrospectif qui lui vient d'avoir elle-même autrefois marché librement.

Ce livre si attrayant, mais si triste, dégage de la force et de la sérénité. Devant tant de malheureux qui sont, non point, comme un d'eux essaie de le démontrer, la rançon fatale du bonheur des heureux, mais trop souvent les victimes de péchés ou de négligences commis par eux-mêmes ou par autrui. Il suscite en nous un sentiment de responsabilité, de devoir envers notre propre santé et celle de tous. C'est un beau livre, il enrichit l'âme. Mademoiselle Galzy, qui avait déjà publié: "L'ensevelie," et "La femme chez les garçons," nous donnera d'autres beaux livres... qui ne seront sans doute pas davantage, des romans.

Mme. Paule Régner débuta par un roman, et furieusement romanesque: "Octave." Sa "Vivante" paix annonce un vigoureux talent de romancier. C'est l'histoire d'une âme sauvagement mystique, égarée dans le siècle. Le récit net, rapide quoique abondant et riche d'observation, marque d'un vif relief la plupart des personnages, et chose rare au roman féminin, en des milieux vivants. Un aperçu de monde militaire, un autre de la bourgeoisie actuelle semblent certifier l'aptitude de l'auteur aux peintures de mœurs; l'esprit même du livre dénonce un sens critique franchement satirique; de plus les personnages qui doivent paraître parfaits restent les plus effacés, et c'est par le signallement réels l'héroïne en tête. Non, la lauréate de prix Balzac, elle, n'est point optimiste. N'est-elle pas un peu sectaire?

D'après son livre, le bien en ce monde serait le fait exclusif des croyants catholiques, et la paix du cœur ne se trouverait que dans leur croyance. Laissons cela. Peu importe ici le vérité de la thèse. Il suffit qu'elle fournisse un dénouement logique à la destinée de l'héroïne. Et il est logique "qu'un cœur démesuré, un

cœur sans frein" noble et chaste comme celui de Laurence, ne se sente assouvi que lorsque, défaillant vers la mort, il se dépouille de tout voeu terrestre pour se perdre dans l'infini. Il n'est pas défendu de remarquer que, s'il a manqué à la pauvre jeune fille l'éducation religieuse qui l'eût utilement orientée vers le cloître, il lui a manqué aussi une simple éducation morale qui eût pu lui apprendre à bien vivre dans le monde. Il serait facile de démontrer que ce cœur magnifique n'est point un bon cœur, et que cette orgueilleuse conscience n'est pas très saine. Ce livre aussi porte à la réflexion. Il est écrit dans un style sans recherche apparente clair, plein et bellement rythmé.

Deux autres livres féminins pleins de talent, ont récemment paru: "Précoce Avril," de Madame Yvonne Schlutz, et "Le perroquet vert," de la Princesse Bibesco.

JANE MISMÉ,
Vice-présidente de l'U.F.S.F.

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

Etats-Unis.

Elections.—Elles auront lieu le 4 novembre. La Ligue nationale des femmes électrices mène une campagne active. Dix femmes se présentent à la Chambre des Représentants.

Le programme de la Ligue des femmes électrices comporte: 1° l'entrée des Etats-Unis à la Cour internationale de La Haye; 2° un amendement sur le travail des enfants; 3° le problème de l'immigration.

Hygiène sociale.—Nous avons relaté dans le dernier numéro les efforts de la Ligue pour obtenir l'égalité de la morale dans les deux sexes.

Suède.

Le Comité nommé par le gouvernement suédois en 1921 pour étudier la situation des femmes fonctionnaires au point de vue des traitements et des pensions a présenté son rapport. Le Comité préconise un système commun de traitements pour les deux sexes, avec avantage de 8 à 14% pour les hommes scutiens de famille. Cette mesure est fortement discutée par les sociétés féministes qui considèrent que le traitement doit être proportionnel aux services rendus, ou que, si les considérations sociales interviennent, les femmes soutiens de famille aient les mêmes avantages que les hommes.

Femmes Ukrainiennes de la Galicie de l'Est.

Une trentaine de sociétés dont le centre est à Lwow sont répandues dans le pays. Cette année elles ont fêté le 40^e jubilé de la première société féministe à Stanislawow. Chaque année un congrès des sociétés se réunit à Lwow. A celui d'avril 1924 les thèmes suivants furent discutés: A.—1° exposé de l'organisation des sociétés dans tout le pays; 2° nécessité d'étendre l'activité des sociétés dans les villages. B.—1° influences des femmes sur la vie sociale, par l'éducation des enfants; 2° indépendance économique des femmes; 3° les femmes et le système corporatif. C.—Informations sur les résultats du mouvement féministe.

Les organisations féministes ont déjà étendu leur activité sur les villages. Les paysannes ukrainiennes ont bien évolué depuis dix ans. Elles lisent et s'intéressent à la vie publique du village, aux questions d'enseignement. Il y a des femmes à la tête de sociétés cooperatives et dans les comités des écoles. D'autre part, les sociétés féministes envoient des volontaires pour enseigner dans les villages et ouvrir des écoles agricoles et ménagères. Enfin, les sociétés s'intéressent vivement au mouvement international et envoient des déléguées aux congrès des pays étrangers.

Nouvelle-Zélande.

L'Union chrétienne de tempérance et le Conseil national des femmes ont demandé: 1° l'amélioration de la situation des nurses et des institutrices: traitement égal pour travail égal; 2° surveillance plus étroite des hôpitaux-maternités; 3° mesures pour diminuer la

mortalité infantile. Enfin les sociétés féministes apportent tout leur appui à la Ligue des nations.

Indes.

L'activité des féministes hindoues pour l'entrée aux conseils législatifs devient de plus en plus intense. Mme. Faridoonji Rustoomji a organisé un important meeting à Simla pour attirer l'attention du Comité d'enquête sur les réformes en rapport avec les desiderata des femmes. La résolution suivante a été adoptée: "Les femmes réclament le droit de se présenter comme candidates aux conseils législatifs et demandent que les lois soient modifiées dans ce sens." L'Association des femmes hindoues a aussi envoyé un memorandum réclamant la suppression de la "sex disqualification." Il est inadmissible que les femmes puissent être électeurs et éligibles à Burma et ne puissent pas l'être dans les autres provinces.

La 5e Assemblée de la Société des Nations.

Cette Assemblée s'est terminée le 2 octobre. L'intérêt principal cette année a été le règlement des disputes internationales. Pour la première fois les nations en conflit représentées à Genève désiraient ardemment un règlement pacifique. Cet esprit nouveau de coopération a été le trait dominant de l'Assemblée. Le protocole est maintenant devant les gouvernements, qui décideront. Il devra être ratifié avant le 1^{er} mai 1925 par trois ou moins des quatre grandes puissances: Grande-Bretagne, France, Japon, Italie. La Grande-Bretagne envoie toujours une femme déléguée supplémentaire aux assemblées de la Société des Nations. Son choix cette année s'est portée sur Mrs. Swanwick.

Revue des Livres.

Rapport de la Conférence sur la prévention des causes de guerre.—Le Conseil international des femmes a publié le rapport de sa conférence tenue à l'Exposition Britannique en mai. C'est un document important pour tous ceux qui s'intéressent à la Paix entre les nations.

Enquête sur les livres scolaires.—La Fondation Carnegie pour la Paix internationale a publié les résultats de son enquête sur les livres scolaires employés dans les pays qui ont participé à la guerre. L'objet de cette enquête est de connaître l'attitude prise par ces nations relativement aux causes et aux effets de la guerre. La conclusion est que le côté agressif du patriotisme n'est pas encouragé, mais qu'il n'y a aucun effort pour diriger les idées des enfants dans le sens de l'harmonie internationale. La Fondation Carnegie accueillera avec satisfaction toutes les critiques et informations. Son adresse est: Le centre européen de la Dotation Carnegie, 173, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris VI.

Grande Bretagne.

Union nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité des citoyens.—Les élections générales auront lieu le 29 octobre. Ce sont les troisièmes élections depuis deux ans et à chacune d'elles tous les projets de lois obtenus à grand peine sont remis en question. Les projets de lois sur la franchise égale, la tutelle des enfants, la légitimation, la juridiction sommaire (séparation et pension alimentaire) étaient sur le point d'être acceptés; maintenant tout est à recommencer. Les trois partis, Unioniste, Libéral, et Socialiste, ont mis à leur programme l'égalité politique, légale, et économique des deux sexes.

Les féministes présentent 43 candidates (dont les 8 femmes déjà députés): 13 Unionistes, 8 Libérales, 22 Socialistes dont 1 Indépendante. Mrs. Corbett Ashby est candidate Libérale pour Watford.

Un épisode malheureux a été le refus d'admettre dorénavant les femmes à l'Ecole de médecine de l'hôpital Sainte Mary; la raison est la crainte de la concurrence.

Les femmes fonctionnaires continuent leur campagne pour obtenir des traitements égaux à ceux des hommes.

Conseil National des femmes.—L'assemblée générale a eu lieu du 6 au 10 octobre à Brighton sous la présidence de Lady Astor. La salle qui contient 2,500 personnes était comble. On émit des vœux sur les questions suivantes: emploi d'un plus grand nombre de femmes dans la police, nomination de femmes dans les Comités sur les logements, emploi de femmes gérantes de pro-

priétés, nécessité d'un enseignement de science ménagère à toutes les jeunes filles sans exception, enfin résolutions sur la franchise égale des deux sexes, paiement égal pour travail égal, etc. Au dernier meeting, sous la présidence de Lady Frances Balfour, Lord Cecil parla de la Société des Nations et du désarmement, Mr. Keen de la coopération internationale en matière de finances et de commerce. Des visites furent faites dans les hôpitaux et les écoles.

Hongrie.

La Convention des Eglises réformées a décidé d'admettre les femmes à la Faculté de théologie de l'Université de Debrecen. Les femmes pourront passer les examens et enseigner, mais ne pourront pas exercer le pastorat.

FEMMES INVENTEURS.

LES femmes ont-elles l'esprit créateur? Neuf personnes sur dix, si vous les consultez, vous répondront que non, en se basant sur l'affirmation habituelle que, si la femme a de plus grandes facultés assimilatrices que l'homme, ses capacités d'invention et d'imagination sont en revanche beaucoup plus restreintes. Et elles vous le prouveront en vous citant le fait que ni Edison, ni Marconi, ni James Watt, ni Papin, ni Pasteur n'étaient des femmes—pour ne s'en tenir qu'au domaine de la science.

C'est pour vérifier la valeur de cette assertion courante que la Section féminine du Bureau du Travail américain, si remarquablement dirigée par Miss Mary Anderson, et à laquelle nous devons déjà tant de monographies de tout premier ordre concernant l'activité professionnelle des femmes outre-Océan, a entrepris une étude sur les brevets d'invention délivrés aux Etats-Unis: "les femmes, s'est-elle demandé, ont-elles collaboré matériellement à la totalité des inventions, à diminuer la fatigue, à prévenir les dangers, les maladies, la mort, à embellir la vie par le confort, et à enrichir l'humanité par de nouvelles ressources scientifiques? Leur contribution est-elle, en tenant compte des facilités et des encouragements moindres qu'elles rencontrent dans leur travail, comparable à celle des hommes dans les mêmes domaines?" Et d'autre part, le but de cette enquête a été de jeter de la lumière sur les conditions plus défavorables dans lesquelles travaillent souvent les femmes, et d'ouvrir la voie à des suggestions pratiques, diminuant ou supprimant ces inégalités, étendant ainsi la portée de ces inventions pour la production nationale.

Il est certain toutefois qu'une étude sur les brevets d'invention délivrés à des femmes aux Etats-Unis durant une période déterminée ne peut embrasser, et les auteurs de cette étude ont tenu essentiellement à le spécifier dès les débuts, le champ complet de la capacité d'invention féminine. Des créations nouvelles surgissent évidemment chaque jour dans le domaine de l'art, de la philosophie, de la science, de la littérature, de la sociologie, qui ne sont pas cataloguées aux livres des brevets, pas plus que de nouvelles idées pour l'éducation des enfants ou des simplifications dans l'organisation de la vie domestique, etc. Il faut donc en lisant, ce qui va suivre, restreindre le terme "créer" au sens de celui d'"inventer," si l'on veut obtenir un aperçu exact de l'enquête menée par le Bureau de Mary Anderson.

D'une manière générale, cette enquête a conduit aux conclusions suivantes:

1. Le nombre actuel de brevets d'invention délivrés à des femmes est plutôt faible, mais va en augmentant de façon marquée, de décade en décade.

2. Le champ sur lequel s'exerce l'activité croissante des femmes inventeurs s'étend du foyer familial aux branches les plus importantes de la grande industrie, du commerce, et de la science.

3. Ces inventions ne sont pas limitées à des accessoires de moindre importance pour chaque champ d'activité, mais sont dans de nombreux cas des contributions de premier ordre, touchant à l'essence même des matières premières ou des procédés de travail.

Jetons un coup d'œil sur le tableau de ces inventions durant dix ans:

(A suivre.)

FRANCE.

LE Congrès du parti radical et radical-socialiste a lieu à Boulogne-sur-Mer du 16 octobre.

L'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes a décidé d'agir auprès du Congrès pour demander l'admission des femmes dans le parti radical et pour obtenir son appui concernant la participation des femmes aux élections municipales de 1925.

L'U. F. S. F. va organiser à Boulogne-sur-Mer une manifestation en ce sens: elle fait appel à toutes les asso-

ciations et à tous les féministes désireux d'y participer. Se mettre d'urgence en rapport avec la secrétaire générale de l'U. F. S. F., 53, rue Scheffer, Paris.

Pour réussir il faut être nombreux. C'est le moment de vouloir et d'agir.

Ajoutons que les femmes sont déjà admises au parti socialiste; quant aux autres partis politiques, nous comptons également profiter de leurs congrès pour leur demander de nous ouvrir leurs portes.

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