

### LES RÉUNIONS D'ÉTÉ AU CHÂTEAU D'ARGERONNE.

Cette année encore le vieux château s'est ouvert pour recevoir des hôtes de tous les coins du monde. La Y.W.C.A. a remis son excellente organisation des congrès d'été entre les mains de l'Association des Gardiennes de France, dont le siège social est Argeronne, et tant bien que mal, cette fois-ci, nous nous sommes improvisées cuisinières, laveuses de vaisselle, économes... après avoir été peintres, menuisiers, tapissiers, maçons, tout au monde. Nous avons une peur bleue de manger tout le petit capital qui nous avait été confié pour la bonne marche des congrès pendant l'éternité à venir... et de ne plus pouvoir continuer. Enfin la surprise finale fut du bon côté; et l'an prochain nous pouvons y aller rondement: il y aura des montagnes de macaroni, de salades, de draps... Dieu veuille qu'il y ait aussi assez d'eau!

Or donc, la session commença par la Semaine des Gardiennes, semaine de retraite et de pensée, préparant l'activité de l'année suivante.

Ensuite arrivèrent les déléguées de l'Union Chrétienne de Jeunes Filles de la Seine, dirigée par Mademoiselle Bertsch, et dont les réunions furent conduites par M. le Pasteur Daniel Monod et un missionnaire du Sénégal. Ce furent des jours mémorables pour la plupart de ces jeunes filles; certaines y trouvèrent l'orientation plus sûre de leur vie, d'autres le courage de continuer la tâche entreprise. Leurs petites lettres nous ont été au cœur; il y a là une belle France pour demain.

La troisième semaine fut celle des Travailluses Sociales, avec Mesdemoiselles Bassot et Hentsch, auxquelles se joignirent les directrices et déléguées des Foyers-Cantines, avec Madame Violet, Madame Heeley, Madame Guillon, etc. On étudia la création des centres sociaux, ou "settlements," l'extension possible de l'activité des Foyers, les collaborations entre œuvres de même type. Le soir, on s'en allait, par groupes, vers les villages par delà les bois, et l'on rentrait sous les étoiles — heureuses et en paix.

Après cela fut l'invasion de la Fédération Universelle des Étudiants, amenée par Mademoiselle de Dietrich et M. J. Médard, hommes et femmes de quinze nationalités! Nous étions soixante dans la maison, et la paix n'était plus qu'intérieure. Le "Pommier Doux" (anciennement le garage) retentissait de discussions subtiles, et les vieux tilleuls contemplaient avec stupeur ces intellectuels venus de Suède, du Portugal, de Madagascar, de Bohême, des Colonies et d'Asnières. Heureusement qu'ils étaient jeunes, et que de la "salle basse" au moment des repas montaient cris, "speeches" et hurlements de joie... la dialectique s'embrasait dans la bonne gaieté française.

Pour fêter l'âge avancé d'une de leurs hôtes, ils improvisèrent une jolie fête se terminant par une farandole folle à travers les salons et le parc, entraînant la jeunesse du village dans leur tourbillon bigarré! Braves enfants! Je ne sais si le sort du monde est entre leurs mains, mais je sais qu'Argeronne a pour chacun d'eux une tendresse spéciale — pour le "corps médical" surtout.

Puis l'on redevint grave d'une autre gravité; la Semaine des Régions Libérées étudia les problèmes urgents de la protection de l'enfance et la diffusion des centres sociaux ruraux, et un programme fut rédigé à réaliser dans l'année.

Parmi les congressionnistes se trouvaient les déléguées de la S.B.M., Madame du Ponton d'Amécourt, sœur du Maréchal Lyautey; Mademoiselle le Barbet de Vaux, la déléguée de l'U.F.F.; Madame Saint René Taillandier; M. Raoul Duval, conseiller général de l'Eure; Mademoiselle de Gourlet; Mademoiselle Vimont, etc.

Le château et le "Pommier" se remplirent à nouveau de jeunesse à la venue des directrices et déléguées des Foyers de l'U.C.J.F. et de quelques autres Foyers. Miss Gordon en dirigeait le travail avec son charme et sa compétence habituels. On passa en revue les difficultés spéciales aux Foyers, et je pense que de bonnes solutions

furent trouvées. Après le travail souvent ardu de la journée, on s'assemblait dans le salon blanc, et la Baronne Loche, qui fait autant partie d'Argeronne que les fleurs et les arbres, chantait à son petit monde les vieilles chansons de France. La plupart de nos petites amies de la première heure se trouvaient là, et nous étions bien contentes de les recevoir à nouveau dans leur maison. Nous les avons nommées les "Argeronnettes."

Enfin... la Semaine Chinoise. Plus de vingt étudiants de la Y.M.C.A., Chinois en France, deux étudiantes, un général chinois, un docteur, sa femme et leur bébé d'un an, nommé Victor en l'honneur de la victoire. Et ce fut un rêve... Ordre, discipline, bonne humeur, coopération, tout y était. On était tout triste de se quitter, et quelques amis chinois demandèrent si cet hiver ils pourraient revenir dans les vieux murs qu'ils aimaient pour une semaine de retraite spirituelle. Ils aspiraient à un Argeronne chinois. M. Lu et M. Tchong sont devenus des amis personnels. Vive la Chine!

Là-dessus Argeronne ferma ses volets et ses portes sur ses très divers souvenirs, et passera les mois d'hiver à songer à l'avenir. Que sera-t-il? Une des plus fécondes et des plus vivantes créations de la Y.W.C.A. en France, du génie organisateur de la première amie d'Argeronne, Mary Dingman.

Cette maison, connue maintenant et aimée par des centaines de personnes les plus diverses, sera le centre de ralliement de toute énergie, de toute volonté pour le bien, de tout service entre hommes et entre nations. Ceux qui se réuniront là devront être les porte-paroles de la plus haute conscience de leur groupement ou de leur pays, et qui en peut mesurer les conséquences futures?

RENÉE DE MONTMORT.

### FROM THE CHINESE DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WORKING WOMEN.

OWING to the rapid increase of modern factories in China in recent years, the question of working conditions in industry has set many a serious-minded person to thinking. The workers are not protected by any means since there is neither Government legislation on one hand, nor labour organizations on the other. Women and children, as well as men, work long hours with low wages under unsatisfactory conditions.

As one of the purposes of the Young Women's Christian Association is to "enlist the service of young women for young women in their spiritual, intellectual, social and physical advancement," the Chinese Association cannot but be keen to the welfare of the women and children workers in industry. So when the invitation came, asking for a Chinese woman delegate to the second International Congress of Working Women, the Chinese Association gave an immediate response, although it meant a great deal of sacrifice to the Association so far as the question of finance was concerned. That accounts for my being in England receiving generous hospitalities from the British Association and from those who take interest in China.

Before attending the Congress at Geneva it offers wonderful opportunity to me to study how people in England try to tackle the industrial problems from various angles. Although the industrial problems in China are comparatively less serious and the conditions somewhat different from those in the West, still the fundamental principles adopted for bettering the welfare of the worker are applicable here as well as there. By being represented at the Working Women's Congress at Geneva in October the Young Women's Christian Association in China desires to arouse the public opinion and to seek support from the Chinese people for improving the working conditions before it is too late.

W. T. ZUNG.

JVS SVFFRAGII.

## THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

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## THE FIRST FIVE.

### SWEDISH WOMEN'S VICTORY AT THE POLLS. FOUR M.P.'S IN THE LOWER CHAMBER, ONE IN THE UPPER CHAMBER.

IF we knew the Swedish word for "congratulations" we should print it in capital letters. Five women members of Parliament have been returned at the recent General Elections—a really wonderful victory for the first women's vote. The Conservative, Labour and Liberal Parties are all represented in these elections of women. But we doubt not that when it comes to equality questions the new women will vote *en bloc*. Two very interesting reports of the elections have reached us—and we publish both; for readers will be eager to learn every detail of the Swedish victory.

Miss Ellen Klemman, of the Fredrika-Bremer Forbundet, writes:—  
The great event in Swedish women's history has occurred. In September the General Election of members of Parliament took place and for the first time Swedish women took part in it.

All over the country the women made use of their newly-won rights. As yet the percentage of the women electors is not known, but it is stated that everywhere the women were seen in great numbers at the election polls, so it is surely quite correct to say that the percentage will prove satisfactory. Reports have come from the country districts how, on election day, the

country women came, dressed up for the occasion, deliberate and slow, as the manners of the country folk are, but without any shyness whatever, taking their place with the men. In the towns all classes of women were seen; there came working women and servant girls, just sparing a quarter of an hour from their work—the election day in the towns being on a working day; there came the woman of the home and the grand lady of fashion, the woman artist and the woman clerk. And as a rule they knew well what they were about.

The three great political parties, the Conservatives, the Liberals and the Socialists, had all of them a considerable number of women candidates on their lists. However, not many of them had got safe places. From the beginning we knew pretty well that the women members would be easily counted. But, to be just, one must admit that it was a rather difficult thing, even for our friends, to spare places for the newcomers, since old and trained politicians were on every hand claiming their old places!

Considering this we cannot, perhaps, complain of the result of the election with regard to the women: five women elected—one, a Liberal, as member of the First Chamber; four, one Conservative, one Liberal, two Socialists, as members of the Second Chamber.

As is the case almost everywhere, our first women M.P.'s do not directly belong to the ranks of those women who have for years carried on the hard and rather thankless task of working for the women's cause. Still, we are glad to count amongst "the first five" one of our most prominent women, Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, our first and only woman trade inspector, one of our most known and respected social workers. Miss Hesselgren will be the only woman member of our First Chamber. She belongs to the Liberal Party.

Miss Elisabeth Tamm, also a Liberal, is the owner of a large estate, of which she is herself the manager. She is highly esteemed as a skilled agrarian, and has for years been member, and even in one case president, of several municipal boards in the country district where she lives.

Miss Bertha Wellin, a Conservative, has for fifteen years filled the profession of a sick-nurse; in later years she has devoted herself to work for the relief of the poor. Since 1912 she has been town councillor in Stockholm.

The two Socialist members, Mrs. Agda Östlund and Mrs. Nelly Thüring, are both known as energetic agitators for their party cause. Mrs. Thüring was, from 1917 to 1920, town councillor of Gothenburg, her native town.

The task of a non-party woman organization, such as our Fredrika-Bremer Association, at this historical moment has, of course, been limited to instructing the women of the election proceedings and exhorting them to take part in the elections. To this end the Association sent out a leaflet containing all necessary information.

One hundred thousand copies were sent out and found their way to the big mass of women voters.

For the following report we are indebted to Miss Gulli Petri:

On account of the electoral reform of this year a general election took place in September, when the women of Sweden for the first time had the right to vote for Parliament, as well as to stand as parliamentary candidates. The qualifications for the vote have been altered in other ways too; before now those who did not pay their taxes lost the vote, now every connection between taxes and vote is abolished. The suffrage is now really universal—practically every man and woman over twenty-three years old (counting from the end of the year before) has got the right to vote.

There was some hesitation about the advisability of dissolving the Second Chamber this year, as the existing economic depression was considered to keep people's interest out of everything but business and economic questions. The participation, both in the campaign and in the election, proved, however, to be as animated as could reasonably be expected, the number of voters having been much more than redoubled since last time.

We have not yet got any official numbers concerning the part taken by women in the election, but it is believed that the women voted at nearly the same percentage as the men. In all the political parties women have taken an active part in the campaign, addressing meetings all over the country, but not many women candidates were placed among the first names on the lists with any chance to get elected. Of course, there was great excitement before the result was known.

Four women were elected members of the Second Chamber:

Miss Bertha Wellin, Conservative Party, elected in Stockholm, is by profession a sick-nurse, member of several boards of hospitals, and editor of the *Swedish Nurses' Journal*. During many years she has been a town councillor of Stockholm.

Mrs. Agda Östlund, Labour Party, elected in Stockholm, is president of the Social Democratic Women's Union and member of some boards of guardians. She is well known by all suffragists because of her great interest in women's rights.

Mrs. Nelly Thüring, Labour Party, elected in Gothenburg, is town councillor and one of the most prominent agitators of the Labour Party.

Miss Elisabeth Tamm, Liberal Party, elected in Southmanland County, is the owner of a large estate, which she manages herself with great success. She is president of the local district council and enjoys general confidence in her community because of her great interest and ability in municipal affairs.

At the same time as the general election was going on, the First Chamber (which is elected by the Provincial Councils, "Landsting," and in the greater cities by special Electoral Boards) was also renewed. Only one woman was elected member of the First Chamber, viz., Miss Kerstin Hesselgren, Liberal Party, who is a factory inspector and was sent by the Government as expert to the International Labour Congress in Washington in 1919. She has taken a part in the organization of the trade schools and been active in all sorts of social work.

The elections have turned out to be a victory for the Labour Party (Socialist but not Bolshevist), but it is not probable that the cause thereof is the women's vote, it can more likely be referred to the annihilating of the payment of taxes as qualification for the vote.

The session of the Riksdag begins in January, and so at last Sweden is actually enfranchised!

### THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

**The Second Assembly—Some Points of Interest—The Health Organization—Poison Gas—The Traffic in Women and Children—Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children—Deportations in Asia Minor.**

THE necessity of the presence of women on all the Commissions of the League of Nations is almost too obvious to call for insistence. But there is a tendency from time to time to lay too special stress on the need for women on Commissions dealing with what are called "women's questions"—and the broader view is lost sight of. There is no woman on the Temporary Mixed Commission on Disarmament. The name of this body seems an unfortunate one. We wonder in what way it is mixed—for it is unmixedly male in composition. There is no woman on the special Blockade Commission. There is no woman on the International Health Organization; and the Assembly, since there were very few women in it, passed an extraordinarily feeble recommendation on this point, namely, that "in view of the increasing importance of questions of health which more especially concern women, the Assembly invites the Council to take into consideration at an opportune moment the question of strengthening the Committee by including a medical woman experienced in public health matters, qualified to advise on such questions." We confess to vast irritation on reading that really rather futile resolution. What does the first sentence mean? Health in general—men's, women's, or children's—has always been important or unimportant. Does the Assembly mean that the importance of women's health, as compared with the health of the rest of the community, is only just emerging from unimportance? What is "an opportune moment" if it is not the present—when the International Health Organization is just coming into being? And if the woman to be appointed is experienced in public health and is qualified to advise on such matters, why does the Assembly drag in the preamble concerning the "increasing importance of questions of health which will especially concern women" as the reason for appointing a woman member? It is grievously disappointing that after the pressure exerted by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the International Council of Women, the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, and other organizations, the Council should appoint a Health Organization composed entirely of men, and that the Assembly should draft and pass such a feeble resolution.

Lack of space makes it impossible to quote the series of resolutions on Disarmament passed by the Second

Assembly. Lord Robert Cecil, in a recent speech, called special attention to one dealing with poison gas:—

"That the Temporary Mixed Commission be asked to examine—in consultation with the Permanent Advisory Commission—whether it is advisable to address an appeal to the scientific men of the world to publish their discoveries in poison gas and similar subjects, so as to minimise the likelihood of their being used in any future war."

It certainly is important, in view of the Press propaganda that is being carried on, urging the value of experiments with lethal gases; and of statements made that, since the war, various inventions have been perfected whereby the wholesale destruction of the civilian population would be possible by the means of poison bombs.

From the October Summary of the League of Nations we take the following reports of the work of the Assembly in the matters of the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children and the Deportations in Asia Minor. We owe much to Mr. Balfour for his support of the acceptance of the Draft Convention on the Traffic.

#### "SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

"A Draft International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children was placed before the Assembly by its Fifth Committee, and led to a protracted debate as to the procedure to be followed."

"On the one hand it was stated that the Assembly not only should take immediate action because of the humanitarian purposes in view, but that it was fully justified in approving a Draft Convention. It was pointed out that the Covenant entrusts the League with the supervision of the execution of agreements affecting this traffic; that the Assembly last year took definite steps to that end; that an International Conference of thirty-four nations had met under the League in June and that the Draft Convention as now proposed had been found by jurists to be legally identical with the Final Act approved by that Conference and circulated to all Governments. In view of all this preparation, therefore, and of the desirability of not postponing action on a principle on which all nations were in accord, it was urged that the Assembly should proceed at once to the acceptance of the Draft Convention."

"On the other hand it was pointed out that it was not in any way apparent in the debates in the Conference on the Traffic in Women and Children that that Conference had an International Convention in mind; that, moreover, the text proposed did not conform entirely with the recommendations of the Conference in that it neglected the principle of the equality of protection to be accorded to all women regardless of their race and colour; that it would be better to consult the Governments in order that they themselves might decide if it seemed best to them to contract this Convention, or whether they desired to suggest modifications permitting notably an immediate and more general application to the colonies as well as to the metropolitan territories; that, indeed, it might be a very dangerous precedent for the League of Nations to adopt by the simple deposit of a project during the course of the Assembly, and by a simple vote of the Assembly without previous study by any Government, a Draft Convention to be submitted immediately to the signature of the States Members of the League; and that therefore the proposal was made that the text be sent to the Governments, which would be given two months in which to express their opinion."

"After a long debate, both in Committee and in full Assembly, this latter view-point was rejected by 25 votes to 8, with 18 Delegates absent or abstaining. The former view-point was then adopted by 29 votes, with 22 States absent or abstaining. The Assembly therefore adopted the following recommendation:—

"The Assembly, having taken into consideration the Final Act of the Conference of Geneva on the Traffic

in Women and Children approved by the Council, expresses the wish that those of its provisions which require conventional form be adopted in that form by the Members of the League with the least possible delay. For this purpose the Assembly recommend that the Delegates who have the necessary full powers to sign the Draft Convention annexed should sign it without delay, and that those who do not yet possess them be invited to communicate immediately with their respective Governments in order to obtain the necessary powers to sign."

"This Draft Convention aims to amplify the previous Conventions of 1904 and 1910, which the contracting parties, in case they have not done so, agree to ratify or adhere to as soon as possible. They would also agree to take all measures to discover and prosecute persons engaged in or attempting to engage in the traffic; to extradite convicted persons; and to protect women and children seeking employment in another country or travelling on emigrant ships, not only at the points of departure and arrival, but also during the journey. The age of consent in the 1910 Convention is changed from twenty-one completed years of age to twenty. The abolition of the term 'White Slave Traffic' will permit of the questions touching coloured women being dealt with in the future under the terms of the Convention, which also is the first which deals directly with 'Child Traffic' by a special clause."

"During and after the Assembly the following eighteen States signed the Convention: Albania, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, British Empire, Estonia, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Persia, Portugal, Siam, South Africa, and Switzerland."

#### "DEPORTATIONS IN ASIA MINOR.

"A tragic Report by the Commission of Enquiry on the Deportation of Women and Children in Turkey, Asia Minor, and the neighbouring territories, set up by the First Assembly, was read and adopted by the Second Assembly. The Commission had consisted of Dr. Kennedy and Miss Emma Cushman for Constantinople, and Miss Jeppe for Aleppo, the first-named giving verbal testimony at Geneva."

"It was brought out that rape, violence and fraud have all been employed in these districts in carrying off women and children to captivity and degradation, and that thousands of women, mostly young, have been rudely torn from their homes and imprisoned in harems, into which it is almost impossible to penetrate. The Greek Delegate estimated that 300,000 Greek women and children have been so detained; the Armenian Patriarch was said to possess documents proving that 50 per cent. of the children at present in Turkish orphanages are Armenian; and the British High Commission reported that some 2,300 children have been rescued from Mussulman houses."

"The Assembly decided that there should be appointed in Constantinople a Commissioner of the League of Nations, whose appointment should be officially notified to the Allied and Associated High Commissioners, the representatives of other countries, the Turkish Government, and the ecclesiastical authorities of the deported populations, namely, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs; that France, Great Britain and Italy should be asked to instruct their High Commissioners to form themselves into a committee to aid the Commissioner; that there should also be established under the Commissioner a mixed Board to deal with the reclamation of women and children; that the 'Neutral House' at Constantinople for the temporary reception and examination of women and children should be re-organized under the direct management of the Commission of Enquiry, and that further Neutral Houses should be opened as circumstances permit."

An Equal Moral Standard Section will appear in next month's issue.

## AN AMERICAN WOMAN IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

[We are indebted for the following very interesting article on Czecho-Slovakia to Mrs. Nancy M. Schoonmaker, who as an appointed representative of two great American organizations—the National League of Women Voters and the General Federation of Women's Clubs—toured Europe during the summer of this year for the purpose of making a comparative study of the legislation which the newly enfranchised women of the several countries have been supporting. Mrs. Schoonmaker has in recent years been prominently connected with the movement of American women towards a larger social and political expression, and is known throughout the United States as a brilliant lecturer.]

NO country in Europe is at this hour going more directly toward the goal it has set for itself than is the little new Republic of Czecho-Slovakia. Not many of us on the outside were aware of the intense race feeling that for centuries had burned in the heart of this people. But the strength of it showed itself plainly enough at the hour when they stepped forth into the company of established nations, with clearly formulated principles by which they meant to live and build.

To that building they have brought two invaluable elements: intense enthusiasm for their task, and a maximum of cold, logical thinking and planning which has sought to take cognizance of every element of their problem and to deal justly with it, but which at the same time openly declares for spiritual values and seeks to bring them into manifestation in the everyday matters of politics and economics.

Like many of the other new or remade States of Europe, it began its life with a declaration for absolute democracy, wiping out all privileges of sex, birth or profession, granting not only universal suffrage, male and female, to members of their own and of other races in the State, but declaring also for the eligibility of all citizens to all offices. So far as the law is concerned, therefore, there is nothing to prevent any man or woman in the country from rising from the lowest place to that even of the Presidency.

One may wonder how long this theoretical equality will be in finding complete expression in reality, but the Czechs are undoubtedly making very large strides toward it. The women themselves feel that with their present lack of political experience, and in this time of the critical beginning, it is as well that the chief responsibility of high office be left to men. But they are at the same time quietly taking their place beside the men, asserting their rights, and injecting into the new laws and policies the feminine point of view. The present National Parliament has 14 women members, representing seven different parties. The City Council of Prague has an even larger proportion of women members. Other smaller municipalities have done equally well. In the different Ministries and Departments—and even political party organizations—women have been given important and responsible places, and they are filling these positions with notable success. The women who had part in forming the new constitution, and now those who are members of legislative bodies, are directly responsible for many of the new rights and much of the excellent social legislation which the new State has passed or is now engaged upon. Such laws as those covering illegitimacy, sick insurance, night-work, emigration, venereal disease, and education are receiving the enthusiastic, intelligent support of all women, regardless of their party affiliation. Indeed, though the women have shown as keen a sense as the men in discriminating between

the nice shades of difference of the eight or ten political parties which they have been invited to join, when measures affecting the welfare of women and children come up it is noticeable that party lines disappear, and the women of both the Right and Left join forces to work for a common cause. In each Department also those questions which especially concern women, their education, health, general welfare, etc., are given over to the one or more women members of the Department, who have been carefully chosen because of their ability or experience in handling such matters.

Among the many notably able women whose influence is at this time felt in the State there is no more striking personality than Mlle. F. Plaminkova, long known as one of the leading feminists of Central Europe. It was she who a few years ago organized the Czech women, as distinct from the Austrian and Magyar, and carried her own delegation to the International Suffrage Convention. It is her hope also, now that the two new Slavic States, Czecho-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia, have attained complete independence, that a Slavic representative may be given a place on the Board of the International Suffrage Alliance. A brilliant orator, flaming with enthusiasm and energy, but yet with a very keen, judicial mind, she is known as "the fighting angel." "But," she says of herself, "though I am first of all a feminist, it is not only for the rights of woman that I fight." Indeed, as member of the City Council of Prague, she boasts that she has as many men as women coming to beg her to espouse their cause. For hers is that kind of energy and devotion that never lets go till the thing is accomplished.

But it is not by any means only feminist legislation and affairs with which the women of the country are concerning themselves. They are as devoted and loyal to their President as any group of men could be, and they have as deep and intelligent an interest in every step taken by their Department of Foreign Affairs, under the most able leadership of Edward Benes, called by many "the hope of Central Europe."

It is in the hands of this man more than those of anyone else that rests the business of crystallizing, of bringing into realization all that idealism in which the new State was conceived, and which has found its most perfect expression in the President, Dr. Thomas G. Masaryk. The men and women whom he has gathered around him have much to say of what has always been known as Dr. Masaryk's "fight for God." He has been a man of the highest idealism always; the record of his life shows how uncompromisingly he has stood for what he believed. He by no means left these ideals behind when he stepped from the professor's chair into the Presidency. But in the matter of bringing those ideals into expression, day by day, in a world not yet cleansed of hate and envy and distrust, to let the just God of high heaven shine forth in political and commercial and economic affairs in this maelstrom of the world, this central section of Europe which we have learned to think of as the very hotbed of wars and uprisings—this has been the task of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Benes. Declaring the threefold purpose to pacify, to reconstruct, and to consolidate, it is he who is responsible for the economic and commercial treaties which have been signed between his country and Jugo-Slavia, Roumania, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and now Poland, England and Hungary. It is to him more than to anyone else that the Petite

Entente—that alliance between Jugo-Slavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania—owes its existence. He calls this Petite Entente the "instrument of collaboration offered to a world in process of reconstruction, the expression of the constructive forces at work in Central Europe, the backbone of the new political and economic order, and not in any way a military or offensive organization." And he sees in it an instrument that will not only assure the application of peace treaties, but that will also be an active factor in guarding the heritage of the Revolution, in steadying the basis of the new order and in the work of reconstruction—political, economic and social.

With something like a sublime faith he looks forward to a Europe at peace with itself as with the world, a Europe at peace with itself as a whole; that knows how to oppose the egotism of nations, classes, individuals; that preaches and practises the religion of international honesty; and, most of all, a Europe which has an unswerving faith in the better future which we all desire. He sees a United States of Europe, and then a United States of the World. He sees the present League of Nations as the beginning of that perfected organism. And he labours now to give to his new State that he is serving her part in the pacification, the reconstruction—moral, political and economic—of humanity.

NANCY M. SCHOONMAKER.

Prague, September, 1921.

## SOUTH AMERICA.

### SOUTH AMERICAN SUFFRAGE.

THE provinces of San Juan and La Rioja have already given women the municipal vote, and a Woman Suffrage Bill is pending in the province of Tucuman.

The Union Feminista Nacional (National Union for Women's Rights), of which Dr. Alicia Moreau is President, has addressed to the President of the Santa Fé Constitutional Convention a letter enumerating the countries where women already vote (among which it names Costa Rica): stating that Woman Suffrage Bills are pending in both Uruguay and Paraguay—in Uruguay with every prospect of passing; and that the census of 1914 showed there were in Argentina 43,640 women teachers and nearly a million women wage-earners.

Woman Citizen, October 8, 1921.

### ARGENTINE.

#### Santa Fé.

#### A Transitory Set Back.

LAST month we reported that the municipal vote had been granted to women in the Province of Santa Fé, and we hoped to have had further good news to report this month, but the Feminist cause has suffered a transitory set-back. By 18 votes against 14 the women of Santa Fé have lost the parliamentary vote.

Don Luis Bonaparte proposed an amendment to Article 2 in the electoral regimen with the aim of making the political rights of women on equal conditions to those of men.

He spoke for an hour and a-half, making it clear that this right is only opposed still in the most backward nations of Spanish America; that it is a triumph throughout the whole world, and it would be humiliating for the reconstructive Congress of a civilized people like Santa Fé to leave it out of its Regulations.

Doctors Correa, Greca and Pesenti, members of the Congress, spoke also to the same effect—no one denied

it, no one spoke against it. Finally, the little voice of Meniers was heard, saying, "Thunder! You astonish me—but the iron Agreement does not admit amendments," and, without any further discussion whatever, the vote was taken and the amendment was defeated.

Senor Bonaparte began by saying he felt himself alone with his amendment before the Assembly, as he had heard that both Catholics and Liberals would vote against it, but he was not alone; in fact, very little was wanting to secure a triumph.

Nuestra Causa, August, 1919.

### BRAZIL.

#### Another Door Opened.

IN Brazil, on the motion of Professor Bruno Lobo, a meeting of the Professors of the Polytechnic School of the Faculties of Law and Medicine lately voted that all teaching and administrative positions in the University of Rio Janeiro should be thrown open to women. The vote was almost unanimous, there being only two dissentients.

Woman Citizen, September 24.

### SOUTH AFRICA.

#### Dinner to South African Suffragists.

(BY COURTESY OF "The Vote.")

THE British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance held a delightful reception and dinner on October 6th at the International Franchise Club in Grafton Street, Piccadilly, to welcome the South African women suffragists now over in this country.

Some forty guests sat down to table, the menu cards being beautifully emblazoned with the arms of South Africa. Among those present were Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Garrett, Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Chairman of the Committee), Mrs. Abbott (Editor of the INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS), Mrs. Hubback, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Picton Turbervill, Dr. Knight, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Fraser, etc. Letters of regret at inability to be present were read from Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Solomon, Miss Underwood, and others.

Mrs. Fawcett, who presided, expressed the great pleasure of the Alliance in being able to welcome so many who were working for the Women's Cause in the far-distant Dominion of South Africa, and compared the grudging decision of Great Britain, in granting the vote to Englishwomen on an age qualification, with the equal franchise now accorded by practically every civilized country in the world.

Miss Johnstone Scott, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, described the uphill struggle women suffragists were experiencing in South Africa, the unique racial problems they had to contend with, the deeply-rooted Party spirit, which prevailed in both sexes alike, and the broken pledges of the Prime Minister. This, too, in spite of the fact that eight Cabinet Members were pledged to Women's Suffrage, that the South African Party had adopted the principle as long ago as 1919, at the Bloemfontein Conference, and that it was an issue on which many Members of Parliament had been returned as acquiescent in principle.

Mrs. Ruxton, Hon. Organizing Secretary of the Association, also laid stress upon the peculiar difficulties of the suffrage question in South Africa, the long distances between the towns and villages being one of the chief drawbacks in educating public opinion. The Dutch women were not adverse to enfranchisement, as was repeatedly stated by anti-suffragist politicians. She urged suffragists at home to come out to South Africa and lend their support to the Women's Cause.

Other speakers from South Africa included Mrs. FitzSimons, and Mrs. Thoday.

The evening closed on a note of good cheer from Mrs. Fawcett, who reminded those present of a day in 1908, when she was "chivvied" for her political opinions through the streets of Cardiff by a mob of roughs and miners, and another day, ten years later, in the same place, when she stood in state on the platform of the Town Hall, and was congratulated for those same political opinions by the Mayor of Cardiff, arrayed in full robes of office. She prophesied that success for the Woman's Cause in South Africa could not much longer be postponed.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

#### Mrs. Cowan, M.P., Moves the Address-in-Reply at Opening of Parliament. An Historical Occasion.

THERE was an unprecedented public attendance at the opening of State Parliament, and never before has such a crowd witnessed this ceremony.

The great interest manifested was due to the desire to witness the "swearing-in" of the first woman to win a seat in an Australian Parliament.

When His Excellency addressed the House he indicated the new order of things by using the expression "Members of the Legislative Assembly."

#### The Mother of the House.

Congratulating the Speaker on his re-election to that position, the Premier, Sir James Mitchell, paid a compliment to the first woman member. He said: While you may claim to be the father of the House, we have now a lady member who can claim from the first day of this session that she is the mother of the House. The House smiled.

Mrs. Cowan's candidature was endorsed by the Nationalist Party and she sits on the Government side of the House.

Under the most trying ordeal, to say the least of it, Mrs. Cowan acquitted herself with great credit.

It was a fitting recognition of the new order on the part of the Government and a happy omen when they selected the first woman member to move the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

She prefaced her motion by giving notice of her intention to ask the Government what was the reason for withholding the final report of the State Children's Commission, and, if there were no reason, whether it would lay the report on the table of the House.

When Mrs. Cowan rose to speak she was greeted with great applause from all parts of the Chamber.

She said she stood there that day in the unique position of being the first woman to become a member of Parliament in Australia.

Some people seemed to think it was not a wise thing to send women into Parliament, but she thought the members of that House would realize that it was wise to have a woman beside them at times to remind them of their duties to the country. She was in the House to assist the other members to do the best in the interest of the State, and she would carry out her intention to the best of her ability.

One of the things that Parliament had done when it consisted of men only was to provide in an amendment of the State Children's Act that when a child came under the operations of that measure it should remain a State child until 18 years of age. Such things as that had influenced women in endeavouring to send persons of their own sex into Parliament.

The Scriptures had it laid down, too, that it was not good for men to be alone. (Loud laughter.) She realized and appreciated the honour that had been extended to her in asking her, not as the youngest member of the House, by any means, but as the only woman in it, to move the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

While she was a Nationalist and could and would support a National Government, she reserved to herself

the right to criticize candidly and suggestively any Government proposal that she did not think was in the best interest of the country.

In the course of her remarks she pointed out that the State overdraft was a large one, and would be a bad thing for us if called up from Europe or elsewhere, that she would have some suggestions to make concerning the State Children's Department at a later stage, that the Government should make some provision for the care of mentally defective persons, that a woman should be on the Price Fixing Commission.

She advocated an amendment of the Electoral Act, to provide for compulsory voting, the introduction of proportional representation on the lines of the Denmark system, granting women the right to have a voice in the unions on the question of whether or not a strike should be declared, and the provision of a maternity endowment.

"The people who elected me," she said, "felt that men need the reminder of a woman sometimes beside them to make them realize all that should be done for the race and the home."

Mrs. Cowan addressed the House for 35 minutes, and the unanimous opinion is that she made a notable contribution to the history of the House.

#### The Governor's Speech.

After declaring the first session of the eleventh State Parliament open, His Excellency, in the course of his address, outlined some of the Bills that it is the intention of the Government to bring forward.

Those likely to prove of interest to the women of the community are, first and foremost:—

1. Amendments to the Licensing Act of 1911. (The result of the recent Local Option Poll clauses of this Act revealed the utter inadequacy of the present existing legislation.)
2. Redistribution of Seats Bill.
3. Electoral Law Consolidation Bill.
4. Municipalities Act Amendment Bill.
5. A Bill for a Hospitals Act.

*The Dawn, August 12.*

### AUSTRIA.

THE days are heavier and more discouraging upon us than ever before. The help so eagerly looked for has not yet come. The economic distress of Austria, in spite of the peaceful attitude of the population, the visible and encouraging advance of activity in all directions, has reached its highest point. The people despair. A winter full of terror and danger is before us. What will be our fate?

That thoughts of progress are still harboured in Austria in spite of the most depressing economic position, proves the advance which women have made. The small reports of women's successes and women's work show that the women of Austria, even in the saddest days of deepest distress and cares, do not forget the advancement of women and the welfare of the people.

#### Association of the Women Workers of the Middle Classes.

The League of Associations of Austrian Women is occupied with the formation of an Association of the Women Home Workers of the Middle Classes. The war, and still more the terrible time after the war, with the economic catastrophe, impoverished the middle classes in Vienna to such an extent that women who were once in comfortable circumstances and living free from care found themselves compelled to take up some work for a livelihood. Most of these women, who had no special training, are doing fancy needlework. They embroider, knit, crochet, and are doing the finest needle and lace work. The recent Vienna Fair offered the first opportunity to exhibit the products of these women, a means of earning a livelihood for some of them in the past, and now made suitable to modern tastes and requirements. A large number of women exhibited

at that Fair, and many were successful in obtaining important orders. Taste, cleverness, and ingenuity unite in creating wonderful articles of all kinds in covers, curtains, cushions, bags, lamp-shades and everything else for adorning the home, linen, and clothes. Also the finest linen of all kinds is made by the women home workers of the middle classes. Active business men act as intermediaries for the sale of the work in foreign countries where people can afford to buy them. These business men and other intermediaries take the largest part of the profits, and the diligent women obtain a relatively small share for their work. This fact has caused the women home workers to establish their own organizations, with the object to assist those women workers who have no business experience and can therefore not make their work pay. The concerns, which are frequently established with the aid of foreign capital, have the objects to procure the working material, to give advice as regards the work itself, to open fresh markets abroad, and to see to it that the best pay is obtained for the work. However, as the concerns are working separately, their endeavours are scattered to a great extent, and the women home workers have not yet that successful unity which is called the power of organization. In any case, it is absolutely essential that these women should be protected in every way against being plundered, and once well-trained their organization should lay down uniform rules for their work and make provision for unemployment, illness, and old age. The League of the Austrian Women's Associations is diligently occupied with the work of rendering a large number of women more fit for life's struggle, and it is to be hoped that its endeavours will be crowned with success. Women's organizations working in other directions—the Catholic, Christian-Social, and All-German Women—have assured the League of their co-operation.

#### The First Woman University Professor in Vienna.

Now Austria also has the first woman university professor. A few weeks ago the private lecturer in Roman Languages and Literature, Dr. Elise Richter, was appointed the first woman university professor in Austria. There is another woman lecturer at the university, the actress of the Burgschau Theatre, Olga Lewinsky, who holds discourses and is also addressed "Madam Professor." Dr. Richter is much esteemed in the progressive circles of the women of Vienna. During the recent elections she worked with great zeal for the Citizen's Democratic Party, and also was a candidate in a constituency where she had no chances of being elected, simply standing for the sake of her attachment to the cause. Professor Dr. Richter proved to be a skilful speaker at many meetings, and her contributions to the press show that she is a clever writer on politics. The women of Vienna are proud of the fact that this highly intellectual and active woman has at last been rewarded with the academic honour which has long been due to her.

#### Women Government Councillors in Austria.

The President of the Council, who is, as is well known, the only son of the much-adored doyen of the Women's Movement in Austria, Marianne Hainische, therefore a convinced and loyal promoter of the activities of modern women, recently conferred upon the Director of the Seminary in Vienna, Maria Mück, the title of Government Councillor. Director Mück is the second lady upon whom that honour has been conferred. So far it was only granted to high officials and men who have distinguished themselves in public service. A few months ago this title was conferred for the first time upon a woman, Marie Bankowska, the Director of the Girls' Private High School in Vienna. However, Mrs. Bankowska had already left her post, whilst Mrs. Mück is still active in her successful work.

#### The First Woman School Councillor in Austria.

Women's activity in educational matters was also rewarded recently by another title. Mrs. Helene Wünsch, head teacher of the Seminary in Vienna,

was appointed "School Councillor." She is the first woman to be honoured with that title, which up till now was only conferred upon men.

#### Municipal School Visitors in Vienna.

Last year the Municipality of Vienna appointed, by way of experiment, four women as school visitors. Their work was so satisfactory that the Municipality felt itself induced to apply the system of women school visitors to all the schools in Vienna. Their activity is organized according to the principles adopted in Germany. Each visitor attends to a few schools, visiting them regularly and when required, also specially, in order to find out which children are in need of special care, and to take all the necessary steps in cases of lack of discipline, or non-observance of the school regulations or other rules, approaching the competent authorities (Juvenile Authorities, Juvenile Court) in order to remedy matters. The work of the school visitors is not only directed towards health development, but also to educational progress at home, and the parents of those children whose bodily or mental development is not satisfactory are visited, instructed, and further visits are paid in order to ascertain whether the directions given have been observed. The visitors also attend the school consultations of the medical officers of the schools, and see to it that the parents observe the instructions of the doctor. If necessary, the placing of the children in homes and hospitals is attended to. Of course, the visitors pay special attention to the enforcement of the laws respecting wards and juvenile work. It is a happy calling for women with social feelings and love of children, and this new introduction is not only to be welcomed in the interests of the growing generation, but also in the interests of the women.

GISELA URBAN.

Vienna, October 15, 1921.

### CANADA.

#### MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN.

THE Minimum Wage Board has fixed \$11 (55s.) as the weekly wage for experienced women workers in industries which commonly employ female labour in cities with under 50,000 inhabitants, and \$11½ (57s. 6d.) for larger industrial centres.

*Times, October 19.*

#### First Woman Lawyer in Nova Scotia.

UNABLE to obtain admission to the Bar of the province of Quebec, Mrs. Florence Seymour Bell, a McGill graduate and wife of a Montreal lawyer, has been admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar, and is the first woman lawyer in that province.

*Daily Mail, October 17.*

#### CORRECTIONS.

The whole of the South African report in the October number was written by Miss Johnstone-Scott—and not partially by Mrs. Buxton, as stated.

We were indebted to Dr. Margherita Ancona for the report on Brazil.

In the French section the words "New South Wales" should be substituted for "New Zealand" in the paragraph referring to the appointment of sixty-one J.P.'s.

### CHINA.

SOME months ago a short paragraph in *JUS SUFFRAGII* told our readers that the women suffragists of Canton had marched to the Assembly House in order to protest against their disfranchisement. We are indebted to *Siri-Dharma* for the following account of the proceedings. We are glad that the women of Canton are determined to continue their fight for political rights, and hope before long to have direct news from them of their Suffrage work.

(Continued on page 26.)

## NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

**Suède.**— Nos félicitations sont dues aux femmes de la Suède pour le grand succès qu'elles ont obtenu au scrutin. Cinq femmes ont été élues membres du parlement, dont quatre à la Chambre Inférieure et une à la Chambre Supérieure. Tous les différents partis politiques sont représentés par ce succès. Un grand nombre de femmes votèrent aux élections.

**Argentine.**— *Santa-Fé.*— Quoique le vote municipal ait été accordé à Santa-Fé, le suffrage politique n'a pas passé, la résolution féministe suffragiste ayant échoué par 18 voix contre 14.

**Bésil.**— Tous les postes concernant l'instruction et l'administration de l'Université de Rio-Janeiro sont ouverts aux femmes.

**Canada.**— Le comité s'occupant des salaires a fixé comme minimum un salaire de 55 schellings pour les femmes versées dans leur métier. Cette résolution ne s'applique qu'aux villes ayant moins de 50.000 habitants. Dans les grandes villes, le salaire minimum de la femme connaissant son métier est fixé à 57 schellings et 6 pence.

Madame Seymour Bell a été reçue la première femme notaire à Nova-Scotia.

**Danemark.**— Les différentes organisations féministes du Danemark ont envoyé une pétition au Parlement demandant l'amendement de la loi de naturalisation danoise, comme suit :

1. La femme danoise épousant un homme qui ne serait pas citoyen danois garderait sa nationalité danoise aussi longtemps qu'elle habiterait le Danemark.

2. Une femme danoise épousant dans un pays étranger un homme qui ne serait pas danois, se verrait à même de regagner sa nationalité si elle revenait habiter le Danemark. Elle déclarerait simplement qu'elle désire reprendre la nationalité danoise et remplirait les formalités réglementaires.

3. Une femme danoise qui épouserait un homme n'ayant des droits de citoyen dans aucun pays garderait sa nationalité danoise en dépit de l'endroit où elle habiterait.

4. Les enfants sous l'unique tutelle de la mère seraient de la même nationalité qu'elle.

**Allemagne.**— La question de la mère non mariée gardant son emploi dans le service de l'Etat a été soulevée. Quelques-uns considèrent qu'elle devrait recevoir sa démission, d'autres qu'elle ne peut pas être traitée autrement que l'homme. Le gouvernement décidera définitivement.

Le Conseil des Femmes de l'Allemagne s'est réuni à Cologne, du 6 au 8 octobre. Le conseil discuta les questions d'éducation et demanda certaines réformes dans le code civil qui donneraient aux femmes les mêmes droits qu'aux hommes, regardant l'enfant, ainsi qu'une plus grande facilité pour obtenir le divorce. Le conseil protesta aussi contre le traitement inégal de l'homme et de la femme dans les professions et dans l'industrie.

**Les Indes.**— Les femmes des Indes ont déjà voté dans plusieurs élections locales. Les femmes de l'Association Indienne ont attiré l'attention des autorités sur le fait que le nom des femmes électeurs ne se trouve pas sur la liste électorale.

La résolution du suffrage sera proposée à la nouvelle session du Conseil législatif de Behar.

**Japon.**— Dans trois villages du Japon les pompes à incendie sont maniées par 400 femmes.

**Nouvelle-Zélande.**— On demande que l'âge de consentement soit fixé à 18 ans au lieu de 16 ans, et qu'en cas de viol l'offenseur ne puisse plus se servir du prétexte "qu'il avait toute raison de croire la jeune fille de l'âge réglementaire."

La Société hygiénique sociale s'oppose à l'examen obligatoire dans une loi imminente. Les femmes de la Nouvelle-Zélande voient le danger d'un retour insidieux aux principes de l'acte (C.D.).

**Suisse.**— Les habitants des cantons de Genève rejeteront le suffrage féminin par 14.166 voix contre 6.629 voix.

**Etats-Unis d'Amérique.**— Il est presque certain qu'une femme sera incluse pour le comité attaché à la conférence de Washington sur le désarmement.

Dans le Missouri et la Louisiane les femmes sont éligibles pour les emplois de l'Etat.

## UNE CORRECTION.

Soixante et une femmes furent nommées juges de paix dans le Nouveau Pays de Galles (Australie) et non dans la Nouvelle-Zélande comme exposé dans le dernier numéro.

## FRANCE.

## La Protection des Enfants naturels.\*

Pour juger impartialement la question, écartons tout d'abord le préjugé qui, pendant longtemps, a fait de l'enfant illégitime un être à part, de qualité inférieure, atteint fatalement de toutes les tares héréditaires, et posons en principe que l'enfant naturel (sils le sont tous, et cette dénomination souligne l'injustice) a droit aux mêmes garanties que celles données aux enfants légitimes, en vue de leur développement physique et moral. J'irai même plus loin : la loi devrait faire montre d'une sollicitude particulière à l'égard de ces pauvres êtres venus au monde dans des conditions de défense matérielle et morale moindres que celles des autres enfants.

A cette protection de l'enfant illégitime aussi bien que légitime, l'intérêt de la société n'est pas moins engagé que celui de l'enfant. En s'appliquant à faire de ces déshérités de la vie des êtres de valeur physique et morale, utiles à la collectivité, on réparera une injustice qui n'a que trop duré et on leur donnera la possibilité d'arriver à leur plein épanouissement.

A côté de la prévention nourrie à l'égard de l'enfant illégitime, préjugé qui, disons-le tout de suite, tend à disparaître, il faut également signaler l'injustice dont la société fait preuve à l'égard de la fille-mère.

Je ne voudrais pas que, par l'exposé de ce qui va suivre, on pût se méprendre sur ma pensée et en tirer des arguments en faveur de l'amour libre. Je suis, au contraire, convaincue que la famille légalement constituée reste à la base de toute société civilisée ; que, de son maintien et de son affermissement dépendent, en ces temps de reconstruction, non seulement le progrès de demain, mais encore le maintien de tous les progrès que nous ont légués les siècles révolus.

Ceci dit, qu'il me soit permis de souligner en passant la cruelle injustice, l'opprobre que rencontre la fille-mère au lieu de la protection à laquelle elle a droit. On oublie trop que, parmi les femmes trompées ou qui se sont laissées entraîner par leurs sentiments ou leurs sens, celles qui deviennent mères et consentent à assumer seules les charges d'une maternité, combien lourde pour elles, sont certainement les plus dignes de sympathie.

Dans l'intérêt même de l'enfant qui naîtra d'elles, une société bien organisée devrait les secourir pendant les derniers mois de leur grossesse, les soutenir moralement, et préparer ainsi pour l'être dont la vie s'ébauche, non pas l'ambiance de suspicion et de honte qui l'entoure actuellement, mais, au contraire, de bienveillance.

\* Extrait du rapport présenté par Mme Avril de Ste-Croix au Congrès pour la Protection de l'Enfance. L'auteur prend soin d'indiquer préalablement que les enfants légitimes sont, d'ailleurs, insuffisamment protégés contre les familles faibles ou indignes et que "l'urgence d'une réforme du code de l'enfance s'impose d'une façon tragique."

(La suite à la page 25.)

à laquelle tout enfant a droit, quelle que soit sa provenance.

Ce premier acte de justice accompli, une sollicitude active et suivie — et non intermittente comme cela se fait généralement — doit s'étendre sur l'enfant naturel. De même que les orphelins sont dotés de tuteurs au moment de la mort de leurs parents, de même l'enfant illégitime devrait avoir, à côté de sa mère, un tuteur qui, au besoin, remplacerait auprès de l'enfant la mère défaillante ou indigne. Il n'est pas pour cela nécessaire d'édicter de nouvelles lois ; il suffit d'étendre aux enfants naturels les lois qui existent en faveur des autres. Les réformes les plus simples sont toujours celles qui réussissent le mieux et auxquelles on s'adapte avec le plus de facilité.

Pour ces raisons et afin d'apporter aux enfants nés hors mariage la protection à laquelle ils ont droit, protection qui n'humilie ni la mère ni l'enfant, je propose l'adoption du vœu suivant :

"Que soient appliquées aux enfants illégitimes ou nés hors mariage les lois qui régissent les intérêts matériels et moraux des orphelins de père ou de mère, issus d'un mariage régulier."

G. AVRIL DE STE-CROIX.

La Française, le 8 octobre.

## ALLIANCE URUGUAYENNE POUR LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.

La présidente de l'Alliance Uruguayenne pour le Suffrage des Femmes a fait une tournée de conférences en Espagne et au Portugal pendant les mois de mars à juin.

En Espagne, elle a donné une conférence sur la "Traite des Femmes," à l'Académie de Jurisprudence, présidée par l'Infante Isabelle et le Ministre de l'Intérieur Mr. Bergamin.

A l'Athénée, et présidée par le Comte de Romanos qui s'était fait représenter, elle a fait une conférence sur "l'Éducation sexuelle." Il lui a été demandé de la refaire à la Société Médicale Espagnole d'Hygiène.

Ce même sujet "Éducation sexuelle et Prophylaxie des maladies vénériennes" a été étudié par Mme Paulina Luisi à la Société Médicale de Coimbra ; la vieille Université Portugaise lui a conféré, après cette conférence, le titre de Membre Honoraire de l'Académie Médicale de Coimbra.

A Lisbonne, elle a fait une conférence sur la "Traite des Femmes," présidée par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères du Portugal, et une autre série de conférences sur "l'Avenir de la Race en rapport avec l'hérédité morbide."

Dans toutes ses conférences, Mme Dr. Luisi a soutenu le principe de l'Unité de la Morale.

Mme Luisi est membre du Comité pour l'Unité de la Morale à l'International Women Suffrage Alliance et au Conseil National des Femmes de l'Uruguay ; membre honoraire du Conseil National des Femmes Portugaises et fondatrice des groupes auxiliaires de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes en Uruguay et au Portugal.

ROSA MANTHON JALCO,

Secrétaire.

15 Septembre 1921.

## SUISSE.

## La situation suffragiste actuelle.

Par EMILIE GOURD.

C'est sans doute par un de ces retours des choses d'ici-bas qu'affectionne le grand maître Hasard que, précisément 25 ans après ce premier Congrès, où l'on n'avait entendu sur le suffrage que des paroles pleines de prudence, cette même question du suffrage des femmes soit posée dans toute son ampleur par une initiative constitutionnelle devant les électeurs de ce même canton de Genève où avait lieu ce Congrès. La coïncidence est pour le moins intéressante. Et qui nierait en en prenant conscience que "l'idée a marché" depuis lors ?

Deux jours après le vote affirmatif du Grand Conseil genevois le Conseil d'Etat fixait aux 15 et 16 octobre la votation populaire sur le suffrage féminin. Date singulièrement rapprochée, et qui a pu surprendre d'autant plus l'opinion publique que le bruit avait couru avec persistance que la votation sur notre initiative serait jointe aux élections du Conseil d'Etat dans le début de novembre, réalisant de la sorte une économie de temps pour les électeurs, et une économie d'argent pour les finances de l'Etat. Le Conseil d'Etat n'a pas cru devoir se laisser guider par ces motifs, et il nous fait l'honneur d'une votation pour nous seules. Nous pourrions lui en être reconnaissantes, notre revendication se trouvant ainsi nettement posée sur le terrain des principes et débarrassée de toutes les combinaisons politiques qui n'auraient pas manqué de surgir à l'occasion de l'élection de notre gouvernement, si, d'autre part, nous n'avions pas quelque arrière-pensée qu'en nous fixant un délai de trois semaines seulement pour mener notre campagne, le Conseil d'Etat, dont tous les membres, à l'exception du seul M. Mussard, chef du Département de l'Instruction publique, ont voté en bloc contre nous, n'avait espéré nous limiter dans nos moyens d'action.

Nous ne pouvons guère donner maintenant de détails sur ce qui se fait et se prépare. Les pronostics les plus divers nous parviennent. Et nous qui ne voulons pêcher, ni par excès de timidité, ni par espoir outrecrendant, nous ne saurions en faire. En rappelant toutefois à nos lecteurs que si nous sommes prêts à tout, c'est avec la foi la plus profonde dans le succès final de notre cause, dans la justice de nos idées que nous allons au combat. Que, quoi qu'il arrive nous aurons tout fait pour gagner la bataille, que l'indifférence, la tiédeur et la paresse ne trouvent pas place dans nos rangs, et que nous aurons la conscience d'avoir rempli jusqu'au bout, et dans les petits détails, notre devoir de suffragistes. Ne savons-nous pas d'ailleurs que suivant la parole d'un grand juriste : *Alles Recht in der Welt ist erstritten worden*, nous ne posséderons véritablement notre droit de citoyenne que dans la mesure où nous l'aurons voulu ?

Et cette parole peut fort justement s'appliquer au Tessin, où tout le bel échafaudage bâti par la Commission de la Constituante s'est écroulé avec prestesse. Tout le travail de cette Commission a été rejeté par l'Assemblée, si bien que la Commission s'est remise à l'œuvre, et a biffé de son projet certaines dispositions, et notamment celle qui reconnaissait aux femmes l'électorat et l'éligibilité en matière municipale — mesure qui avait rencontré l'opposition de presque toute la population à commencer par les intéressés, se hâte d'ajouter un journal romand peu favorable à nos idées. Et il est vrai malheureusement que la majorité des Tessinoises ne tiennent guère encore au droit de vote dont elles n'ont pas compris la portée ; mais il en est d'autres et nous en connaissons, qui sont de très ferventes de notre cause, de fidèles défenseurs de nos principes. Pourquoi refuser à celles-ci ce qu'elles désirent, sous prétexte que d'autres n'en veulent pas ? et cet argument n'est-il pas simplement un prétexte ? Et n'est-il pas dommage que, alors qu'un nombre relativement élevé d'hommes politiques s'étaient prononcés en notre faveur, prouvant par là que des sympathies certaines existent, le premier levain suffragiste constitué dans d'autres cantons par nos Associations suffragistes fasse complètement défaut dans notre canton du Sud ? Il y a certainement là une indication à ne pas laisser tomber pour ceux que préoccupe l'émancipation de la femme à travers la Suisse.

D'autre part, nous apprenons que le Conseil d'Etat du canton de Zurich vient d'élaborer un projet de loi reconnaissant aux femmes âgées de plus de vingt ans l'électorat et l'éligibilité en matière scolaire, ecclésiastique et d'assistance publique. C'est très peu, mais c'est le premier pas de nouveau dans la voie parcourue à reculons le 8 février dernier. "Disposition d'une si évidente équité," écrit à ce sujet le correspondant du *Journal de Genève*, qu'on espère qu'elle ne rencontrera pas d'opposition sérieuse. Nous sommes pleinement d'accord.

(Continued from page 23.)

**Cantonese Women Demand the Vote.**

The original constitution of the Canton Government failed to define the qualifications of voters as to sex—an omission that the progressive Cantonese women were quick to recognize, and were proceeding to avail themselves not only of the franchise but the plums of office as well when masculine authority intervened. An amendment was introduced to rectify the omission, and it was this amendment that brought down upon the heads of the unlucky legislators a storm of indignation that expressed itself in the following remonstrance:—

"Article 2 of the Constitution states that sovereignty of the Republic of China originates in the whole body of the citizens. Chinese women are citizens of the Republic and are therefore entitled to the enjoyment of the rights as mentioned in Article 5 of the Constitution. Nor do the regulations for the self-government of Hsien districts and the regulations for the election of magistrates specify that only men are eligible for holding public office and participation in the election. Well and good! But we have recently heard that the Assembly has modified these regulations in such a way that we women have been deprived of our right to vote and hold public office. In this you have violated the Constitution and you are thus no better than the unlawful Government in North China. Within this lawful territory no unlawful act can be tolerated. Therefore we command you to do away with amendments."

"On the day the amendment was submitted to the Provincial Assembly the galleries were crowded with suffrage adherents, whilst it was evident that strong feeling prevailed between the 70 members on the floor, but it was not until in the ensuing debate the chief point of objection raised was shown to be physical unfitness that the climax was reached. At this juncture the women rushed to the floor and proceeded to so demonstrate their muscular prowess and skill that the legislators appealed to the Civil Governor for soldier protection, the suffragists at the same time sending S.O.S. calls to the girls' schools for reinforcements. To add to the chagrin of the Assembly Members, the Governor (who was in sympathy with the women), instead of sending aid sent the cryptic message: 'Be manly and face the inevitable.' This injunction was not followed; the Members fled, leaving the hall in possession of the suffragists, one of whom pre-empted the Speaker's chair, called the meeting to order, and the feminine Assembly proceeded with the business of discussing punishment for the offenders."

"Yet despite this victory, subsequent mass meetings and parades wherein banners were flown and leaflets distributed, saying, 'We are determined to get what is ours,' the qualifying amendment was passed in April to the bitter disappointment of several thousand Chinese women, who, nevertheless, declare themselves undaunted in their determination to acquire that which has taken many years on the part of their sisters across the sea."

**DENMARK.****New President of Dansk Kvindesamfund.**

MRS. JULIE ARENHOLT having for private reasons resigned, Mrs. Gyrithe Lemche has accepted the presidentship of the national association, Dansk Kvindesamfund. Mrs. Lemche, who is a well-known and popular author, is an old hand in the work for the women's cause; she is renowned as an eloquent and charming speaker, having done much propaganda work. During some years she was editor of Dansk Kvindesamfund's paper, *Kvinden og Samsfundet*.

Mrs. Arenholt has, however, consented in continuing to give her valuable assistance as President of the Executive Committee of Dansk Kvindesamfund, and to represent this organization—together with Miss Anna Westergaard—in the International Women's Suffrage Association.

**Criminal Assault on Children.**

The petition to Government and Parliament (mentioned in the April number), asking for more severe punishment of assaulters against children and for isolation under medical supervision of abnormal recidivists, was signed by about 205,000 men and women from all parts of the country. It was presented some days ago to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Rytter, who received it most favourably, and who declared that he did not want offenders of this kind treated with leniency. It might perhaps be taken as a result of the petition that the Supreme Court a few days ago raised the punishment of a man, having violated a girl of eleven years, from one year to three years hard labour.

**Married Women's Nationality.**

According to the wishes expressed by their respective head organizations (by I.W.S.A. at the Geneva Congress), a petition was handed in to the Danish Government during the last parliamentary session by Dansk Kvindesamfund (affiliated to I.W.S.A.), Danske Kvinders Nationalraad (affiliated to I.C.W.) and Danske Kvinders Fredskade (affiliated to the International League for Peace and Freedom), asking that an amendment to the Danish Act of Naturalization be presented to Parliament to the effect that:—

(1) A Danish woman, marrying a man who is not a Danish citizen, retains her Danish citizenship as long as she stays in Denmark.

(2) A Danish woman, married in a foreign country to a man who has not Danish citizenship, recovers her Danish citizenship when she settles again in Denmark and hands in a declaration to the effect that she wants to take out Danish naturalization papers.

(3) A Danish woman, married to a man who has no citizenship in any country (homeless), retains her Danish citizenship without regard to her place of residence.

(4) Children, placed under the sole guardianship of their mother, follow her nationality.

So far this petition has had no result, but it may be of interest that, according to an Act passed during the recent war, a widow, born a Danish subject, but having lost her nationality through marriage, can easily regain Danish naturalization papers if she settles again in Denmark.

**Lectures for the Instruction of Mothers and Future Mothers.**

In order to spread knowledge about such information, which is important for all women, as mothers or future mothers, Dansk Kvindesamfund has arranged in Copenhagen a series of lectures, given by woman doctors and pedagogues particularly to such women, who may afterwards go out as itinerant teachers (perhaps with assistance of local doctors), i.e., trained nurses, midwives, teachers or women with social training and interests. The lectures will comprise information for mothers, sexual hygiene, nursing of babies and pedagogical instruction in sexual questions. The number of pupils has been fixed at fifty, and the fact that a large number has come from the provinces, with considerable sacrifice of time and money, to follow the lectures shows that the need of such information and the desire to spread it has been felt at large. Further, the Copenhagen branch, in co-operation with women trade unions, is working for popular lectures amongst the women-workers about the same subjects. A good result may be hoped to come out of these efforts.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,

Secretary for Dansk Kvindesamfund.

Copenhagen, October 12, 1921.

**GERMANY.**

THE question of unmarried motherhood of women in public service, and its official consequences, is at present much discussed in the women's organizations. It was raised by a much disputed resolution of the

National Union of Women in Post and Telegraph Service, which was carried nearly unanimously at their ninth annual convention in the spring of 1920, namely, that illegitimate motherhood, as such, must be looked upon now, as ever, as a disgrace, and should, as a rule, give reason for dismissal from service. Referring to this standpoint of the woman functionaries themselves, the Home Minister had declared his intention to decide the question in the same way; whereupon the Socialist members of the Reichstag, in questioning the Government about the matter, pointed out that such dismissal of the unmarried mother would be contradictory to Articles 119 and 128 of the National Constitution, which say that "motherhood has a claim to the care and protection of the State," and that "all exceptional rules for women in public service shall be abolished." Such measures against unmarried mothers would indeed not only mean an exceptional rule for women, but, in the meantime, a new legal acknowledgment of the different moral standard for man and woman—as, of course, nobody ever thought to dismiss a man from his office by reason of his illegitimate fatherhood. To find the right way between these different standpoints, and to act as much as possible in accordance with the women's own wishes, the Home Minister asked the organizations of women in the public service to express their opinion on the question, and three of the largest have already done so.

The National Union of Women in Post and Telegraph Service have at their last annual meeting in May confirmed—with certain slight modifications—their former resolution. The National Union of Woman Teachers declares that unmarried motherhood of women in public service should be one of the reasons for official disciplinary measures (Disziplinarverfahren) which may, but need not necessarily, lead to dismissal. The most liberal standpoint is taken by the executive board of the National Union of Social Functionaries (Deutscher Verein der Sozialbeamtinnen), who say that unmarried motherhood, as such, cannot and shall not be looked upon as "immoral conduct," and therefore no reason for any disciplinary measure is given by this simple fact. If there is just reason to reproach an illegitimate mother for indecent behaviour and immoral life, sufficient opportunity to apply such measures is provided for in the respective article of the General Law for Public Functionaries (Reichsbeamten-gesetz).

We are looking forward now to the further development of this matter. Though it involves no political but only ethical and cultural and feminist questions, it will of course be treated also from a political point of view by the different parties—conservative and progressive and revolutionary principles standing here in strictest opposition to each other. The final decision of the Reichsgovernment will be most important for the women's position in public service, and in public life also, in so far as it will, of course, influence the State Governments and local authorities to take the same position towards their woman officers in this question.

**Meeting and Resolutions of the National Council of Women.**

The National Council of Women of Germany held its twelfth biennial meeting from October 6 to 8 in Cologne. It was well attended by delegates of the many affiliated national, State, and local organizations, comprising a total membership of nearly one million women. As usual, the "Bund" was officially welcomed by the provincial and local authorities. The two main topics which were treated in public from different points of view were: "Questions of education for women" (the future of girls' education, education for citizenship, problems of professional education, the past and future of the professional advisory boards, the family as moral educational power) and "the position and task of the family in its relation to society and legislation" (reform of the civil code, family and welfare of infants, the parental power of the mother).

As a result of the reports and discussions, strong and impressive resolutions were carried:—

(1) That the Executive be charged to issue a memorandum containing, "in accordance with the constitution, that marriage shall be based upon equal rights of husband and wife," the following claims: (a) All questions of married life shall only be settled by mutual consent of husband and wife; (b) full parental power shall be conferred upon the mother; (c) husband and wife have by their profession or their work in the household equal share in the economic maintenance of the family; (d) facilitation of divorce (under careful consideration of the welfare of the children).

(2) That the Welfare of Infants Bill should be brought before the Reichstag, and come into force as soon as possible, and that in its practical carrying out woman experts should be given a deciding influence.

(3) That the Executive shall be charged to take steps to unite the women's organizations of all classes, professions, parties and creeds, to work together for the benefit and uplifting of the people and Fatherland.

(4) An energetic protest against the restrictions and suppressions women have to endure in all professions, industries, trades, in commerce, civil service and administration—against the old principle of lower wages for equal work, and the keeping out from work, to the benefit of men, which means an offence against the Constitution. The resolution impressively reminds the Governments that it is their first duty to stand for the Constitution.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, October 21.

**GREAT BRITAIN.****National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Women and the Reduction of Armaments.**

THE N.U.S.E.C. is very gladly co-operating in a great demonstration organized by the League of Nations Union, to be held on the evening of Armistice Day in support of world-wide reduction of armaments. The following resolution, which was passed at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee has been sent to the Prime Minister, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and will be sent to all representatives of the British Dominions at the Washington Conference next month:—

"That this Meeting, convinced that great armies and navies are a menace to the peace of the world, and that their upkeep imposes an unwarrantable and intolerable burden upon the people, strongly urges His Majesty's Government to do everything in its power to achieve a general limitation of armaments by agreement with other nations, and especially to advocate this policy at the Washington Conference and within the League of Nations."

The above resolution has also been forwarded to all our Societies in the hope that similar resolutions will be passed throughout the country.

**Married Women and Public Services.**

The position of married women engaged in the different forms of the Public Service is very far from satisfactory. A good deal of attention has been directed to a particular unnecessary case of disqualification owing to marriage. Dr. Miall Smith, Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare in the Borough of St. Pancras, London, was asked, on the occasion of her recent marriage, to retire. She refused to do this on the grounds that no such agreement had been made at the time of her appointment, and that the Sex Disqualification Removal Act definitely states that no person shall be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function. At a recent meeting of the Council the matter was reconsidered, and the decision to insist on the resignation was adhered to by a large majority. Dr. Miall Smith is, therefore, dismissed from her post and its opportunities of usefulness to the women and children of St. Pancras. We understand that the matter is receiving very sympathetic

consideration, not only by women's organizations, professional and otherwise, but by the Committee of Medical Members of Parliament, and a question on the subject has been forwarded to the Minister of Health.

The N.U.S.E.C. holds that women should have equal opportunities both in industry and the professions, and that any decision as to whether they should or should not work after marriage should rest with the parties concerned, not with the employer, whether that be the state, the municipal authority, or private persons, their sole consideration being to see that the work is adequately done by the best person for the job.

#### The Cambridge Debacle.

*The Present Position.*—Rumours of the disgraceful scenes in Cambridge, after the declaration of the results of the voting with regard to the admission of women into the University, may have reached readers in other countries, and a brief summary of the position may be useful. Although women students have for half a century been permitted to attend most of the same lectures and take the same examinations as men, they have not been allowed to become "members of the University" in the sense of having any vote or voice in the Senate—the governing body of the University, which is composed of all Cambridge graduates holding the Master of Arts degree. Women have, moreover, never been allowed to sit on boards of studies, to become professors, to use the University Library, or even to receive degrees, though the sister University, Oxford, has now removed all these disabilities.

*Proposed Reforms.*—In October, 1920, a great effort was made by many members of the University interested in the cause of Women's Education to bring Cambridge into line with all the Universities in the United Kingdom, and a resolution, or "grace," to this effect was, in accordance with the usual custom, brought before the Senate. The N.U.S.E.C., through its branches, approached members of the Senate in different parts of the country and urged them to go to Cambridge to vote for this reform. Unfortunately, it was defeated. A further attempt was made this month. A compromise was suggested which would have enabled women to sit on boards of studies, and thrown open professorships and lectureships and degrees, but would not have allowed them to sit in the Senate. The members of the N.U.S.E.C. made efforts to induce members to vote for this measure of reform, but once again the reactionaries triumphed, and a second "grace," or resolution, was passed by a large majority granting degrees in name only with no rights or powers.

#### Future Plans.

It is unlikely that any self-respecting Cambridge women graduates will accept a degree on these terms, and an appeal by the women students to the Royal Commission which is sitting at the moment to enquire into conditions at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, prior to the recommendations of financial grants, is expected. As a condition of obtaining a grant, Parliament may then enforce on the Cambridge "die-hards," most of whom, by the way, are non-resident members of the University, what they have refused to give themselves.

A disgraceful feature of the recent discussion was that it was made the occasion of a "rag" by Cambridge undergraduates, when the beautiful Newham entrance gates were injured. This was, no doubt, the work of irresponsible hooligans among the undergraduates, and already an appeal has been made for funds to restore the gates. The ominous feature about the whole affair is the reaction against women, the symptoms of what our President is fond of calling "the Turk Complex." Fortunately, we have splendid friends in the University, and there can be no doubt that in the long run justice and fairplay will win the day.

ELIZABETH MACADAM,  
Hon. Secretary.

## INDIA.

### The Bengal Vote.

IN connection with the defeat of the Woman Suffrage resolution in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, Mrs. Jinarajadasa writes on September 8:—

"I am sorry to say that this time I have to report a temporary failure. Bengal has just thrown out a suffrage resolution. Fifty-seven against and thirty-seven voted for it. A good deal of work was done, but there was very little notice given of the resolution, and we have no branch of the Women's Indian Association in Calcutta. One will be formed at once and a big campaign organized. It really will be good for the Bengal women to have to do more work and organizing; there are several women progressive and keen on the suffrage and kindred work, but also many of the finest women in Bengal, though believing in freedom, still keep more or less *pardah*. These women will probably be awakened by the throwing out of the suffrage resolution. So I am not altogether sorry this has happened. We will go forward to a finer and more deserved victory. Bihar Province has given notice of a suffrage resolution. There, much will have to be done; *pardah* is very strong there, and education very bad. The few progressive women are "non-co-operators" (anti-Government and not working with the Reformed Legislative Councils). We have so much work before us. If you come across any keen and altruistic suffragist who would like to come to India (paying her own expenses), please send her! She would have to be physically strong and able and willing to live in the Indian way. But I do not expect anyone is available."

### A Prolonged Debate.

The Lahore *Tribune* of September 3 writes:—

"Quite a large number of educated Bengali ladies, about fifty, invaded the Bengal Council Chamber to follow the debate on the resolution about women's franchise which came up for discussion in the Council to-day. Special arrangements had to be made for their accommodation, and they were given seats on a portion of the hall set apart for them. There was one main resolution, three amendments which were moved one after the other and discussed together for three hours, after which the Council adjourned before the debate concluded.

"The original resolution demanded the entire removal of sex disqualifications for registration on electoral rolls and provisions enabling women to record their votes. The first amendment asked for the extension of franchise by giving votes to lady graduates only. The second amendment went a little further and demanded the extension of franchise to ladies who had passed the Matriculation examination. The third amendment, which was moved by the Kumar of Thirpur, an orthodox Hindu Zemindar, was practically in opposition to original motion. The amendment wanted the question of the removal of sex disqualification to be referred to a committee. After the resolution and amendment were moved, the Hon. Sir Henry Wheeler, on behalf of Government, explained the constitutional position. He said that an ordinary resolution conveyed a recommendation to Government, but if this resolution was passed it would be incumbent on Government to frame rules forthwith. Another point was that the first amendment proposed a new departure in the case of women, while the second amendment narrowed the franchise in the case of women. Legal opinion had been taken on the points, and Government were advised that it might exclude a class such as contemplated in amendments. The point was not, however, free from doubt, and if amendments were carried the Government would have to elucidate the question further before effect was given to them. He also said that the Government did not wish to exercise any pressure on any Government member as to what manner he recorded his vote."

### Women Voters doing their Duty.

In the Local Government elections that recently took place under the new District Municipalities Act of 1920, it was noteworthy that, according to the Press reports, women had not been backward in coming forward (as the Irishwoman said) to record their votes. In Shrirangam special booths were erected for their convenience, and in Bellary and Tanjore as many as three-quarters of the women voters of the municipality shouldered their responsibility and went bravely to the polling-station. This proves that the granting of votes to women is not "premature."

### Women's Names on Electoral Rolls.

The large majority of districts in the Madras Presidency have not yet included lists of names of women who are qualified to vote for District and Taluk Boards. In some places women's names have not yet been put on the Union Electoral Roll, though a minimum payment of four annas house-tax qualifies them for a vote. In other places women have not been put on the municipal register. These are omissions that must be made right at the earliest moment, for the new lists are now in course of preparation, and men sympathisers with women must give us their aid in setting this right. The Women's Indian Association has written to the collector of each district requesting him to give the necessary orders to his subordinates for the collection of the qualified women's names, but women also will have to look after their own interests locally.

### An Indian Woman Pleader.

Miss Sudhanysu LaLa Hazra, B.A., B.L., has just applied at the Patna High Court to be enrolled as a pleader to practise in the District Court of Bankipur. There is no legal disqualification in India for women to act as pleaders, and we very much hope that this lady's example will be followed by a large number of women vakils.

### An Indian Woman's Success.

We have heard from London that Mrs. Satyapriya Ghose, of Calcutta, has passed the examinations admitting her to the Royal College of Surgeons. This is the first Indian lady who has passed this examination.

### U.S.A. helps Indian Women to get the Suffrage.

We have received a most splendid donation from America for our suffrage work here in India. A fund was left to Mrs. Chapman Catt to be used for Women Suffrage, so she has been distributing the money to various European countries where women are working for the Suffrage and are in need of this help. Now she has sent \$500 to us to be used for the cause in India. That is Rs. 2,004. We are indeed most grateful to our American sister for so sympathetically thinking of us and helping us just at a time when we are in need. Mrs. Chapman Catt is the President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and has done magnificent work for the cause of the advancement and progress of women, not only in America, but throughout the world. We send her our most grateful thanks and greetings from India.

Stri Dharma, September, 1921.

### Married Women in Politics: Government Lays Down Husband's Duty.

A Rangoon message of September 3, quoted in the *Tribune* (Lahore) of September 11, states:—

"A press communique on the subject of wives of Government officials taking part in political movements says: Government have no power to prohibit their joining political associations, but if the wife of a Government servant takes part in anti-Government movements such as boycott or *hartal*, it is the husband's obvious duty to do all in his power to discourage her. If it is found that, so far from taking such action, he passively allowed or encouraged her to take part in such movements, Government would have to call on him for an explanation, for pronounced anti-Govern-

ment agitation by his wife would naturally cast suspicion both in Government's and the public eyes on his own attitude. Each case must be decided on its merits, but it is infinitely better that wives abstain from any action likely to compromise their husbands."

If this really is an official Government statement, we can only call it "unparalleled impertinence."

## JAPAN.

### Female Fire Brigades.

THREE villages of Higashi Uwa-gun in Ehime-ken can boast the first female fire brigades in Japan. The new brigades are made up of 400 women from three towns and are to work in conjunction with the regular fire-fighting forces.

### Japanese Women Work for Peace

A movement has been started by the women of Tokyo to aid the cause of international peace; 350 Japanese women, a number of foreigners and several Japanese leaders, among them Baron Sakatani and Viscount Shibusawa, organized the Japan Women's Association for the Promotion of International Friendship.

## NEW ZEALAND.

WE seem to have been marking time on social and feminist reform, and little of note has passed in New Zealand since I last wrote. But, as I write, there is a real *simultaneous movement in our four cities to obtain certain changes in our criminal code*, changes long asked for by the women's societies, but now backed up by general public opinion, particularly among medical men of standing. These changes are embodied, or at least two of them, in the English Bill now before Parliament. It is demanded that the *age of consent* be raised from sixteen to eighteen, that the time for *laying information* in case of criminal assault be raised from six months to twelve, and that the plea of "having reason to believe" the victim of man's wrong-doing "to be over sixteen" be abolished. In the South Island, at least, public feeling has been quickened by the case of a girl of sixteen who gave birth to a child whose body bore marks, when found afterwards, of wounds to cause death. Owing to these defects in the law, the author of the girl's undoing could not be reached. She was acquitted, as others in her situation have been. No New Zealand judge or jury would ever follow the inhuman example laid down at Leicester in the case of Ethel Roberts. But the horror awakened by this case of a child of sixteen, maddened by fear and pain in her lonely ordeal, could not be allayed by the knowledge that our judiciary is better than our law. Short as the *session must be this year*, Mr. Massey will be met by a firm demand to amend our faulty code.

The Social Hygiene Society is also leading a movement against immediate compulsory notification of venereal disease, expected in an impending Public Health Bill. The Social Hygiene Society accepts notification of patients who disobey medical orders, and become a conscious menace to the public. The women of the National Council and Christian Temperance Union have been for some time educating their sisters on the danger of any insidious return to the principles of the C.D. Acts, and a battle royal is anticipated next year.

Next year also, with our triennial elections, comes the licensing poll, with its renewed chance of absolute prohibition for New Zealand. The Temperance Party is setting on foot a comprehensive scheme of organization against the Trade. Against the other peril of State control, there needs no propaganda; it was regarded at the polls of 1919 as a negligible factor, though its inclusion on the ballot paper unfortunately turned the scale in favour of the existing system. Six o'clock closing is safe, however.

A number of new aspects of education, mainly progressive, in a few cases jingoistic, are being discussed,

but these will be considered when it is regarded that concrete proposals may be made to an, at present, rather impecunious Parliament. On the whole, it has been difficult to awaken the people to the moral significance of international issues or to the full national responsibilities created or accentuated by the war. Unemployment and difficulties of housing are, however, rousing people to think. A good deal of soreness is being caused by the unchecked stream of emigration from Home into a country at present unable or unorganized to deal with the legitimate needs of its own people. Government is doing a little towards the housing difficulty, and municipalities and public bodies are being unofficially pressed to do more; it is probable that next session will see the business accelerated. Women are taking a prominent part in revealing the need of homeless families, not always without means to meet reasonable conditions for building and furnishing.

The fall in wool and produce is being keenly felt by the farmers. High cost of living is, however, felt to be slowly declining, and hope is expressed that New Zealand, with her natural resources, will right herself sooner than world indications suggest in most other places.

JESSIE MACKAY.

August 29.

**SWITZERLAND.**

**Geneva Rejects Woman Suffrage.**

THE people of Geneva have rejected, by 14,166 votes to 6,629, the proposal for extending to women the right to vote and eligibility for election.

Central News, October 17.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

**For the Armaments Conference.**

THE most notable activity of organized women groups in the United States just now is in preparation for a coming conference on limitation of armament, called by President Harding for November 11. Many representative organizations made a plea for the appointment of a woman among the American delegates. This wish is not to be fulfilled—only four delegates having been appointed—but it is practically certain that a woman or women will be included in the Board of Advisers, which has not yet been chosen.

The National League of Women Voters has a Committee on Reduction of Armament by International Agreement, with Miss Elizabeth Hauser as chairman, for work in preparation for the conference, and every State League has its organization perfected and is "carrying on" to organize public sentiment in such a way as to help the Washington Conference produce real results. A Council of National Organizations for Reduction of Armament has recently been formed, with twenty national organizations joining, including prominent women groups. The object of this Council is to maintain an information service to the country, to maintain co-operative relations with similar groups abroad, and to interpret the acts of the conference during its session to the people of the United States.

**Protection of Mothers and Babies.**

The present special session of the Senate has passed the Sheppard-Towner Bill, which is the measure on which the women's organizations of the country have been focusing their energy, the one Bill for which they have almost unanimously asked. It authorizes the appropriation of funds to aid the States in providing instruction in the hygiene of maternity and infancy—in helping save the thousands of lives lost annually through poverty or ignorance or remoteness from regular physicians. This is the second time that the Bill has passed the Senate. Of course, every effort is being made to ensure its being passed in the Lower House of Congress during the next regular session, and there is considerable confidence that it will go through.

**Mrs. Catt.**

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt has accepted the invitation of President M. Carey Thomas, of Bryn Mawr, to open the first course of lectures to be given under the Anna Howard Shaw Political Science Foundation at Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

At the Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held in Chicago in February, 1920, three American Women's Colleges decided to establish a course of lectures on citizenship as a memorial to Dr. Shaw, and Bryn Mawr is the first to announce the commencement of its course. This will consist of five lectures delivered weekly in the late fall.

VIRGINIA RODERICK.

October 6, 1921.

**Federal Child Labour Law declared Unconstitutional.**

The Federal Child Labour law has been declared unconstitutional by Judge James E. Boyd in the western judicial district of North Carolina. His decision relieves the Vivian Spinning Mills, which employed child labour, from paying the ten per cent. tax on their profit, due to the United States Government. Judge Boyd has also upheld the Atherton Mills in their violation of the section of the Federal law limiting the work of children under sixteen to eight hours a day. This case is awaiting a hearing before the Supreme Court at the present time. This will make the second time that the constitutionality of a Federal law for the protection of working children has been questioned. Three years ago Judge Boyd declared the Keating-Owen Child Labour law unconstitutional, and was supported by the United States Supreme Court. This law had prohibited the shipment in interstate commerce of products manufactured by child labour. The present law, passed in 1919, levies a tax of ten per cent. on the profits derived from the products of any mine or quarry employing children under sixteen, or any mill, cannery, workshop, factory, or manufacturing establishment employing children under fourteen or violating certain restrictions on the hours of labour permitted.

**Arizona Ahead with Illegitimacy Law.**

A progressive step has been taken in Arizona toward a solution of the problem of illegitimacy. The law removes from the child the stigma from birth out of wedlock by declaring "every child . . . to be the legitimate child of its natural parents." The child's protection and equal opportunity is next assured by the provision entitling it "to support and education to the same extent as if born in wedlock." The United States has a long way to go before it accords to all children regardless of birth the fair chance in life guaranteed them by statute in many foreign countries.

Association Monthly, October, 1921.

**Women's Votes Do Count.**

With only a year since the Federal amendment became active, women have disproved the argument that "they would only double the electorate without changing conditions."

Missouri, Texas, Indiana—these are a few of the States which have felt the power of women's opinion in the last few weeks. Active work on the part of the Missouri League of Women Voters was responsible for the enactment of the State constitutional amendment enabling women to hold any State office, and permitting women to serve as delegates to the convention to revise and amend the State constitution. A special election was held August 2.

**Louisiana Women eligible for every office available to Men.**

In a private ruling made at the request of the State League of Women Voters, the Attorney-General of Louisiana has held that women may hold every office available to men as electors. Not only has the

nineteenth amendment conferred this right upon Louisiana women, but the new State constitution has also confirmed it.

Press Service, League of Women Voters.

**Miss Thomas Speaks Out.**

In an address at the Founders' Day celebration at Mount Holyoke College, President M. Carey Thomas, of Bryn Mawr College, said:—

"As in 1912 so in 1921, the very men who have generously yielded so much to women are still themselves sitting in the seats of the mighty, enthroned in all the ancient privilege of sex, and are still jealously guarding for themselves and for other men the prizes and rewards of intellect and achievement—more pay for the same work, the most highly paid positions in all occupations, such as the best high school positions, all superintendencies, principalships, associate professorships, full professorships, head curatorships in museums and even an unfair proportion of fellowships and scholarships, especially of the most valuable kind, stately funerals, monuments, statues, membership in academies, medals, titles, stars, garters, ribbons, buttons and other shining baubles, so valueless in themselves, and yet so infinitely valuable because they are symbols of the recognition by their fellow-craftsmen for difficult work well done. The French Academy refused to elect Mme. Curie to membership for the sole and only reason that she did not belong to the sex that men delight to honour."

"The French Academy was, after all, founded in 1635, and may charitably be supposed to have accumulated in the course of centuries many evil anti-feminist inhibitions. But what are we women to think of our own American Academy, founded only a few years ago, in this era of women's emancipation, in this twentieth century co-educational United States in imitation of the French Academy, by all the men we know and thought we could trust, perpetuating this hoary age-long injustice to women, and, although urgently entreated to do so by the American Association of University Women, refusing to elect to its membership even a few eminent women. Men artists of negligible fame are

American Academicians, but not Cecilia Beaux; minor men novelists, but not Edith Wharton; men philanthropists and humanitarian writers of comparative insignificance, but not Jane Addams; men educationists who have accomplished much less than she for the advancement of teaching, and not the distinguished President of Mount Holyoke College.

"American women should insist that in accordance with its antiquated procedure this out-of-date, androcentric American Academy of Arts and Letters should be called 'The American Men's Academy of Arts and Letters,' or should forthwith reform itself and become truly representative of American achievement in art and letters by adding to its membership women of genius and marked ability. The spectacle of dogs in the manger, not all of them of unquestioned pedigree, refusing to share their prizes (awarded by themselves to themselves) with their blue-ribboned mates, is peculiarly unlovely in this era of the breaking down of unjust privileges and unfair economic and sex discrimination."

New York Times, October 8.

**Alien by Marriage.**

A New York teacher came to a friend of ours the other day with this strange and distressing story: She is a patriotic and devoted American. She and her family for generations have been Americans. She has served well and loyally in the public schools of New York City. Two or three years ago she married a Cuban; that made her, legally, a Cuban citizen. She explained to her husband that he must take his papers out at the earliest possible moment or her sudden technical lack of citizenship would jeopardize her position in the schools. He agreed, and secured his first papers. Then he proved to be a very unworthy person and has now deserted his wife. She has no idea where he is; she cannot get a divorce from him; she cannot facilitate his naturalization. So her status is that of an alien; and she has been notified that she will be dropped at the end of the next term.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.**

Financial Statement for the Three Months ending September 30th, 1921.

"JUS."		DISBURSEMENTS.	
RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Subscriptions	96 8 5	Printing	140 3 10
Y.W.C.A. Supplements	42 0 0	Salaries	61 5 0
Cash Sales	1 3 6	Translations	4 10 0
Balance transferred	85 16 4	Postages and Dispatch	19 9 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>£225 8 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£225 8 3</b>

GENERAL.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance—beginning of July		Transferred from "Jus"	85 16 4
Bank, on Deposit	£200 0 0	Salaries	155 6 8
Bank, Current Account	113 14 3	Extra Office Help	5 9 6
Petty Cash	2 11 8	Light, Heat and Cleaning	8 8 10
Donations	316 5 11	Printing and Stationery	14 18 4½
Members' Fees	387 4 9	Office Equipment	3 19 9
Less transferred to "Jus"	£219 7 3	Telephone, Telegram, Messenger	14 12 2
Subscriptions and Report		Postages	11 1 3
Receipts	77 1 4	Insurance	0 14 2
	142 5 11	Miscellaneous Expenses	6 18 0
Affiliation Fees	19 17 2	Balance—end of September	20 11 0
Literature Receipts	1 0 0	Bank, on Deposit	£200 0 0
Miscellaneous Receipts	0 0 6	Bank, Current Account	348 12 7
	9 16 4	Petty Cash	0 10 7½
<b>Total</b>	<b>£876 10 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£876 10 7</b>

This is one of the many inhuman complications, bearing dire injustice in their train, to which American women must submit because of the archaic law of coverture—that law concerning which Blackstone said: "The husband and wife are one, and that one the husband."

#### Woman v. Tammany.

Tammany got a hard blow in the New York City primary election this month. Mayor Hylan, unopposed on the Democratic ticket, will have as his opponent Henry H. Curran, head of the Republican-Coalition forces, who was nominated by a sweeping vote on a platform calling for everything that is anti-Hylan. And the women, who were for the first time sharing in the nomination of a mayor, had a great deal to do with it. Everyone admits it, too. Eight independent organizations of women as well as the regular Republican district clubs, worked with telephone and telegram and auto to get out the vote. And they got it: the figures

showed that a far larger proportion of the registered women voted than of the registered men; and as the number of women was nearly half the total registration, women outnumbered the men in the polling-places. Lots of them brought their babies and gave the women election officials a new job.

The women saw the issue as a clear-cut issue of good government versus corruption and inefficiency, and, as the newspapers noted, they undertook their campaign work with the zeal of those who carry on a moral crusade. "When Tammany finally yields up the ghost, as some day it will," said the *New York Tribune*, "on its tombstone is not unlikely to be graven the words: 'Slain by the Nineteenth Amendment.'"

Four women were nominated for office: two for register, one on each ticket; one for the assembly, and one for alderman.

*Woman Citizen, September, 24.*

#### Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, elected at the Eighth Congress, Geneva, June 6—12, 1920.

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**Treasurer:** KATHERINE DEXTER McCORMICK, 393, Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.  
**1st Vice-President:** MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, 14, Rue Pierre 1st de Serbie, Paris, France.  
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**Rec. Secretary:** MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY, 33, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W. 15, England.

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**PROVISIONAL AFFILIATIONS:** India, Palestine.

#### By-law of the I.W.S.A. Constitution.

"The International Woman Suffrage Alliance, by mutual consent of its auxiliaries, stands pledged to preserve absolute neutrality on all questions that are strictly national."

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#### LECTURES:

Wed., 2nd Nov. "The Labour Question." M<sup>rs</sup>. JEANNIE BAKER.  
 8.15 p.m. (Chairman: Mr. GOLDFINCH BATE.)  
 Wed., 9th Nov. "The New Chinese Woman." M<sup>rs</sup>. E. G. KEMP, F.R.S.G.S.  
 8.15 p.m. (Chairman: CAPTAIN MARTIN.)  
 Sat., 12th Nov. CONCERT, arranged by the courtesy of Miss F. BINYON  
 8.30 p.m. ALEXANDER. Artists announced later.  
 Wed., 16th Nov. "The Extinction of Liberty." M<sup>r</sup>. G. K. CHESTERTON.  
 8.15 p.m. (Chairman: Lady BONHAM CARTER.)  
 Wed., 23rd Nov. "Psycho-Analysis." M<sup>r</sup>. WILLIAM BROWN, M.D., D.Sc.  
 8.15 p.m. (Chairman: Dr. CHRISTINE MURKEL.)  
 Wed., 30th Nov. "Woman's New Horizon." M<sup>rs</sup>. ADELINE BOURNE.  
 8.15 p.m. (Chairman: M<sup>rs</sup>. WINIFRED MAYO.)

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MEETINGS HELD IN THE MINERVA CAFÉ,  
 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

#### MONDAY EVENINGS, at 7 p.m.

Oct. 31st. Speaker: M<sup>rs</sup>. DALTON, F.R.G.S.  
 Subject: "The Drink Problem—The Principles of True Temperance.  
 How Women can Help."  
 Nov. 7th. Speaker: M<sup>rs</sup>. F. BLIGH BOND.  
 Subject: "Discoveries at Glastonbury by the Aid of Automatic Writing."  
 Nov. 14th. Speaker: M<sup>rs</sup>. PICTON TURBERVILLE, O.B.E.  
 Subject: "Women and International Life."  
 Nov. 21st. Speaker: M<sup>rs</sup>. CHARLES BEATTY, C.B.E.  
 Subject: "Fairy Tales: A General Outline of Comparative Religion."

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# NEWS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association  
 34, Baker Street, London, W. 1.

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#### Y.W.C.A. CENTRES IN THE NEAR EAST.

A TRAVELLER in Turkey has written: "Turkey is not Turkey just now, but a mixture of English, French, Greek and Italian control, with Armenians and Turks and a few Americans on the side lines. Anatolia, Cilicia and Syria are quite distinct when viewed at close range and not merely as spots on the map lumped in the average mind as somewhere in Asia Minor." These differences and inequalities provide the main difficulty, from the organization point of view, of Y.W.C.A. work in the Near East. The Executive Secretary, with her headquarters in Constantinople, must spend a good deal of her time travelling if she is to keep in touch with her various centres, and if she is to keep them in touch with each other. And such touch is essential in the constructive womanhood building work the Association, under many difficulties, is trying to do.

Some account of the centres in Constantinople has already appeared in these pages. The present paper deals only with some impressions of Smyrna, Adana and Beirut.

The first and last impression of the Smyrna Service Centre is that it is a very busy place. All day girls come and go for classes or clubs or recreation. A splendid tennis court on the grounds of the Service Centre is very popular with the girls. Aside from the usual features which are characteristic of any centre and, of course, a part of the Smyrna Y.W.C.A., such as English classes, business course, typing, etc., clubs and recreation, Smyrna has also certain distinct features. A cinema twice a week has proved quite an attraction. A splendid course in health and personal hygiene, given by a nurse from the Girl's School, has met with an appreciative response. The outside activities have included several picnics, which mean a good deal to the girls in Smyrna, as they are not free to go about unchaperoned, and a pageant representing the advance of women in industry given by the Y.W.C.A. members of the student conference at Smyrna College. The value of the pageant was threefold: first, in furnishing a natural means of bringing girls of different nationalities and social status closely in touch with each other; second, in giving girls a chance of self-expression; third, in interpreting to the student representatives of the college in Smyrna and Constantinople the Y.W.C.A. idea and thus stimulating their interest. This is well worth while, since from these students of the Near East the leaders for the Y.W.C.A. should be recruited. The pageant, compared with American pageants, was, of course, very simple, but, as the first attempt in this line, it has the significance attached to any pioneer endeavour.

A most important recent development in the Smyrna work is the opening of the new Factory Centre. The

term "factory centre" does not remotely suggest this Smyrna factory centre as it is not at all according to Hoyle. A stone barn just inside a stone wall enclosure, dirt floor, high, shed-like windows, stone walls—such is the bare reality of the Factory Centre. Add to this reality of stone walls and dirt floor, blue curtains for the door and windows, a few bright posters like "The Friendly Road," which bring such friendliness and cheer; some wooden shelves with magazines, principally the kind with pictures; a small wooden platform with a table and chair serving as the desk and office of the Greek secretary; a few wooden benches and a phonograph. Hang up the blue triangle outside, invite the community, and you have the scene all set for the opening day of the Factory Centre.

An hour before the appointed time the barn was full of a heterogeneous audience made up of little girls lugging along by the hand a smaller brother or sister; older girls of school age; girls from the factory, some quite young and fresh, others rather hardened; mothers with nursing babies; grandmothers; a Greek priest in flowing robes; and several Y.W.C.A. secretaries, submerged in the crowd, quite like guests and not running the show. The programme did not seriously disturb the casual informality of the crowd. The violinist, a real artist, the best in Smyrna, of the temperamental variety, averse to playing without the strained, unqualified attention of his audience, merely smiled good-naturedly at the general confusion. Occasionally a dog barked or a child cried, adding a decidedly individual note to the programme. The Greek priest explained what the Centre meant, and urged the people to use it. His presence there and his speech of not more than three minutes were more important than anything the American secretaries could have accomplished, since the place of the Centre in the community was thereby established without any question. The American secretary welcomed the audience and turned the building over to them to make their own. The Greek secretary outlined the programme of the Centre and more fully explained its purpose. When the above programme was finished the audience was greatly amused by having a picture taken, an almost impossible feat in view of the peripatetic character of the crowd.

After having seen the opening of this Factory Centre, anyone with a spark of imagination could scarcely fail to visualize its later development. Mlle. Theodora, the Greek secretary in charge, with another Greek girl as her assistant, and with the sympathetic support of the American secretary, within those six weeks made a real, full-fledged, flourishing Centre with thirty-five full-paid members, which, even with small membership fee of one lira, means a good deal for this community. A number of members were in process of paying, the instalment plan of payment having been adopted by the Greek secretary, who keeps an envelope for each girl with her deposits until payment is finished. Aside

from the regular members a great number of the community of all ages use the Centre. Forty or fifty girls from the factory eat their lunch there and others come for classes or recreation. The very full programme includes classes in the morning in reading and writing Greek for the little children of the neighbourhood who would otherwise be playing on the streets; other classes in Greek for the older girls; mothers' meetings in the afternoon with health talks on the care of babies given by a trained nurse; a story-telling class and recreation hour with volley-ball or other games in the late afternoon when the girls drop in after work; Sunday afternoon gatherings, well attended by 150 or more of the community, with music and usually a talk by the Greek priest. Several clubs have also been started, one of which is bringing the entirely new idea of service into the community. At their second meeting the girls took flowers to the wounded Greek soldiers in the military hospital; another time oranges and *lokoum* to the nurses and attendants.

All this about the programme and activities of the Factory Centre reads, perhaps, just like the programme of any ordinary Y.W.C.A. Centre, but its special significance is the fact that it is being developed and carried on by a Greek secretary untrained for social service, but with the *sine qua non* which no amount of training could supply—and such a real desire to serve that she is always on the job, never missing a trick, but so alert to every opportunity that, when having a class, she sits facing the door where she can see anyone who comes in and welcome them, and answer their questions before they are even asked, for, as she says, "you have to catch them the first time or you may not get another chance."

This Factory Centre in Smyrna is a community centre which serves everybody and in which the whole community feels a sense of ownership. It gave the impression the very first day of being indigenous. It seemed more as if the Y.W.C.A. secretaries were guests of the community than as if the community had been brought in as guests of the Y.W.C.A. The secret, of course, is that the Centre matches the community. There is no glaring contrast between the simple, crude community and the equally crude building. No one in the neighbourhood would feel ill at ease there, or wonder whether they ought to dress up to come, or whether the whole family could come along, baby and all. By serving the community the Centre serves the factory girl, which is the main reason for the Centre. Such a plain common-or-garden variety of service as this Smyrna Factory Centre makes a direct appeal which is bound to succeed.

The fact that this Centre is under the direction of two Greek secretaries is one of the best features of the Smyrna work. Aside from these two Greeks, the Y.W.C.A. has also an Armenian and a Turkish secretary. Having secretaries of the country means more here than it would in any other country of Europe—it means that a distinctly foreign idea is taking root.

Furthermore, to have a Greek, Armenian and Turkish girl working together is in itself a real achievement.

An automobile journey of thirty miles from Mersina, straight across a broad plain once under intense cultivation, furnishing adequate support for the whole country, now an uncultivated stretch with French Colonial troops on guard and, at frequent intervals, military camps enclosed in barbed wire—forcible reminder that the Treaty of Versailles was powerless here in producing peace—brings you to Adana, the most important city of Cilicia. Its importance was recognized by the Germans, who built a large railway station there and made Adana an important station *en route* to Bagdad. Your first and last impression of Adana is that it is an unattractive, dirty, crowded, typical Turkish city of the interior, a hopeless place to live, as far as creature comforts or ordinary amusements are considered, hopeless also for anybody without a real aim and devotion for some kind of work, but a place of big possibilities for service, since little or nothing is done there and much is to be done.

The history of Adana is punctuated with Armenian massacres. Missionaries reckon their dates as so many years before or after such and such a massacre. When there is a lull in hostilities, rumours of new troubles are always rife, so that, whether trouble is actually brewing or not, the effect in the community is practically the same. In such a disquieting, unsettled atmosphere, to find a centre of concentrated, constructive activity gives one an impression of a steadying force in the community. This is the outstanding effect of the Y.W.C.A. in Adana.

Transplant this small Centre of only five rooms on the second floor of an ordinary dwelling-house, with a flat roof as an overflow space, to any ordinary community and it would seem rather insignificant, but, in Adana, this same Centre, serving alike for the Service Centre and living quarters for the secretaries, has been like the centre of calm in the vortex of a maelstrom. During the fighting last year, when anyone on the streets was likely to be struck by a stray shot, the girls used to come into the Centre, even though there might not be anything special, and just sit for awhile and talk to the secretaries. Then, when they went away, they often said: "Now we feel so much better." In all that time of actual siege and fighting in the city the Sunday morning Bible-class never missed a lesson. The moral effect on the community has certainly been very great to have such a force, non-political, non-commercial, steadily planning constructively for the future as if they were not in Cilicia, a land of uncertainties, but somewhere in the settled parts of the world.

The Centre in Adana is a very active place all day, every day of the week, and also Sundays. There is a very active interest in the classes. There are English, French and dressmaking classes; a number of clubs (most of them doing some kind of social service); recreation and physical exercises; frequent parties for different groups.

An interesting feature of the different clubs is the spirit of service injected into them. Each club has chosen some special line of work for others; the older school-girls' club makes dresses for the orphans in a Near East institution, another club of junior girls cuts out pictures from old magazines and pastes them on cardboard for the orphans; another club of older girls makes scrap-books of clippings and selected articles and stories culled by friends of the secretaries. Thus, in various ways, the clubs, instead of being constantly entertained and *being served*, are learning the idea themselves of *servicing*.

Along with other recreational work an interesting class is held twice a week for teachers from the different schools. They are taught simple forms of recreation and singing games which they will pass on to their students. The significant feature of this class is the fact that the teachers are allowed time for their class out of the regular school period, a proof that the directors recognize the value of the work. Like all girls, those in Adana are keen on dramatics. Watching a rehearsal of "Cinderella" for half an hour, one can almost forget that these girls had known very little of the spirit of fairy tales and had never seen a real play. These simple dramatics, which bring the joy of dressing up in odds and ends of finery, and which give the girls the chance of losing themselves in a world of books where the fairy prince always marries the princess and everyone lives happily ever afterwards—such a diversion of interest into completely new channels—has had a significance for these girls in Adana out of all comparison to its face value. A change of vocabulary, from *chettes* (bandits), evacuation and massacres to a fairy tale with the beautiful princess with a silken fan and satin slippers, has been to them like a refreshing breeze in a close, stifling atmosphere.

Although the Y.W.C.A. quarters are exceedingly cramped, these physical limitations have not apparently prevented the Centre from serving as quite a social centre for the community. It represents a gathering place for the American community. One day each week, also, the Y.W.C.A. is at home to the French and Greeks, with whom official and also friendly connections

have been established. Another day is the special At Home for the club girls, with frequent parties for them, and, once a month, a party which they themselves give for younger children of their own family and relatives. They are responsible for bringing them, entertaining them and furnishing their refreshments. One afternoon the factory girls are specially invited. On Sunday is the largest gathering, when a good many of all types, Greek and Armenian, come.

The work in Adana has not been confined to the boundaries of the one Centre. Since almost the beginning the Y.W.C.A. has been carrying on a very live work at one of the large factories. Two rooms in a warehouse of the factory were turned over by the manager for recreation and noon lunch. A generous bowlful of soup or stew is served for five piastres (about three cents), or half a portion if desired. The equipment for this very primitive *cafeteria* consists of a bare table, a few wooden benches, two large buckets, one for soup and one for fresh drinking water. The factory women furnish their own bowls or cups, and generally hunks of bread and perhaps some fresh vegetable, radishes or green onions. The stew or soup is cooked in a large cauldron over a fire, the fuel principally packing boxes furnished by the company. This simple noon lunch is patronized by a very mixed collection of young and old. Ages range from six to sixty. There are always a number of little children as the factory allows the worker to have her children come and be with her while she works. This means that they spend the day at the factory. After the noon lunch there is always time for recreation or a story. A favourite pastime is a simple game of bean bags thrown against a board with holes of different sizes cut in it. Often simple prizes are given. Usually the Armenian or Greek helper tells a story for the benefit of children, but quite as much enjoyed by the older women. The manager often comes over and enjoys watching the game. Strenuous exercise or recreation would not be advisable because of the climate and the hard work. The main value of the noon hour, aside from the hot food, is the relaxation and diversion that comes to these women from having a new interest in their lives.

Another very direct line of work in Adana is the work for the Fellahines, who represent a very distinct part of the Moslem population. They were originally of the peasant class, of Arabic descent, of distinct social strata, not unlike the sweeper caste of North India in their segregation from the rest of the community, although not as low caste as the sweepers. Since the Fellahines are such a distinct community, anything for them must be done quite independently. They cannot be drawn to the Y.W.C.A., but the Y.W.C.A. must be taken to them.

The connection with the Fellahines is an interesting example of how one type of service leads to another. The Y.M.C.A. has for some time had a tent centre in the Fellahine community. A clinic was operated in connection with this to which the women came. The games and recreation for the children were begun by the Y.W.C.A. Later the Fellahine women were forbidden to go to the public tent, and then one of the girls came and asked the Y.W.C.A. secretary to come to the Fellahine quarter, offering an empty room in her aunt's house. The work was begun and the secretary goes now regularly twice in a week, has a class in English, one in dressmaking, and also gives recreation. The room used is upstairs, reached by a rickety staircase, the lower part underneath the centre room serving as a disused stable. The room was without furniture and chairs at first, but these have been added. From the window you look out over a dilapidated section of Adana, of mud walls and tumbled down buildings with low, flat mud roofs. In the compound where the building is in which the women meet there are always a number of old women sitting on the ground sorting and winding-off cotton, doubtless just as they have been doing for years. Behind the mud walls of the compound, detached from the outside world, they represent what life to these Fellahine women has been. The group of girls and women in the upper room just

across the compound, labouring to learn the numbers on a tape measure, the preliminary step in their dress-making class, represent the awakening of new desires, the possibility of a future which will mean something more than isolation and total lack of opportunity.

After a visit to Adana you have very strongly the feeling that the success of a centre is absolutely a matter of spirit—not equipment. For example, not having tape-measures necessary for their dressmaking classes they set to work to make them, as not even plain white tape was procurable, cutting strips of cotton cloth and marking it off. Not having any library books or reading material they have made scrap-books of collections of stories culled from magazines and other collections of articles and poems and miscellaneous items of interest. These are loaned to the members and have been a very good makeshift for a regular library.

Beirut presents an entirely different situation from either Adana or Smyrna. The opportunity in Beirut, however, is just as great, but it will require a more careful study and the patience "to make haste slowly," and, of course, the spirit of devotion. An essential difference between Syria and the other centres is the fact that in Adana, Smyrna and Constantinople you are working with a composite of Greeks, Armenians and Turks who are more accustomed to foreign influence and not as averse to taking advantage of them. This is not as true of the Turks as it is of the Greeks and the Armenians. Real changes come slowly, of course, due to the reluctance of the East to change. Syrians are much less likely to respond to foreign influence. Syrians have remained more distinct and individualistic, very proud of their nationality and of the fact that they represent the original Christians, also acutely sensitive to the invasion of new ideas if in any way this casts an aspersion on their own independent development. All this has presented real difficulty in the development of the Y.W.C.A. Centre in Beirut. However, these very difficulties are a proof how much may be accomplished by overcoming them. However different Syrian girls may seem from the Greeks and Armenians, still, essentially, they are all alike in their eagerness to take advantage of anything that they want. They can all be appealed to on much the same basis, there is always the same infallible means of approach—real interest in girls.

The Service Centre in Beirut, from the standpoint of buildings and grounds, is the best in the Near East; a very large, attractive house, adequate for a hostel for Syrian girls and as a house for the secretaries and the Service Centre, with a beautiful compound with flowers in abundance and redolent orange trees, a tennis court and ample space for outdoor recreation. Unlike many centres, which, by the force of circumstances, are too small to fill the present needs and allow for expansion, the Beirut Centre has been unhampered and is fully adequate for the future.

The hostel can accommodate twelve Syrian girls. These girls are teachers and nurses principally, all earning their own living, as yet a new thing in Syria. This hostel makes it possible for them to have a homelike, pleasant place to live at a reasonable rate. The Service Centre has the usual programme of classes, although a comparatively small enrolment. The work from the Centre has not radiated as much as in other centres. Recreation and physical work are in two schools. An attempt is being made to start work in connection with some of the factories. The Service Centre has brought together the various Y.W.C.A. groups formed before the war by Miss Frances Gage in some of the Mission Schools. At a union meeting of all of these branches held recently at the Centre, quite a number of delegates came representing different Y.W.C.A. circles.

So the work in the Near East goes on, filling in breaches made by recent wars and laying foundations for a woman's movement soon to be independent of foreign leadership.

(Compiled from the reports of Miss Ruth Woodsmall, Executive Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in the Near East.)

INDIAN LEADERSHIP FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

MOST travellers in India have passed through Jubbulpore and have noticed from the windows of the railway carriage the great clumps of bamboo which are one of its glories. In the famine time of 1919 the bamboos flowered for the first time in many years, and the women went out with baskets to gather up the rice-like seed, saying, "Now will the bamboos die, and there will be famine in the land." Subsequently they did, and the same drying wind that rustled through the yellowing fronds lifted type-written notices in the busy Government offices offering such and such clumps for sale. For in India, as elsewhere, there is a juxtaposition of ancient ways and modern learning, of custom and change. The Indian ladies' club is a purdah club, yet not far away the Y.W.C.A. has been holding a Hindi Summer School for Indian women leaders from towns and villages.

Twenty-three students attended the school, coming from Ajmer, Jaipur, Nasirabad and Bharatpur in Rajputana; from Ujjain in Central India; and from Chindwara and Jubbulpore in the Central Provinces. Jubbulpore members were allowed to share in the lectures, bringing up the number at some of the classes to forty. The course was a very simple and practical one, including Indian sewing and dressmaking, Indian Girl Guiding, Indian nature study and Sunday School work, the organization of village co-operative and credit societies, child welfare work, the prevention of tuberculosis, and so forth. There were, of course, various demonstrations of such things as organized games, methods of conducting meetings, etc., and visits to local factories. Altogether, the school was designed to meet the practical difficulties this group of leaders were already facing, and to help them to get ready for the expanding work of the future.



A Y.W.C.A. Institute building in the Central Provinces, India.

For one of India's biggest problems lies in her villages and in the women of those villages. In many of them the line between subsistence and destitution is very easily crossed, and there is, in addition, the needless suffering and stagnation that accompany ignorance and a limited horizon in any part of the world. The model village, with its progressive methods of farming, its decent sanitation, its handicrafts and community life, its school with a curriculum based on village needs and village possibilities, is not merely a reformer's dream, but an attainable ideal—given a good deal of hard work and undaunted enthusiasm. The introduction of Burbank's spineless cactus here might save the milch herd in bad seasons; the introduction of a subsidiary handicraft there might bring prosperity to a whole debt-ridden district; the teaching of different methods of sewing elsewhere might raise the self-respect of a down-trodden group; the opening up of co-operative credit banks everywhere might revolutionize rural life. But there are different methods of introduction in reform as in social life, and for one

gracious one there are three antagonizing or ineffective methods. Moreover, where you have an ancient civilization on which to build, the task of adaptation without disintegration is both slow and delicate.

Only too often reformers have found that years of demonstration of, for example, the use of alfalfa or the value of inoculations have had no result whatever. Even where the men of the community have grown used to an idea, the women have held tenaciously to the customs which have been handed down from time immemorial. These they know to have been tested throughout generations and to have religious sanctions, why leave them for rash experiments which are probably foreign in origin? It is precisely this situation that the Y.W.C.A. training courses for Indian women leaders are intended to meet. If a foreigner, or even a fellow-countrywoman from far away, or of a different class from yourself, suggests that you would like to do this, that, or the other thing, you naturally decline—politely, of course, but firmly. But if a neighbour comes back and says that it is really very simple and she herself finds that it pays better, then maybe you think that some day you will give it a trial; and the seed once sown sprouts, and the soil takes it as a matter of course. "Revolution through Evolution" might almost be the slogan of these patriotic Christian women, who want their country to have the best of everything, but who want change, where change is necessary, to come as a natural development, always in harmony with the spirit of the country.

A WEEK OF WORLD FRIENDSHIP AND PRAYER.

THE week of international friendship and prayer kept every year by Y.W.C.A. members throughout the world begins this year on Sunday, November 13. On Sunday the special subject for the day will be the work of the World's Y.W.C.A. and the World's Y.M.C.A. On Monday the work throughout the African continent and in Palestine will be the topic; on Tuesday, the Americas and the West Indies; on Wednesday, the Orient; on Thursday, Australasia; on Friday, Central and Eastern Europe; on Saturday, Western and Southern Europe. Throughout the week the meditations for each day will centre about some aspect of the Personality of Christ, so that the understanding between nation and nation which results from this week will be built, not on the achievements of the Association, but on an ever-increasing knowledge of and loyalty to the common Lord and Master in Whose Name the varied work of the Association is done.

IN RUSSIA.



A Village Hospital under the Red Cross.

MISS MARCIA DUNHAM, secretary for Y.W.C.A. work in the Baltic States, and formerly in charge of the American Y.W.C.A. unit in Russia, has been given permission to join Colonel Haskell's party (A.R.A.). Miss Dunham will be in Russia early in November. Before the revolution there were branches of the Y.W.C.A. in different centres, but for several years communications with them have been practically cut off.

With Supplement from the World's Young Women's Christian Association.

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WORLD'S Y.W.C.A. SUPPLEMENT . . . CENTRE PAGES

NORWAY NEXT.

FIRST WOMAN M.P. ELECTED.

AT last! We very nearly closed the last month's editorial comment on the Swedish victory with the words "Norway next, please!" But instead of registering a pious wish, we are able this month to record an accomplished fact!

One of the first countries to enfranchise its women, Norway is one of the last to return a woman to Parliament. But the good deed is done—and though but one candidate only out of fifty-four has been elected, we are not dismayed. Women M.P.'s are very "catching"—and once started they cannot be stopped.

The first Norwegian Woman M.P. is Miss Karen Platou—and she stood as fifth representative

of the Right and Independent Left Party in Christiania.

Miss Platou is well known in Christiania as an active worker in social and political movements, and is secretary of the Northern Housewives Association. She is no stranger to the Storting, as she has already acted there as an Alternate, and did splendid work during the past session. But an Alternate and a fully-elected M.P. are two different things.

We congratulate Norway on its coming into line with the many other countries which have women in their Parliaments—and we congratulate Pioneer Karen Platou on her fine success.