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

Notice on the Policy of Jus Suffragii

In the present critical position of affairs, when any reference to political conditions may hurt national susceptibilities, it must be clearly stated that the International Woman Suffrage Alliance maintains a strictly neutral attitude, and is only responsible for its official announcements. Reports from affiliated societies are inserted on the responsibility of the society contributing them. Other articles are published as being of general interest to our readers, and responsibility for them rests solely with their signatories.

Will all those readers who have been kind enough to return copies of the July number of *Jus Suffragii* please accept our warmest thanks for their generosity.

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Features of the Month.

At the time of writing, the fate of the United States Federal Amendment would seem to be still in suspense. American suffragists hoped that the vote would be taken early in September, when the Senate reconvened after its recess; we have heard nothing, and must therefore assume that American women have suffered further disappointment. Nevertheless, the general suffrage situation in America is distinctly promising. President Wilson continues his advocacy of the women's cause; the great majority of the press all over the country expresses its sympathy. As a further encouragement come the figures relating to the number of women who voted in the Arkansas and Texas primary elections, over 40,000 and 300,000 respectively. These figures will surely dispose successfully of the Southern men's excuse for their opposition, namely, that Southern women do not want to vote.

Of great importance also is the part taken by the women voters of New York State in the State Conventions. Miss Mary Garrett Hay was elected Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions at the Republican Convention, while the Democrats invited Mrs. Charles Tiffany to preside over their convention. It is remarkable how rapidly women become persons of importance as soon as they become voters. A similar situation has been created in the political parties of Great Britain, which now admit women on equal terms with men, and are only too anxious to bring them within the party fold. We are tempted to ask ourselves also if the strike of the London women 'bus conductors would have been settled so promptly if women had been voteless.

In Italy an important ruling has been given by the court, whereby a wife whose husband is a prisoner of war is dispensed from marital authorisation. It is a pity that the women of Italy are not enfranchised, when, doubtless, they would have abolished this relic of the dark ages, or, alternatively, that the Sacchi Bill has not yet become law. Polish women also are protesting against their legal position, which in the twentieth century seems positively barbaric.

The woman's question seems to be making headway in Germany now, for it attracts the attention of men of all parties, but, on reading some of the speeches in the Reichstag, one cannot help wondering if men really have a sense of humour. Surely, if they had, they would refrain from the constant repetition of the same antiquated arguments: Woman does valuable work, but her place is really the home, and the time has not arrived for granting the vote! For some men the time never will arrive!

RECENT LEGISLATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONCERNING VENEREAL DISEASE.

Based on the Address given by Miss Alison Neilans at the B.D.W.S.U. Conference, and reprinted by courtesy of "The Shield."

The various States in Australia have given a great deal of attention to legislative action against venereal diseases. Since 1911 first one State and then another have passed Bills through Parliament dealing with these scourges. In 1915 a Select Committee was appointed in New South Wales "to inquire into and report upon the prevalence of venereal diseases in this State, the effects upon the health of the community, and the means by which those effects can be alleviated and prevented." Dr. Richard Arthur was called as Chairman of the Commission. Two progress reports of evidence have been issued, but apparently the final report has not yet been published. In 1916 the Commonwealth Government issued a "Report on Venereal Diseases" submitted by the Committee appointed to consider "Causes of Death and Invalidity in the Commonwealth," and it seems probable that this report is based very largely on the work of the New South Wales Select Committee, and the British Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, 1913-16.

The recommendations of the Commonwealth Government may be summarised as follows:

COMMONWEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS ON VENEREAL DISEASES: MAY, 1916. (SUMMARY.)

1. Only qualified doctors to treat venereal diseases.
2. Infected persons must consult a doctor and remain under treatment.
3. Doctors must notify without names, but if patients discontinue treatment, name and address of patient to be sent to Health Authority.
4. Doctors shall warn patients of infection to others, of the legal penalty of same, and against marriage before cured.
5. Doctors, when satisfied, shall give a certificate of cure, subject to regulation.
6. Provision to be made for free bacteriological tests.
7. Parents and guardians to be responsible for treatment of persons under sixteen.
8. If a doctor or other person puts in a written statement that another person is diseased, the Minister of Health may order such person to attend a doctor, and if this order is not obeyed, may cause person to be interned and examined. Infected person may be detained till cured or non-infectious. He may be released if he undertakes to place himself under treatment. Detention until non-infectious may also be applied to prisoners under sentence.
9. It shall be an offence knowingly to infect any person or do any act likely to cause infection.
10. Provision to be made by State of facilities for treatment.
11. Prohibition of quack advertisements.

The *West Australia Health Act of 1915* is praised in the Commonwealth Report as constituting a well-considered endeavour to enforce the above provisions. It is pointed out that the various provisions are inter-related and more or less dependent on one another. In addition to the above recommendation the report states that the following legislation would also be wise:

1. To provide that, if an infectious patient persists in the intention to marry, despite the warning already alluded to, a communication made *bona fide* by the medical practitioner in attendance to the person to be married or to the parent or guardian of such person shall be privileged. The existence of such privilege would probably make such disclosure unnecessary. We are not in favour of requiring a clean medical certificate from both parties before every marriage.
2. To provide that if a person marries while in the infective stage of a venereal disease without giving information before marriage to the other party, and without the knowledge of the other party, such act should be ground for decree of nullity of marriage if action is taken within twelve months after marriage, and without resumption of marital intercourse after discovery. The children of the marriage, if any, should not be illegitimate. [This legislation is recommended unanimously by the British Royal Commission.]
3. To provide that all still-births should be registered when three months of pregnancy have been completed, or when there is a definite after-birth.
4. To provide for further detention of prisoners found to be suffering from venereal disease in an infectious stage, on the lines of the New South Wales Act.
5. To strengthen the police laws when and where necessary—especially in order that any solicitation in the streets by men or women may be sternly put down. We believe that such action would do more than anything else to clean the life of the cities and great towns. In this connection the Police Offences Act of New South Wales deserves careful study; but we have already expressed our belief that any general policy of harrising brothels is unwise, and we have drawn

attention to the evidence of the Inspector-General of the Police Force of New South Wales before the Parliamentary Committee in 1915.*

Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania have now prescribed compulsory notification and have adopted most of the recommendations set out in the Commonwealth Report. New South Wales and South Australia have yet to come into line. It was inevitable that notification should be made compulsory as the Government would not allocate funds for free treatment of venereal diseases unless notification was also adopted.

Queensland was the first State to introduce in 1911 compulsory notification, detention of prisoners, prohibition of quack treatment, and penalties for knowingly infecting other persons. At the same time it suspended the operation of its Contagious Diseases Act, but unfortunately this was revived by regulation in 1913, compelling prostitutes to submit themselves for examination on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, under a penalty of £20. The Home Secretary when approached on the matter justified the regulation on the ground that it was necessary to have power to deal with refractory cases. This could obviously have been met without special legislation against immoral women. There are probably other persons who are "refractory" and unwilling to remain the necessary time under treatment until cured or non-contagious. If coercion is to be applied at all it should be applied to all "refractory" persons.

In 1917 Queensland passed an Amending Act to the 1911 Health Act embodying all the recommendations of the Committee on Death and Invalidity in reference to venereal disease. In addition this Act compels "prostitutes," or any person "known, reputed, or suspected" to be such, to submit themselves for examination "at such times and places as may be prescribed." It also provides for twelve months' compulsory detention in an institution for prostitutes of any age, with an option to the Court of suspending such sentence on conditions which the Court may lay down. Thus a woman may be put on probation instead of being sent to an institution but it is just as likely that the prescribed conditions may be that she shall present herself for periodic medical examination.

New Zealand.—A very drastic and reactionary Bill was introduced in October, 1917. In the main it followed the lines of the Australian recommendations, but it also contained special clauses providing for compulsory detention in prison of any person who is a "prostitute or a reputed prostitute, or habitually consorts with prostitutes," if suffering from venereal disease. It also included an extraordinary provision that such persons might be detained in a prison hospital on an application in Chambers if the Magistrate is satisfied, "whether by admission of the person affected or by any other evidence, whether legally admissible in a Court of Law or not," that the person is a prostitute or reputed prostitute and suffering from venereal disease.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union organised against the Bill, and two big protest meetings were held, followed by a deputation to the Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward. The deputation regretted the Minister had not consulted women's organisations before bringing in the Bill. Strong exception was taken to the provisions mentioned above, especially the enforcement of medical examination, the admission of secret evidence, and evidence which could not be accepted in a Court of Justice. The speakers pointed out that the addition of the word "habitually" in the sentence "or habitually consorts with prostitutes" prevented the section being applied to the customers of such women, and that these were equally likely to spread venereal disease, especially amongst innocent people. Free confidential treatment of all infected persons was strongly urged and the hope was expressed that the Bill would be suitably amended.

The Hon. G. E. Russell replied that amendments would be made, as it was his earnest desire that the women of New Zealand should approve and support the Bill. On October 24 Mr. Russell's amended Bill passed the House of

* On page 14 of the Report, the Commissioners, after saying that they are opposed to any form of Contagious Diseases Act, add these words: "Any control of brothels should be under the ordinary police regulations. Any system of harrising scatters the women widely, with increase of the mischief." This appears to suggest the formation of a "segregated area" under police control. If so, it is an exceedingly retrograde and dangerous policy. The segregated vice area has been discredited all over the world, and in the United States is being abolished as rapidly as possible.—Ed. *Shield*.

Representatives with all the offensive clauses deleted. It provides for compulsory treatment without notification, for medical warning of patients as to marriage, and penalties for infecting others. Facilities for free treatment are to be set up in the hospitals, and a subsidy of 75 per cent. of the cost will be given by the Government.

The W.C.T.U. and all the organisations and individuals co-operating with it are to be congratulated on this victory which has procured for New Zealand a better Bill and one more in accord with humane and modern views.

None of the Acts mentioned above have been sufficiently long in operation for any conclusive opinion to be formed regarding their usefulness or otherwise. It is rumoured that the West Australia Health Act is a dead letter in so far as it refers to venereal diseases, but there is not sufficient information available to justify the acceptance of this report. It would certainly have been contrary to past experience if such drastically coercive measures had been successful, and it yet remains to be seen if any satisfactory results are attained.

Reference was made above to the evidence given before the New South Wales Commission on Venereal Diseases. Some of the aspects upon which witnesses were questioned have considerable bearing upon compulsory methods, and will be of interest to those who are studying the problems involved.

Extracts from Evidence given before New South Wales Select Committee on Prevalence of Venereal Diseases. COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION.

Dr. L. P. Johnston, Physician for Diseases of the Skin, St. Vincent's and Sydney Hospitals: "I think the notification of syphilis would be the worst thing that could possibly take place. Some doctors are unscrupulous, and it would become known that they would not notify. They would get an enormous number of patients, and it would probably not be the best man that would be treating them. If a patient knew that the disease was going to be notified, he would probably not go in for treatment. He would treat himself secretly, or read up books or go to a chemist."—(Question 873.)

Dr. C. E. Corlette: "I am certain notification would have the effect of preventing people from submitting themselves for treatment. I am certain it would, and I am also quite certain that if legislation were passed saying that notification must be made, the Act would be treated as so much waste paper. I myself would treat it as such. I would not care what the law was, and I am sure that everybody else would be the same." The New South Wales Committee appointed by the Australasian Medical Congress considered notification, and there was a preponderance of opinion against it.—(Questions 887-891.)

Sir T. Anderson Stuart, M.D., Professor of Physiology, and Chairman of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital: "Logically, nothing can be said against compulsory notification of venereal diseases. Logically, it ought to be good; but life is not logical, and if you tried to carry the system into practice, you would find many difficulties that your logic would hardly expect."—Persons would not notify. They would conceal cases. When there is no notification, and a man gets gonorrhoea, he goes to his doctor; but if he knew the doctor would have to notify his case, he would go to a quack. Quacks and chemists and clandestine practice cannot be dealt with effectively by law. "No legal enactment will ever repress quacks."—(Questions 1,647-1,651.)

Sir Chas. K. Mackellar, M.B.: "If compulsory notification were enacted in the case of venereal diseases, medical men would conform to the law after a very short time. I do not think it would be an advantage to have, as they now have in Western Australia, a compulsory Notification Act plus compulsory treatment. We know nothing whatever about the statistics of this disease in Australia, and we ought to find out, if possible, what there is. I do not think it would be necessary to have compulsory notification and compulsory treatment. In fact, I go further, and say that it would be absolutely impossible to shut people up for three years, and nothing less would do for some forms of the disease.

If the people are only educated as to the terrible results of syphilis, they will be careful to offer themselves for treatment. It is only within the last few years any effort has been made in Sydney to deal with this question. It is a long way to go from such carelessness and neglect to shutting up and coercing afflicted persons—for really it amounts to coercion—by virtue of a law such as that now in force in Western Australia. I am entirely against the Contagious Diseases Act. Where the Contagious Diseases Acts are in force, we know that venereal diseases are rife, which emphasises the fact that these Acts are failures."—(Questions 2,055-2,056.)

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

R. T. Paton, Director-General of Public Health: "There is one rather serious argument against examination. A doctor, quite a competent man, may examine a woman and find no evidence of disease on her person, and yet she may be capable of conveying infection to men." And there is a possibility that a man, with a false sense of security, knowing that a woman has been examined by a doctor, may indulge more freely in promiscuous sexual intercourse, and that may tend to spread the disease. To obtain satisfactory results it would practically be necessary to examine a prostitute every day. The great objection to medical examination of prostitutes is that it would give people a false sense of security."—(Question 93.)

J. B. Cleland, Principal Government Pathologist: "In cases of gonorrhoea in the case of a woman, the discharge is so overlaid with other organisms

that microscopic examination would rarely indicate clearly whether the disease was primarily gonorrhoeal or not. So in the case of a woman it is often not of as much advantage clinically as at first sight it might appear to be."—(Question 288.)

Dr. C. E. Corlette: "Assuming that the medical examination were carried out by a reputable man, who was also an expert, it might possibly be of slight value in lessening the amount of disease, but I am quite sure the value of medical certificates for men who wish to marry would be very slight. When you say to another man or another woman that he or she is not capable of conveying this or that specific disease, you are saying a great deal. It might be quite easy to say that A or B is suffering from a disease, but to say that he is not suffering from a disease is sometimes very difficult. There are so many fallacies."—(Question 913.)

"With regard to the question of the examination of prostitutes might I tell the Committee what a woman told me? They have a scheme of this sort in Brisbane (Queensland). She told me that she and other women had to go periodically before a doctor to be examined. Afterwards they were supposed to be all right for public use. They used to go to a chemist immediately before they went to the doctor and used to be doctored out, cleaned up, and made apparently right. Then they submitted themselves to the doctor, and he was not able to detect the disease." All prostitutes have gonorrhoea.—(Question 925.)

(To be continued.)

THE POSITION OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

In England, as elsewhere, the problem of the unmarried mother is one of those social questions which have been almost entirely ignored until a new and glaring light has been cast on them by the war. The reason for this is partly, no doubt, that the nation can no longer afford the drain on its population caused by avoidable infant mortality, high among illegitimate infants, and partly because economic conditions due to the war make the maintenance of these children by their mothers more difficult than ever. Finally, there is no doubt that there has been a general awakening of the social conscience, and public opinion is beginning to see the grave injustice of allowing the entire social and financial burden of an illegitimate child to fall on the mother, and more especially of branding the child itself from birth for no fault of its own.

Both mother and child suffer under severe legal disabilities. In order to receive an affiliation allowance from the father, the mother must make a personal application in court, no one, under any circumstances whatever, being allowed to appear on her behalf. The utmost that she can recover is 5s. a week, and often the allowance is less than that. If she has not the courage to take proceedings, or fails in establishing paternity, she does not, of course, receive any allowance whatever. The child is looked upon as *filii nullius*, it has no rights of inheritance, and it can never become legitimised, even on the subsequent marriage of its parents, save by a special Act of Parliament—a measure which for obvious reasons can only rarely be resorted to. Signs are not wanting, however, that the law is beginning to change in this respect. Thus, it is interesting to note that in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1906 the definition of "dependants of the deceased who may receive benefit under the Act" includes the illegitimate child and its parents respectively. Again, the separation allowance was extended in 1916 to unmarried mothers of soldiers' children, provided they could be proved to have lived together. Finally, the new Maternity and Child Welfare Bill makes provision for the assistance of unmarried mothers and their children.

The number of illegitimate children born annually in England and Wales is somewhere between thirty and forty thousand, and, roughly speaking, two hundred of those out of every thousand born die before completing the first year of life. These figures do not by any means represent the position accurately, since they leave out of account illegitimate antenatal mortality and still-births, which are known to be high; nor do they throw any light on the damage rate. The reasons which prevent illegitimate children from completing their first year of life must cause a great many of them to grow up sickly or to drop out of the race during childhood. Again, maternal mortality among unmarried mothers is thought to be proportionately high, though accurate figures are not available. This means an actual loss to the nation of potential child-bearing women.

The factors causing this excessive death-rate are, of course, universal. The mental and physical strain borne by the mother, who is frequently compelled to work up to the very last moment, and the lack of proper attention during her confinement, prove a handicap to the child from the very outset.

Hereditary disease must be taken into account. In an analysis given in the Registrar-General's Report for 1916, the syphilitic death-rate is given as eight times as high for illegitimate as for legitimate children. After birth the child's chances of life are not increased by the fact that the mother usually finds herself compelled to put the child out to nurse. This arrangement has never been ideal, and has now been rendered practically impossible, since the demand for women's labour has caused a scarcity of foster mothers.

In accordance with the existing needs, and the general desire for an improvement in this direction, a new council has been formed to deal with this problem—the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child. This council aims at bringing about what appear to be the most immediate and urgent reforms. Firstly, it wishes to bring about a reform in existing legislation, notably to do away with the 5s. maximum, to make it easier for unmarried mothers to take proceedings against the father, the legitimation of the child by the subsequent marriage of the parents, etc. Further, it hopes gradually to bring about the provision of adequate accommodation throughout the country for the unmarried mother and her child. Such a scheme must necessarily be elastic, varying according to local needs. On the whole, probably the best form of accommodation would be in the form of hostels, with day nurseries attached, so that the mother may go out to work each day knowing that she leaves her child in good hands.

The council consists of representatives of public authorities of great organisations—religious, political, feminist, etc.—and of private individuals who are interested in the work, and it is hoped that by treating the question from a humane point of view, and by making the father share in the responsibility of parentage, the illegitimate birth-rate will gradually decrease.

D. L. ADLER,

Secretary of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child.

WOMEN AS MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURES.

At this time, when almost every country in the world is faced by legislative problems of the most serious and far-reaching character, for which history affords no precedent, the statute-books no help, thinking men and women are of the opinion that women, equally with men, should have a direct voice in the new legislation of reconstruction which must come, even before the end of the war. Many women consider that it is their duty to do their utmost to promote their candidature for their respective parliaments, feeling it incumbent upon them to help to safeguard the interests, not only of the men, women, and children of this generation, but of generations to come. Yet, solemn though the hour may be, and great the responsibility, they need not feel the hesitation which would be natural if they were conscious that, at a time when the old landmarks are obliterated and new ways must be found, they were entering upon a path altogether untrodden. They have before them the example of the pioneer women M.P.'s, and may feel that what woman has done, woman may do!

In Finland women have been eligible for the Diet since 1906, and since the year 1907, when the first general election took place after women had been granted eligibility and franchise, women have sat continuously in the Finnish Diet, in numbers varying from 14 to 25, out of a total of 200 deputies. They have taken their share of committee work, and have been responsible for the introduction of many bills dealing with the rights of women, the welfare of children, social, church, and economic questions, the supreme court, penal laws, apprentices, etc., etc.

Owing to the political conditions of Finland, and later the revolution, legislation has been much delayed, and although repeatedly reintroduced, has not always become law; but in all things the women deputies have worked strenuously with the men for the welfare of their country. Both in their work on committees and in the introduction of national reforms they have shown themselves quite as active as their male colleagues.

In Norway women have been eligible for the legislature since 1907, and have been put forward as candidates by the various parties. Two women have sat in the Norwegian Storting as deputy-members, but no woman has yet been elected full member. This is largely due to the Norwegian electoral system of "one-man" districts, for the alteration of which the women's organisations are working hard. Norwegian women are appealing earnestly that suitable women candidates should come forward in far larger numbers.

Danish women became eligible for Parliament in 1915, when they also received the franchise, and this year they took part

in elections for the first time. Four women have been elected to the Folketing, or Lower House: Elna Munch (Radical), Mathilde Malling Hauschultz and Karen Ankersted (Conservatives), and Helga Larsen (Social Democrat). In the Landsting, or Upper House, five women now have seats: Marie Hjelmer (Radical), Nina Bang, M.A. (Social Democrat), Olga Knudsen, Inger Schmidt, and Marie Christensen (Liberals). It will be seen that the women who were elected belong to all parties, and have not formed a separate party of their own; there hardly seems any danger of that sex-war which is the anti-suffragists' pet battle-cry. The majority of these women members have received an excellent preparation for their parliamentary duties by the work they have done on the municipal boards and in the suffrage movement. Several women alternates, or deputy members, were elected at the same general election.

At the recent elections in the Netherlands, where women now have eligibility but no vote, one woman, Suze Groeneweg, was elected.

In the American continent, women are members of legislatures both in Canada and in the United States. Mrs. McKinney was elected to the Provincial House of Alberta in June, 1917; Miss Roberta McAdams in the autumn of the same year. Mrs. Ralph Smith became a member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia in 1917 also. Eligibility for both these provinces was granted in 1916. Mrs. McKinney is especially interested in moral reform, Miss McAdams in the rights of the soldiers, and both in education. They have been of great assistance in these departments; Mrs. McKinney made a fine speech on the care of the feeble-minded; while Miss McAdams was eloquent upon the problem of the returned soldier and his dependents. Mrs. Ralph Smith opened her parliamentary career by recommending an Act to fix a minimum wage scale for women.

In 1914 there were three women senators in the United States: Miss Kathryn Clarke, in Oregon; Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson, in Colorado; and Mrs. Munds, in Arizona. Mrs. Munds presided over the Arizona Senate during the consideration of a bill to amend the law relating to the fees and salaries of county officers. During the same year Mrs. Heartz was elected to the Lower House in Colorado, and Miss Marion Tours to the Oregon Lower House.

During the year 1917 there were eleven women in the Lower House of five different States, nine being Democrats and two Republicans. No women senators were elected in any State in that year.

The great triumph for suffragists in America was, of course, the election to Congress of Miss Jeannette Rankin in 1916. She has represented the State of Montana in the Lower House. Her action in voting against the entry of the United States into the war was much criticised; whatever one's personal convictions on the subject may be, every thinking person must agree that she showed both conscience and courage. Among other things, she has introduced an amendment to the Food Bill, and been instrumental in the restoration of the eight-hour day for the women employes of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington. She has lately been standing as candidate for the Senate, but we learn with regret from the daily press that her candidature has been defeated in the primary elections.

Miss Anne Martin, of Nevada, will also be an independent candidate in the November elections for the Senate.

The women of Great Britain are in a curious position; the Law Officers of the Crown have decided that women are not eligible for Parliament. Nevertheless, several women have announced their willingness to stand as candidates, and two have been adopted for their respective constituencies: Miss Mary MacArthur (Mrs. W. C. Anderson), for the Stourbridge division; and Mrs. How Martyn, for the Hendon division.

The Labour Party proposes to bring in a bill to confer eligibility on women, if such a bill is not introduced by the Government. It is hoped, therefore, that before the next general election comes women may be eligible for the House of Commons.

Whenever women have been members of a legislature, it has been found that they have worked hard and conscientiously, not against their male colleagues, but with them. Their interests have not been confined to one sex only, but they have been able, by focussing attention on questions of peculiar interest to women, to contribute to the welfare of their country as a whole, and they have invariably earned the esteem and praise of all who have come in contact with them.

M. K. M. B.

EQUAL ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN WITH MEN FOR ALL PUBLIC OFFICES AND EMPLOYMENTS.

By the courtesy of Dr. Margherita Ancona, of Milan, we are enabled to supplement the information contained in Miss Sheepshanks' article.

Government Appointments and Other Public Employments.

WOMEN ON THE AFTER-WAR COMMITTEE.

The Italian Government has nominated a large committee to deal with after-war problems; it consists of 600 men and nine women (Signora Besso, Baroness Lavelli-Cesia, Dr. Labriola, Signora Nitti, etc.), almost all members of the National Council of Women. The number of women seems too small in comparison with the number of men, but it is the first time that they have been called upon to take part in an extra-parliamentary committee. Some of them, besides being representatives of the National Council, are, like Dr. Labriola and Baroness Lavelli-Cesia, good suffragists.

WOMEN INSPECTORS.

In Italy there are two women factory inspectors (one is Signora Santa Volontieri), who have the same pay and the same powers as the men inspectors. There is also a woman inspector of prisons (Rossana).

EDUCATION.

Up till a few years ago Professor Cleofe Pellegrini was central inspector for the Ministry of Public Instruction, which is one of the highest careers in the central administration. In this capacity she inspected all the elementary and normal schools, both for girls and boys. There are many middle schools in Italy which have a head mistress and men teachers.

In the separate provinces there are also several women government inspectors—e.g., Professor Giselda Rapisardi Foianesi in the province of Milan.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

In the University of Pavia, Dr. Rina Monti is ordinary professor of zoology, and Dr. Carolina Lanzani is graduate teacher (*libera docente*) of ancient history. Dr. Teresa Labriola is graduate teacher of moral science in the University of Rome. In the University of Milan (Academy of Science and Letters), besides the readership of Dr. Mazzuchetti, there is also the Chair of English, occupied by Miss L. E. Marshall.

In the University of Bologna, Professor Chiari-Allegretti is graduate teacher of pedagogy.

There are other graduate teachers and many assistants in the various universities.

AUSTRIA.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

The first women government officials have been appointed—Fräulein Lemberger and Dr. Alma Seitz. They are to act as advisers on women's employment in the Ministry for Social Welfare.

FACTORY WELFARE WORKERS.

The first meeting of the newly created women's advisory council in the Austrian Ministry for Social Welfare took place a short time ago. One of the members of this council is Adelheid Popp. The first question to be approached was the introduction of women welfare workers in factories, as in the German system. Fräulein Lemberger, appointed by the Ministry as adviser on women's welfare, made her report. From the working woman's point of view the same criticism is made in the Vienna *Arbeiterinnenzeitung* (*Working Women's Gazette*), as this system, desirable as it is in some respects, meets in Germany. The Austrian working women also find it suspicious that the welfare workers should be appointed by the owners; this position must of necessity hinder them from any free representation of the workers' interests. The Austrian women are of the opinion that suitable persons should be drawn from the working-class also, and trained for the post of factory welfare workers.

—*Gleichheit.*

DENMARK.

THE TRAINING OF WOMEN IN CITIZENSHIP.

Only very short-sighted people think that D.K. (the Danish Women's Suffrage Society) is superfluous since the attainment of the vote. Yet there are many such everywhere, and the answer to them is that many women are unconscious of their duties as citizens, and D.K. must aim at developing this consciousness. The English suffrage societies are making the same

answer, and they have especial reason to do so, since English women have an age-limit which the men do not have.

Some wise people, however, objected to the plan of courses for instruction in sociology proposed by the committee appointed by D.K. They thought it too laborious. But it is the thoroughness of the plan which is really its best recommendation. We have already obtained excellent results from our sociology course. On the initiative of private people a course has been started in Copenhagen, and others in D.K.'s circles at Lyngby, Maribo, Aale, Hellerup, etc.

We recommend that similar courses should be started in the coming winter in as many as possible of our circles. We remind our readers that two guiding threads, in the form of syllabuses, exist, which will be of great use to those starting similar courses.

THE FIRST CENTRAL HOUSE FOR LONELY WOMEN.

This Central House is shortly to be erected in Oesterbrogade, Copenhagen. The aim of the committee is to supply a home for women who are earning their own living, and it is hoped to arrange that the women who live in the house shall have shares in the undertaking. The house will contain about 135 separate rooms, five two-room flats, and ten studios for women artists. The strong point of the scheme is that each occupier will have a home of her own; there will be no institutional stamp anywhere. By a system of lifts meals can be served in occupiers' own rooms, so that they will be able to choose whether they will take them privately or in the common dining-room. Arrangements for cleaning the flats will be on the subscription plan.

THE FIRST WOMEN'S SEMINARY AND THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT.

It is a great satisfaction to us that the president of the women's seminary at Ribe is a woman. Johanne L. Mohr was chosen for this post. She has a successful teaching career behind her, and much experience in different branches of education. She had a very strong influence for good on all pupils who passed through her hands; to all these her new appointment is a source of much gratification.

—*Kvinden og Samfundet.*

FRANCE.

M. LOUIS MARTIN'S BILL.

The committee of initiative of the Senate has considered M. Martin's bill giving women the right to vote in all elections, and has appointed M. Martin to report on it. It may be summarised as follows: A Frenchwoman, from the age of 25, has the right to appear on the electoral lists of the commune where she fulfils the residential conditions required by law. This right is subject to the different causes of disqualification enumerated in article 15 of the decree of February 2nd, 1852.

A woman whose name appears on the electoral lists of a commune may, on the occasion of senatorial elections, be appointed delegate by the municipal council of the said commune.

[NOTE.—The election of senators is made by an electoral body composed (1) of *delegates* chosen by the municipal council of each commune, and (2) of the deputies, councillors, general and district councillors of the department.]

THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF WAR AND TOLERATED HOUSES.

In addition to the protests, which appeared in last month's issue, from the Section for the Equal Moral Standard of the National Council of Women, and from the French Woman Suffrage Union, at the action of the Minister for War in inviting the organisation of tolerated houses in the neighbourhood of camps, other protests have been made.

LIGUE FRANÇAISE D'ÉDUCATION MORALE.

The Ligue Française d'Éducation Morale, recognising the exceptional circumstances which have given rise to the circular, and realising that the Minister's intention is to do away with a disease whose ravages are alarming, nevertheless considers that the proposed remedy is absolutely ineffective and even opposed to its object.

Public action against prostitution has never had very satisfactory results. It would be impossible to guarantee the health of the women in these tolerated houses. The authorities aim at gratifying men; they should rather aim at instructing and then curing them. They desire to protect man in his pleasures; but they should also consider that a healthy woman should not be handed over to a man who is not examined. Why should one be protected and not the other, and how can one pretend to

limit disease by a surveillance only exercised on the less dangerous side? The letter is signed by Julie Siegfried, president of the Ligue.

ACTION SOCIALE DE LA FEMME.

The committee of the Action Sociale de la Femme, through its president, J. Chenu, associates itself with the protest of the Equal Moral Standard Section of the National Council of Women. Part of its letter is as follows:—

"Venereal disease has moral roots which one is too apt to forget. As long as scientific motives are not added those of a moral and religious ideal, to determine the 'will to fight' in the individual, almost nothing will be done."

LA PLUS GRANDE FAMILLE.

La Plus Grande Famille protests with all its energy against the establishment of such tolerated houses. While finding it quite natural that an effort should be made to combat the growth of venereal diseases, it is deeply surprised that, in order to do away with this evil, it should be thought necessary to create fresh houses of vice, and to make them, as it were, the indispensable adjuncts of barracks.

To do away with vice it has faith only in the improvement of morals. The creation of fresh tolerated houses can only aggravate the evil, as it gives a false sense of security, and the fact of giving these houses a kind of official character is simply scandalous. In the name of all the families grouped within its association, it demands the withdrawal of the circular.

BASSES-PYRÉNÉES SUFFRAGE GROUP.

The committee of the suffrage group of the Basses-Pyrénées, meeting on July 6th, also associates itself with the protests of the National Council of Women and the French Woman Suffrage Union.

A NEW INFORMATION BUREAU.

Some months ago the Office Français des Interêts Féminins was formed, with the collaboration of such distinguished men as Dr. Chassaing, deputy; M. Roger Picard, economist; M. P. Otlet, director of the Bibliographical Institute of Brussels; M. Georges Renard, professor at the Collège de France. Its object is to provide a centre where information on all subjects of interest to women may be collected and put at the disposal of anyone who applies for it. This information will extend to all domains—teaching, social science, law, natural and applied sciences, fine arts, literature, etc. The O.F.I.F. will therefore be able to offer women useful information on their rights, laws affecting them, new careers open to them, schools which they may enter, average length of apprenticeship, salaries which specialists may ask, etc. It will also be able to indicate works which may be consulted on various subjects, and will also supply addresses, conditions of admission, and rules of dispensaries, milk depôts, crèches, kindergartens, clubs, societies, etc. In fact, feminists will find there a centre of information, properly classified, and destined to become the archives of feminism. The rapidity and completeness of its service naturally depend on the support it receives, both by collaboration and financially. Full details can be obtained from the secretary, Mme. S. Duchêne, 2, rue Gaston de Saint Paul, Paris (XVI^e).

GERMANY.

OLDENBURG DIET GRANTS ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNAL COUNCILS: COMMUNAL SUFFRAGE REJECTED.

An important debate on women's communal vote took place in the Oldenburg Diet in March last. Although the proposal to grant the communal vote to women was rejected by 23 to 16 (not a very large majority), eligibility for communal councils was granted.

Deputy Tantzen, who proposed the motion to grant women communal suffrage and eligibility, said that the woman's question was the most important of the day. He pointed out that in a women's prison which he had visited, most of the women were imprisoned for infanticide, while men escape scot free, men should at any rate bear part of the punishment. His advocacy of women's rights was based on the sense of justice. In an historical review he showed that in the first half of last century women had no political rights; in 1848 came a change, but owing to the reaction in 1850 that well-known law was passed by which "women, apprentices, and schoolboys" were deprived of all political rights! From 1908 onwards the woman's question had, however, begun to make great progress.

—*Staatsbürgerin.*

[NOTE.—In 1908 an Imperial law came into force, by which women were again allowed to take part in political meetings.]

THE WOMAN QUESTION IN THE REICHSTAG.

During a debate on the functions of the Ministry of the Interior, Deputy Heinrich Schulz (Social Democrat), drawing attention to the fact that it had to deal with the woman's question, said that women's services in social and public life during the war had brought home to many people the importance of the woman's movement; it was to be hoped the Government realised it also. If it drew the right conclusions it would feel that it was its duty to see that women were at last granted perfect equality with men, especially on the suffrage question, and that suffrage should be granted to women.

Although the Secretary of State [for the Interior] is of opinion that the Empire's duties with regard to population are more important than these hardships of inequality which we are discussing, yet he must see, in this case especially, women must be considered both as regards the legislative preparation for these duties and for further joint work and decision. Therefore, it is of the greatest importance for us that women should be granted a decisive influence by the grant of full political rights.

Deputy van Calker (National Liberal) paid a tribute to women's services during the war, and said that women should be brought into all those organisations where their personal experience and ideas would be of value. The war had shown the importance of housekeeping. But, in his opinion, the time was not ripe for the admittance of women to political bodies—i.e., the diets and the Reichstag.

Dr. Wallraf (Secretary of State for the Interior) also was of opinion that the women deserved the highest praise and the warmest thanks of the fatherland for their services during the war, but was very doubtful whether just this time is suitable for opening up the path widely and freely for women's entrance into public life!

Deputy Kunert (Independent Social Democrat): The Secretary of State gives voice to very reactionary ideas. All man's rights belong to her as woman, then as mother, and finally as worker.

—*Gleichheit.*

NATIONAL LIBERALS AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

On June 18th a conference of the Imperial Committee of German National Liberal Women and of the Berlin National Liberal Women's group was held in the banqueting room of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. The chairman, Frau Klara Mende, in her opening speech, said that women must emerge from their political inactivity. The programme of the National Liberal Women's organisations was in agreement with that of the National Liberal party. Their aim was not political activity against man, but with him. But, on this basis, the women's organisations demanded complete political equality with man. The Reichstag deputy List, in replying to this speech, supported the introduction of equal suffrage in Prussia.

—*Gleichheit.*

WOMEN'S CHURCH VOTE.

At a sitting of the district synod of Berlin two speakers were emphatic in their opinion that women should be granted the church vote and eligibility. After a lively debate on the question the motion was accepted that the Consistory should bring this important matter officially before all synods next year.

—*Frauenfrage.*

ALLIANCE OF GERMAN EVANGELICAL AND CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUES.

The German Evangelical Women's League and the Catholic Women's League of Germany have, according to *Germania*, "formed a strong alliance, which provides for joint action and joint representation with regard to the authorities in cases where their interests are mutually affected." To secure adequate business methods and prompt action, "a delegates' committee has been founded in Berlin, on which each organisation is represented by five delegates."

—*Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung.*

WOMEN'S VIEWS ON LEGISLATION FOR THE INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The Reichstag Committee on Population Policy has concluded its second reading of the proposed bill against the prevention of births. The most widely differing women's organisations had approached the committee with petitions and memorials, asking that the clauses directed against women might be omitted. As no attention was paid to all these petitions, the desire grew to lay before the committee in person the opinions of women as a whole. This wish was granted in an unofficial conference on July 4th. Among the women who took part in this conference

in the Reichstag building were the following: Marie Stritt, Katharina Scheven, and Dr. Marie Kaufmann, of the Frauenstimmrechtsverband; Wally Zepler, Dr. Marta Wygodzinski, and Marie Juchacz, of the German Social Democratic party; Luise Zietz, of the Independent Social Democrats, besides three women of the Evangelical Women's Union. Of the committee, four Social Democrats were present, besides one member of each of the other parties. One member of the Government took part in the sitting. Dr. Quarck arranged for the meeting, over which Dr. van Calker presided. In order to make the proceedings as uniform as possible, the suffragists and the Social Democratic women had agreed upon certain broad lines. They declared themselves in agreement: (1) With the prohibition of the advertisement and sale of drugs and articles for the removal of pregnancy, and also the advertisement, even in an indirect way, of services for that purpose; (2) with the prohibition of the exhibition, introduction, and sale, etc., of drugs and objects injurious to the health, for the prevention of conception; (3) with the prohibition of the hawking of drugs and objects for the prevention of conception, and of automata. In like manner they made careful proposals for the change of certain paragraphs in the bill. . . . What the women wanted, and upheld by convincing arguments, is the free distribution to women of harmless contraceptives. They declared themselves in agreement with the promoter of the bill as to the end (healthy increase of population) it had in view, but maintained that the bill would not attain it. On the contrary, they feared an increase in criminal abortions and a great degeneration in sexual life. They desired that women should have the means of protecting themselves in a harmless fashion against conception, whenever this was necessary from hygienic, ethical, or personal motives. The representative of the Independents did not agree with this line of thought. She opposed the bill on political and social grounds. It was significant that Countess Münster, the representative of the Evangelical Women's Union, expressed herself in favour of a harmless protective drug for women, if this were in the doctor's hands. She explained that, despite certain conscientious scruples, she had arrived at this standpoint.

In conclusion, Dr. Marie Kaufmann spoke on the bill, also under consideration, for combating venereal disease. She is a specialist in skin and sex diseases, and assistant in the corresponding section of the Royal Hospital. She expressed herself as decidedly in favour of compulsory treatment for persons suffering from venereal disease. Katharina Scheven, secretary of the Abolitionists (association for combating state-regulated prostitution) spoke in a practical fashion against tolerated houses; she is in favour of home treatment, and supported the proposals of Dr. Marie Kaufmann; for her also universal compulsory treatment is the remedy for the hygienic dangers of prostitution. The members of the committee during this conference felt themselves in the position of audience. They gave few expressions of opinion, but asked the women doctors present a number of pertinent questions.

STATE HELP FOR THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.

At the conference on the above subject which was held in Berlin on June 24th, a resolution was passed unanimously, of which the following are the chief recommendations: The State itself—or the great communal organisations—to take over immediately the maintenance of all illegitimate children, with the proviso that claims should always be maintained against those liable by private or public right for their maintenance; introduction of official guardianship (by this the resolution does not set aside private guardianship, but desires it to be better organised and supervised); simplification of legal proceedings for claims arising from illicit cohabitation; admission of proof of paternity outside the legal period of conception; absolute right to recognition of paternity on the part of the child in the face of its father and his heirs; guarantee of the rights of mother and child if the father goes away; obligatory introduction of uniform, so-called shortened, birth certificates for legitimate and illegitimate children, and provision for all children, both legitimate and illegitimate, not being independent, of men who through military service are wholly or almost wholly unfit to earn their living.

In these recommendations, that which is most important and far-reaching for the illegitimate child's career, and which was included in the original draft resolution, is unfortunately lacking; illegitimate children and legitimate children who have a right to maintenance should have equal right of inheritance from the father. This was dropped owing to the protest of some conservatively minded middle-class organisations. Owing to this, the Berlin Social Democratic women, who had taken

part in the preliminary arrangements for the conference, did not participate in it officially.

—*Gleichheit.*

FRANKFURT HONOURS FRAU FRIEDLEBEN.

A short time ago Frau Anna Friedleben, the first woman orphan warden of Frankfurt-on-Main, completed her eightieth year. In grateful recognition of her meritorious services in many branches of social service the silver medallion of the town of Frankfurt was presented to her by the magistracy. This is the first time that the medallion has been conferred on a woman.

—*Frauenfrage.*

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

On Thursday, August 8th, Parliament adjourned until October 15th. It has got through a good deal of work since it met for its eighth session on February 12th last. It has recently extended its own life to January 30th, 1919, but there is a widespread impression that a general election is not far off. The chief legislative achievement of the session in the domestic sphere is, of course, the Education Act; but most of the time of Parliament has been taken up with measures connected with the prosecution of the war. Both the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill and the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill received the Royal Assent on August 8th.

WOMEN AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

At the next general election every woman voter will have to make up her mind which of the issues at stake she thinks most important, and to vote for the candidate who is "sound" on these. It will be the bounden duty of every feminist to bring before the candidates the principles of feminism; and though many of us may feel that we shall not be able to vote for a candidate just because he accepts some particular point of the feminist programme, regardless of his views on national policy, there are certain fundamental principles the denial of which by a candidate should make it impossible for us to vote for him, however we might agree with him in other respects. No true feminist—or, to use the older and dearer term, no suffragist—ought to vote for a man who upholds and consents to the exploitation of women in the school or in the office, in the field or in the factory, in the home or on the streets.

In the coming months we must not only think ourselves, but we must make our candidates think, if they are not already doing so. Feminists are, and will continue to be, divided in their views about forms of government, religion, and the destinies of mankind; they will choose their political parties accordingly; but we repeat that no feminist who is worthy of that name will vote for any candidate who upholds the exploitation of women, or who is indifferent to it.

WOMEN M.P.'S.

Mr. Bonar Law has announced that the Law Officers of the Crown are unanimously of opinion that women are not eligible as members of Parliament. We hope the Government will lose no time in bringing in a short "enabling" bill to make them eligible. The political parties, the press, and the public, have shown not only that they are prepared for this change, but that they will not be content without it. There are plenty of women candidates ready to stand, and the electorate plainly wishes for women as well as men representatives.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The cry "Equal pay for equal work" has leapt to the forefront the last few days through the action of women bus conductors who, backed by their men comrades, have gone on strike owing to the women not having received the bonus granted to the men. The attitude of the press towards the strike is significant of the change in public opinion. The elementary justice of their claim seems to have been recognised by everyone, including those who might have been excused a little prejudice against them owing to the extreme inconvenience of the cessation of the bus services. The support of the girls' men comrades also indicates a change, though there have always been some men and some unions who recognised not only the injustice to women of unequal pay, but also the danger to themselves of under-cutting—a danger increasingly formidable unless the principle of equal pay for equal work is recognised and accepted.

[NOTE.—We hope to publish next month a full account of the women's strike, and its results.]

IRELAND.

Women's Political League.

DEATH OF MISS WALKINGTON.

Feminism in Ireland sustained a heavy loss in the death of Miss Walkington LL.D., M.A., in May last. Miss Walkington had been a pioneer in the struggle for equal educational rights for women, being the first woman in Ireland to take the degree of LL.D. She had also taken a leading part in the long fight for equal citizenship for men and women, being among the founders of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation, and also of the Belfast Suffrage Society, remaining as vice-president of this latter society under the new name of the Women's Political League. Shortly before her death she was engaged in the organisation of the working-women voters, and arranged a very successful meeting, addressed by speakers from the W.P.L.

OPPOSITION TO REGULATION 40D.

The W.P.L. has carried on a continuous agitation against Regulation 40D. The question was brought before every religious body and every organisation for social work in the city. Labour organisations and the Irish Co-operative Guild were also approached, with the result that strong resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the regulation were sent to the Secretary of State for War and local Parliamentary representatives. The administration of the regulation has been closely watched.

[NOTE.—40D is a regulation under the Defence of the Realm Act, by which it is punishable for a woman suffering from venereal disease to have sexual intercourse with soldiers or sailors, or to solicit such intercourse. As the regulation is administered, any soldier or sailor may accuse any woman; the onus of proving her innocence lies entirely with her.]

JOINT COMMITTEE FOR MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

The work of the Joint Committee for Mothers' Pensions has been carried on, and the Committee has been successful in obtaining the support of the newly formed Ulster Unionist Labour Association in its work for this reform. The joint committee was formed by the Irish Co-operative Guild, the Women's Labour League, and the Women's Political League, and has obtained the support of the leading organisations for social reform and of every labour organisation in the city. The committee co-operates with the Dublin Committee of the Irish Society for Mothers' Pensions, and at the recent Trades Congress in Waterford a resolution affirming the conviction of organised labour in Ireland that such a reform was urgently necessary was carried. Active propaganda will be continued in the autumn.

EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

The Committee of the W.P.L. is deeply convinced that educational reform must precede any real social advance in Ireland, and has never ceased to press the need for action in this direction. Committees have now been appointed by the Lord Lieutenant to investigate the question, and the results will be carefully watched by the committee, which pressed at an early stage for representation of women's organisations on these committees.

Social meetings were held during the latter part of the season, and were very successful in rousing interest and collecting funds.

The committee looks forward with every confidence to the work of the coming winter. A general election in the autumn is probable, to be followed by a municipal election. The moral question and the need for fundamental social reform will be steadily pressed on all candidates, and every effort will be made to carry on the non-party constructive work with which the W.P.L. has been identified since its formation.

DORA MELLONE,
Hon. Press Secretary, W.P.L.

CANADA.

ASSAULTS ON GIRLS AND WOMEN.

At the annual meeting of the Manitoba Local Council of Women, Miss E. L. Jones made certain recommendations to secure improvements in trials in connection with criminal assaults on girls and women. She urged that a police matron be appointed for the protection of witnesses in court, especially young girls and children; that minors be excluded from the proceedings during the trial; and that a minimum penalty be fixed, and not left to the discretion of the judge in the case of a conviction. Miss Jones further recommended that a

volunteer body of women should attend court proceedings in the case both of juveniles and adults, for the next twelve months, and compile evidence on the manner in which they are conducted. Her report, which embodied the findings of a special committee appointed by the council to bring in recommendations for the elimination of objectionable features in connection with these trials, was adopted in full.

—*Woman's Century.*

CEYLON.

ANOTHER STEP IN THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN.

The progress of women manifests itself in different ways. A Ceylon correspondent, writing to Mrs. Fawcett, tells how this year women students' events actually formed part of the programme at the Colombo Training College Sports. One event, to her surprise, was won by a Tamil girl, who never in her life before had ever walked fast.

INDIA.

H.H. THE AGA KHAN ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

In his recently published "India in Transition," H.H. the Aga Khan shows that he has thoroughly grasped the fundamental importance of the full recognition of women in the life of the state. He lays down the principle that "no scheme of political reform, based on the co-operation of the people with the rulers, can or will succeed if it is vitiated by the radical defect of closing the door to women on the irrational ground of sex, and not accepting equal qualifications as conferring equal rights." The chapter on the status of women is full of sound feminist doctrine. He urges that the tests for the enfranchisement of women should be the same as for men; that marriage should be based on natural choice; that women should have economic independence; that education should be provided for women in their own interests, and the argument in its favour should not be based on the "insolent assumption" that it aims at providing educated and intelligent wives and daughters for some relation to the other sex. Incidentally, he states that under Islam women have economic independence. Just as the western moderns seek to show the falseness of the interpretation of the Christian doctrine which places women in a subordinate position, so this writer protests against a similar cruel libel on the Prophet of Islam, who had been wont to say that "men can but follow the footsteps of their mother towards paradise."

He does not make any reference to the fact that in many Indian townships women are entitled to vote on the same terms as men for the municipal councils, and that some women have been elected to these councils. This practice, together with the recognition among the educated Indians of the need for the full and free opportunities for women, will be a strong argument in favour of including women in the electorates of the legislative assemblies, which have been recommended to the British Government by the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India.

[NOTE.—H.H. the Aga Khan is a great religious leader, being head of the Ismaili Mahomedans. He has many followers in East Africa, Central Asia, and India.]

AN INDIAN WOMAN'S VIEWS ON EDUCATION.

Mrs. Rajkumari Das, M.A., of Calcutta University, who spent a year in educational work in England, was successful in gaining the teaching diploma of the London Day Training College. She contributes a most interesting account of her stay in England to the *Indian Ladies' Magazine*.

Comparing the Indian and English systems of education, she shows the difficulties with which Indian children have to contend. The medium of instruction for them is not the vernacular, but a foreign language; they are therefore faced with a double difficulty—a new language and a new subject. Nor are they provided with such good teachers as English children. This she attributes partly to the fact that teaching is the only career open to Indian women, who often embark on it without having a true vocation. (N.B.—This state of affairs is not unknown in England.)

Mrs. Das complains that while the Government grants a scholarship every year to Eurasians to allow their women to come to England to be trained as efficient teachers, it grants none to Indian women, though the proportion of the former to the latter is exceedingly small. She pleads that scholarships for training as teachers should be granted to Indian women, just as scholarships for advanced medical studies are now given.

Physical culture is a branch of education to which insufficient attention is paid in Indian schools. Mrs. Das would like to see a far greater development of gymnastics, and thinks that

Dalacroze eurythmics would be of special value, as they would develop a musical sense in Indian children. There should be a greater number of training colleges, she considers, and a more sympathetic method of school inspection. Finally, she suggests that teachers should exchange for a year with teachers in other countries. In her opinion such a scheme would be of immense value in raising the standard of efficiency.

INDIAN WOMAN'S ENTERPRISE.

A woman runner is reported to be carrying mail bags from Shencottah to Puliayara, in Travancore.

—*Indian Ladies' Magazine.*

SALARIES OF TEACHERS IN INDIA.

Readers of the May number of the *Jus Suffragii* in Mysore are struck by the report of the action of the women teachers of England to reduce the disparity of pay between men and women in the educational line. The surprise is not that there should be any action in the matter, but that there should be any reason for that action at all. Because, during the last ten years, education is the first sphere which women have entered in Mysore, and they are enjoying such advantages in it that it requires a second thought to perceive that it could not be the same with the numerous band of English ladies who annually enter that profession. The first lady teachers of Mysore, during their undergraduate days, received a scholarship of Rs. 150 per mensem, with books and other collegiate needs free; whereas only a third of the male undergraduates would be allowed freships and scholarships, the scholarship being at the most Rs. 70 to 80 for a month. When the ladies graduated they were immediately given a grade of Rs. 150 to 200, and then 200 to 310, and now are in the grade of 400 to 500. This means a pretty fair income in a country where the average earning is not much, and living is comparatively somewhat cheap. A male graduate would invariably be started on Rs. 50 and after thirty years' service see himself probably as the recipient of, say, Rs. 150 or 175 a month, and then retire. Recently, the Government passed an order that all lady graduates should be started on Rs.100, reaching to 150 in two years, and that all B.A.'s, L.T.'s, or M.A.'s should be started on Rs.150, rising to 200 in two years, their further promotions depending on merit and vacancies.

And, recently, in the Economic Conference there was a hot discussion between the Inspector-General of Education and the only female member in it. The former introduced a bill that girls should be educated through the vernacular, as in Professor Karve's women's university and in the Maharashtra; and the latter opposed with all due vehemence, saying that the present mode of English education should be kept up. However, the bill was passed.

I wonder what conclusions English women would draw from these facts about the state of Indian women. Is it that the women of the Country of the Dawn are yet in the dark ages of social well-being? In some respects, it seems, they have more comfortable berths, and more people to care for their interests, than the self-sufficing ladies of the West.

G. R. JOSYER.

Mysore, India, July, 1918.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union.

Annual Conference at Johannesburg—July 2nd—5th.

RESOLUTION TO HIS MAJESTY.
"The W.E.A.U. respectfully begs to express to your Majesty, through His Excellency the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, its sincere congratulations upon the celebration of your Majesties' silver wedding; also its gratitude to your Majesty for signing the bill which enfranchises six million British women."

The most important of the resolutions were the following:—
WOMAN SUFFRAGE POLICY OF THE W.E.A.U.

(1) "The W.E.A.U. respectfully urges the Government to introduce a short bill removing the sex disability throughout the Union in respect of the Parliamentary vote, at the reopening of Parliament."

The following considerations are urged in support of this request:—

(1) It is unjust to ask women to await a consolidating franchise bill with a woman suffrage clause.

(2) That the difficulties surrounding a consolidating franchise bill will tend to the indefinite postponement of its consideration by the Government in power.

(3) The British Parliament has enfranchised six million women of Great Britain, and Canada has granted the federal vote to women during the war.

(4) The President of the United States has proclaimed the principle of woman suffrage to be one of the foundations of future justice.

(5) The fact that men legislate on behalf of women is no answer to woman's demand to be allowed to contribute their suggestions to the best solutions of the difficulties of the world.

(6) That at the conclusion of the war there will probably be a large influx of people from all nations who will have a voice in its affairs, while the women of the country remain unenfranchised.

(2) "That this Conference records its profound disappointment at the action of the House of Assembly in refusing to include the enfranchisement of women among other electoral reforms; protests with all its power against the statement that the women of S.A. have expressed no desire for the vote; and calls upon the Government to follow the lead of the Governments of Great Britain and Canada in enfranchising their women with as little delay as possible."

(3) "That the societies affiliated in the Association make a very special effort to forward the woman suffrage cause by organising addresses to women's societies, Dutch and English speaking, and by making propaganda work among women a foremost activity during the coming year."

POLICY OF THE W.E.A.U.

THE WORK OF THE LEAGUES.

"That this Conference wishes to express its appreciation of the social reform work done by the Leagues; and while realising that the Association's main object must always be to obtain the vote for women, this Conference affirms that all work of social reform tends to bring the vote nearer, and may therefore be reasonably included in the Association's programme of activity."

SOCIAL EVIL.

"That the following resolutions, sent by the Roodepoort municipality, passed by the municipal council and the W.R.C., Krugersdorp, be passed by this Conference and forwarded to all auxiliary societies with the recommendation that they be forwarded to their municipal and borough councils for consideration."

(a) That all employers be requested to dismiss white men in their employ who are living with black women.

(b) That a list of names of white men cohabiting with black women be forwarded to the police, as there is reason to believe that in many cases this cohabitation is carried on for the purposes of illicit liquor traffic.

(c) That Europeans be asked to boycott all white men living under these conditions.

(d) That all women's societies be requested to give this matter their most serious consideration, with a view to taking all possible steps to remedy the evil.

(e) That the Government be requested to introduce legislation making the law as regards cohabitation between white women and black men equally applicable to white men living with black women.

(f) That all friendly societies' lodges, trade unions, etc., be requested to follow the example of the Sons of England Society, and refuse membership to these degenerates.

(g) That landlords be requested not to let houses to white men cohabiting with black women.

(h) That the Provincial Council be requested to introduce legislation preventing municipalities from placing the names of these degenerates on the voters' roll.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

"That the Leagues shall endeavour to nominate and elect women at the next municipal election, to represent women and children."

MARRIAGE LAWS.

"That this Conference requests the Government to consolidate the marriage laws of the Union, so as to prevent the intermarriage of near relations, in view of the disastrous consequences possible to the offspring of such marriages."

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.

"That the members of this Association shall, as much as possible, support women who enter professions; and that Congress ask the Government to consider the claims of women doctors or other professional women to positions which the Government has the power to fulfil."

MEMORIAL TO IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The memorial to the Imperial Conference on the nationality of married women was approved.

CABLES TO IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

Cables sent by president and secretary to Imperial Conference re consolidation throughout the Empire of nationality and franchise laws, approved.

EXTRACTS FROM EXECUTIVE REPORT.

DEPUTATION TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS AT BLOEMFONTEIN.

Shortly after the Conference a deputation bearing a resolution calling upon the Government to grant a measure of women's suffrage was received in full public session of the Provincial Congress of the S.A.P. at Bloemfontein, by Mr. Malan and Colonel Mentz. It was hoped that a similar deputation might wait on the Transvaal Provincial Council held in Pretoria, but facilities were not afforded, on the plea of pressure of business.

REPRESENTATIVE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Lady Selborne accepted the invitation of the Association to represent South Africa on deputations to British Ministers. It is not yet known on what occasions she has so acted.

WOMEN OF CAPE PROVINCE ELIGIBLE FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

The women of the Cape Province have gained the right to sit upon municipal councils, and the thanks of the Association were forwarded to the Administrator and the progressive members of Council, who thus amended the Cape Municipal Draft Ordinance of 1912. The W.E.L., Grahamstown, immediately nominated two of its members to their Council, one of whom was elected.

SUPPORT TO BE WITHHELD FROM NON-SUFFRAGE PARTIES.

The attention of leading women's societies of the Union has been drawn to the recommendation of Conference that the Association affirms the principle of withholding support from candidates for any public position whose party has not women's suffrage on its platform. This recommendation cannot be too strongly reaffirmed at this Conference.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

The Association joined the Transvaal branch of the S.A. Council for Combating Venereal Disease. The repeal of the C.D. Act has not yet been effected, and your Executive urges your renewed efforts on behalf of its accomplishment.

MRS. KRAUSE'S RESOLUTION.

A resolution introduced by Mrs. Krause to the Congress of the Women's S.A.P. in October, calling upon the Government to affirm the principle of granting women's suffrage, was carried by a big majority. Telegrams were sent to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Defence, and to the chairman of the S.A.P. Congress at Pretoria, to request the Congress to recommend the enfranchisement of S.A. women. Circular letters to the same effect were sent to all members of the Hoofd Komitee, and to leading M.L.A.'s on the Government side.

MR. HAY'S MOTION ON EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO WOMEN.

The Association expressed its acknowledgment to those members of the Provincial Council of the Transvaal who voted for Mr. Hay's motion for the extension of the franchise to women, and its regrets to those unprogressive members who voted against it. The measure was carried by 26 to 14 votes. Thanks to the efforts of the Bloemfontein and Heilbron societies, a similar motion was introduced this year into the Provincial Council, O.F.S., and was discussed at length, opinion being equally divided.

BURGHERS' EQUALITY LAW OF 1855.

In November a translation was made of the Burghers' Equality Law of 1855, and a bi-lingual leaflet issued for purposes of propaganda amongst women's societies to show that suffrage for women is but the revival of privileges formerly granted to wives of burghers.

THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE FACTORY ACT.

The attention of the Labour Party was drawn to the Association's resolution re Factory Act, and the request made that its provision of a 48-hour week, sufficient women factory inspectors, provision for motherhood, and equal pay for equal work, be introduced as amendments to the Factory Act by the Labour party.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

The Provincial Council of the Transvaal voted against the principle of equal pay for equal work in a debate on the payment of teachers. Letters were addressed to these members condemning their action in respect of a principle that had been professed by many of them at election time.

Laura Ruxton, Secretary.

EXTRACTS FROM PARLIAMENTARY REPORT.

CHIEF GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

In view of the 1920 general election it became necessary to deal with a Census Bill, and a joint session had to be called to deal with the names of soldiers who would have to vote by proxy. The chief Government measures dealt with in the first half of the session now closed were the Government Areas Bill; the Dairy Bill, which safeguards the health of the public, and the extensions of the powers of the Cost of Living Commission; the Pensions Bill; the Standard Flour Bill; the Factory Act of 1918; and the Regulation of Wages Bill. An amendment to the Electoral Bill in favour of Woman's Suffrage was introduced by a private member.

THE FACTORY ACT OF 1918.

The Factory Act is the outcome of Mr. Duncan's bill of last session—a bill for the regulation of wages of women and young persons. This private member's bill was largely due to the work of women's societies, notably the Women's Enfranchisement Association, and to the direct influence of the W.R.C. of Johannesburg, at that time affiliated in the Association.

Last November your Association sent the following resolution to the Government:—

That this Association approves the finding of the Select Committee on the Regulation of Wages Bill, and recommends that a Consolidated Factory Act be introduced on the following lines:

(1) Establishment of wages boards on the lines of the British Act of 1909. These wages boards to fix the minimum wage for women and young persons in all trades and industries proportional to the cost of living, and the conditions of learners and apprentices.

(2) The establishment of a 48 hours week, proper sanitary conditions, a sufficient number of women factory inspectors, provision for motherhood, and the acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

Some proposed changes in the English system of education affecting the position of children in industry were also forwarded to the Minister for his consideration in framing his bill.

The Factory Act passed last session is in one respect in advance of any Factory Act in existence, as it is ensured that no woman shall, by reason of being a worker, have to bring a child into the world under unfair conditions. The burden of support of the woman before, during, and eight weeks after confinement, falls upon the State. The Act also guards against the sweating of women, children, and apprentices. It is now necessary for women to get the Act, study it, and see that its measures are carried out in the best interests of the country at large.

REGULATION OF WAGES BILL.

The passing into law of this bill last session was an event that may prove one of the most important steps taken by the Government in the interests of the wage-earner. While several aspects of the working of the bill have to be settled by the local wages boards which are to be established, nobody who knows the rates of payment, or rather of underpayment, which obtain in certain works—mainly that in which women and girls are employed—can fail to realise that the principle of a minimum wage should be quite revolutionary in its effect upon the payment of whole classes of workers. Before the bill passed through Committee important additions were made to the schedule of trades to which the measure will apply. The original schedule included: (1) Shop or store assistants, or assistants in tea rooms and restaurants; (2) tailoring, dress-making, boot and shoe making, and the making of wearing apparel; (3) harness making; (4) the manufacture of sweets and confectionery; (5) soap and candle making; and (6) cardboard and box making. Mr. Sampson moved to add to the trades thus scheduled the following: (7) Processes connected with printing and bookbinding; (8) the preparation, manufacture, and packing of tobacco and cigarettes; (9) match making or packing; and (10) typewriting and clerical work. It is difficult to see by what means the wages boards will deal with those occupations coming under the head of "unskilled" in such a manner as to ensure fair dealing both for the employer and employed. The length of time for which "learners" may remain classed and paid as unskilled workers, too, will need careful consideration, and there are several points in the bill which require attention in the light of clauses in the Factory Act, affecting employees as well as masters. It can, however, be taken for granted that the boards will take a broad and comprehensive view of local conditions. When the time comes for their appointment it would appear legitimate to ask that

they shall consist not of men only, but that women shall also sit on them, in view of the large number of women and girls employed in the trades cited as coming under both the new Acts.

If the Association has done no other successful work it has been largely instrumental in hastening the day of the industrial legislation just described. Mr. Malan and Mr. Duncan have been thanked for the active part taken, and work given on behalf of the cause of women and young persons.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE MOTIONS.

On Tuesday, February 12th, Mr. H. W. Sampson, Labour member for Siemert, introduced a motion that the Committee of the whole House be instructed to consider the expediency to provide for the enfranchisement of women. Mr. Rokey, Union member for Langlaagte, seconded the motion, which, after a long debate, was defeated by 54 to 39 votes. Last session Mr. Rokey's motion was defeated by 63 to 28.

Senator Tucker introduced a motion on March 13th that it was unjust to the women of the Union and incompatible with the interests of its inhabitants that the Parliamentary franchise should be withheld on grounds of sex alone.

This house accordingly submitted for the consideration of the government the desirability of legislation which would enable women to exercise the franchise, subject to such qualifications as may be determined by parliament. Unusual public interest attended the debate, and a strong plea for women's enfranchisement was delivered by Senator Whiteside. The motion was adopted.

WOMEN POLICE.

Lady Steel formed one of a deputation to the Minister of Justice in Capetown, and put before him the urgent need of women police in our larger towns.

As the establishment of such a force necessitated changes in the law, pending these changes it would be best for your association to press for women patrols in the larger towns. In view of the finding of the Select Committee upon the police strike, it seems unfortunate that, as the right class of man is not forthcoming for training at the Maitland Training College, the opportunity occurring for training a body of women police is not immediately undertaken.

THE C.D. ACT.

Lady Steel and Miss Johnston Scott interviewed Dr. Mitchell, of the Union Health Department, on the Contagious Diseases Act and its repeal, and the case for repeal was placed strongly before him, and was sympathetically regarded by him.

Rhodesia Leads the Way.

Mr. W. S. Honey, president of the Women's Franchise Society of Southern Rhodesia, writes to the editor of *Woman's Outlook* as follows:—

Last Tuesday [i.e., May 21st] the following resolution was carried in the Legislative Council of Southern Rhodesia, namely, "That with reference to the petition presented to this Council on the 17th instant, praying 'that this Honourable Council will be pleased to take the necessary steps to extend the franchise to the women of Southern Rhodesia, and for that purpose to fix the requisite qualifications and make provision for registration of their votes to enable them to be enregistered as voters at elections of members of this Honourable Council,' this council records its opinion that the interests of Southern Rhodesia will be advanced by giving effect to the prayer of the petitioners, and requests the Administration to take the necessary steps to that end prior to the next general election." Every elected member spoke in favour of the resolution, and the Treasurer, for the Government, spoke in favour of it, and the members voted unanimously for it. We anticipate, therefore, that at our next general election our women as well as men will poll votes.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

CHINESE WOMEN AND MARRIAGE REFORM.

The *Guardian*, an Anglo-Tamil bi-weekly published in Penang, states in its issue of March 20th that the Chinese women in that settlement held a mass meeting, with a view to advancing the cause of marriage reform. They resolved to petition the Government to undertake legislation for that purpose.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION

The Special Conference on Naturalisation and the Nationality of Married Women.

In view of the Special Conference which was held in London at the beginning of August to discuss the question of naturalisation, Miss Newcomb sent letters to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George), the Colonial Secretary, and the Premiers of the Overseas Dominions, reminding them of the resolution concerning the nationality of married women which was passed at the recent B.D.W.S.U. Conference, as follows:—

"Sir,—The newspapers announce that a special conference will be convened to discuss the whole question of naturalisation, and that the representatives of the Dominions Overseas will be summoned to attend. I conclude that the question of the nationality of married women has already been included in the agenda for this conference, though nothing to that effect has yet appeared in print.

"You are, I know, aware of the grievous hardship which the present state of the law entails on many married women of our nation. You have received a copy of the resolution passed unanimously at the recent conference of this Union, expressing the desire of women in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and Canada, that no woman shall be deprived of her nationality against her will.

"I therefore respectfully urge, on behalf of this Union, that even in the great pressure of general business the question of the nationality of married women shall not be overlooked, but that full justice shall be secured for the women of the Empire as for the men."

An acknowledgment was received from Mr. George.

The Colonial Secretary replied: "It is understood that the question of the nationality of married women is receiving the attention of the Secretary of State for Home Affairs in connection with the meetings of the Special Conference on Naturalisation."

The Prime Minister of Australia, in his reply, says that "the matter mentioned in your communication was included in the subjects referred for the committee's consideration."

Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, replies as follows: "The position of married women in relation to the naturalisation laws is being attentively considered by the Canadian Government, as it is realised that the case made out by the women is entitled to such consideration. As you know, the principle was accepted by the Imperial Conference in 1911 that the naturalisation laws throughout the Empire should be made as uniform as possible. To secure such uniformity consultation between the different Governments is essential, and this necessarily takes time, especially when some new departure in the law is in question. The Canadian Government have already raised for discussion the question to which you allude, and I am hopeful that as a result of this year's conference further progress can be made in reaching a common and satisfactory basis."

The Premier of New Zealand (Mr. Massey) says: "I shall be very pleased to see that your representations are put before the special committee which is investigating this subject."

No reply has yet been received from General Botha (South Africa).

HUNGARY.

The Suffrage Situation.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEBATE: GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS.

On July 17th a meeting of the Lower House took place, largely devoted to the woman's suffrage debate, which was begun on July 12th. The Government's original proposal was to enfranchise a small number of women, as a beginning. These were to be (a) women who were active members of some recognised scientific, literary, or artistic society; (b) the widows of those who had fallen in the war; together reckoned to amount to over 200,000.

This was lost in Committee during June, but the Premier, Dr. Alexander Wekerle, declared that he would not accept this defeat as a final verdict, but would bring up the question in a special resolution in the House. Accordingly, on July 17th, amid great excitement, the Government resolution came on. This final proposal of the Government re women's suffrage runs:—

To give the vote to:

(1) Women who have successfully passed through four standards in a secondary or middle school.

(2) Wives or widows of men who have successfully passed the highest standard of a middle or similar school.

(3) Women, unmarried or widows, or legally divorced, exercising an agricultural, industrial, or commercial profession, and who pay 100 kronen direct taxes.

All women voters would also have to fulfil the general conditions imposed on voters—i.e., be twenty-four years of age, and be able to prove residence in the constituency for the past year.

[The categories chosen are more or less designedly haphazard, in order to escape the impression of giving the vote to too many women.]

There were ten other resolutions, and also amendments. Prominent suffragists interviewed Ministers in the lobbies and filled the galleries. The Government resolution was lost by 161 to 69.

[Of course, it must be realised that the vote was not really a vote on woman suffrage on its merits, but just one of the usual trials of strength between Tisza and the Government. The press was almost wholly for some form of W.S.]

A Resolution Fenyes, proposing to give the vote to women who were the financial support of a family, was the least badly defeated, obtaining 106 votes (146 against).

A Resolution Andrassy, proposing to keep the subject of women's suffrage on the agenda of the House, was also lost by 156 to 96.

[This was a desperate attempt to ward off final defeat.]

The Premier was supported by Count Apponyi and by Dr. Vazsonyi (ex-Minister of Justice), also by Count Andrassy, who worked hard for the women's cause; in fact, by all the Government parties. (But the Government is in a minority in the House.) The defeat is due to the opposition of Count Tisza, leader of the Opposition (Munkapart, or Party of National Work). Count Tisza is on principle against any extension of the franchise whatever. But the feeling of his party was apparently quite divided, for at a party meeting of the Munkapart it was agreed to leave members free to vote, and not to make the question a party one.

After the voting the galleries emptied in perfect silence. The chief Vienna paper (*Neue Freie Presse*) says the sitting was full of tension. The House was crowded.

PREMIER'S PRONOUNCEMENTS.

On July 12th the Premier said: "It is not that women need public life, but that public life needs women. Woman with her higher moral conceptions can exercise only a purifying effect on political life. In many social questions, as in the protection of motherhood, of infants, and of children, a right resolution is impossible without the co-operation of women."

On July 17th Dr. Wekerle protested against the objections raised, and declared that if in his proposal he had confined himself to one or two classes of women, it was because he himself was no friend of overhasty innovations, and, on the other hand, because he hoped this minimum would prove more acceptable to the House. He could not accept the argument that by giving the vote to women, politics would be dragged into the life of the family, and so injure it; he was convinced that the absence of women in public life was a disadvantage to the cause of civilisation.

It is also important to note the general declaration of Wekerle on June 25th (at a party conference), that the Government reserved to itself the right to realise on some other occasion that part of its programme which it was for the present forced to withdraw.

DEPUTATION TO THE PREMIER.

The women's deputation to which we alluded in last month's issue, waited on the Prime Minister, Dr. Wekerle, on June 28th. According to the *Journal de Geneve*, it was composed of women doctors, teachers, writers, journalists, and officials.

M. Wekerle's reply was as follows: It is inevitable that in the future women will play an important part in public life; in the development of our political life we cannot do without women's help. I will fight with all my strength for the realisation of their electoral rights in a measure corresponding to their activity.

ICELAND.

The Third Anniversary of Women's Admission to the Franchise.

On June 19th the women of Iceland celebrated the third anniversary of their rights as parliamentary voters.

Mrs. Briet Bjarnhédinsdóttir addressed a large gathering from the balcony of the Parliament House, in Reykjavik.

Among the crowd many members of Parliament were seen, and the male sex was well represented. Her speech was printed *in extenso* in some of the daily papers.

The speaker gave figures as to the last elections. At the national elections (for the Upper House) in the summer of 1916 there were 24,000 voters on the register. Of these about 12,000 were women. For these elections men cannot vote till 35 years of age, women at 40, but for each election one year is taken off the women's voting age till the age is equal for the sexes. Of the 12,000 women qualified to vote only 1,245 cast a vote, or about 10 per cent.; of the 12,000 men 4,628, or about 38 per cent., voted.

At the elections by local constituencies (for the Lower House) the men's age of qualification is 25, and the women's at present 40, diminishing a year for each election until equality is reached. There were 12,177 women on the register at the autumn elections, 1916, and 16,321 men. Out of the twelve thousand women voters 3,427 cast a vote; of the men 10,600 voted.

Taking into account the rough weather, the long distances to be travelled on horseback to the voting centres, and the reluctance of the average housewife to leaving her home in other hands even for a day or two, the net result of the Icelandic elections is promising.

REFORMS ADVOCATED BY WOMEN.

Mrs. Briet vigorously exhorted the women in her audience to make full use of the vote next time, and strive to carry through the schemes they have set themselves. The first of these is a much-needed national hospital, to be run by the State, for which the women have already collected £3,000 towards the cost of the building. Further items on the women's programme include old-age pensions, schools for domestic crafts and hygiene, and the like.

The assembly presently moved to the sports grounds, where it was addressed by an M.P. of the ultra-national party, who called for their support in the matter of the flag and the national claims, knowing that women were ever keen in matters touching national pride and honour.

THE STATUS OF ICELANDIC WOMEN.

It is a welcome sign of the times to have an M.P. angling for female votes, and sweet is the music of M.P.'s prayers to a suffragist's ears.

But in Iceland it is a less revolutionary thought than elsewhere, for Norse women have ever held a proud place as compared with the women of the rest of Europe, and have always been on a footing of equality with their men. Such laws as, for instance, the marriage laws which still disgrace Great Britain are unknown to them, and if in the Viking age a man slighted his wife, she could divorce him by a declaration and depart with her goods, free to re-marry if she chose.

Women in Iceland, when going in for professions, have met nothing but encouragement from male colleagues, and they look with astonishment on the hard struggle of English women against the powers which still would bar them from equality with men.

A man's ideal in Iceland never was the insipid clinging female, but a woman of brains and vigour. I even think that the modern Iclander would rather like to see his wife in the pulpit, but although the clerical profession is open to women, none has hitherto sought office.

It may seem odd that the views of men out in that lone island should be so advanced. The real reason is that their views never deteriorated so far as elsewhere. The ideal still is the Valkyrie.

Women's papers recently arrived from Iceland are full of warm praise and admiration of the splendid achievement of English suffragists, who have carried their point in the face of such obstacles as the stubborn resistance engineered by the opponents of enfranchisement of women in England.

MEETING OF THE SUFFRAGE UNION.

At a recent meeting of the Union of Women's Societies in Reykjavik a committee was formed with the object of finding the best means of enforcing equal pay for equal work, as regards men and women workers.

With the indomitable Mrs. Briet leading, it will be interesting to learn what means the committee recommends for the enforcement of equal pay for equal work—a matter which has now become the burning question in all countries.

NETHERLANDS.

THE RESULT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN HOLLAND.

Our readers know that by a strange inconsistency Dutch women have got eligibility but no votes by the new constitution. Yet it is the will of the people to have them recognised as citizens; this is evident from the action of no fewer than nine political parties who, urged by public opinion and wishing to please the electors, have put 23 women on the lists of candidates. The places on the lists given to women show sufficiently that they really meant to have them elected, although in no case a woman occupied the first place, owing to the generally adopted method of putting the names of ex-deputies first.

Dr. Aletta Jacobs, the president of the N.W.S.A., was third on her list; Mrs. van Balen-Klaar, our vice-president, was fourth on hers; Mrs. Tjaden van der Vlies was second on that of the Christian Socialists; and the Social Democrats had put up no fewer than seven women candidates, of whom Miss Suze Groeneweg had the third place in Rotterdam; and Mrs. Carrie Pothuis-Smit, the fourth in Amsterdam. The rest of the twenty-three women occupied different places, but there was no great chance for them, as their parties were either very small or newly formed, or their rank on the list was not a promising one.

The election took place on July 3rd. This was the first time that our country was to see the effects of proportional representation, manhood suffrage, and compulsory voting—three reforms which each in its measure have contributed to the result.

To make voting easy for the new electors with the thirty-one lists that had been presented, the party whips had proclaimed that it was best to put a mark before the first name on the list, so the voters had only to remember the number of their preferred list to make their vote effective for the series of names as proposed by the party. The great majority of the electors followed this advice, but many others gave votes of preference to other candidates than number one of the list, and so nearly 11,000 showed their preference for women candidates, which indeed is not a great number considering that the total number of votes cast was 1,344,209. The antis lost no occasion of taunting us by saying that evidently less than one among a hundred men in Holland wanted women in the Chamber or women in politics. The suffragists and the press bureau of Rotterdam showed the fallacy of this argument by pointing to the overwhelming majorities that had shown their approval of the parties' action in giving women pretty good chances of being elected, as far as their power would go.

The result of the election is an increase of the Roman Catholics, and a still greater increase of the Social Democrats, whereas the Liberals and their various fractions have lost much influence. Therefore it is no wonder that the Social Democrats are the only group in our Parliament that has a woman among its members. The first woman M.P. in the Netherlands is Miss Suze Groeneweg, a teacher of a board-school in Rotterdam. She is well calculated to bring the needs of the people and of the women before the legislators of the country, and, though she is not a member of the W.S.A., judging superfluous to support an organisation which stands for one particular point of the S.D. programme, the W.S.A. sent her hearty congratulations on her election.

The woman candidate who polled most votes was our president, Dr. Aletta Jacobs. Her votes of preference numbered 1919, whilst those of Miss Groeneweg numbered 569.

The W.S.A. will now inaugurate a thorough campaign for civic instruction of its members, in order to qualify many women for the municipal elections next spring. With various parties in favour of the citizenship of women—as shown by the recent election—we cannot fail to get many women into town councils.

—MARTINA KRAMERS.

NORWAY.

Women for the Storting.

Now that we are again facing an election for the Storting, is it not time for women to try to get a few capable women into Parliament? Better a few very good ones than more of less excellence. I believe that the majority of men in Parliament would pay attention to the demands of women in cases where women had special knowledge, and knew better than men where the shoe pinched, apart from party questions. Is it not possible for us women to get away from party politics, and gather round a representative woman, at any rate in such places as send more than one representative to Parliament?

Afterwards they had a lively and amusing discussion about the desirable term of address for women, resulting in an agreement about Mistress or Madam as the title of all adult females. I have often wondered why most women seem to want to appear married. I think it is the title that draws them. Think how different it sounds when a cabby says "Madam," instead of "Ere, Miss!"

PRESENTATION TO MRS. MAGNUSSON.

The Icelandic Women's Union presented an address and a gift to honour a very noted advocate of the cause and pioneer in all movements for women's progress, Mrs. Katrin Magnusson, on the occasion of her sixtieth birthday. She initiated the petition requesting votes for women, and worked for signatures till it had reached 13,000 names. This lady is the wife of an eminent surgeon, and in earlier days, when means of nursing were primitive, it was only his wife's skill and unsparring devotion to the patients that made Dr. Magnusson's big operations possible.

Mrs. Magnusson has the gift of fairmindedness and sweet reasonableness to a degree that makes her equally appreciated by men as by women, and she was for eight years consecutively re-elected town councillor—a great compliment that, as I am told that councillors change rather often in Reykjavik.

DR. CLAESSEN'S LECTURE ON THE TREATMENT OF INFANTS.

At the June meeting of the Iceland Women's Society, Dr. Claessen gave a lecture on treatment of infants, which seemed to the members so good that they propose to have it reprinted and distributed. One of the doctor's points is that he appeals to mothers not to try to force the child's intellect, not to worry it with too much "ducky-ducky" to get it to smile.

KRISTIN BLOUNT.

London, August 20th, 1918.

ITALY.

MARITAL AUTHORISATION AND PRISONERS OF WAR.

An important decision with regard to the above has recently been given by the court of law in Rome. Signora Pirro-Berardi, of Nettuno, whose husband is a prisoner of war in Austria, appealed to the court at Rome, supported by her lawyer, Adriano Belli. As she was obliged to take a step which involved marital authorisation, she was anxious for a decision on the question of such authorisation, which it was impossible for her to obtain owing to her husband's imprisonment.

The tribunal, composed of Judges Gagliardi (president), Pagano, and Cochetti, in full agreement with the arguments of Sig. Belli, declared, notwithstanding the opposite decision of the public ministry, that war imprisonment must be regarded as equivalent to "absence" in the sense of article 135 C.P.C., and that therefore a woman whose husband is a prisoner may take any step she desires without marital authorisation.

The decision given by the tribunal is new and of great practical utility, especially at this time.

—Il Messaggero.

JAPAN.

WOMEN UNITE TO PROTEST AGAINST HIGH PRICES.

The correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Tokio on August 10th, says that the newspapers and people of Japan, who had hitherto been inclined to congratulate the nation on being outside the world disturbance, received a rude shock by a succession of unprecedented demonstrations of women. Rice had been rising in price for months past, and the mass of the peasantry and middle classes had been suffering many hardships. These they bore uncomplainingly for some time, but at the beginning of August the women of the fishing village of Toyama united to protest to the local officials, demanding rice.

It is hard to say what most surprised the newspapers, the united outbreak or the fact that the protests came from women. This unprecedented departure from the national ideals of women as laid down by the sage Confucius has not a little perplexed conservative minds, particularly as the example of the women of Toyama proved infectious. In far-distant districts women have been uniting to make similar protests against profiteers and local magnates.

We see at all elections, both parliamentary and municipal, a number of measures advocated which are meant to entice votes, and to be put into practice at some indefinite future time. Very often there is no serious aim behind this kind of party agitation. There is much to be said for party organisation, but party meetings are apt to lead to tyranny and to crush out all originality. At one time we were always hearing that when we once had the vote we should have political quiet and peace. But, as party politics are ever with us, this peace is not to be had. It is true that war conditions have brought some new factors into the fight, but in essentials the election battle will be the same, and we can only hope that the parties will have become to some extent wiser.

Socialism has lately come very much into the foreground, and its prominence convicts us of much that is amiss in our affairs. We think that in the last decades things have been more comfortable for our people than for neighbouring countries, so that there is here no sort of excuse for syndicalism or sabotage. Our capitalists have done much for their workers, and have tried to atone for the sins of the past. But nowadays everything must be reformed, so that we cannot wonder if human employers seem backward. This should not blind our eyes to the urgency of demands such as that for an eight-hours day. All have a right to a decent existence. Those of us who have grown up in good conditions realise too little their importance both morally and physically. We have fled from town slums, and shaken their dust off our feet, but these are horrors which we must face. The time has come now for women to turn to housing conditions as one of their main interests—a subject absolutely outside the special programme of any one party. Again, the temperance question belongs to women's sphere, and not to party. So much harm is done by drink that it is time to change our tactics. It is not very honourable to argue that the import of alcohol cannot be diminished because of trade with wine-growing countries. Should we be right in importing poison from Spain in order to get rid of our fish? No, nor need we be so apprehensive in these days, when tinned goods can travel to every quarter of the globe. The long and the short of it is that there are a world of questions of the deepest interest which lie outside party politics, and I have only mentioned a few. But could we not go to the towns which send more than one representative to Parliament and put up one woman there? We must not be disappointed at failure; but the effort will help to wake women up. We are accustomed to defeat, but we have also lived to see great victories.

—KAREN M. LARSEN, in *Nylands*.

POLAND.

Proposed Improvement of the Legal Status of Women.

According to the *Monitor Polski*, the Council of State and the Ministry of Justice have received the draft of changes in the civil code for the improvement of the legal position of women. This draft has been drawn up by the women's rights committee of the bureau for social work. By the code hitherto in force in Poland, a woman may not appear before a court of law except with the authorisation of her husband. Further, the husband has a right to the administration and enjoyment of his wife's property; even the money earned by the diligence and work of the wife belongs to the husband. In the year 1913 the Russian Duma altered certain provisions of the code, so that wives divorced from their husbands were allowed to earn an independent livelihood, to dispose of their own earnings, and to appear before a court of law without their husband's permission.

The committee for women's rights is planning further changes in the provisions of the law, by which all married women shall be allowed to earn their living without marital permission, to engage in trade, to appear before a court of law, and to control their own property. Moreover, the committee proposes to change the wording of a number of clauses so that every woman shall have the right to belong to family councils, and that mothers shall receive the same parental powers as fathers in respect of their children.

The committee also proposes a change in the marriage law of 1936 by which the respective clauses shall not read: The husband owes his wife love and protection, the wife owes her husband obedience, as the head of the family; but, as it stood originally in the civil code of 1825: Married people owe each other fidelity, support, help, and fitting maintenance. Finally, the committee demanded that the marriage law of

1836 should be completed by the addition of a clause by which a married woman shall be permitted to use, beside her husband's family name, her own family name.

—*Münchener Post*.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE FEDERAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

As the United States Senate took a recess in July, and has not yet been called together, there has been, of course, no action on the Federal Suffrage Amendment. The statement in the July number of the *International News* that it had "adjourned" was not quite correct. It had been in session since the first of January, and simply took a recess with the understanding that it might be called together any day if the President deemed it necessary. During the interim President Wilson has not for one moment forgotten the amendment. He is carrying the heaviest burdens ever imposed upon a President of the United States, and yet he has taken time to send personal appeals to the Senators, which have been published with his consent, and he has used his influence in its favour wherever there has been an opportunity. The whole country now fully recognises that the President earnestly desires the submission of this amendment at the earliest possible moment, and this fact has given it great prestige and strength. There are on my desk at the present time at least a thousand editorials regarding it from the press of the entire country, and only six of them express opposition. This gives an idea of the public sentiment on the question, and it does not seem that all of the group of opposing Senators can hold out against this almost universal demand when the question comes up again for consideration. The Senate is likely to convene the latter part of August, and it is the general opinion that the amendment will come to a vote early in September. It must be borne in mind that almost two-thirds of the Senate have all the time been ready to submit the amendment, and the Suffrage Bill in the House of Lords of Great Britain was adopted by a two-thirds vote, so that too much reproach must not be cast upon our Senate.

In writing to Senators, President Wilson has selected those who it was thought might be open to conviction, and his letters have been phrased in the strong language of which he is master. The opposition has planted its feet on the argument that woman suffrage is not a "war measure," and should not be considered now, and Mr. Wilson has taken up this point especially. In his letter to Senator Shields, of Tennessee, he said:—

"I feel that much of the morale of this country and of the world will repose in our sincere adherence to democratic principles—will depend upon the action which the Senate takes in this now critically important matter. If it were merely a domestic question, or if the times were normal, I would not feel that I could make a direct request of this sort, but the times are far from normal, the fortunes of nations are so linked together, the reactions upon the thought of the world are so sharp and involve such momentous issues, that I know you will indulge my unusual course of action, and permit me to beg very earnestly that you will lend your aid in clearing away the difficulties which undoubtedly will beset us if the amendment is not adopted."

To Senator Baird, of New Jersey, the President wrote:—

"The whole subject of woman suffrage has been very much in my mind of late, and has come to seem to me part of the international situation, as well as a question of capital importance to the United States. I believe that our present position as champions of democracy throughout the world would be greatly strengthened if the Senate would follow the example of the House of Representatives in passing the pending amendment. I therefore take the liberty of writing to call the matter to your serious attention in this light, and to express the hope that you will deem it wise to throw your vote and influence on the side of this great and now critical reform."

We feel that we can rest our case on these letters, and that if they will not move the opposing Senators, no words that can be spoken by others will avail. Nevertheless, the National Association has sent its strongest women to the States of various opposing Senators to work quietly among the influential people there, in order that the President's words may be supplemented by pressure from their own constituents. Mrs. Catt and her board of officers believe that quiet political work is now more needed than public demonstrations.

THE MILITANTS' ACTION.

With the approval of a very large part of the nation, with the active assistance of President Wilson and the sanction of his entire cabinet, and with the carefully directed work of the

women in every State, the situation appeared so favourable for the submission of the amendment that there seemed little doubt of its speedy accomplishment. The amazement and indignation may be imagined, therefore, when the "militant" branch of the suffragists called for a big demonstration in Washington across the street from the White House, on August 6th, to demand from President Wilson the submission of this amendment! A call was issued by its leader, Miss Alice Paul, to women everywhere to come to Washington and take part in this public meeting, and to come prepared to be arrested. Lafayette Square, where it was to take place, has been recently denied to all public gatherings except those pertaining to the war, and the law of the District of Columbia requires that a permit shall be secured to hold meetings in any part of the city. Nevertheless, Miss Paul arranged for hers on this particular spot, and did not ask the authorities for a permit to hold a meeting, thus defying the law in two respects. About a hundred women assembled at the foot of Lafayette monument and unfurled a banner inscribed:—

"We protest against the continued disfranchisement of American women, for which the President of the United States is responsible. We condemn the President and his party for allowing the obstruction of suffrage in the Senate. We deplore the weakness of the President in permitting the Senate to line itself with the Prussian Reichstag by denying democracy to the people. We demand that the President and his party secure the passage of the suffrage amendment."

The police arrested the speakers, the banner-bearers, and some of the audience who refused to move on—forty-eight altogether,—and took them to the station house, where they gave bail for their appearance. Miss Paul then issued a statement declaring:

"It is intolerable that American women cannot ask for a share in the democracy for which we are fighting without having their speakers and even their listeners arrested. The world will look with amazement on the spectacle. We are ashamed for our nation."

The absurdity of this is manifest when one considers that for the past year hundreds of women in all parts of the United States have been making this very demand without the slightest interference of any kind. The affair had the desired effect, which was to put the "militants" into the headlines of the newspapers and make them the subject of editorial comment. That the latter was of the most scathing character did not disturb them. The public understands so well the tactics of this group that the only serious effect of their action will be to give the opponents of woman suffrage ground for fresh opposition.

WOMEN VOTERS IN ARKANSAS AND TEXAS.

The great event in the story of our movement since the last letter to the *International News* has been the voting of the women in Arkansas and Texas. It will be remembered that the Legislatures of both these States recently gave to women the same vote at the primary elections as men possess. As had been several times said, the candidates for the offices are selected at these primaries. Anyone can stand for an office who presents a petition with a sufficient number of signatures, and the one who receives the highest number of votes becomes the only candidate of his party to be voted on at the general election in November. In the Southern States there is practically but one party—the Democratic,—and thus the successful candidate at the primaries is as good as elected. As there was not a large movement for woman suffrage in either one of these States, it was not supposed that at the first opportunity the women would vote in great numbers. The surprise may be imagined, therefore, when 40,000 in Arkansas paid a poll-tax of one dollar and cast their ballots!

Before the country had recovered from its surprise at this announcement, the primary elections took place in Texas. As the poll-tax has to be paid a year before the election, there would not have been time for the women to qualify, and therefore the Legislature waived the payment of the tax for this first election. Southern men have always said as an excuse for their opposition to woman suffrage that Southern women did not wish to vote, and would not vote if they had the chance. Their astonishment, as well as that of the country, may be imagined when the Associated Press spread the news broadcast—first, that 386,000 women had enrolled for the primaries, and, a week or two later, that 320,000 had voted. Since then it has been ascertained that the number was much larger, but the official returns have not yet been made. It has for ever silenced the stereotyped cry that the women of the South do not want to vote.

Before the election the women sent out a questionnaire to every candidate requesting that he declare in favour of woman suffrage, in favour of the federal amendment, in favour of prohibition, and in favour of a vigorous prosecution of the war. Not one candidate who refused to answer these questions in the affirmative was chosen. The present Governor, who had helped the women to get their bill through the Legislature and signed it, received a majority of 400,000 over his opponent, who was a pronounced anti-suffragist. Texas has about three times as many women over twenty-one as has Arkansas, and the non-payment of a poll-tax increased the number voting. There were also bitter political contests, which did not exist in Arkansas, where there was little competition among the candidates. In both States the victory for the women was complete, and the effect on the entire South has given the movement an impetus in that section of the country which it greatly needed.

WOMEN IN THE STATE CONVENTIONS.

Another interesting and important event has taken place in New York at the Democratic and Republican State Conventions, held at Saratoga Springs. They were the first in which women ever had taken part, and the leaders of the two parties vied with each other in the prominence and courtesy extended to the women delegates. There were 150 of these at the Republican Convention, and 100 at the Democratic, which was not so large a gathering. The Republicans broke all precedents in giving the most important chairmanship—that of the Committee on Resolutions—to a woman, and the one selected for this honour was Miss Mary Garrett Hay, the chairman of the Woman Suffrage party of New York City. She had filled this position for three years, and carried the party through two campaigns—those of 1915 and 1917. It was due to her more than to any other one individual that New York City secured the great victory for woman suffrage last November. The organisation numbers about half a million, and has been kept intact ever since the election. It is thoroughly organised in every voting precinct, and will play a very important part in the Congressional and State elections during the campaign which is now in progress.

The selection of Miss Hay was a distinct recognition of the cause of woman suffrage, and was commented on by the entire Press of the country. She sat at the head of the table with the most distinguished men in the party on either side as members of the Committee. She read to the convention the resolutions, which were adopted unanimously. One of them declared in the strongest possible terms for the Federal Suffrage Amendment, and called on the two Senators from New York State to cast their votes in favour of it.

The Democrats invited Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, a leader of the suffrage forces, to preside over the convention, but she wisely declined, as she felt that she was not sufficiently acquainted with the procedure or the delegates to accept this position. The Democrats offered the women a place on the ticket as candidate for a State office, but they considered it best not to accept, as they wished to avoid the charge of being anxious to hold office. Women will undoubtedly receive appointments to prominent places on commissions, etc., and a number will be candidates for the State Legislature. The Democratic platform also contained a strong plank for the federal amendment. Women have been put on all committees, and have received the fullest possible recognition. The Socialist and Prohibition parties have named women as candidates, but they are not strong enough to elect a State ticket.

The State campaigns of Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma are progressing favourably, and the general situation in the United States is as encouraging as the most ardent advocates of woman suffrage could desire.

Mrs. Catt and Miss Hay are enjoying a three weeks' vacation and rest on beautiful Lake Mohonk, in the Catskill Mountains.

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Chairman, Editorial Correspondence, Leslie Suffrage Bureau,
New York City, August 10, 1918.

In the New York papers of August 12th the Anti-Suffrage Association which now calls itself by the ridiculous name, "The Women Voters' Anti-Suffrage Party," publishes as a two-column advertisement an Open Letter to the President of the United States protesting against his letters to U.S. Senators asking them to vote for the Federal Suffrage Amendment as a war measure. Not a member of that party had the courage to sign his or her name, and it is not believed that the President will pay the slightest attention to the letter. It shows the desperate plight of the anti-suffragists, who com-

plain bitterly that the newspapers will not publish their letters or the material they send.
I. H. H.

NEW WOMEN'S SECTION IN DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

A Woman's Bureau has been formed in the U.S. Department of Labour in order to develop politics and methods for a more effective use of women's services, and to look after women in industry. Miss Mary Van Kleek, chief of the women's division of the ordnance bureau, has been appointed chief of this new section; her assistant will be Miss Mary Anderson, supervisor of the women's division of the industrial section of the ordnance bureau.

The most important feature in the future of the woman's bureau will be the fact that its chief will be a member of the War Labour Policies Board. This means that she will have equal authority with any man on the board, not only with regard to women but with regard to men also—bringing to bear on the Government for the first time in the history of the United States the woman's point of view on labour questions.

—Maryland Suffrage News.

WOMEN'S JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Kathryn Sellers, LL.M., LL.D., has been appointed judge of the juvenile court of Washington, D.C. She is the first woman to hold such a position, although associate judgeships are held by women in the juvenile courts of Chicago and Los Angeles.

Miss Florence Etheridge has been appointed probate attorney for the Miami Indians in Oklahoma.

—Woman Citizen.

WOMEN LEGISLATORS IN ARIZONA.

During the 1917 legislative session of the Arizona House, Mrs. Marsh, who represents Santa Cruz, was responsible for the passage of a public welfare bill, and is known also as the sponsor of the Child Welfare Bill.

Mrs. Pauline O'Neil has secured legislation on educational measures during the two sessions of Arizona's Third Legislature. Mrs. Rosa McKay, member for Cochise, is known as the mother of the Minimum Wage Bill, the winning of which, in the Arizona Legislature of 1917, was characterised as "the greatest victory ever won by women's votes, and won by a woman, against tremendous odds." To secure the passage of this measure, Mrs. McKay had to fight almost single-handed in the same legislature now congratulating her upon her victory. The organised majority of the House was lined up against her. She carried the bill to the Senate herself, and was permitted the privilege of the floor. Her appeal was so eloquent and impressive that her bill went through with but three dissenting votes. The law is an unusually strong one, providing for a minimum wage of ten dollars, and carries compulsory power and penalties.

—Woman Citizen.

URUGUAY.

THE FIGHT AGAINST ALCOHOLISM, AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Below are given the conclusions of a report presented by Dr. Paulina Luisi for the Suffrage Committee of the National Council of Women to the first regional congress organised by the National League Against Alcoholism.

Considering: That it is a fact demonstrated by experience that women are a factor which cannot be ignored in the struggle against alcoholism;

That they have contributed actively and effectively to the principal works of social defence against alcoholism, many of them being due solely to their initiative;

That in those countries where women possess the right of voting, there the anti-alcoholic struggle has obtained the best results;

That in those countries where women are electors and eligible, the amount of alcoholic consumption has notably diminished;

That it is in these countries that the most efficacious measures against this social scourge have been devised; the congress against alcoholism formulates the following desires:—

(1) That the Parliament of Uruguay should recognise women's right to franchise and eligibility, as soon as the new constitution comes into force.

(2) That women should be considered eligible for municipalities and Parliaments.

(3) That these aspirations should be realised in all countries of the world having parliamentary government.

(4) That as long as these aspirations are not realised, the system of "local option" should come into force immediately in our country, which will at the same time serve as a preparation for women in the exercise of their political rights.

(5) That the question of woman suffrage should be considered and upheld in all anti-alcoholic congresses, both national and international.

—Accion Feminina.

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