



THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Spain	33	Reports from Auxiliaries—	
Month's Miscellany	34	Italy	41
Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger	34	Jamaica	41
Mme. Loppé	35	Roumania	41
Women of the Little Entente	35	South Africa	41
New Zealand	35	U.S.A.	41
Book Review	35	News of Divers Women	42
Peru	35	An Australian Pioneer	43
Reports from Auxiliaries—		Spain	43
Austria	36	Section Française—	
Australia	36	Mme. de Witt-Schlumberger	44
Bulgaria	37	Les Congrès de Graz	45
Denmark	37	Uruguay	46
Germany	38	Grèce	46
Great Britain	39	Voyage d'Etudes	47
Holland	40	Nouvelles Internationales	47
India	40	Femmes Inventeurs	48
Ireland	40	Le Mouvement Féministe en Suisse	49

SPAIN.



SPANISH newspapers record that three women (Doña Maria Echarri, Vizcondesa de Llanteno, Doña Elisa de Calonge) have just taken their places on the Madrid Town Council as a result of the recent granting of the municipal vote to Spanish women.

The first woman to become a mayor in Spain is Doña Maria Pérez Molla, a widow aged forty, who has been a schoolmistress in one of the national schools. She became

Mayor of Cuatretondeta in the district of Cocentina this week.

General Primo de Rivera, the Dictator of Spain, has expressed himself a pronounced feminist, and by giving all single women over 23 years of age of good character, widows, and other women heads of families the municipal vote all over Spain he has given the suffrage movement in his country a strong impetus. Excepting Belgium, no other Latin country has given women's suffrage this much encouragement.

THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

We publish this month accounts of the elections in Great Britain and the United States and a forecast of those in Germany. In Great Britain the result from the women's point of view has been distinctly disappointing: to have lost five out of eight members, with but one newcomer, instead of going, as we had hoped, from strength to strength, does at first sight appear to be a real setback. Our English correspondent has not failed, however, to point out that consideration of the figures reveals a more hopeful aspect of the question. The average number of votes polled by the women candidates has gone up by over a thousand since the last election, and by over six thousand since the first election in which women were qualified to stand. That does suggest that sex prejudice is dying down, and that the failure of women to secure a greater number of seats is primarily due to other causes, mainly, of course, the swing of the party pendulum. In the United States, results are still better. It is true that but one woman has been returned for Congress, but the success of two women governors, one of them in the largest state in the Union, is a real victory. Further, the number of women returned for State legislatures—many of them in states which have never before had women members—is satisfactory. We shall not know the results of the election in Germany till next month, but Frau Stritt's article shows us that the difficulty there is going to be the very same as in the two other cases—namely, that the political parties do not yet realise the value of their women candidates, and persistently fail to give them a reasonable proportion of seats with a genuine chance of victory. Men are very slow to admit that in reforms affecting women the "experimental stage" has been passed, and women need a great deal of courage and perseverance, which they fortunately possess, to keep on "making good" in the face of very lukewarm encouragement.

We are showing a picture of the three women who are now sitting on the Madrid City Council and another of the first woman mayor in Spain. This shows that women have not been slow to take advantage of the limited measure of municipal suffrage granted by the Directory. Now we learn that Mussolini is really going to introduce the promised Bill for municipal suffrage in Italy, and, regrettably limited though it may be, we may hope that if and when it becomes law Italian women will emulate their Spanish sisters in making the very most of it. In Belgium, where women have had this suffrage for some time, there is a considerable number of women councillors. Now there seems good hope that the women of Uruguay will also shortly be granted municipal suffrage. The Latin countries are beginning cautiously, and the women will need to show by their practical co-operation that this half-measure is appreciated and well used, if they are to proceed to claim the remainder of the loaf.

Medicine has, I believe, everywhere been the first of the liberal professions to be opened to women, and it is therefore in that profession that women have most universally come to their own. Great Britain has just been celebrating the jubilee of the opening of the London School of Medicine for Women with a great service of thanksgiving in St. Paul's Cathedral, as well as by numerous festivities. The thanksgiving was attended by women representatives of many other professions, in recognition of the lead given by those pioneers who by opening the doors of the medical profession helped to unlock many others. The purpose of the service was set forth in a few simple words, which we will quote, as they will rouse an echo in the hearts of all suffragists:—

"Through the ages there have been women in spirit born before their time. They had vision and faith, and by their toil and sacrifice, by their persistence and courage, opportunities for women in training, work, and service have been won."

To some of us who care so terribly much for the woman's cause that it is difficult to prevent impatience and hopelessness from taking hold of us at the slow pace of the movement which is to lead us out into the full sunshine,

it is very good to be reminded of what we owe to those who came before, and who won for us what has, after all, been an incredibly great victory in a space of time which history will count as but a moment.

The assured position of the woman doctor to-day—though perhaps even for her all is not yet quite plain sailing—must be a great encouragement to women lawyers, women engineers, and others who in many cases have but just begun to use the opportunities so recently afforded them for entering those professions. What they need is the practical encouragement of those women who are still treading in the beaten track: it is for other women to employ the woman doctor, the woman lawyer, the woman artist. Not yet has the time come for the equality which will permit women not to think of sex—the need for sex solidarity still exists, is, indeed, the great need of the woman's movement to-day, and the great duty of the rank and file.

THE EDITOR.

MME. DE WITT-SCHLUMBERGER.

VERY many letters of sympathy and regret have been received by the President and headquarters, of which it is possible to print here only a few extracts. We publish in the French Section this month an article of appreciation written by Mme. Pichon Landry, which has already appeared in our French contemporary, *La Française*, but which the French auxiliary felt to be so truly expressive of the feelings of Mme. Schlumberger's colleagues in France that they begged us to reprint it for our international readers.

The members of the Board of Officers of the Alliance and many of the auxiliaries have sent us messages of sympathy and appreciation which we should like to quote if space permitted: they show that the loss of such a worker is felt equally in Uruguay, in the United States, and in Central Europe (a letter from Austria is very touchingly worded) as in the nearer countries, and they all strike the note of the hope and inspiration which the career of such a woman evokes.

We print below brief notes from our president, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, and from our honorary president and founder, Mrs. Chapman Catt, while from the letter received from the Marchioness of Aberdeen we can only give a brief quotation: "May I ask you to convey the very true and heartfelt sympathy of the International Council of Women to the Board of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance."

Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

It is only gradually as the days go by that we can measure the full extent of our loss in the death of our friend and colleague, Mme. Schlumberger. Letters arrive from all parts of the world bearing witness to her wonderful influence.

I am more grateful than I can express for the generous friendship she gave me in the most difficult circumstances. What most impressed us all was her wonderful goodness, her idealism, and faith. Then one marvelled at the stern discipline and method of her life, which enabled her to accomplish so much. We loved, too, her gaiety and her capacity for enjoying the simple pleasures of life, and her understanding and sympathy for the young. She had the gift of statesmanship and could command the loyal affection of those working with her. We shall miss the quiet courage with which she faced the interminable struggle for justice for women, and in the coming hour of triumph, when her countrywomen get the vote, we shall think first of all of her and wish she had been allowed to share our success.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

Mrs. Chapman Catt.

Looking backward, it seems curious that in the twenty-two years since the first agitation began to shape the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, there has, until now, never been a death on the Board, although many women have served upon it. The passing of Madam Schlumberger is none the less sadly distressing. We are never prepared for the shock of the passing of our friends. She was a lovable character who had won a warm corner in all our hearts. She was always a dignified and dis-

tinguished figure in our congresses, and in long association with her on the International Board I must testify that her judgment was invariably practical, well poised, and progressive. I hold the world to be much poorer because she is no longer in it, and that the Alliance is weaker by the loss of a strong arm and a brave soul.

She waged a brilliant battle in France. I sorrow much that she was not permitted to see the victory which will as surely come to the women of France as it has to women of other lands. This is, however, no occasion for tears. The French Suffrage movement and the International Alliance should rejoice that they have had the comradeship and the leadership of this estimable, able, kindly hearted, and far-visioned woman for so many years.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

MME. LOPPÉ.

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of Mme. Loppé, who for some considerable time had acted as treasurer for the French funds of the Alliance. When the exchange dropped so considerably, it was felt that it was bad economy to send foreign currency to headquarters, and an account was opened in France to receive French subscriptions. The work of collecting these subscriptions and investing them entailed a considerable amount of trouble, and Mme. Loppé proved herself indefatigable, and was one of the most charming and considerate of fellow workers. No trouble was too great for her to take, and she had only a few weeks before her death been of material assistance to us in carrying through our financial transactions with a French bank.

WOMEN OF THE LITTLE ENTENTE.

LAST week the Women of the Little Entente met in conference at Belgrade for the discussion of their own immediate problems. A large share of their deliberations was concerned with the position of the illegitimate child. In Serbia this question is peculiarly ripe for reform, since the position of the illegitimate child is governed by the still surviving Code Napoléon, which deliberately prohibits all inquiry into its paternity. Needless to say, such a state of affairs was unanimously condemned by the Congress. As regards constructive reform, it evolved and recommended an ingenious proposal for the institution of a central fund for the maintenance of illegitimate children—to be collected in the form of a tax upon all adult males. Being unacquainted with the details of the scheme, we are not in a strong position to criticise it. But on the face of it we are of opinion that it is always uneconomic to earmark special taxes for special objects unless an overwhelming case can be made out for the peculiar responsibility of the class of persons taxed. In this case responsibility rests with an unknown minority of the male population, and, unless such responsibility can be definitely attached to individuals, its proper destination is the community as a whole discharging its obligations through the ordinary channels of taxation without respect to sex.—*The Woman's Leader*.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND, a country which long ago conferred the parliamentary franchise upon women, has just rejected a Bill which declared for equal pay for equal work.

The question was brought up in the House of Representatives last week while the estimate of the Department of Education on the question of the pay of men and women teachers was under consideration. There was a lively discussion, from which it soon became apparent that the House would be divided on party lines, the Liberals and the Labourites supporting the equal pay proposition. The Minister in charge of the estimates declared that he knew no salary scheme in the world which gave men and women equal pay, and he quoted Lord Burnham's Royal Commission in England to show that equal pay for equal work for men and women was utterly impracticable.

One of the members of the House who urged that women should receive the same pay as men if they did the same work was absent from the House when the division on the motion was taken, while another member repudiated his former advocacy of Equal Rights and voted with the Government when the final vote came. The motion was rejected by 38 votes to 36.—*Equal Rights*.

BOOK REVIEW.

WOMEN AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT. By ALICE HENRY. Workers' Education Bureau of America, 476, 24th Street, New York.

This book is one of a series "The Workers' Bookshelf," and is written by a well-known member of the National Women's Trade Union League of America. It gives a brief but interesting survey of women's entrance into industry, and the progress made in organisation in the United States, showing how primitive woman founded industry, how the early settlers in the States carried on an almost complete series of industries in their homes, and how gradually this work was taken from their hands and transferred to the factory. It tells, alas! the story of the cruel exploitation of the woman worker and of the child, and of the many pitiful and often futile efforts made in the early days to secure something like a living wage and something approaching tolerable conditions, and the gradual amelioration which has been made by organisation, legislation, and by the formation of the Women's Bureau in the Government Department of Labour. Organisation is still one of the great problems: experience in the States, as elsewhere, demonstrates the difficulties of organising the woman worker, with her tradition and inheritance of individualism. A great work has been done, and is being done, by the Women's Trade Union League, and an interesting account is given of the various trade unions, with figures of their female membership. The chapter on industrial legislation touches on that vexed question, protective legislation for women. The argument is used that this is merely the modern expression of the primitive instinct of "women and children first" because women are the transmitters of the race. It sometimes seems as if while in questions of legal rights the child has but one parent, and that the father, in this matter reformers will still allow it but one, and that the mother! The due consideration of the health of the actually pregnant woman is, as all must admit, a special question; but to regard the health of the woman as specially important because she is a potential parent seems to leave out an important aspect of the question. After all, in breeding animals the physical condition of the sire is regarded as something which certainly counts a good deal. Then, also, it is suggested that good conditions, shorter hours, abolition of unnecessary night-work, won by legislation for women, only tends to raise the standard also for the men. If this is so, it would seem easier to make the laws immediately applicable to both sexes and thus carry the reform at once. But we must not yield to the temptation of plunging into this tempting field of controversy. Certainly, Miss Henry puts the case for such legislation very ably, and there is much in this book which, dealing actually with conditions in the United States, would prove of interest for those studying industrial conditions elsewhere.

PERU.

THE Peruvian Federation of University Women has elected as its president the well-known lawyer, Miguelina A. Acosta Cardenas, and is founding a Women's Review. The women of Peru are beginning to organise in many feminist directions.

WOMEN'S VICTORIES IN 1924.

On the suggestion of Mme. Theodoropoulos, we have been asking all the affiliated societies to send us information on their special achievements during 1924. A certain number of replies have been received, but owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over the publication of this matter until next month.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRIA.

Two Congresses for the Protection of Children.

I. Congress of the International Federation for Children's Relief (Congrès International des Œuvres de l'Enfance).

IN Vienna two Congresses for the protection of children took place in October. From the 6th to the 8th the fourth Congress of the International Federation for Children's Relief was held. To this Congress 82 delegates from other countries came to Vienna. The Congress was organised by the Austrian Committee, consisting of the General Federation of Voluntary Juveniles' Relief and of the "Karitas" Federation, a Catholic association which works on the same lines. At the head of this committee was Mrs. Marianne Hainisch, the much-beloved founder of the women's movement in Austria.

After the speech of the President of the Congress, Mr. Georges Werner (Geneva), the Congress was welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Vienna, the Minister for Social Administration, and other functionaries. Marianne Hainisch made a wonderful speech of thanks for the help which was given to Austrian children during the recent hard times. Then reports were made about relief work in the different countries. The most time was devoted to the accounts given by the delegates of the Balkan countries and of the Near East. The misery of the children, especially of the children of fugitives, in these countries is so great that it is impossible for private work to bring sufficient help. Therefore a resolution was accepted in which the Governments of all countries are asked to strive for a solution of this question by an international agreement. The Congress charged a permanent committee to apply to the League of Nations and to all Governments for an international loan to be raised which would serve to help all those children for whom no sufficient care, protection, and education was provided.

With greatest interest the foreign visitors heard the reports on the Austrian organisations for children's relief. Visits to different institutions for children's welfare brought recognition of the Austrian relief work for children.

The end of the Congress was a meeting held in the Hofburg, in which the Austrian Committee solemnly accepted the Declaration of Geneva, consisting of five principles:

1. Every child has a claim to normal corporal and intellectual development.
 2. The hungry child must be fed; the sick one must be healed; the intellectually backward child is to be promoted as much as possible; the neglected child must be brought back to the right way; orphans and abandoned children must be taken up and provided for.
 3. In times of need first of all the child has a claim for help.
 4. The child must be enabled to earn his livelihood, but at the same time he must be protected against every abuse.
 5. The child must be educated to active human help.
- From Vienna the foreign delegates went to Budapest to continue the visits to interesting institutions for children's welfare.

II. Congress of the Central Committee for Protection of Children and Juveniles (Zentralstelle für Kinderschutz und Jugendfürsorge).

While the International Congress was occupied with the organisation of voluntary help for children, the second Congress (October 17-19) was devoted to the discussion of a legal basis for the protection of children and juveniles in Austria. There is no legal basis on which to build up the entire work of relief, and it is also very difficult to unify the manifold existing institutions for children's welfare. To meet this great need the Congress dealt only with two problems: first, with the discussion of a penal law for juveniles, which we miss in Austria, although Juvenile Courts already exist; and secondly, with the discussion of a general law for

children's welfare, which we still lack, although Juvenile Boards, which have to organise public relief work, have been founded in all Federal countries except in Tyrol and Vorarlberg. Consequently, the juvenile judge must work under laws which are 80 years old, and the Juvenile Boards have no legal basis for their work.

The Congress was exceedingly interesting, and brought out excellent reports. With regard to the penal law, Professor Dr. Wenzel Gleispach, a former Minister of Justice, advocated the following principles: Till the end of the 14th year there is no penalty; the Court regulates the necessary measures for education. From the end of the 14th till the end of the 18th year there is penalty only in cases where the juvenile's intellectual and moral development enables him to recognise wrong in his action and to act with understanding. In cases of penalty the Court will sentence the juveniles to be put into a House of Correction.

Further recommendations referred to the abolition of exile regulations (sentenced persons may be exiled by communities to which they do not belong in certain cases, and sent to their native community); restriction of the visit to cinemas for juveniles; no registration of the juvenile conditionally sentenced; severe punishment for an offence against the law prohibiting juveniles to consume alcohol; severe laws against immoral literature. On the whole, the debate showed that the penal law must be governed by educational considerations.

GISELA URBAN.

AUSTRALIA.

Women's League of New South Wales.

AT the August council meeting discussion took place on the Equal Guardianship of Children, and the council decided to concentrate on this particular subject until something practical was achieved.

It was decided to get Mr. Ley's consent to receive a deputation from the Women's League, when important points would be stressed and suggestions advanced to equalise the laws already existing in N.S.W.

The following resolution was unanimously carried: "While fully recognising the good legislation already obtaining in N.S.W., the Council of the Women's League urge the recognition of the principle of Equal Guardianship of children, feeling that the moral effect of such a principle being placed on the Statute Book will be most beneficial not only in equalising and improving the status of women as mothers, but in making for harmony and good conditions in the home."

Women should not cease to agitate until a measure making fathers and mothers jointly responsible for their children is granted.

Legislation on the Statute Book, both in the Federal and State Parliaments, gives abundant proof of the need for women to enter the doors—political and municipal—thrown wide open since 1916, and to make their contribution to the legislation placed on the Statute Book from a women's point of view.

The Crimes Amendment Bill just passed on from the Assembly to the Council for approval or otherwise, is full of flaws and loopholes whereby a man can evade punishment.

In the Federal Nationality Bill it clearly states that no minor, unnaturalised foreigner, lunatic, criminal, or married woman shall be allowed to retain or change their nationality. What a reflection on the married woman to be classed lowest in the list of non-eligibles!

In the State elections to be held early next year, opportunity will be given women in the North Sydney electorate to send into our State Parliament one woman—Mrs. Jamieson Williams,—who is thorough, sound, and intensely earnest in her desire to co-operate with men and make a contribution to the measures brought before the House from a woman's standpoint.

In many countries of Europe women are forging ahead and rendering distinguished and valuable service in the Parliaments of their countries.

What the women of other countries can do, the women of Australia can do! Women! Get busy! Ask yourselves the question, Is it desirable for women to enter Parliament, and, if so, what sacrifice, effort, or service can I offer to achieve that desire?

EMILY BENNETT,
Hon. Org. Secretary,
Women's League of N.S.W.

Women on Juries.

A Bill to amend the Jury Act is now before the Western Australian Parliament. A clause of great interest to women is one which makes provision for placing them on juries. This clause is causing quite a lot of controversy in the House, its opponents trotting out many queer old out-of-date arguments against it.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Willcock), who is in charge of the Bill, in explaining this provision, said: "We already have an Act providing women with the same civil rights as men, and it is a moot point whether those rights do not include jury service. Anyway, we are now giving them the option of being jurors. Those who wish to serve will have to make a specific application. Jury service was not imposed as a duty on women, but the Government did not seek to deny the right to those who desired it." The Bill has passed the second reading without amendment and been sent back to committee. We look forward to its re-appearance in the House.

BULGARIA.

THE Association of Bulgarian Women, which has attained a considerable significance by its unwearied labours, is celebrating its eighteenth Congress on November 23 to 25 at Sofia. This date was chosen, as it coincides with the sitting of the Bulgarian Parliament (Narodna Sobranie), and the Association hopes to be able to include in its programme the most recent aspects of the question of the women's vote.

The Association will hold a public meeting, and members of Parliament from the various parties will speak on the subject of women's rights.

One of the most important questions on the agenda is that of the employment of women in State and other public offices. In Bulgaria, as in most other countries, women during the war held many posts, though mostly those of typist, secretary, etc., not often achieving higher office. Lately, however, there has been widespread dismissal of women employees, without regard to their suitability or attainments. This tendency may indeed be considered as largely a result of the widespread unemployment following the war and the onerous peace conditions, but it shows also very plainly a general depreciation of the work of women in spite of the fact that their ability and hard work have triumphed over all obstacles, and have shown them well fitted to compete on equal terms with men in every direction in which they have had equal opportunity.

DENMARK.

Marriage Laws.

THE question of revision of the marriage laws in Denmark has a long history, about which I have repeatedly reported in *Jus Suffragi* (see May and September, 1922); but it now seems that we may see the end of it in this parliamentary session in a way satisfactory to women.

In June, 1922, two Bills regarding marriage and divorce and the right of parentage over children were passed, based on the work of a commission of jurists and a woman member, Dr. Estrid Hein, in co-operation with similar commissions in Norway and Sweden. The second part of the marriage law regarding the economic questions in marriage, which had simultaneously been prepared by the above-named commission, was held back by the Minister of Justice, Rytter, then in power, and returned to the commission for amendments. *Dansk Kvindesamfund* protested against this delay, and women members of Parliament repeatedly challenged the Minister to present this important Bill, with the result

that he presented it in the year 1923 in the form of a new Draft prepared by the commission. The Bill was passed by the Landsting in March, 1924, but the session closed before the Folketing had ended its deliberations on the question. The new Minister of Justice, Steincke, of the Social Democratic party, put up the Bill again in the Folketing shortly after the opening of the Parliamentary session, with nearly the same text as was accepted by the Landsting, and we therefore hope that this important question will soon be settled.

The Bill states that husband and wife shall contribute to the maintenance of the family each according to their means, the domestic work of the wife being recognised as an adequate contribution on her part, and they are bound to give each other details about their respective economic status. Neither husband nor wife shall be able to sell or pawn furniture belonging to the common home or tools of work belonging to the other party, without his or her consent. Real property, which is the home of the family, or in which the trade of one or both parties is carried on, cannot be mortgaged or sold without the consent of both parties.

The property of each party at the moment of contracting marriage, as well as what may later on be acquired through work, inheritance, or gift, shall during marriage continue to be under the control of the party in question. In short, the bill contains a detailed codification tending to give husband and wife equal rights in the numerous economic questions which may arise in marriage.

Detention of Recidivists Punished for Assault against Women and Children.—The Minister of Justice, Steincke, has inaugurated a new practice in retaining a man punished repeatedly for criminal assaults against girls. The man had served out his punishment, but as he was a recognised recidivist the Minister decided, after conference with medical and judicial authorities, that he should not be let out, free to recommence. The Minister has declared that he will continue this practice, for which he has found a perhaps disputable authority in a very old ordinance, but that he will as soon as possible introduce a Bill which legalises the retention of recidivists dangerous to women and children. All political parties have declared that they are willing to vote for such a measure, a fact which is greeted with much satisfaction by *Dansk Kvindesamfund*, which has during many years petitioned Government and Parliament for measures securing women and children against sexually abnormal men.

Lectures on Sexual Hygiene and Venereal Diseases.—*Dansk Kvindesamfund* has during the last year organised a campaign all over the country in order to spread information amongst women about sexual questions, motherhood, and venereal diseases.

Here in Copenhagen the University has placed its largest auditorium at our disposal, free of charge, for a series of conferences for women about these questions. Dr. Eli Moeller, a renowned gynaecologist, has lectured in an admirable way to a crowded audience of women of all ages and from all social classes: University women, women of society, and women workers, unmarried and married. Each series of lectures is composed of four conferences, followed by an hour for putting questions, which may be handed up in writing, and which are then answered orally by Dr. Moeller. The question of limitation of childbirth is not taken up in these lectures, but instruction is given about procreation of plants, animals, and mankind, about pre-natal conditions and childbirth, as well as nursing; and, finally, about venereal diseases.

It is a pleasant fact that all our daily papers have given these lectures much attention and helped to bring women to take interest in and follow them, so that they have been repeated without any loss of support. However, it is evident that much depends upon having the right person as lecturer, not only in possession of sufficient knowledge, but also of the art of presenting it to the audience in a pleasant and tactful way. This person we have found in Dr. Eli Moeller, who has also lectured in some provincial towns, and held courses for women teachers and other persons desirous of being able to treat these questions in schools and elsewhere.

Dansk Kvindesamfund has asked our Minister for Public Instruction, Mrs. Nina Bang, to arrange that scholars in teachers' seminaries be instructed in such a way that they may be able to give children in the schools information about sexual questions in a suitable way. This demand has been granted.

LOUISE NEERGAARD,
Secretary of *Dansk Kvindesamfund*.
Copenhagen, November, 1924.

GERMANY.

Women Candidates for the Reichstag and the State Parliaments.

SINCE the dissolution of the five-months-old Reichstag, the burning question among the political parties and the public has of course been the elections for the new legislative bodies, since the dissolution of the Reichstag carried with it also the dissolution of the Prussian and several other State Parliaments. The election has been fixed for December 7, and is naturally of equal interest for women, both within and outside the political parties, and especially are they interested in the question of the election of women. I am sorry not to be able to give the readers of *Jus Suffragi*—as I eagerly wished to do—a comprehensive account of the women candidates and their prospects, as yet. What can be gathered from scraps of news, occasional communications, and publications of party lists in the Press, does not look very encouraging in this respect, though most of the parties have in their first manifesto explicitly pointed out the necessity for increased co-operation from women. The women themselves, therefore, began at last fully to recognise their situation, and, as I am very glad to report, to lose patience with the parties. This is most impressively set forth in a strong appeal the National Council of Women, representing the German women's movement as a whole, has sent out to the leaders of all the parties of the last Reichstag. It runs as follows:—

"The impending elections to the Reichstag and the different State diets induce the National Council of Women to draw the attention of the political parties most strongly to the fact that, since political equality was granted to women, their nomination as candidates upon the lists has been diminished at every new election. Experience shows that the parties, often forgetting the preponderance of the women as voters, wholly disregard their wishes as to the numbers and the qualification of women candidates, for the benefit of groups of persons whose importance cannot be compared to that of the women voters, who form a majority of the total number of voters. The evident consequence of this attitude of the parties towards the women voters is the growing conviction among the latter that the effect of woman suffrage, as it is at present dealt with by the parties, never will come up to the expectations and righteous claims the women of all parties connect with it. If the parties will not recognise in time the fixed will of the women not to allow themselves to be pushed back, but to fulfil as active citizens their task in politics—the parties themselves will point out the necessity for women to look for new ways to achieve their aims.

"We expect that the parties at the impending elections will manifest, within their respective organisations, their will to admit the women to responsible political work in absolute equality by a greater number of women candidates in secure places upon the lists. We ask the party leaders to communicate, and recommend, this letter to their organisations all over the country, as owing to the by far too scanty representation of women in the party bodies, there is too little hope that the women may be able to exert a direct and effective influence in preparing the lists of candidates."

The Dismissal of Women Officials Again.

The "dismissal wave" on which I particularly reported in former issues of this paper has, meanwhile, ebbed back, or at least come to a standstill, and, as Reichs and States' Governments assiduously point out, the personnel reduction decrees are not to be applied after the current year. How fatally, far beyond our fears, it

worked out with regard to the women in public service is laid down in a recently published report of the Reichs Government. Of the women employees in the Reichs' service not less than 57.6 per cent, and of the official functionaries 15.3 per cent have been dismissed. The married women were, as usual, treated most severely. Of 745 married employees only 139 and of 2,955 married functionaries only 54 retained their posts. As statistics of the percentage of the States' and Communal officials are not yet published, one can, so far, only guess that it may be about the same. Some time ago, when the movement was at its height, one of our leading papers stated that, as a means of evading dismissal, divorce suits had become frequent among woman teachers. I am not at all sure how far this statement is based upon facts, but—*se non è vero, è ben trovato*.

No Sex Difference in Case of Unemployment.

The disadvantage for the women in public service has partly been made up by some more or less important improvements on other lines. To begin with the industrial women workers: Some months ago the social political committee of the Economic Council (Reichswirtschaftsrat), discussing measures for the support of the unemployed, carried an amendment proposed by a woman member, "That the rates paid to unemployed women (hitherto generally lower by 20 per cent. than men's) should be equal to the men's rates in future." This amendment was laid before the Reichs Labour Ministry and finally was carried in the Reichstag.

Professions and Careers for Women.

Many a door carefully closed until now has been opened lately. While the papers report conscientiously on "the first German woman" graduated as doctor, engineer, or as veterinary surgeon, or on the first "masters" as members of boards, we can refer besides to several women lawyers who have settled down for practice lately in some of our large cities, as, for instance, in Munich, Berlin, Dresden, and Breslau, and they will soon be followed by others. A most satisfactory progress is visible also on the programmes of the German Universities for the current winter term, as they include already twenty women lecturers at twelve universities, five regular or honorary "professors" being among them. As an obvious proof how fast—in spite of all resistance and hostility—the world is moving in this direction, I will finally mention that, according to recent statistics, about 2,000 women are practising as medical doctors at present in Germany; while it is scarcely thirty years ago that the first petition in the Reichstag asking for the admission of women to medical studies and examinations met with general scorn and ringing laughter!

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, November 15.

In connection with the forthcoming election in Germany, it is interesting to have an opportunity of seeing the questionnaire addressed to all candidates by the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein—the German auxiliary of the Alliance. It is as follows:—

Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein.

Berlin, W. 30, Nollendorfstr.

Okt./Nov. 29/30, 1924.

FRAGEBOGEN.

Sind Sie bereit, sich bei Ihrer Partei, Ihrer Fraktion den übrigen für die Geschäftsführung des Reichstags massgebenden Instanzen einzusetzen für eine Verabschiedung der Gesetzentwürfe bezw. gesetzliche Regelung folgender schwebender Fragen:—

(1) Gesetz zur Bekämpfung der Geschlechtskrankheiten.—Halten Sie eine erneute Gesamtberatung des Gesetzes oder lediglich eine solche der im vergangenen Reichstag strittig gewesenen Paragraphen für wünschenswert?

(2) Schankstättengesetz.—Wie stehen Sie im besondern zu dem § 26 des Regierungsentwurfs, der das Gemeindebestimmungsrecht regelt?

(3) Staatsangehörigkeit der Ehefrau.—Sind Sie bereit, sich nicht nur einzusetzen für eine gesetzliche Regelung durch den Deutschen Reichstag, sondern auch für die

Abhaltung einer Internationalen Konferenz von Regierungsvertretern zu dieser Frage?

(4) Besetzung von Stellen und Abbau von Stellen im öffentlichen Dienst.—Werden Sie sich dafür einsetzen, dass diese nach sachlichen Gesichtspunkten und nicht, wie bisher, vorwiegend auf Kosten der Frau erfolgen?

GREAT BRITAIN. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Since the last issue of this paper the General Election in Great Britain has come and gone. From the woman's point of view the results have been very saddening. Five of the eight women members of Parliament were defeated, and only one new woman member was elected. The five who were defeated were all members of the Liberal and Labour Parties, who, like so many of their male colleagues, were overwhelmed by the wave of Conservatism which swept over the country. It was emphatically not on account of their sex but on account of their party that women lost their seats. But whatever the cause, it is a great loss to women, since all five were good feminists and true friends to those who were fighting for equality for men and women. Above all, we regret the loss of Mrs. Wintringham, who had built up for herself a remarkable position in the House. Her soundness of judgment and her honesty of principle were respected by every party, whilst her sympathy and charm of manner won her universal popularity. The influence this position gave her was always placed at the disposal of the women's societies, and there was no limit to the time and trouble she would give on their behalf. Her loss is irreparable. The four women members now consist of the three Conservative women who were in the last Parliament and one Labour member, a newcomer, Miss Wilkinson, who, in spite of the anti-Labour reaction in the majority of constituencies, won the seat for her party, though she had a turnover of 1,500 against her. Miss Wilkinson began her political career as an organiser for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. She can be counted on as a sound feminist. Lady Astor is an old and well-tried friend. The Duchess of Atholl, whom women are rejoicing to see in the Ministry as Parliamentary Secretary at the Board of Education, is certainly not a wholehearted feminist, and would probably hate to be called a feminist at all. She voted against the Equal Franchise Bill, but she will probably prove to be a very real help in connection with the other reforms we have at heart. Women are, therefore, not without friends of their own sex in the House, but their numbers are all too small.

Something needs to be said of the other women who fought and were defeated. In nearly every case they were given a hopeless seat to contest. Even when the majority of the sitting member was small the position was complicated by three-cornered elections. No less than ten of the women were engaged in three-cornered fights in constituencies where their parties did not put up a candidate at all last year, and the third comer in a three-cornered election has little chance. In nearly every other case the majorities against the women were so great that the prospects of success were negligible. Added to this, it must be remembered that 29 out of the 41 women candidates were Liberal or Labour, and, as such, had the dice heavily weighted against them, as events proved. But in spite of the defeat of the women candidates they did poll more votes than at any of the other elections at which they stood. In 1918 the average number of votes given to the women candidates was 3,642, in 1922 it was 6,943, last year it went up to 8,345, and this year it was 9,750.

Readers of this paper will have been particularly sorry to hear of Mrs. Corbett Ashby's defeat. Although the odds against her were enormous, she fought a very fine campaign. We much hope that next time she will be adopted in a constituency where there is a real hope of success.

Women's Legislation and the Next Parliament.

We are faced now with a new Parliament, very different in personnel from the last, and we regret to have to announce a very large number of casualties

among our own friends. Not only have five out of eight of the women members been defeated, but so have also a very large number of those men members who in the past have most consistently supported our measures and given every possible help in the House of Commons. Major Entwistle, who was in charge of the Equal Divorce Bill; Mr. Foot, who has done so much for equal franchise; Mr. Acland and many others are no longer with us. Some friends, indeed, remain, among whom can be mentioned Sir Robert Newman, who has done so much on behalf of the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bills; Captain Wedgwood Benn, and Mr. W. Adamson, who was in charge of the Equal Franchise Bill last session.

Unfortunately, the very large majority of the Conservative Party will render this Government in all probability less amenable to public opinion than recent Governments have been. At the same time, in Mr. Baldwin's election address he announced his adherence to many of the reforms for which we are working, and we have great hopes that a fair proportion of these may be dealt with next session. At the time of writing, the King's Speech has, of course, not been delivered, but we are asking to have included in it provision for equal franchise, equal guardianship of children, legitimacy, and amendments of the law relating to separation and maintenance orders. We do not expect any definite project for an Equal Franchise Bill, but we hope for an announcement of the Government's intention of setting up a Committee to inquire into the possibilities of an agreed measure, as was promised by the Prime Minister during the election campaign.

Widows' pensions would, it was stated in the Conservative manifesto, form part of an insurance scheme, and would therefore be on a contributory basis. There are obvious objections to this, but we feel that any scheme which provides on a really adequate scale for the giving of widows' pensions would be welcome. Next month we shall be in a better position to foretell what are likely to be the fruits of the session.

Reception to Mrs. Swanwick.

On Wednesday, November 12, the President and Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship gave a reception to Mrs. Swanwick (Substitute Delegate for Great Britain at the Assembly of the League of Nations). The reception had been postponed owing to the General Election, and its scope was extended so that members of the N.U.S.E.C. might welcome the women M.P.s and show their appreciation of and sympathy with the defeated candidates. Mrs. Swanwick's speech was an interesting and amusing account of the position of women in the League and of its administrative machinery. She spoke with admiration of the work done by women on the permanent Secretariat, but as far as the Assembly was concerned, she deeply regretted that no woman had yet been appointed as full delegate.

Mrs. Swanwick was followed by Lady Astor in a characteristic and delightful little speech. The third speaker was the new woman M.P., Miss Wilkinson. She was a stranger probably to the greater part of the audience, but she immediately made a link with them by her statement that she had started her public career as an organiser to the National Union. She told them of her only other meeting with Lady Astor, which was when she was organising a strike of shop girls in Plymouth, and Lady Astor had helped to find them work afterwards.

Personal: Resignation of the Honorary Secretary.

Miss Macadam has many friends overseas and on the Continent who will share with us our regret at her resignation. Owing, however, to her visit to America this autumn and to the need for her concentrating on the work in which she is most specially interested—i.e., training for social workers,—Miss Macadam felt that she could no longer give the necessary time to the National Union. The loss that this will mean to the Union is a very real one, as all those who have come in contact with Miss Macadam or her work will appreciate. Fortunately, she will still remain as co-Editor of the *Woman's Leader*; and as a member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. will continue to give it a great deal of help.

W. A. E.
E. M. H.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Election Work.—On polling day, by request of the Alliance, Mass was offered by our associate, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., "to beg Divine Guidance on the men and women electors."

A list of questions dealing with Equal Franchise, Equal Moral Standard, Equal Pay and Opportunities, Equal Guardianship, and Widows' Pensions was submitted by the Alliance to the Parliamentary candidates, particular stress being laid on the question of Equal Franchise, and all our members were asked whenever possible to help the women candidates who were pledged to our reforms.

We much regret the loss of five women members, and particularly the defeat of Mrs. Wintringham. To our great consolation, Lady Astor is still able to hold the fort.

Members of the Alliance have been in charge of the British Overseas Committee Pavilion of the I.W.S.A. every Saturday during the six months that the Exhibition was open.

Our activities from now until Christmas will be chiefly concentrated on money-raising schemes for work during the next year. F. A. B.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

We have again urged the Prime Minister to include a simple franchise measure, giving votes to women at the same age and on the same terms as men, in the King's Speech. We have also congratulated him on the appointment of the Duchess of Atholl to be a member of H.M. Government. In view of the possibility of a Royal Commission being appointed by the Government to inquire into the prices of food, we have asked the Prime Minister to include competent women as members of that Commission, seeing that women are more directly affected than men by high food prices.

We are urging all our Branches to do everything in their power to press forward with an Equal Franchise campaign throughout the country, in order to arouse public opinion on this question to demand that women shall not face another general election having unequal voting rights with men. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**MISS ELLEN WILKINSON.**

MISS ELLEN WILKINSON, the victor of Middlebrough East, is an M.A. of Manchester University (where she won honours in history), and a member of the Manchester City Council. She was formerly organiser of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

HOLLAND.

QUITE a number of women have recently been appointed to important posts in Holland, among them Miss J. M. J. A. Meyer, M.P., as a member of the Board of Governors of the Rotterdam prisons; Miss A. M. D. Lange, an engineer, has become an examiner for the State University for Technical Science at Delft; and Mrs. Tervaert Israels (daughter of the famous painter) and Mrs. Bergsma-Bergsma have taken their seats on the county councils of South Holland and Zeeland.

CORRECTION.

The notice as to the opening of the Women's Club in Amsterdam, which appeared in the August-September number, stated incorrectly that it was founded by the Vereening van Staatsburgeressen, whereas various women's organisations co-operated. We regret the error.

INDIA.**Assam Province Grants Woman Suffrage.**

ASSAM Legislative Councillors have splendidly upheld the women's movement. They have granted Woman Suffrage to women on the same terms as to men, and, further, they have passed a Resolution, in spite of declared Government opposition, recommending Government to remove the disqualification of sex which debar women from entering the Council itself. It is a state comprising about seven millions of people, and a very large percentage of its people are women workers on the famous Assam tea estates. These working women need some means of improving their conditions of labour. The rights of enfranchisement and direct representation will act as great awakeners to them. Assam is now fifth province of British India to give women the suffrage, and its action should make its neighbours, Bengal and Behar, blush with shame at being so outpaced.

The Age of Consent.

The Bill for amending the Penal Code which has been so long before the Assembly and to which we have had to allude month after month has at last passed that august body. It has recently been known as the Morality Bill, because its aim is to protect girls from molestation. By its terms the Age of Consent has now been raised from 14 to 16. The same Bill was also passed by the Council of State, though important amendments to certain of its sections were defeated. Though it is a step in the right direction it is deplorably far from women's demands. Girls should be protected till 18.

It is difficult to gather from the Press reports exactly what the terms of the Bill have resulted in. There have been modifications by the Select Committee of the original Bill, and there seems to be an air of mystery or false modesty surrounding the reports. For instance, it has been impossible to glean from them whether the age of consent for married girls has been raised. We hope it is not an omen of bad portent for these child-wives, an evidence of guilty conscience on the part of the men legislators.

A Woman's Distinction.

According to Bombay information Mrs. Sherley Maureen Hodgkinson has been appointed Honorary Presidency Magistrate, and is the first woman to hold such an appointment in Bombay. A few months ago Mrs. Hodgkinson, together with a Hindu, a Parsee, and a Mohammedan lady, was made a Justice of the Peace. It was the first time this honour had been bestowed on a woman in Bombay. Mrs. Hodgkinson has been a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation for the last two years, being elected by an overwhelming majority for the Fort ward. She has shown conspicuous ability as a member.

IRELAND.

A MEETING of the National Council of Women of Ireland was held in Dublin on the 15th inst., when delegates were present from the Belfast Women's Advisory Council, the Dublin Council of Women, the Women's National Health Association, and other organisations. Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., was unani-

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

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THE HON. MRS. MONTAGU WALDEGRAVE.

FRAULEIN HULDA ZARNACK.

Treasurer - - COUNTESS OF PORTSMOUTH.

CHRISTMAS ROUND THE WORLD.

FOR all of us the month of December with its cold, grey days or the sunny warmth of southern lands brings us hints of Christmas, and Associations all over the world are making preparations for it. For some this means camp with all the joys of summer open-air life added to the special festivities of the Christmas season. Christmas must have a very special significance to those who can sit round the camp-fire on Christmas night singing carols and telling stories as the shepherds did of old. The wintry Christmas has a glamour of its own, however, and has gathered round it a multitude of beautiful customs and legends. Throughout most Associations there are woven into the Christmas festivities some of the beliefs which belong to the country.

In Roumania emphasis is laid on the Epiphany. It is celebrated even more than Christmas, and so we find Roumanian girls acting mystery plays which embody the search of the wise men for the Christ Child. Carol services are held, too, and Christmas itself is celebrated in the time-honoured way by a Christmas tree. Last year in Bucarest the gifts heaped on and around the tree were given to children in hospitals and orphanages. In one club for schoolgirls the girls entertained their mothers at Christmas—a novel idea!

In Czechoslovakia December 5 marks the beginning of the holiday season. This is the eve of St. Mikulas (St. Nicolas), who is believed to come down from heaven by means of a golden cord. Children place stockings and plates in readiness for him, for he comes laden with gifts. As Christmas comes nearer, the house is thoroughly cleaned and garnished in preparation for the Christmas feast and the coming of the Christ Child Himself, who leaves rewards for good children. Christmas Day is celebrated in the house with feasting, games, and merry-making, and next day groups of children go from house to house singing Christmas songs.

In the Northern countries of Europe the Christmas celebrations are very much identified with the home life of the people, though of course Y.W.C.A. branches observe Christmas Day in various ways. But in Denmark, for instance, the ideal Christmas is spent at home. The family sits down to a Christmas feast of goose, stuffed with apples and plums, and a pudding made with rice, milk, and sugar, in which there is an almond. The lucky recipient of the almond is supposed to receive a present. The Christmas tree is found in Danish homes, too. The family presents are all hung upon it, and after the gifts are distributed Christmas hymns are sung round it. Both on Christmas Day and the day after services are held in the churches, and altogether the religious significance of Christmas is much in evidence. On reading of some of the beautiful customs to be found in the various Scandinavian countries one's impression is that there, perhaps more than anywhere else, Christmas is kept as a holy day.

In Finland church-goers are on their way to divine service long before it is light and have placed candles in their windows to celebrate the Christ Child's birthday. In some parts of Sweden it is the custom to think of Christmas as a time when all quarrels cease; the courts are closed and members of a family place their shoes side by side to indicate that they will live in peace throughout the year.

The Y.W.C.A. in Syria has to celebrate no less than three Christmas days—the Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, and the Armenian, when each group plans a celebration for the others. One group reports how, after having Christmas music and songs from the various countries represented, they sang *Adeste Fideles* in six languages—Latin, French, German, English, Arabic, and Armenian.

In Mexico our fellow members will see something of the *Posada*, the nine days' festivity beginning on December 16, which commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to be enrolled. Each night the *Posada* (or scene at the inn) is acted by groups of men and women carrying tapers and singing at different houses.

In Great Britain and all English-speaking countries, and in the East too, are to be found all sorts of variations of the Christmas tree celebrations not only in the homes, but in Y.W.C.A. buildings. Indeed, for many girls who are away from home, or for some in the East, to whom the Y.W.C.A. represents the only Christian community they know, the Association is the centre of Christmas festivities. To the Y.W.C.A. at Kobe, Japan, Christmas last year brought a Christmas festivity shared in by the clubs of the city. A large room was made festive with evergreens, a Christmas tree, and a house for Santa Claus. After a programme of singing and music, and a performance of part of the "Christmas Carol," everyone came forward to Santa Claus' chimney and threw in their Christmas offerings, which were then sent to earthquake refugees. Lantern slides of Hole's pictures of the Life of Christ were also shown. Christmas is often a time, too, when the Association reaches out not only to its own members but to children or to women and girls not within their immediate circle. One association after another reported last year how Christmas was the occasion of parties for children, especially poor children of the community, to whom parties and Christmas gifts were new or rare experiences. The Kobe centre arranged an entertainment for a spinning factory and another in a poor district of the town. Further north in Japan, in the cities which were only recovering from the catastrophe of September, the Y.W.C.A. co-operated with other Christian organisations in having community Christmas trees, and about 5,000 gifts were distributed, while as many thousands heard the Christmas message in song and story.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPS.

ALMOST two years ago a small group was formed in GENEVA designed to bring together girls of different nationalities living there. Many of these girls, living far from home and knowing no one outside the circle of their work, are apt to be lonely, and their leisure hours lack interest. Gradually, and chiefly through personal contact, the Association came to know some of them and arranged meetings for them. It was found that private houses were the best environment for such gatherings. Once a month the members of the group, now numbering about 180, meet together to hear an address given on some aspect of Association work in general. The group has reflected its international character in the speakers chosen, many of whom have come from far distant countries. Classes both utilitarian and otherwise are held, having an average attendance of twenty. Bible study classes are held both in French and English, and it is interesting to note that they draw many more members than any other class. The group is an encouraging example of what can be done in building up international friendship. And perhaps the work at Geneva is all the more useful because so many of the girls return sooner or later to their own lands, taking with them the memory of this international group, with all it brought to their own spiritual and social life.

In the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Association work among foreign-born residents is done by the Department for Work with Foreign Born Women. Women and girls of foreign nationality are to be found in most cities in the States in great numbers, and the Association has formed International Institutes for them. The work of the International Institute is to make a friendly centre, to offer facilities for classes and club work, for inspirational and recreational meetings, and so to serve the foreign born that they may be the better able to understand, and to be understood by, the community in which they live. The Institutes include all nationalities—Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Syrian, Polish, Hungarian, Russian, Spanish, and many others. Where one nationality is strong a centre may be formed specially for them, though no Institute headquarters is identified too closely with one nationality.

Conferences on International Institute work give opportunity for interchange of ideas, and are of great value to the workers, who must familiarise themselves with international relations, and with the economic and social situation, which all concern the foreign born.

THE ASSOCIATION IN SANTIAGO COLLEGE, CHILE.

THE Association in Santiago College has a membership of over ninety and plays an important part in the life of the students. The work of the Association is divided among several committees. The Service Committee encourages Y.W.C.A. members to be helpful in the community by visiting hospitals, for instance, or by working to raise money for Indian work in the South. In one term the amount collected for this work supported an Indian teacher in an Indian school for a month and purchased material to clothe many children. The Social Committee is responsible for picnics and occasional social gatherings. Its chief duty is the arrangement of the Recognition Service during the first term of the year. This is a service of welcome to new members and of reconsecration of old members. This year the event was looked forward to with eager anticipation, as it was to be held in the new building of the city Y.W.C.A. The hall, beautifully arranged and filled with flowers, was a fine setting for a memorable service. After a report of the membership of the Association, a talk on the ideals of the Y.W.C.A. and a programme of singing, the meeting closed with the candle lighting ceremony, the committee lighting their candles from a large central one and the members in their turn receiving lights from the committee. The Meetings Committee plans for the regular meetings which are held every week on Wednesday afternoons, and the syllabus of which is made known beforehand. The Athletic Committee makes all arrangements for games and "hiking." The Bible Study Com-

mittee planned three Bible classes last year as well as an evening discussion class. It also arranges other discussion groups—one on girls' problems, for instance, and another on international affairs; the members of the latter correspond with Y.W.C.A. members of various countries.



AT PLAY.
Younger Members in Brazil.

RIO DE JANEIRO.

THE Girls' Work Department of the Association in Rio de Janeiro includes three clubs. One is the Camp Fire Club organised specially for English-speaking girls. Another is the Business Girls' Club. The third is interested in sports. They meet either in a private house in that section of the city where members live or in the Association building. A secretary meets each group, but they are self-governing, electing their own officers and planning their own programme. Once a month the clubs are invited to a joint meeting at the Association.

GOTEMBA, THE JAPANESE CONFERENCE SITE.

THIS year has seen the fulfilment of a hope long cherished in Japan and a purpose long worked for—the opening of a Y.W.C.A. conference building. As soon as the necessary money was in hand Miss Kawai and the Conference Committee began their task of looking for a site, and found one at Gotemba, a beautiful piece of ground complete with a wood and stream, at the foot of Mount Fuji.

The first building to be put up was the dining-room and kitchen block which also serves as a meeting hall, office, and gymnasium. Next came the dormitory block. The Y.W.C.A. were fortunate in being able to obtain some of the surplus Red Cross material brought from America after the earthquake, and with these the Gotemba camp is furnished—camp stretchers, mosquito nets, pillows, blankets, folding tables, and kitchen ware.

When the first conference arrived in July, the electric light arrangements were not yet completed, so each student—it was a student conference—carried her own light. No doors or windows were fixed in the dormitories, but camp beds were installed. Those who could not be accommodated in the dormitories slept in a tent. It was wet weather, but in spite of the discomforts all the girls enjoyed their adventure.

The conference days opened with morning prayers, and over the platform appeared the words "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever," constantly reminding the delegates that they were experiencing the results of faith: the results of the belief on the part of a band of women in the power of God.

The programme was a full one; Bible classes, discussions, lectures, choir practices, and delegation meetings all had their place. In the afternoons excursions were held. At the evening meetings the dining-room was hung with lanterns. The last meeting of all was held out among the trees.

One afternoon there was an Opening Ceremony, when the Mayor and many of the village people from Fujioka

Mura were the guests of the conference. The girls gave a pageant on the work of the Y.W.C.A. throughout the world, and also delighted their rustic audience with a little drama of village life.

Several Chinese girls, students at a school in Kyoto, were present at the conference. It is evident that the personal friendships that spring up between these girls and their Japanese fellow students is going to be a great factor in bringing the women of the two nations together. During the past year a Japanese secretary from Kyoto visited China and did much to build up an understanding between girls of her own race and the Chinese. So valuable is this interchange felt to be that a fund is to be started to bring Chinese delegates to the next Japanese conference.

As soon as the student conference ended another came, consisting of city delegates from business houses, factories, hospitals, Government offices, etc. They were divided into eleven groups, with the name of a country, so that Spain, for instance, looked after the dining-room and Italy gathered lilies and other flowers for decorations, and in this way girls doing different kinds of jobs in different cities were brought into the closest co-operation.

The opening conferences have thoroughly appreciated having a place of their own, and Gotemba promises to be widely used and to be of incalculable benefit to the women of Japan.

THE WORK OF A CITY ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IN drawing up a programme for a city association in the United States of America, Y.W.C.A. leaders have chiefly the business girls to consider. The Girl Reserve Department has the younger girls under its care, and the industrial programme caters for girls in factories. With these, certainly, there must be links, but the great majority of girls for whom a city association exists are those in business and girls whose parents were immigrants. Such girls, partially accustomed and acclimatised to the new country, cannot claim the same attention from the Department for Work among the Foreign Born as those who have just arrived. Consequently they must come into general association work.

Association work for the business girl centres round club work. An important part of club life is the educational programme—an attempt to influence and educate the individual girl so that she shall take her rightful place in the community. To fulfil this responsibility the Association tries to help the girl in many different ways, providing general education, vocational teaching, religious education and handwork, encouraging health habits, and pointing out opportunities for service. Round these things the general activities of the association are built.

The tendency of the present day is to have one large building in a city (or more according to its size) which is used for administrative purposes, and also possesses facilities such as a hall, gymnasium, and swimming pool. In other parts of the city there are easily accessible branch buildings of simpler construction. Every city, too, has its hostel or hostels. Good housing has been an ever present problem ever since the foundation of the Association in U.S.A. Hostel accommodation is increasing—there are 15,000 residents in all,—but even this number is far less than the ideal. In many city associations the room registry service supplements the work of the residences, and in smaller places it often takes the place of the latter. The service of the Association in this connection has been recognised as of value in raising the standard of living in various districts.

Most associations in cities feel that they are not carrying their full responsibility unless they have a cafeteria or some other means of serving wholesome and well-cooked food. In some places tea-rooms are being tried. The cafeteria offers an unusual opportunity of serving a large group in the community and at the same time assists the budget. The standard of cafeterias has improved very much since their inauguration, and there is



Club Members in U.S.A.

a higher conception of the cafeteria as a service to girls as well as a source of income.

Employment bureau work is conducted in most cities in U.S.A., and the value of this has been greatly enhanced by thorough study of the community. There is great increase in employment bureaux and in opportunities for vocational guidance provided by other organisations, but, apart from these, the Association can do a very special piece of work by studying the field of employment and linking that with its knowledge of the woman worker. Much can be done to raise standards and to fit people into the right work by thinking positively of employment rather than of the unemployment situation.

The summer camp is an increasingly popular feature of association programmes. Most cities hold a camp during the summer, and they offer an almost unrivalled opportunity for interest, education, friendship, and pleasure to association members.

A recent development of city organisation is the extension of city work into surrounding country districts. This type of work has grown up almost by itself, encouraged by the wide use of motor cars, by better systems of transportation, and other methods of communication. One-third of the city associations of the U.S.A. are doing some extension work. Usually it begins with a Girl Reserve club, sometimes with physical education. It is recognised that if possible there should be some leadership from the community in which the work is being done so that the girls may obtain the kind of service they want. Such work tends to become, in many parts, merged into rural work, or rather what was begun as rural work may often be described now as this district work; so many areas which formerly presented the problem of distance and isolation now resemble city districts and are organised from city associations, thanks to telephone and motor car, the more even distribution of the population and the interweaving of city and rural interests.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION SERVICE.

THE World's Y.W.C.A. is open to congratulations these days because one of its departments has stepped out of the shelter and care of the parent organisation and begun an independent respected existence of its own.

After the war the World's Y.W.C.A. discovered much distress, all the world over, among women and children migrating in large numbers. They were either attempting to reunite broken families, or to escape unwelcome citizenship, or free themselves from economic conditions.

As a Christian women's organisation experienced in pioneer work, the Association assumed the responsibility of studying the situation among these unfortunate people, and developing a plan to ameliorate the immediate emergencies, and out of the study of this service, to point the way for permanently improving the conditions which for generations have harassed migrants. So the International Migration Service was organised as a department of the World's Y.W.C.A., its headquarters being in the office of the World's Y.W.C.A. at 34, Baker Street, London, and a standing committee and staff were secured to direct the policies and methods of this unusual kind of work, and to train the personnel.

Service Bureaux were opened in France, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Canada, Denmark, and the United States at those points where migrants had to collect for embarkation and other necessary formalities. The Bureaux in the United States and Canada were developed out of already existing attempts to meet the situation on a small scale. All the Bureaux were affiliated with the Y.W.C.A. or other women's organisations at first and financed by them, or, where this was not possible, subsidised by funds from the American Y.W.C.A. Connections were established with other national or local organisations for co-operation in travellers' aid, housing, relief, health, and follow-up work.

All the workers spoke the languages predominating among their migrants; were familiar with the resources in their own and other countries from which adequate help for migrants could be obtained; were well informed on the migration laws and regulations and their application in many countries; knew how to obtain and value correctly facts in any case they were handling; and, above all, became expert in working out plans for people whose lives had become complicated by the difficulties of migration.

The Service occupied itself in seeking out the serious social difficulties among migrants caused by international complications which could not be solved without intelligent, expert co-operation between Bureaux in more than one country. This required standardisation of method, uniform records, and service rendered without political or religious bias, at no cost to the migrant.

Certain things became clear after the work had continued for a year. It was not possible to select women and girls as the sole object of the Service. Every woman or girl was a member of a family, although the family might be scattered in many countries. Any service for her involved perhaps her father or husband, brother or son, and also other members of her family, so that the work necessarily became family welfare work, and the Bureaux took on responsibility for anyone in serious international difficulties.

A great majority of migrants came from countries where there was no Y.W.C.A., or where that Society was very small, and often not prepared to co-operate with a service like this one; also the development of the restriction policies in large immigration countries not only greatly reduced the amount of migration, but practically removed the congestion at the ports. The emergency situation no longer existed.

The work of the Bureaux for people in transit has greatly decreased, but other types of service have greatly increased. The restriction laws of certain countries separate some families permanently from those to whom they naturally look for protection, support, and care. This creates social problems that only an international organisation with branches in many countries, all working in the same way, and with the same policies free to develop in any necessary direction, can solve. This is not possible when connected with a large women's organisation with a great general programme, whose funds must be divided among many departments, and whose policies cannot be altered to meet the demands of one specialised department like the International Migration Service.

This department has, therefore, become the International Migration Service, quite independent of any other organisation, and with its own funds. The headquarters office is for the present at 79, Buckingham Palace Road, London. The Service has the same co-operative relationships as before with any organisation

occupying itself with the complications of migrants, including the Y.W.C.A. It is a centralised, international organisation with branches in the United States, France, Poland, Greece, Turkey, Canada, and Czechoslovakia. In the last two countries the Bureaux are still affiliated with the Y.W.C.A. until separation can be wisely effected.

The Organisation seeks first to ameliorate the far-reaching, unfortunate social consequences arising from migration, concentrating on those problems which require co-operative social service between countries, and secondly to analyse causes and effects, and discover a way of improving conditions through international consideration and action. The fundamental principles of the International Migration Service are international unity, scientific approach, and a humanitarian spirit, to be achieved by the close integration of all its branches by standardisation of method and uniform technique in a service actuated not by political and sectarian interests but solely by the dictates of humanity.

The chairman of the Headquarters Committee is the Viscountess Gladstone, whose interest in all those projects which develop international good will is well known. Branch committees of well-known people are in existence wherever there is a Bureau. The entire staff, which, excepting for a few additions, was taken over from the Y.W.C.A., numbers over forty and represents thirteen different nationalities. Together they are working out improved methods of international social service with technical skill, which enables them to an increasing degree to co-operate satisfactorily with over a hundred national and international social organisations who refer their international social cases to them. The Organisation has an international budget, and allocations are made to headquarters and the branches, or to special studies, according to the needs of the migration situation, and the demands for co-operation from other societies.

It is with considerable pride, though mixed with keen regret, that the World's Executive Committee bids farewell to this absorbingly interesting project, which it has developed with such care in only four years. But the Y.W.C.A. has had much experience in initiating new kinds of service for humanity, which on "coming of age" set up housekeeping for themselves.

This latest experiment carries with it the Association's ideals of service to humanity in the spirit of brotherhood into new fields of practical internationalism—to do its part in creating a better world.

HEALTH CAMPAIGN IN GREAT BRITAIN.

VARIOUS national associations throughout the world have programmes on Health Education, and among them is the Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain. During the winter the British Association will hold a Health Campaign. Its object is twofold: on the one hand the aim is to educate women and girls in health matters generally; on the other, to encourage girls to join the Health Insurance Section.

The Campaign will consist of special meetings held in Y.W.C.A. centres as well as public meetings. The speakers will be well-known men and women, such as doctors and Members of Parliament, as well as experts on National Health Insurance questions. Leaflets and posters will advertise the Campaign, which is being conducted in co-operation with Association leaders all over the country. It is having the support of the National Federation of Women Workers along with the help of one of their staff. There is great hope that this vigorous campaign will be rewarded by greater general interest in health education.

REPORT OF WASHINGTON MEETING.

AT various times we have referred in these columns to the meeting of the World's Committee of the Young's Women's Christian Association at Washington last May. A printed report of this is now ready, and is obtainable from the World's Y.W.C.A., 34 Baker Street, London, W. 1. Price 2s. 6d.

mously elected president. It was reported that the National Council is now represented by local correspondents in Cork, Londonderry, and Cookstown, and steps are being taken to secure correspondents in other centres. A tour has been arranged for Miss Noble French, delegate from the National Council to the Copenhagen meeting of the International Council of Women. Meetings will be held in Belfast, Dublin, and Londonderry. The position of legislation and administration with regard to women and children in Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State was considered. After the business meeting, a conference was held, at which the position of illegitimate children in Ireland was discussed. The Affiliation Orders Bill now before the Senate of Northern Parliament was explained by Miss Mellone and Miss Montgomery, and the proposals in the Irish Free State were described by Mrs. M'Kean. Dr. Massey (Cookstown), Miss Buchanan, and Mrs. Cosgrave (Dublin), took part in the discussion.

ITALY.

AMONG the measures about to be submitted to the deliberation and vote of the present Chamber, Signor Mussolini has included the administrative vote for women, which is the first step towards woman suffrage in Italy. Signor Mussolini has always been in favour of the partial admission of women to political suffrage, and, receiving a deputation of suffragists, assured them that a Bill granting the administrative vote to women will be passed before the end of the year.

JAMAICA.

THE Woman's Social Service Association arranged a most successful Baby Show in October, in connection with the Jamaica Health Week. It was opened by the Governor, and over 300 babies entered the various competitions. Our readers may perhaps remember that the Women's Social Service Association has done much good work for the health of the children of Jamaica in connection with the provision of proper hospital accommodation.

ROUMANIA.

A DECISION has been taken to replace headmasters and male professors in the schools by women.

The first Theosophist Congress held in Roumania took place in Bucarest on November 8, under the presidency of Miss Fanny Seculici, who gave a very interesting address on the Evolution of Woman. The Congress sent a telegram of greeting to the President of the Theosophical Society, Mrs. Annie Besant.

The League for the Rights and Duties of Women will celebrate its 13th anniversary on December 6. There will be speeches, recitations, and music, and Mrs. Smaragda Maltopolu will read her poem in French, "Légende du Monastère," from Alexandre's ballad.

SOUTH AFRICA.

WHAT are we to expect from the new Government? is the question every Suffrage Woman has been asking ever since the elections. The Prime Minister made his policy clear before the elections and still maintains the same attitude—namely, that when he has achieved segregation for the natives he is prepared to grant the franchise to European women.

It is therefore useless to expect any Government legislation on our question next session. The Labour Ministers when approached stated that they were not in a position to introduce a Bill to enfranchise women because the Cabinet were divided on the question. The position then resolved itself into a private member's Bill, as on former occasions. The first step after the session began was to get a committee of suffrage supporters formed inside the House, representative of all parties and of each Province. This committee has met and discussed with the representative of the Women's Enfranchisement Association

of the Union of South Africa the form in which the Bill should be introduced and the member who should introduce it. The position on analysis shows that there is a majority in the House for European franchise; this qualification finds supporters among the Nationalists as well as among the South African Party and Labour members. No party, however, will contemplate introducing a Bill on these lines, because they are afraid of alienating the coloured vote. A careful scrutiny of the coloured voters in the Cape Province constituency reveals the fact that the coloured vote holds the balance between political parties at election time; therefore it is easy to see why party expediency counts a little even in such non-party questions as the enfranchisement of women.

It is well to realise that no question coming before the House is entirely free from party bias; to a politician the advantage of his party is his paramount consideration. The conclusion finally arrived at by the House Committee and your Parliamentary secretary, after a careful consideration of all the circumstances, was that the Bill should be introduced on the widest possible lines, leaving scope for ample amendment in the Committee stage.

Mr. Mullineux, a prominent Labour member, and one of our most staunch supporters, is to take charge of the Bill. Some of the Nationalist members are prepared to vote for European franchise in spite of the Prime Minister's dictum. General Smuts and some members of the S.A.P. are in favour of an entirely new and high qualification for women all over the Union, based on property and income. If this is pressed it will certainly wreck the Bill, as no Labour member could vote for it, and many Transvaal and O.F.S. members would find themselves in the same position. It is probable that some of the Cape Province members may vote against European franchise, having regard to the coloured voters in their constituencies. It must be realised that the only possible hope of getting a Bill through Parliament is on a European basis, as a beginning. It rests with the suffrage leagues to see that their members are pledged to see the Bill through before they come to Parliament. It is the women in the members' own constituencies who can most effectively apply the lever; the responsibility is theirs. Results depend upon their activity during the coming months before Parliament reassembles.

LUCY JOHNSTONE-SCOTT.

WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES WON UNPRECEDENTED HONOURS AT THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER 4.

TWO women Governors, the first woman member of Congress from an eastern state, and a woman Secretary of State in New York, made a dramatic entrance into American political history in the recent national and state elections. While the Democratic party went down to defeat in the presidential contest and in many states, women of the party forged ahead with spectacular victory.

Two Democrats, Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, of Texas, more familiarly known as "Ma" Ferguson, and Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, of Wyoming, have been honoured with the governorship of their respective states. The Democratic Party, for the first time since women were enfranchised, will have a woman representative in Congress. Mrs. Mary T. Norton, of Jersey City, New Jersey, will also be the only woman in the Sixty-ninth Congress. For the first time New York State is to have a woman in a State elective office. Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, a Republican, of Syracuse, was chosen Secretary of State by the highest majority of any candidate on the Republican ticket.

While, in addition to these honours, women were elected in substantial numbers to the State Legislatures, there is naturally much questioning over the fact that only one woman will sit in the next Congress. Nineteen women were nominated for Congress on the Republican, Democratic, Prohibition, Socialist, and Progressive tickets, but with the exception of Mrs. Norton's case, they were running in districts normally of a different political faith and their

chances for election were very slim. Of this number, five women in Pennsylvania who went down to defeat had the backing of the National Woman's Party, and were supporting the so-called Equal Rights amendment.

In the election of Mrs. Norton to Congress the New Jersey district will be represented by a woman who is typical of her constituency—popular, genial, and experienced in local politics. In 1920 she was vice-chairman of the county Democratic organization; in 1921 she became vice-chairman of the Democratic State Committee; and in 1923 was elected a Freeholder of Jersey City, in charge of the county hospitals and almshouses. She is president of the Day Nursery Association. Mrs. Norton holds very definite ideas about certain things, among them the Volstead Act. She believes in "some modification," although she does not advocate a return of the saloon.

Mrs. Ferguson won the election in Texas by a majority of 75,000, complete returns show. Mrs. Ferguson was born on a plantation in Bell County, Texas, educated first by a governess, and later graduated at Baylor College for Girls at Belton, Texas. Her husband, the former governor, was a lawyer, and after attaining a millionaire rating launched into politics. In time he became embroiled with the Legislature over educational appropriations, and ultimately was impeached because of his personal financial transactions with brewers, it is said. Mrs. Ferguson says she is not a politician, but anti-Klu-Klux. Her husband is the original foe of the Klan in Texas.

In Wyoming Mrs. Ross becomes the first woman governor of a state which again proclaims itself a real pioneer in rights for women. It was thirty-four years ago that Wyoming Territory, on becoming a state, took a long stride forward by writing "votes for women" into the new State Constitution. Mrs. Ross is the widow of the late Governor William B. Ross, and only accepted nomination at the last moment in the sense that it came as a tribute to her husband.

She is concerned principally with two things—the welfare of Wyoming as a whole, and the effect of her conduct in office upon future candidacies of women in other states.

"If elected," she said before election day, "I will exert myself to the utmost in so conducting State affairs that it may never again be said women are unfit for executive office."

Mrs. Ross gained a reputation during the short campaign for "a minimum of talk." Her terseness was demonstrated in accepting the Democratic gubernatorial nomination with a message of less than 400 words. In an appeal to the women of the State, Mrs. Ross wrote less than 300 words. She made no speeches. She has three sons, Ambrose and George, now twenty-one, and Bradford, twelve.

Since women won the vote in New York State, Mrs. Knapp has been vice-president of her county Republican organization. She has been district superintendent of schools and had supervision of 300 teachers, and is now dean of the College Home Economics in Syracuse University. She is a widow, her husband having been Philip Schuyler Knapp, and is a descendant from the Hancocks of Massachusetts. As Secretary of State, Mrs. Knapp will be in charge of plans for the inaugural of Alfred E. Smith for the third time as Governor. She has also a wealth of patronage to distribute, including the census takers, and it is said that Mrs. Knapp favours the appointment of women for this job.

Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer, of Bloomington, Illinois, will be the first woman to sit in the Illinois State Senate when it convenes early in January. Mrs. Bohrer is a daughter of former Governor Joseph W. Fifer, of Illinois.

Five women were elected to the New Jersey State Assembly, three of whom were Republicans and two Democrats.

Four women won seats in the South Dakota House of Representatives, in each instance running ahead of their party tickets. Among these four was Miss Gladys Pyle, of Huron, whose mother is president of the South Dakota League of Women Voters. Miss Pyle was a member of the League's official delegation which presented planks to the Republican National Convention last June.

Three women will serve in the Nebraska House. They have the honour of being the first women to be elected legislators in the history of the State. For the first time also women will sit in the legislative halls of Wisconsin as a result of the November 4 election. Three women running on the Republican ticket were the successful contestants.

Chicago elected two new women legislators. It sent two to the General Assembly, there to join a third, the first woman to sit in the Legislature, who was re-elected. The newcomers are Mrs. Catherine H. Goode, wife of a University of Chicago professor, and Mrs. Rena Elrod, a prominent worker in civic circles. The returned legislator is Mrs. Lottie Holman O'Neill. Mrs. Edward Franklin White, of Indianapolis, author of the federal marriage and divorce bill presented in the last Congress, is the first woman to be elected to a State office in Indiana. She was elected reporter of the Supreme Court on the Republican ticket. Since 1921 she has been deputy attorney-general in Indiana.

New York State has one woman in its Legislature, which meets on January 1. She is Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves, a Republican of St. Lawrence County, and the fifth woman to sit in the Assembly. League women are especially interested in the election of Miss Marjory Cheney to the Connecticut State Legislature. She was nominated by the Republicans and endorsed by the Democrats. She is the legislative chairman of the Connecticut League of Women Voters.

With election over, women are now preparing to devote their time and energies to intensive work for world peace and ratification of the Child Labour Amendment. Special interest is being shown in the conference to determine the cause and cure of war which has been called by six of the largest women's organisations in the country, to take place in Washington January 18 to 24. The organisations are the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the National League of Women Voters, the National Young Women's Christian Association, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the American Association of University Women, and the Council of Jewish Women. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, honorary president of the National League of Women Voters, is the leader of the movement. Each of the organisations is entitled to 100 delegates, with the understanding that these shall be chosen from all the States. The object of the conference—which will be non-political—will be education and the understanding of fundamentals about peace and war. One half of the conference will be devoted to the cause of war, and the second half to the cure of war, with a whole day given to an analysis of the present world situation.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

CANADA.

Churchwomen Excluded.

The Anglican Church in Canada has definitely excluded women from its councils. The chair ruled that only men were in contemplation when the constitution was drafted. Then a standing vote was taken, showing conclusively that the women were not wanted.

Women in Industry.

A Canadian Federation of Women's Labour Leagues has been organised, its chief aims being an eight-hour day and a 44-hour week, equal wages with men for equal work, higher pay, and compensation in case of injury. The new association will give particular attention to improving the condition of domestic workers and nurses. It wishes to prevent the employment of women in harmful occupations.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women Mayors.

Eight women have been nominated to serve as Mayors of their respective boroughs for the ensuing year: Alderman Miss Smea, J.P. (Acton), Mrs. Mercer (Birkenhead), Mrs. Hartree (Cambridge), Dame Catherine Hunt, J.P. (Colchester), Miss Wix, J.P. (St. Albans), Miss

Eve, J.P. (Stoke Newington), Miss Leach (Yarmouth), and Miss Mary Short (Eye, Suffolk).

Woman Doctor's Success.

Dr. S. G. Overton, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., has been appointed to one of the most-coveted posts in the medical profession—that of H.M. Medical Inspector of Factories. Two years ago Miss Overton was appointed Assistant School Medical Officer to the London County Council and was drafted to the East End of London, where she has had charge of the medical inspection of 24,000 school-children.

Glasgow Women Bailies.

Glasgow Corporation, for the first time in its municipal history, has selected two women members, Mrs. Barbour and Mrs. Bell, as bailies. Mrs. Barbour has been elected to the city magistracy, and Mrs. Bell as deputy-bailie of the River and Firth of Clyde, which means she will try offences committed on the river.

The Civil Service.

Women's colleges in particular will welcome the announcement that both men and women will be invited to compete in the next open examination for Class 1 of the Civil Service, which now constitutes the administrative grade. The competition, which will be held in July and August of next year, is the first to which women will have been admitted, and the age limits for both sexes will be 22 to 24.

JAPAN.

Miss Shigeno Kibe, who will shortly complete her training at the Munesato Aviation School, near Tokyo, is reported by the *Christian Science Monitor* to be Japan's first airwoman. Miss Kibe hopes to take part this autumn in the aerial competition to be held by the Imperial Aviation Association, and will later go to Mukden to join the air forces of Chang Tso-lin.

NORWAY.

In spite of the fact that women voters in Christiania are in a majority by 23,000, no women M.P.s were elected at the recent Storting elections in Norway.

RUSSIA.

Amongst the crew of the Russian ship, Iovaritsch, which recently put into harbour at Port Talbot, was a pretty Russian girl of 23, who acted as fourth officer. She was a practical navigator, and intends to travel all round the world, before eventually commanding a Soviet merchantman.

SWEDEN.

An International Women's Club has just been formed in Stockholm by a group of women representing the chief women's organisations in Sweden. The aim of the International Club is stated to be to provide a neutral ground on which women of all nationalities may meet for a better understanding. A committee was elected to find ways and means for a permanent home for the club, which will be open every day, and to provide international reading matter. Membership is open to all nationalities, and it is expected that members will be drawn from all parts of the world.

Stockholm has six women police, whom Mr. Harleman, Stockholm's Chief of Police, says have greatly benefited the police service in that city. These women police occupy themselves mainly with work amongst women and children, and also with detective work.

TRINIDAD.

An Order in Council is gazetted making provision for an elected element in the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. Hitherto the unofficial members of the Council have all been nominated. In future the Council will consist of the Governor, as President, not more than nine nominated official members, not more than six nominated unofficial members, and seven elected members.

The franchise is given to both men and women, but a woman must be 30 years of age before being qualified to vote, and persons seeking registration must "satisfy the returning officer that he or she can understand the English language when spoken."

TURKEY.

The employment of women police is the latest Western reform to be introduced into Turkey.

AN AUSTRALIAN PIONEER.

MISS KATHLEEN BUTLER is, we believe, the first Australian woman to take a practical interest in engineering enterprise. She is confidential secretary to Mr. J. J. C. Bradfield, D.Sc., M.E., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Metropolitan Railway Construction, and is now in London looking after the London end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge Contract until Dr. Bradfield arrives.

According to Dr. Bradfield, "her services are invaluable," and when it was a question of sending someone to London to carry out the important work associated with the finalisation of the plans for the Sydney Harbour Bridge Contract, Miss Butler was selected as the most suitable person.

Miss Butler joined the Public Service in her teens, and was the first officer appointed to the Chief Engineer's staff, when his branch was established in 1912, to deal with Sydney's transit problems. Miss Butler has grown up with the development of these problems, and has carried out her duties with foresight, tact, and marked ability. She assisted in the preparation of the specification for the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and undertook all correspondence with tenderers throughout the world during the Chief Engineer's absence abroad in 1922. She also prepared the notes submitted with the Bridge Bill when introduced in the Assembly last year; these notes materially assisted the passage of the Bill through the Assembly and Council.

As confidential secretary to the Chief Engineer, Miss Butler was present at all interviews with the tenderers and at the ceremony of turning the first sod of the Northern Railway approach to the bridge; Miss Butler was publicly thanked for her services.

—The Woman Engineer.

SPAIN.



Mad. Matilde Peres Mollá the first Women Mayor in Spain, having been elected Mayor of Cuatrecasas in the Province of Alicante.

APOLOGY.

The photograph of Mrs. Allen, Australian delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations, published in the November issue, was very kindly supplied by the "British Australasian," and the Editor very much regrets that due acknowledgment was not made.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

MME. DE WITT-SCHLUMBERGER.

Le dernier numéro de *La Française*, relatait les obsèques émouvantes et douloureuses de Madame de Witt-Schlumberger. Nous voudrions aujourd'hui en quelques mots trop brefs et trop imparfaits résumer cette grande et belle vie.

C'est dans sa famille que Madame de Witt-Schlumberger trouva les exemples d'une existence dominée par les préoccupations intellectuelles et morales; petite-fille de Guizot, fille de Madame de Witt, qui fonda le Patronage des Détenues et Libérées et qui nous a laissé de charmants livres pour les enfants, Madame de Witt-Schlumberger suivit leurs nobles traditions.

Comme Madame Jules Siegfried, avec qui les analogies sont nombreuses, elle avait pour principe de remplir d'abord les devoirs immédiats et c'est dans l'intimité de la famille que s'exerça, pour commencer, son influence; elle était légitimement fière du bonheur qu'elle recevait de ses nombreux enfants et petits-enfants, bonheur qu'elle avait créé par la tendresse et la sollicitude vigilante qu'elle avait répandus sans mesure. Mais elle ne s'attarda pas dans ce bonheur personnel où s'enferment encore trop de femmes; la santé de sa mère étant ébranlée, elle acceptait de la remplacer à la présidence du Patronage des Détenues et Libérées et se donna passionnément à cette œuvre de moralité; dans quels sentiments? Nous en trouvons l'expression dans la première allocution qu'elle prononça comme Présidente en 1902: "Notre œuvre, disait-elle, plus que tout autre a un besoin absolu de trouver chez celles qui s'en occupent un esprit d'amour et de charité presque infini. On cotoie de si près les abîmes profonds du mal et de la misère humaine qu'il semble nécessaire de retremper continuellement ses forces, de faire jaillir de soi une source d'amour toujours nouveau." Le Patronage des Détenues et Libérées, sous son impulsion si vivante, se développa, fonda un Asile Temporaire, une Ecole Ménagère et nous savons en quelle haute estime les magistrats de Tribunal des enfants tiennent cette œuvre dirigée dans un esprit d'affectueux intérêt pour des jeunes filles dont un trop grand nombre ne sont que les victimes.

Très vite, Madame de Witt-Schlumberger se fit une place dans toutes les organisations, ayant pour objet le relèvement de la moralité publique. Elle devint Présidente de l'Association pour la répression de la traite des blanches et la Préservation de la Jeune Fille. C'est comme Déléguée de cette œuvre qu'elle entra au Conseil National des Femmes Françaises, où pendant de longues années elle a rempli les fonctions si délicates de Présidente de la Section de l'Unité de la Morale. Les membres de la Section et ceux du Conseil National savent avec quelle fermeté et lucide tenacité, elle défendit les principes de dignité et d'égalité qui sont la sauvegarde des femmes, et qu'une société ne peut transgresser sans honte. Jouissant d'une vie de famille heureuse et pure, elle pouvait avec une singulière autorité convier les femmes à s'instruire des conséquences du vice et à s'unir pour lutter contre lui.

Madame de Witt-Schlumberger, comme tous les bons esprits subit l'influence de son temps et ne resta pas cristallisée dans les idées de sa jeunesse; au fur et à mesure que la connaissance des injustices de la vie et de la société la pénétrait, elle arrivait à une conception plus moderne et plus large de l'action sociale. Un désir passionné de justice vint s'ajouter à cette bonté dont son cœur était plein, et qui avait orienté les premières années de sa vie sociale. Elle en vint peu à peu à comprendre que dans une société démocratique, administrée et dirigée par le vote des citoyens, il était indispensable à tous et à toutes de posséder ce moyen d'action; elle devint suffragiste par la douloureuse constatation de l'impotence où se trouvent les femmes de faire aboutir les réformes les plus justifiées et d'obtenir les progrès les plus urgents.

Madame de Witt-Schlumberger, toujours si douce et si mesurée dans ses propos trouvait, lorsqu'elle parlait de l'injustice, des accents véhéments et chaleureux révélateurs de l'ardeur intérieure qui animait ses actions et

dirigeait sa vie. Ce passage de la bonté à la justice a été fortement marqué par le choix des deux paroles écrites au bas du faire-part de notre amie: "Heureux ceux qui sont miséricordieux — Heureux ceux qui ont faim et soif de la Justice." Celui qui a partagé sa vie, ses convictions et sa foi, Monsieur Schlumberger, a tenu à résumer ainsi l'élargissement de cette belle âme. Elle devint alors un des apôtres les plus ardents du suffrage; son esprit avait été pénétré par une idée juste, elle ne pouvait donc se refuser à l'action.

C'est à ce moment que nous sommes entrées en collaboration journalière et affectueuse avec Madame de Witt-Schlumberger. C'est là que nous avons pu mesurer l'élévation de sa pensée et cette belle vaillance qui nous soutenait toutes dans l'action; elle était pour nous un exemple vivant. La difficulté ne l'a jamais rebutée, loin de là, mais la stimulait; il semble qu'il n'y avait pas d'impossibilités matérielles lorsqu'elle avait aperçu l'utilité d'une démarche ou d'une campagne. Son autorité morale à l'U.F.S.F. fut considérable; le profond libéralisme avec lequel elle accueillait toutes les suggestions de ses collaboratrices, même les plus inexpérimentées, son souci constant d'obtenir de chacun tout ce qu'il était susceptible de donner à la cause commune, lui avaient conquis tous les cœurs; son dévouement absolu à l'idéal commun lui avait valu l'admiration unanime. La seule présence de cette noble femme dont la vie tout entière, vie de famille et vie sociale, montrait une telle élévation, était la meilleure réponse aux objections dont quelques-uns couvrent encore leur hostilité au suffrage féminin.

À l'étranger, Madame de Witt-Schlumberger, inspirait le même respect et la même affection. Profondément patriote, cruellement éprouvée pendant la guerre, mais désirent essentiellement voir son pays dominer par les forces morales, elle avait su, dans les relations internationales, conserver la dignité d'une Française et la compréhension des intérêts et les idées des autres. Aussi, était-elle unanimement aimée à l'Alliance Internationale pour le Suffrage Féminin dont elle était Vice-Présidente; les témoignages les plus touchants, les plus sincères, sont arrivés de l'étranger à Monsieur Schlumberger et au Comité de l'U.F.S.F. Ils expriment tous la douleur et l'affection, car Madame de Witt-Schlumberger ouvrait largement son foyer à ses collègues qui devenaient vite ses amis. Et Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Présidente de l'Alliance Internationale exprime le sentiment de toutes lorsqu'elle écrit: "C'est une perte irréparable que nous éprouvons. Madame Schlumberger nous a guidées dans cette voie difficile avec un jugement sûr et un charme qui lui a gagné tous nos cœurs... Au Congrès de Rome, elle a montré une grandeur d'âme qui lui a valu l'admiration chaleureuse de toutes les femmes du monde... C'est une perte affreuse de ne plus trouver parmi nous la femme et la mère parfaites, la collègue loyale et courageuse."

La même progression qui avait conduit Madame de Witt-Schlumberger au féminisme, l'amena depuis la guerre à s'occuper des idées de paix et à travailler de tout cœur au développement de la Société des Nations. Elle était devenue Vice-présidente de la Fédération des Associations Française pour la Société des Nations.

Son action était si connue et si respectée que ces dernières années son nom venait immédiatement à l'esprit lorsque se créait un organisme d'intérêt national, en particulier ceux qui avaient pour objet la protection de la famille. Elle avait été déléguée par le Gouvernement à la Conférence Internationale contre la Traite des Femmes réunie à la Société des Nations. Depuis sa fondation, elle fit partie du Conseil Supérieur de la Natalité, et c'est à ce titre qu'elle reçut, en 1920, la croix de la Légion d'honneur. Cet été encore, le Ministère du Commerce lui demanda de faire partie du Comité consultatif du Commerce et de l'Industrie.

Mais nous ne voudrions pas donner une idée fautive de notre grande et chère amie, en énumérant seulement les œuvres et les Comités où elle fut appelée à collaborer. Pour la faire revivre tout entière, il faut la retrouver dans cette propriété familiale du Val Richer, pleine de souvenirs et de livres où, entourée des siens, elle menait

cette vie grande et simple, active, sans agitation. Son intérêt se portait sur toutes les choses de la campagne, au cours de ses longues promenades, elle avait compris le charme et la puissance de la vie rurale; elle désirait en améliorer les conditions matérielles et morales, et c'est pourquoi, elle donna une aide si efficace et un concours si éclairé lors de la création des "Foyers des Campagnes." Ceux qui ont eu le privilège d'être reçus au Val Richer, par Monsieur et Madame Schlumberger ont pu comprendre l'harmonie de cette vie qui vient de s'arrêter. La grandeur de ce cadre et la paix des beaux soirs ne lui laissaient pas oublier les tristesses et les laideurs de la vie, mais ils en apaisaient le souvenir et en atténuaient l'amertume. En elle, harmonieusement, vivaient des sentiments contradictoires qui agitent tant d'autres âmes. Si on l'avait interrogée, elle aurait répondu que sa foi tranquille et sereine était le secret de cette harmonie. Pour que celle-ci ne soit pas stérile, il a fallu de plus que son large esprit ne se refuse pas à comprendre la complexité si mystérieuse du monde dans lequel nous vivons.

M. PICHON-LANDRY.

LES CONGRÈS DE GRAZ.

Contra la Traite des Femmes et Pour L'unité de la Morale.

DEUX congrès d'une très grande importance ont eu lieu au mois de septembre dernier, à Graz, Autriche. C'étaient le 6^e. Congrès International contre la traite des femmes et des enfants, organisé par le Bureau International de Londres, et le Congrès de la Fédération Abolitionniste Internationale. L'idée de réunir ces deux congrès qui se sont suivis sans interruption a été très heureuse car elle a ainsi réunis en un seul endroit et temps, ceux qui s'intéressent à des questions tellement liées entre elles que pour beaucoup, elles n'en font qu'un seul problème. Peut-être de nouvelles études nous feront voir que bien qu'intimement liées, ces questions ne peuvent et ne doivent pas être confondues.

Le Congrès organisé par le Bureau contre la traite a eu lieu du 18 au 20 septembre. Avant de ne rien dire sur cette réunion, il est un acte de simple justice à remplir, c'est rendre hommage au travail fait par le Comité organisateur présidé par le professeur Ude de Graz, et à la Secrétaire du Bureau International, Madame Annie Baker, dont le travail et le dévouement, si connus et si appréciés, sont au dessus de tout éloge.

La séance d'ouverture du Congrès a eu lieu le 18 septembre, à la grande Salle Blanche de Chateau, cérémonie aussi simple qu'importante. Le Gouverneur de la Styrie, dont Graz est la capitale, le Maire de Graz, le Premier Juge, le Directeur de Police ont assisté à cette séance, et prononcé d'intéressants discours. Ce fait est d'une grande importance par sa signification puisqu'il nous montre ainsi l'intérêt pris par les autorités et les Gouvernements aux graves problèmes du Congrès.

Pour la séance de clôture, c'est le Président de la République Autrichienne en personne, le docteur Hainisch, qui est allé lui-même à Graz et a prononcé un très beau discours. Cette preuve d'intérêt donnée à des questions qui intéressent si vivement les femmes ne nous ont pas surpris, le docteur Hainisch n'est-il pas le fils d'une des plus dévouées féministes autrichiennes, Madame Hainisch qui a présidé si longtemps le Conseil National de Femmes?

Les experts qui composent la Commission spéciale créée récemment à la Société des Nations pour l'étude de la traite des femmes y assistaient en leur quasi totalité.

Les questions soumises à la considération de congrès étaient les suivantes:

1. Publications obscènes;
2. Emigration;
3. Proposition tendant à prohiber l'emploi de femmes étrangères dans les maisons de tolérance;
4. Les femmes de police;
5. Emploi des femmes et enfants à l'étranger dans les théâtres, music halls, etc.

Une conférence publique très intéressante, qui fut le trait d'union entre les deux congrès, eut lieu le dimanche 21 Septembre à la grande salle Stéphanie.

De très intéressantes discussions ont pris le temps du congrès, particulièrement à l'occasion de la discussion de l'étude de sujets comme celui de l'emploi des femmes étrangères dans les maisons de tolérance.

Les propositions votées sur les questions à l'étude ont été les suivantes:

Publications Obscènes.

Les publications obscènes étant envisagées comme une sérieuse menace pour la moralité, notamment pour celle de la jeunesse, et comme une excitation directe au trafic des femmes et des enfants, le Congrès invite les Comités Nationaux à faire toutes les démarches possibles pour obtenir de leurs gouvernements la signature, la ratification et l'application de la Convention de 1923.

Le Congrès demande en outre aux Comités Nationaux, agissant d'accord avec les associations libres, de créer une opinion publique en faveur d'une législation en accord avec la Convention; puis d'entreprendre un travail de propagande aux fins d'élever et de fortifier le niveau de la moralité à ce sujet. En établissant cette législation, il serait important de considérer les délits commis contre les mineurs comme les plus graves.

Le Congrès est d'accord avec la Convention de Genève sur les publications obscènes, pour dire qu'il n'est pas désirable de définir le terme "obscène"; il espère que chaque pays se placera à cet égard à un niveau aussi élevé que possible.

Ces résolutions furent acceptées à la quasi unanimité, n'ayant eu qu'une abstention, pas d'avis contraire.

Émigration.

Le Congrès a donné son approbation, à l'unanimité absolue, aux recommandations faites par la Commission Consultative de la Société des Nations à sa dernière session qui ont aussi été agréées au Congrès de Rome et approuvées par le Comité International des Organisations privées pour la protection des immigrants. Ces propositions sont les suivantes:

1. En vue de protéger les femmes et les enfants émigrants contre le danger d'être abandonnés sans ressources après avoir commencé leur voyage, et de devenir ainsi une proie facile pour les trafiquants, il est recommandé que les gouvernements soient priés de faire procéder à une recherche au lieu de départ, sur les possibilités d'admission de l'émigrant dans le pays de destination.

2. Il est désirable que les dispositions en vigueur, relatives au transport et à l'admission d'émigrants, ne provoquent pas la séparation des membres d'une même famille.

3. Il est désirable que les sociétés autorisées de protection des émigrants et les sociétés de protection des femmes et des enfants, qui s'occupent d'émigration, obtiennent des facilités pour se rendre à bord des navires d'émigrants, au départ et à l'arrivée, et pour pénétrer dans les refuges et camps réservés aux émigrants.

4. Il est désirable que des femmes qualifiées soient spécialement chargées de veiller aux intérêts des femmes et des enfants sur tous les navires d'émigrants.

5. Il est recommandé que les compagnies de navigation autorisent l'affichage et la distribution à bord des notices et avis publiés par les sociétés de protection susmentionnées et contenant des renseignements utiles pour les émigrants, femmes et enfants.

6. Il est recommandé aux gouvernements que les mesures édictées en vue de protéger les femmes immigrantes contre la traite, soient prises de manière à ne pas entraver la liberté personnelle de la femme majeure.

Les dispositions légales prises à l'égard de celle-ci ne doivent pas être différentes de celles prises pour tous les immigrants, quel que soit leur sexe.

Cette 6^e proposition, on se rappelle, a été l'objet d'une communication spéciale de l'Alliance Internationale aux sociétés auxiliaires. Elle fut présentée à la Commission Consultative de la Société des Nations par la soussignée, déléguée de l'Uruguay à la dite commission.

Outre ces recommandations, présentées par la sous-commission d'Emigration à la Commission Consultative de la Société des Nations, le Congrès adopta d'autres recommandations parmi lesquelles celle de la nécessité

d'une coopération entre les gouvernements et les compagnies de navigation. Le Congrès prie aussi les gouvernements de rédiger des lois ou règlements qui permettront aux organisations volontaires de coopérer avec les gouvernements et les compagnies de navigation en vue de mettre en pratique les résolutions ci-dessus.

Le Congrès demande aux comités nationaux d'insister comme un des points principaux de leur programme, sur l'établissement de "travailleurs sociaux" dans les ports, gares, villes de frontières, a fin de donner leur protection aux femmes et enfants qui voyagent, ce qui est considéré comme le plus efficace moyen pour prévenir le trafic.

Femmes Dans La Police

L'expérience ayant montré les avantages résultant de l'emploi des femmes de police soigneusement choisies et judicieusement formées pour s'occuper des femmes et des enfants délinquants ainsi que pour prévenir les délits, les comités nationaux sont invités à faire comprendre à leurs gouvernements respectifs la nécessité d'adopter à chaque organisation de police un nombre suffisant de femmes munies de tous les pouvoirs nécessaires.

Prohibition de L'emploi des Femmes Étrangères dans les Maisons de Tolérance.

Deux propositions se sont trouvées en face pour cette question, et ont partagé les suffrages de l'assemblée. L'étaient les propositions suivantes:

1. *Proposition du Bureau de Londres.*—Le Congrès émet encore une fois l'avis qui l'existence des maisons de tolérance enregistrées ou tolérées par la police ou par les gouvernements constituée une cause directe de traite des femmes et des enfants. C'est pourquoi il prie chaque Comité National de faire de son mieux, dans tous les pays où existe un tel système, pour créer un mouvement d'opinion publique afin d'obtenir que ce système prenne fin aussitôt que possible. Le Congrès émet l'avis que la traite des femmes et des enfants serait de beaucoup diminuée, et probablement entièrement supprimée si la Société des Nations pouvait en même temps faire des démarches dans l'intérêt de l'abolition en stipulant que, après une date fixée, aucune femme de nationalité étrangère ne pourra être admise dans une maison de ce genre en vue de la prostitution.

2. *Proposition des docteurs Ude et de Graaf.*—Le 6^e Congrès International est d'avis que la réglementation de la prostitution et le système des maisons de tolérance sont la cause principale de la traite des femmes et sont un attentat au droit et à la dignité de la personne humaine. En conséquence déclare ne pas vouloir étudier la 3^e question mise à la discussion: Il lutte sans d'aucune sorte de compromis aujourd'hui comme toujours, pour l'idée abolitionniste.

Des arguments très sensés ont été présentés par les uns et les autres.

Sans aucun doute, la séance destinée à cette question a été la plus mouvementée.

Si les avis ont été partagés entre les deux propositions, ils ont été unanimes quant au fond même de la question, c'est à dire à la suppression des maisons de tolérance.

Ce qui a été un obstacle pour que la proposition primitive fut admise (interdiction des maisons de tolérance aux femmes étrangères), a été précisément l'opposition nette à reconnaître le droit d'existence aux maisons de tolérance. C'est cette espèce de compromission avec elles, qui à l'air de se dégager du texte Sokal, qui a été la cause de son échec. Pour ce qui me concerne, comme déléguée de l'Alliance Internationale à ce Congrès et comme présidente des a commission pour l'unité de la morale, je me suis opposée à la proposition, même modifiée, tout en reconnaissant les bonnes intentions qui l'ont inspirée.

Quel pourrait être le motif qui ferait refuser à une femme l'entrée dans un pays quelconque?

Il existe, dans tous les pays, des motifs qui sont la cause de refus pour tous les étrangers, hommes ou femmes, ne remplissant pas certaines conditions exigées.

Ce ne serait pas le cas.

Admettre l'interdiction pour la femme étrangère du fait qu'elle est prostituée serait admettre une loi d'exception pour la femme en matière de mœurs.

C'est précisément ce qui combat notre section pour l'unité de la morale. Sous quel autre prétexte pourrait-on admettre l'interdiction?

Quand on a discuté la proposition Sokal à la Commission Consultative à la Société des Nations, quelqu'un qui la soutenait m'a répondu que on pourrait considérer la prostituée étrangère comme une indésirable.

Qu'est-ce que les indésirables? En général on appelle ainsi les étrangers qui pour une raison quelconque sont considérés comme dangereux, ou ceux qui ne sont pas en règle avec la loi comme par exemple les trafiquants.

Considérer la prostituée comme indésirable serait donc revenir à l'ancienne conception qui nous avons dû tellement et pendant si longtemps combattre—la conception de que la prostitution est un délit.

Voter la proposition, malgré toutes les modifications introduites par le Bureau de Londres, ce serait reconnaître—ne fût-ce que temporairement,—ce serait admettre, même provisoirement, des idées que notre Commission combat depuis qu'elle existe, et elle a été créé précisément dans le but de les combattre.

Les propositions des Bureau et des docteurs Ude et de Graaf, ont été discutées durant toute une séance. Mises aux voix, la vocation donna douze voix à faveur de la proposition Ude-de Graaf, contre six pour celle du Bureau, et deux abstentions.

Le 6^e Congrès contre la traite a été d'un grand intérêt et d'une grande importance.

Les propositions votées seront d'une grande utilité pour les travaux de tous ceux qui s'occupent de la lutte contre la traite. Elles pourront être d'une grande importance auprès des gouvernements, comme l'expression des nécessités actuelles plus pressantes pour combattre la traite, et comme le résumé des idées mères de ceux qui sont qualifiés pour parler d'un sujet qui, pour être bien compris, réclame non seulement de l'intelligence et des connaissances spécialisées, mais aussi beaucoup de dévouement et de courage, une grande largeur d'esprit et une plus grande bonté de cœur.

DR. PAULINA LUISI.

URUGUAY.

IL vient d'être déposé à la Chambre un projet de loi concernant le droit d'être électrices et éligibles aux femmes uruguayennes dans les élections municipales. Le projet en question tend à faire effectif l'article 10 de la nouvelle constitution de la République votée en 1917. Le dit article prévoit la concession du droit de vote, intégral ou partiel, à la femme, hors de la réforme de la Constitution. La fraction du droite à laquelle appartient le déposant du projet propose l'extension des droits politiques à la femme, motion qui fut rejetée par les partis conservateurs. On n'obtint que l'insertion de l'article cité, ce qui permettra de concéder cette primordiale revendication aux féministes sans procéder à un nouveau remaniement de la Constitution.

Souhaitons que cette fois le projet ait enfin la réussite méritée. Le chemin parcouru par la femme uruguayenne dans la voie de son affranchissement intellectuel et moral, la position respectable qui ont su s'acquérir les femmes ayant pénétré dans les carrières libérales, le nombre toujours croissant des femmes qui gagnent leur vie, font sentir de plus en plus le besoin de corriger une disposition législative aujourd'hui en déséquilibre avec les conditions de vie d'un grand nombre de membres de la collectivité, ce qui crée un état de choses injuste et illogique.

GRÈCE.

Une Nouvelle Société.

UNE société "pour la protection des détenus femmes et mineurs" vient d'être fondée, par la coopération du Conseil National des femmes grecques, de la Ligue Hellénique pour les droits des femmes, et des hauts fonctionnaires du Ministère de la Justice. Un Conseil Exécutif a été élu, composé de cinq femmes et quatre hommes. C'est un heureux présage pour le succès de nos efforts de voir la femme grecque officiellement reconnue comme compétente dans une œuvre sociale d'une importance si grande.

Les Femmes Avocates.

Une pétition a été présentée à l'Assemblée Nationale par la L. H. D. F. et les femmes docteurs en droit pour obtenir le droit de plaider devant les tribunaux. La pétition a été appuyée par plusieurs députés. Le Ministre de la Justice a promis de mettre fin à cette injustice le plus tôt possible.

VOYAGE D'ÉTUDES.

DANS une séance du comité exécutif de l'Alliance Internationale pour le suffrage féminin, Melle E. Gourd, sauf erreur, avait émis l'idée d'organiser des voyages d'études de femmes non affranchies dans des pays affranchis. Cette initiative heureuse fut approuvée sur le champ et une bonne étoile voulut que la bénéficiaire du premier voyage fût une Suisse, et qu'il fût hâté par la dissolution du Parlement anglais. Voyage précipité, car l'envoyée de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage Féminin n'eut pas le temps de le préparer, et les féministes anglaises, en cette période électorale, avaient bien autre chose à faire qu'à recevoir et à piloter une étrangère ignorante.

On conçoit donc que la déléguée suisse était un peu inquiète d'arriver ainsi à l'improviste, dans un pays dont elle ignorait quasiment tout, si ce n'est que le Parlement était dissous, que les femmes étaient électrices et éligibles. Mais les féministes anglaises mirent à la renseigner tant d'empressément et de bonne volonté que la tâche lui devint facile et extrêmement agréable. La secrétaire du quartier-général de l'Alliance, Mrs. Katherine Bompas, la toute première, lui réserva l'accueil le plus amical, s'ingénia à lui procurer des entrevues intéressantes, à lui faire voir et entendre des meetings, à lui expliquer ce qui lui paraissait obscur.

La déléguée de l'Association suisse pour le Suffrage féminin ne sait comment remercier celles qui lui facilitèrent sa mission; elle garde une vive reconnaissance à Mrs. Bompas tout d'abord, puis à Mrs. Hubbard, de la "National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship," qui lui expliqua le travail de cette importante association; lui fit entendre Mrs. Stella Churchill, candidate socialiste dans le Hackney North, et lui fournit une abondante documentation; à Miss Underwood, de la "Women's Freedom League," qui s'ingénia à lui procurer des photographies des candidates—lesquelles, envoyées à un journal genevois n'eurent pas le bonheur de plaire au secrétaire de rédaction; à Miss Barry, de la St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance," qui l'entraîna à un meeting de Sir Douglas Hogg; Mrs. Abbot, l'ancienne secrétaire internationale, la conduisit au Pioneer Club, à la Woman's Service House, au siège de l'Association pour l'Hygiène Sociale et Morale; Miss Lawson, du "Women's Election Committee," débordé de travail, lui fournit quelques spécimens des circulaires qu'il adresse aux candidates et à leurs collaboratrices.

Et que dire de l'hospitalité anglaise? Partout, sur les hauteurs verdoyantes de Hampstead, dans l'agitation de Kensington, la dame-qui-vient-de-Suisse-pour-voir-élections reçut l'accueil le plus charmant, le plus cordial, trouvant des amies prêtes à lui faciliter le travail, à lui expliquer les particularités de la vie sociale anglaise, de la législation anglaise, de la politique anglaise. Quel plaisir de pénétrer ainsi dans les "homes," de s'initier à la vie familiale anglaise, profondément différente de la vie familiale latine!

Ce voyage d'études—cela va sans dire—ne saurait avoir une influence sur l'exercice des droits politiques en Suisse, cette terre de liberté où les droits populaires étendus forment un obstacle au suffrage féminin. Il a eu ce grand avantage de faire connaître la femme anglaise à la déléguée suisse, rentrée pleine d'admiration pour sa maturité politique, son travail et son dévouement.

S. BONARD.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Espagne.

Trois femmes (Dona Maria Echarri, Vizcondesa de LLanteno, Dona Elisa de Calonge) viennent d'entrer au Conseil municipal de Madrid, conformément à la nouvelle loi qui accorde le suffrage municipal aux femmes

espagnoles. La première mairesse est Dona Maria Pérez Molla, une veuve de quarante ans, qui a été institutrice dans une école de l'Etat. Elle est mairesse de Cuatretordeta dans le district de Cocentina depuis cette semaine.

Danemark.

Lois sur le mariage.—En juin, 1922, deux projets de loi ont été déposés; après un délai dû aux réélections, les projets ont été présentés de nouveau et l'on espère qu'ils aboutiront. Ils donnent des droits égaux à la femme et au mari sur les questions économiques. Le ministre va bientôt déposer une loi pour garder en prison les récidivistes dangereux pour les femmes et les enfants. Le Dansk Kvindesamfund a, pendant toute l'année, organisé une campagne dans tout le pays pour répandre, parmi les femmes, les connaissances nécessaires sur les questions sexuelles, l'hygiène maternelle et les maladies vénériennes. Toute la presse a encouragé les femmes à suivre les conférences du Dr. Eli Moeller sur ces questions. Le Ministère a permis à Mme. Nina Bang de faire des conférences dans les écoles sur ce sujet.

Allemagne.

Elections.—La dissolution du Reichstag a amené la dissolution de la Diète de Prusse et d'autres états. L'élection est fixée au 7 Décembre. Les femmes étant électrices et éligibles, le Conseil national des femmes a envoyé aux chefs de parti un appel dont voici le résumé: les élections prochaines amènent le Conseil national des femmes à attirer l'attention des partis politiques sur ce fait que l'égalité des droits ayant été accordée aux femmes, les partis ne doivent pas oublier leur prépondérance comme électrices et donner l'avantage à des groupements dont l'importance ne peut pas être comparée à la leur. Si les partis ne reconnaissent pas les droits des femmes, celles-ci arriveront à leur but par d'autres moyens.

Réduction des fonctionnaires féminins.— Cette réduction qui a atteint 57 (6%) dans le service du Reich et 15 (3%) dans les services de l'Etat, atteint son point d'arrêt; mais les fonctionnaires mariées ont été spécialement mal traitées.

Chômage.—Les traitements de chômage, qui étaient de 20% inférieurs pour les femmes, ont été élevés au même taux pour les deux sexes.

Carrières féminines.—De nouvelles carrières ont été dernièrement ouvertes aux femmes: outre les 2,000 femmes docteurs, les ingénieurs, les vétérinaires, quelques avocates viennent de s'inscrire à Munich, Berlin, Dresde, Breslau, etc. Dans les Universités, on cite 5 femmes professeurs et 20 maîtres de conférences.

Grande Bretagne.

Union nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité des citoyens.—Le résultat des dernières élections, au point de vue féminin, n'est pas encourageant. Il y avait 41 candidates, dont 29 libérales et socialistes. 4 seulement ont été élues, dont 3 conservatrices de la dernière session et une socialiste nouvelle. Les 5 députées non réélues appartenaient au parti libéral ou socialiste qui a été battu; ce n'est donc qu'une défaite de parti. La nouvelle députée socialiste, Miss Wilkinson, est une grande féministe. Parmi les réélues, la Duchesse d'Atholl vient d'être nommée secrétaire parlementaire du Ministère de l'Instruction publique. Malgré la défaite des candidates, elles ont réuni plus de votes que les années précédentes: 9,750 contre 8,345 l'an dernier, 6,943 en 1922, et 3,642 en 1918.

Démission de Miss Macadam, Hon. Secretary.—Nous regrettons vivement le départ de notre dévouée Hon. Secrétaire. Elle restera, heureusement, co-directrice du "Woman's Leader," et membre du Comité exécutif de l'Union Nationale.

Indes.

Les conseillers législatifs d'Assam ont accordé le suffrage complet aux femmes et, de plus, ils ont passé une résolution, pour recommander au gouvernement de supprimer la "disqualification" des sexes qui empêche les femmes d'entrer dans le Conseil. Sur les 7 millions d'habitants de cette province, une grande partie comprend les travailleurs des plantations de thé. Assam est la 5^e province qui accorde la franchise aux femmes.

Le projet de loi appelé "Morality Bill" qui élève l'âge du consentement de 14 à 16 ans a passé devant l'Assemblée législative.

Mrs. Sherley Maureen Hodgkinson vient d'être nommée "Hon. Presidency Magistrate" à Bombay. Elle était déjà juge de paix.

Nouvelle-Zélande

La Nouvelle-Zélande, qui a accordé depuis longtemps la franchise politique aux femmes, vient de rejeter un projet de loi demandant salaire égal pour travail égal. Le projet a été présenté en même temps que la question des traitements des instituteurs était prise en considération; après une vive discussion, le projet fut rejeté par 38 voix contre 36.

Etats-Unis.

Deux femmes gouverneurs, une femme membre du congrès d'un Etat de l'Est, et une femme secrétaire d'Etat de New York viennent de faire une entrée sensationnelle dans l'histoire politique des Etats-Unis. Mrs. Miriam E. Ferguson (familièrement appelée Ma Ferguson), démocrate, a été élue gouverneur du Texas par une majorité de 75,000 voix. Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, démocrate, a été élue gouverneur du Wyoming. Mrs. Mary T. Norton, de Jersey City, New Jersey, a été nommée membre du 68^e Congrès. Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, a été choisie comme secrétaire d'Etat de New York par une forte majorité. A ajouter à tous ces honneurs, que des femmes ont été élues en grand nombre dans les corps législatifs des divers Etats: Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer est la première femme membre du Sénat de l'Illinois, 5 femmes ont été élues à l'Assemblée de New Jersey, 3 républicaines et 2 démocrates; 4 femmes à la chambre des représentants de South Dakota, 3 femmes dans le Nebraska, 3 dans le Wisconsin, 3 à Chicago, 1 en Indiana, 5 à New York. Les élections étant terminées, les femmes se consacreront à deux œuvres principales: la paix mondiale et l'amendement de la législation sur le travail des enfants. Une conférence sur les causes et la prévention des guerres aura lieu à Washington du 18 au 24 janvier; six des plus grandes organisations féministes y prendront part. La moitié de la conférence sera consacrée aux causes de la guerre, l'autre moitié aux remèdes à employer. On étudiera particulièrement la situation mondiale actuelle.

Hollande.

Un certain nombre de femmes ont été nommées à des postes importants. Mlle. Meyer (membre du Parlement) comme membre du Conseil des gouverneurs des prisons de Rotterdam; Mlle. Langs, ingénieur, comme examinateur à l'Université des sciences techniques de l'Etat de Delft; Mme. Tervart Israels et Mme. Bergsma-Bergsma, comme membres du Conseil des provinces de la Hollande du Sud et de la Zélande.

Autriche.

A Vienne, deux congrès pour la protection des enfants ont eu lieu en novembre: 1^{er} du 6 au 8 novembre, 4^e congrès de la Fédération internationale pour les secours aux enfants. A ce congrès ont assisté 82 déléguées d'autres pays. Les déléguées des Balkans parlèrent de la misère des enfants de ce pays, surtout des enfants de fugitifs, qui rend toute aide insuffisante. Le congrès chargea un comité permanent de se mettre en rapport avec la ligue des Nations et avec tous les gouvernements pour obtenir un emprunt international. 2^e Congrès du Comité central pour la protection des enfants et des jeunes gens. Ce congrès, du 17 au 19 octobre, a discuté les fondements d'une base légale unifiée pour la protection de la jeunesse en Autriche et la création d'une loi pénale spéciale, et aussi la création d'une loi générale mieux comprise pour le bien-être et la moralité des enfants.

Italie.

Signor Mussolini va présenter à la Chambre le projet de loi tant attendu sur le vote des femmes.

Bulgarie.

L'association des femmes bulgares réunit son 18^e Congrès les 23 et 25 novembre à Sofia. Cette réunion coïncide avec l'ouverture du Parlement et les femmes en

ont profité pour présenter leurs desideratas: vote des femmes, situation des fonctionnaires féminins, etc.

Irlande.

Une réunion du Conseil national des femmes d'Irlande s'est tenue à Dublin le 15 novembre. Professeur Mary Hayden, membre du Parlement, a été élue présidente. Le Conseil national a des filiales à Cork, Londonderry, et Cookstown. L'assemblée s'est occupée de l'état de la législation et de l'administration dans l'Irlande du nord et du sud en ce qui concerne les femmes et les enfants et de la position des enfants illégitimes.

Russie.

Comme nous n'avons pas de nouvelles directes de Russie, ces renseignements pourront intéresser.

Un enseignement sexuel se donne dans les écoles et l'on s'efforce de renseigner le peuple sur la nécessité de certaines précautions hygiéniques. On apprend aussi aux mères à soigner leurs enfants.

Le mariage civil est seul reconnu et les deux parties doivent produire un certificat de santé. Le divorce a été simplifié et il est accordé même pour simple incompatibilité. Les enfants restent à la charge des deux parents selon les moyens de ceux-ci. La femme peut garder son nom, et le mari peut prendre le nom de sa femme, ou un nom composé est choisi. La femme n'est pas obligée de suivre son mari s'il change de résidence. Aucune différence n'est reconnue entre enfants légitimes et illégitimes. En résumé, toutes les inégalités entre les sexes ont été abolies.

FEMMES INVENTEURS.

(Suite.)

Genre d'occupation auquel se rapporte l'invention.	Nombre des brevets féminins.	Pourcentage du total des brevets féminins.
Agriculture, jardinage, élevage du bétail	221	4.4%
Industrie minière, métallurgie	14	0.3%
Industrie chimique, alimentation, travail du cuir, industrie textile	223	4.4%
Construction, bâtiments, routes, etc.	208	4.2%
Transports	345	6.9%
Commerce	71	1.4%
Hôtels, restaurants	10	0.2%
Buanderies	6	0.1%
Accessoires de mode et de couture	118	2.4%
Travail de bureau	71	1.4%
Pêche	9	0.2%
Intérieur de la maison, cuisine, chambres de bain, chambres à coucher, nurseries, etc.	1,385	27.6%
Accessoires divers, tant pour le home que pour le jardinage, le commerce, etc.	378	7.5%
Instruments scientifiques	76	1.5%
Armes à feu et munitions	22	0.4%
Toilette et objets personnels	1,090	21.7%
Salon de beauté et coiffure	46	0.9%
Appareils médicaux, chirurgicaux et dentaires	227	4.5%
Hygiène	129	2.6%
Education	75	1.5%
Arts	67	1.3%
Jeux	211	4.2%
Divers	14	0.3%
Total:	5,016	100

Ce tableau montre de façon frappante, et le montrerait davantage encore s'il était possible d'entrer dans le détail, l'infinité variée des préoccupations féminines en matière d'invention: "n'évoque-t-il pas de façon vivante, dit Mary Anderson, toutes ces femmes à l'imagination prompte, cherchant à améliorer leurs conditions d'existence ou de travail, ou encore à augmenter leurs gains, par la solution de problèmes qui se posent dans leur vie matérielle de tous les jours?" Et n'est-il pas intéressant de constater aussi le faible pourcentage que représentent les inventions touchant aux salons de beauté ou de coiffure, alors que le chiffre le plus imposant, soit plus du quart du total des brevets d'invention, prouve que, même en Amérique, le grand intérêt de la femme est à son foyer? Les lettres écrites au Bureau du Travail par les "inventeuses" elles-mêmes (encore un néologisme!) commentent cette constatation: les unes proviennent de femmes instruites, qui ont cherché à améliorer scientifiquement l'art culinaire comme celui de

la tenue de ménage, tandis que d'autres émanent de femmes parfois sachant tout juste tenir une plume, mais à qui l'expérience de chaque jour a montré la nécessité de diminuer un peu leur labeur ou de s'épargner un peu de peine.

"J'étais professeur d'économie domestique, écrit l'une d'elles, et vivais dans une chambre, prenant mes repas à droite et à gauche; mais souvent j'avais envie de pouvoir faire mon déjeuner et mon souper dans ma chambre, tant pour gagner du temps que pour manger autre chose que de la cuisine de restaurant. J'avais besoin pour cela d'un petit meuble qui me remplaçât une cuisine entière, mais qui fût en même temps assez joli pour pouvoir être placé sans les déparier dans une chambre à coucher ou dans un salon. Je dessinai donc une armoire telle que je la comprenais, la fis exécuter en acajou, et trouvais à l'usage qu'elle correspondait parfaitement à ce que j'entendais. Alors, sachant que des milliers et des milliers de femmes se trouvaient dans la même situation que moi, j'eus l'idée de prendre un brevet et de mettre ainsi mon invention dans le commerce..."

"J'ai inventé un couvercle de bois renforcé pour baquets, écrit une autre, parce qu'il y avait une fente d'au moins six pouces dans le couvercle du baquet où je faisais mon beurre, qu'il sauta tout à coup, et que tout tomba par terre. Mais la fabrique à laquelle je m'adressai pour faire mettre des couvercles renforcés aux baquets me répondit que cela ne l'intéressait pas, parce qu'alors "les baquets dureraient plus longtemps et qu'on en achèterait moins."

La liste des brevets concernant les objets personnels de toilette vient en deuxième rang comme importance; plus du cinquième du total des brevets durant dix ans. Rien d'étonnant à cela; mais ce qui paraît alors beaucoup plus curieux, du moins à nos yeux européens, est que le quatrième rang appartient aux inventions concernant les transports; 345 en tout, soit 152 relatives à l'automobile (ô, le pays des petites voitures Ford...!), 10 touchant aux bicyclettes (la proportion serait certainement plus forte à Genève, par exemple), 44 aux véhicules traînés par des chevaux, 106 aux chemins de fer et tramways, 14 aux bateaux, et 19 à l'aviation—ces dernières, si remarquables, paraît-il, que le Bureau du Travail en déduit qu'une collaboration plus fréquente de l'élément féminin dans ce domaine serait extrêmement appréciable. Le troisième rang est occupé par des inventions concernant une quantité de petits objets divers: coutellerie, serrurerie, appareils électriques, vases et récipients en verre, en porcelaine ou en faïence, machines à coudre et à broder, articles de bureau, téléphone, emballages, etc., qui, sans concerner une activité bien définie, facilitent le travail et ajoutent confort et agrément au home. L'ingéniosité féminine a trouvé la libre carrière. En revanche, il nous déplaît que l'industrie meurtrière des munitions et des armes à feu n'ait pas suscité moins de 22 brevets: mais l'explication en est facile. N'oublions pas en effet que la décade 1911-1921 sur laquelle ont porté ces investigations est aussi celle de la grande guerre, durant laquelle nombre de femmes ont été attachées à des manufactures d'armes et de munitions. On affirme là aussi la grande valeur technique de plusieurs de ces inventions. On peut en dire autant d'ailleurs d'inventions concernant la construction et le bâtiment, les femmes n'ayant pas seulement inventé de petits perfectionnements pour fermer les portes, les empêcher de battre, etc., mais aussi, dans la même catégorie, des brûleurs de gaz, des hauts fourneaux, des chaudières pour métaux en fusion, etc., que l'Office des Brevets des Etats-Unis a estampillés de cette observation: "nouveau et utile." La construction des routes, la fabrication de ciments, les conduites à eau, etc., ont prouvé également les capacités des femmes aussi bien comme ingénieurs que comme architectes, alors que, dans la catégorie des instruments scientifiques, des inventions peu nombreuses, mais importantes (compas pour marins, appareils optiques, appareils photographiques et cinématographiques, compteurs divers, etc.) révèlent des qualités scientifiques de premier ordre.

Il y aurait encore beaucoup à glaner dans cette monographie, tant dans la liste détaillée des inventions féminines (ne parlons pas cependant de la machine à

voter ou du char funèbre!) que dans les considérations si judicieuses et si sûres qui lui servent de préface. Renvoyons-y le lecteur qui voudra en savoir davantage, et auquel nous serions heureuses d'avoir pu persuader que le cliché dont nous parlions au début est bien vraiment un cliché.

J. GUEYBAUD (*Mouvement Féministe*).

LE MOUVEMENT FÉMINISTE EN SUISSE.

Chaque année ramène, en même temps que l'éclat des feuillages et les brumes d'automne, un vieil ami, toujours vêtu avec une élégance sobre, qui sait plaire, intéresser, instruire: c'est l'Annuaire des Femmes suisses.

Signalons aussi la belle étude de Mme. J.-J. Gourd sur ce sujet qu'elle-même et tant d'autres femmes ont à cœur: l'assurance-maternité.

Mme. de Montet fait part de ses réflexions et suggère de saines idées dans une série de "Lettres sur l'éducation féministe dans la famille."

Mme. Leuch expose la situation des femmes mariées, suisses et étrangères, devant la législation de leurs patries respectives. Certaines de ces lois nous semblent peu communes, et il y en a, d'ailleurs, aux Etats-Unis, une toute récente, qui mériterait de faire réfléchir les femmes non américaines épousant un citoyen de la libre Amérique; car, selon le pays auquel elles appartiennent, elles risquent de perdre leur propre nationalité sans en acquérir de nouvelle, c'est-à-dire de devenir "heimatlos."

D'intéressants articles sur la protection sanitaire de l'ouvrière, sur l'institutrice suisse, sur les unions chrétiennes de jeunes filles en Suisse romande sont confiés à des spécialistes en la matière, telles Mlle. G. Gerhard, de Bâle, secrétaire de l'Association des institutrices suisses, en même temps que rédactrice de l'Annuaire des Femmes suisses, et Mlle. Jeanne Meyer.

C'est Mlle. Strub qui a écrit, cette fois, la revue de l'année pour le féminisme en Suisse, et Mlle. Porret la chronique féministe internationale de 1924.

Suivent, pour finir, d'abord une étude sur les droits politiques de la femme suisse, puis quarante pages, fort utiles à consulter dans bien des cas, donnant des renseignements précis sur les sociétés féminines du pays et du dehors.

Actualité, avenir — pour autant qu'on peut en préjuger — et passé occupent une place dans ce substantiel volume. Comment n'en accorderait-il pas une importante à ceux qui, dernièrement encore, étaient des nôtres, amis fervents, grands cœurs au service de causes généreuses que la mort nous a enlevés?

Le souvenir de M. Auguste de Morsier, de Mlle. de Mülinen, de Mme. Studer-Steinhäuslin a inspiré des pages émus à Mmes. Vuillomenet, Pyeczynska et Eugénie Dutoit, tandis que Mme. Debrit-Vogel présente de copieux extraits des écrits de Mlle. de Mülinen.

Quatre portraits de disparus ornent le dernier annuaire.

Si de nombreux articles ont paru sur Auguste de Morsier et Mlle. de Mülinen, il n'est peut-être pas inutile de rappeler ici qui fut Mme. Studer-Steinhäuslin, morte il y a deux mois à peine.

Tous ceux qui l'ont approchée ont été frappés par son intelligence, sa pénétration, son énergie et par le dévouement avec lequel elle a donné vingt ans de labeur à l'œuvre de l'Amie de la jeune fille.

Secrétaire et présidente nationale, puis présidente internationale de cette vaste et bien-faisante association, Mme. Studer, avec les présidentes des sociétés juives, catholiques et protestantes, pour la protection de la jeune fille, avait été convoquée à la commission consultative nommée par la Société des Nations pour la répression de la traite des femmes.

Encore un dernier mot sur le sujet que nous quittons, puisqu'il introduit celui qui va suivre: l'Annuaire des femmes suisses 1924 contient une vingtaine de pages écrites par Mlle. E. Zellweger, présidente de l'Alliance

* The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 10 cents l'exemplaire.

nationale de sociétés féminines suisses, sur l'histoire de cette Alliance, qui vient de célébrer, à Berne, son 25^{me} anniversaire.

Ce fut une belle fête que ce jubilé, auquel purent participer plusieurs des fondatrices de l'Alliance; parmi elles, deux Genevoises: Mme. Chaponnière-Chaix et Mlle. Vidart. Grouper les femmes suisses dans un but de solidarité et d'entente internationale, tel avait été l'objectif de l'Alliance. Si l'on considère qu'elle débuta, en 1899, avec quatre sociétés et qu'elle en compte aujourd'hui 125, représentant de 50 à 60,000 membres, il faut admettre qu'elle a bien exécuté son programme.

Pour rehausser la solennité de l'assemblée de Berne, l'Alliance y avait convoqué les présidentes des conseils nationaux des quatre pays voisins. La France et l'Allemagne répondirent à cette invitation en envoyant comme déléguées, l'une Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix, l'autre Mme. Ender, Mme. Avril représentant, en outre, le conseil international des femmes et remettant, au nom de la présidente internationale, Lady Aberdeen, un rameau de bruyère d'Ecosse.

C'est à Genève, où l'Alliance a déjà siégé une fois, il y a huit ans, qu'elle tiendra, l'automne prochain, son assemblée générale de 1925. M.-L. PRETS.

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