

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Volume 26. No. 6.

PRICE 6d.

MARCH, 1932.

Annual Subscription, 6/-

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THE PAPER.

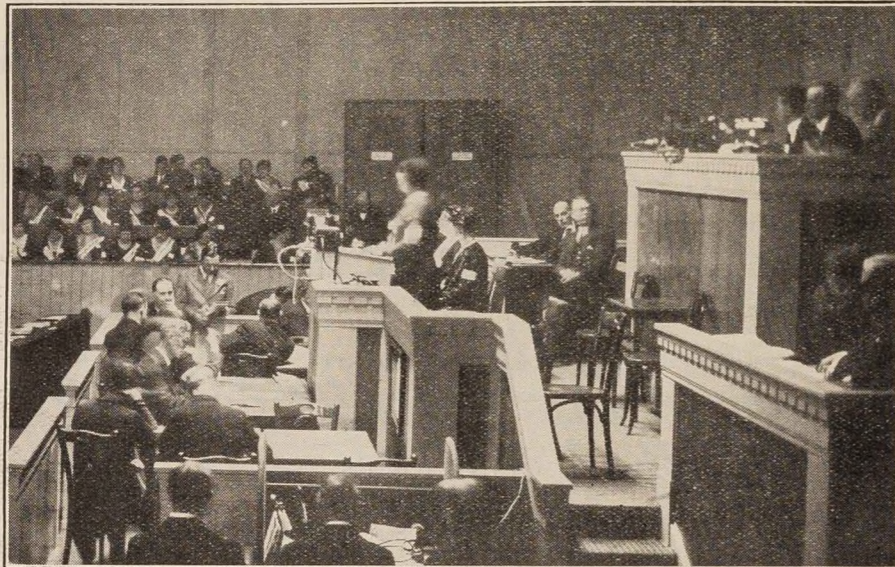
After a long interval, and with regret that the need for economy deprives the Alliance of its able editor and herself of a much-appreciated colleague, the Headquarters Secretary is taking up again the work of editing the paper. It is not very easy for anyone engaged in the necessarily somewhat routine work of running an office to keep a fresh mind for news and ideas which are so much a part of daily life, and the moment is in every way a difficult one. The international woman's movement is suffering in many ways from the economic crisis: it is suffering in funds, in loss of members, in loss of interest due to the pre-occupation of women in every country either with their own national difficulties or perhaps with international questions which seem to have a wider scope than that covered by the Alliance. The Alliance paper is feeling the full force of the chill wind of adversity. It has appeared regularly for twenty-six years, it weathered the War, can it carry on till better times arrive?

We know the difficulties of trying to find new subscribers; we know the difficulties of getting news, of finding people who will write interesting articles for love. In fact, we know our own difficulties so well that we are in danger of taking them for granted. Will our readers help? If you can find us a new subscriber, if you can send us news, if you can write a special article, you will be giving us the most valuable direct help. But if you can at the moment do none of those things, still you may be able to give us suggestions

from your own experience of means of raising our circulation or of making the paper more interesting, more valuable. Suggestions will be really welcome, in themselves and as evidence of interest which is in itself a much-needed stimulus.

Women are not yet free and equal citizens, our cause is not yet fully won. Are not our doings and our alleged misdeeds still "News" in the press? The proof of the continued need for the woman's movement, the actual movement for sex equality, is to be found in the papers every day. There cannot be for women a more important or more urgent question than the fundamental weakness of her own position in national—and therefore in international—life. What hand has a single woman had in bringing about the present almost universal economic depression? What opportunity has a single woman of directly helping to put it right? Have women built up armaments? How many are there with a voice at Geneva at this moment? There we are still the "humble petitioner." Whether we care most for justice because it is the most divine of rights, or whether we wish only to be free to serve our times to the fullness of our capacity, we have still a duty to our sex by not taking our hands from the plough till sex equality has driven a furrow straight across the world. And our paper is meant to be an expression of and a means towards fulfilling the will of women to stick to their job of emancipating their sex till it is well and truly done. Help to make it more valuable, more stimulating and more widely spread. K.B.

WOMEN AT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.



Presentation of the Petitions.

However dark the clouds may be which overshadow the Geneva Conference, the part women are taking officially and non-officially in its work can be stated with satisfaction. It is true that only five delegations include women, but we are proud that one of them is our President, **Mrs. Corbett-Ashby**, much appreciated by other delegations as well as her own.

Another board member of the Alliance is the delegate of Uruguay—**Dr. Paulina Luisi**, long connected with the League of Nations in Geneva. The American delegate, **Dr. Emma Woolley**, most distinguished by her work and knowledge, has from the very beginning been able to render service to the woman's cause as member of the Committee which had to decide on the presentation of the petition. We owe her thanks for the energy with which she has pleaded for our wishes, so that the whole ceremony could be made most impressive. The two remaining delegates **Mme. Szelałowska** for Poland, and **Miss Winnifried Kydd** for Canada, both represent feminist work, and **Miss Kydd** is at the same time a most delightful specimen of the younger generation. Ever since the Conference began these five women delegates have kept in touch with each other, and we may hope that in many cases they will be able to prove useful in bringing about good will and mutual comprehension between the delegations of the different nations.

On February 5th, a dinner to these women delegates and to other well-known women now in Geneva was given by the Women's Disarmament Committee, which was brilliantly successful. All the five women delegates spoke and the dinner concluded with the presentation of a book by the Chairman, **Miss Dingman**, to **Mrs. Ramondt Hirschmann** as a mark of appreciation of the immense work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in collecting the signatures for the Disarmament Petitions, 6,000,000 of which should be attributed to the efforts of that organisation.

The excellent way in which for many months the Disarmament Committee of the Women's International Organisations has been working in Geneva has won general respect, even from men. Here again the Alliance may note with satisfaction that one of our Vice-Presidents, **Rosa Manus**, has been an incompar-

able organiser. Acting as honorary secretary of the Committee, she has given herself with unflinching zeal to this new task, and has become the pivot of an immense piece of work. Not less than eight million individual signatures have been collected. Let us give just a few figures. Switzerland has done exceedingly well, its 341,000 names representing nearly 10% of the whole population, a good record equalled by Denmark and surpassed by Esthonia, a country of only 1,150,000 inhabitants where the women have been able to collect 152,856 names; and also by Luxembourg with 38,424 signatures from a population of less than 300,000. The British Empire, excluding the big Dominions, represent 2,146,026 names, the great majority collected by the League for Peace and Freedom; Canada produced nearly half a million signatures; Australia 112,000 and New Zealand 41,725. Germany has succeeded in registering 1,041,345 and the United States has been able to send in 1,135,453.

It was a tremendous task to keep all these figures clearly, all the more as four texts of petitions have been circulated with differing effects in the various countries. **Rosa Manus** has, however, succeeded in drawing up one simple tableau so clearly arranged that it is perfectly easy to state the number of signatures given for each petition in each country, as well as the total. Let us add that besides the individual signatures thousands of organisations representing other millions of people, especially women, have sent in collective petitions, so that, in fact, the individuals represented are indefinitely more than 8 millions.

There was some uncertainty up to the very last minute whether we should be allowed to bring the petitions before the Conference in a really representative way. Thanks to "diplomatic pourparlers" and to the valuable help of **Princess Radziwill**, of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, success was obtained. The ceremony turned out an overwhelming act which silenced even the most sceptical.

On the morning of February 6th women from all parts of the world met at the Palais Eynard and from there marched off to the Bâtiment Electoral, where the Plenary Sessions of the Conference take place. In front were the five acting officers of the International

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

Published by the World's Young Women's Christian Association
2, rue Daniel Colladon, Geneva, Switzerland.

President - **JONKVRUWE C. M. VAN ASCH VAN WYCK.** General Secretary - **MISS CHARLOTTE T. NIVEN.**
Vice-Presidents: **MADAME ALFRED BERTRAND.** **MISS RUTH ROUSE.**
MRS. C. G. CHEN. **MISS UNA SAUNDERS.**
MRS. JAMES S. CUSHMAN. **MRS. MATSU TSUJI.**
MRS. LUXMOORE. **FRAULEIN HULDA ZARNACK.**
Treasurer - **MADEMOISELLE CATHERINE PICOT.**

THE Y.W.C.A. AND CHINA.

From the earliest days of the foundation of the Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain in 1855 down to the present time the work of the Association has been initiated in country after country to meet some real need. In China, where the first National Y.W.C.A. Committee was formed during the last few months of the nineteenth

century, the origin and growth of the Association has been traced to the impulse to a larger, freer life for women everywhere which was then being felt all round the world. It has often been the privilege of Association workers to guide girls and women in the first use of their new freedom, and to provide opportunities for the exercise of powers of which they have become conscious. Wherever work has been started in a country by foreigners, it has been their constant aim to develop leadership among the women of the country and to associate them in the fullest possible degree with the direction of the work from the very beginning. This principle has been nowhere more conspicuous than in China. A number of Chinese secretaries have been enabled to go for longer or shorter periods of study to the United States and to England; a far larger number have been trained in China in the principles of Association work and have helped to adapt the methods of applying these principles to the special needs and conditions of their country. As early as 1913 **Miss Grace Coppock**, newly appointed as General Secretary at the national Headquarters at Shanghai, was not willing to begin her work unless she could have a Chinese associate from the start. For more than ten years all the executive officers of the National Committee have been Chinese. The present President, **Mrs. C. C. Chen**, is also a Vice-President of the World's Y.W.C.A. The staff has been and still is international, no less than six foreign countries—Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden and the United States—having sent out secretaries to China, although the very large majority have been Americans and it is also from the United States that the largest contribution in money has come. But the remarkable fact is that since 1925 the Chinese secre-

taries have outnumbered their colleagues of other nationalities, and the whole staff works under a Chinese leader, **Miss Ting Shu Ching**, who in 1926 became National General Secretary.

Miss Ting, who had already been General Secretary in Peiping for some years, was educated in China. She has travelled widely in recent years, and in 1931 spent some months in the United States. On her way back to China she passed through Geneva and was able to be present, as proxy for **Mrs. Chen**, at the spring meeting of the World's Y.W.C.A. Executive Committee. During a previous visit to Europe, **Miss Ting** took part in an international Study Course for young Association workers at Mens in France, and was one of the speakers at an evening meeting arranged for the inhabitants of the little village, who had shown great interest in the presence among them of women from so many far-off countries. By special request **Miss Ting** spoke in Chinese, which heightened the sense of nearness to an unknown and distant land. (Incidentally the interpreter who translated her speech into French acquired a most undeserved reputation for knowledge of Oriental languages, having been provided beforehand by **Miss Ting** with notes of her speech in English, which she speaks readily).

The general programme of the work in China is being built up on distinctively Chinese lines, and much prominence is therefore given to home-making and education, the two dominant interests of Chinese women. In a Training School for Physical Directors which was opened by the Y.W.C.A. in 1915 but was merged some ten years later in **Ginling College**, numbers of Chinese girls learned the principles of health and hygiene and went out to spread their knowledge in schools and communities all over the country. The Association has been responsible for much direct health education given in clinics for mothers and children and in other ways, and a Better Babies Week has given evidence of the good effect of this teaching. The Association is in active co-operation with the movement



Miss Ting Shu Ching.
National General Secretary of the
Y.W.C.A. in China.

for the elimination of illiteracy and has helped to staff some of the Thousand Character Schools in which the new simplified system of reading and writing is taught to students of every age and class.

One of the earliest pieces of work undertaken by the Association was among factory girls in Shanghai, and this led to a growing interest in the problems of industrial development in the whole country.

In 1921 Miss Coppock became acutely aware of the dangers which were arising in China through the introduction of a modern industrial system without adequate safeguards. Missionaries had already been confronted by Chinese with the question, "Why do you bring us Christianity if it must come accompanied by this western 'civilisation' which we do not want?" Through Miss Coppock's interest a special industrial secretary was added to the staff, Miss Agatha Harrison, of the School of Economics in London. She at once threw herself into the effort to rouse public opinion against the evils of the existing factory system and especially against child labour. The Churches and other Christian bodies soon followed the lead given by the Y.W.C.A., and in 1922 the National Christian Council took a definite stand in support of industrial reform. It was felt that the Shanghai International Settlement offered the best field for a definite attempt to set up higher standards, and the Shanghai Municipal Council was found willing to form a Commission to consider how child labour could gradually be reduced in the Settlement.

This Commission, which had for ten months the expert assistance of Dame Adelaide Anderson, former Chief Lady Factory Inspector for the British Government, brought in a report which if accepted would have effected a real advance. But after the crisis of May 30th, 1925, nationalistic feeling in China became so strong that another line of approach had to be adopted, and the effort of the Y.W.C.A. was concentrated on the education of Chinese women to such a sense of their responsibilities in this matter that they would themselves work to bring about social justice. The result of this preparation is seen in the fact that in 1931 eight Chinese women's organisations met together to send in a memorandum to the President of the Government on the subject of industrial reform. At the same time the Association is active in arousing the interest of the workers themselves, and a recent report states that "industrial girls in the Shanghai Y.W.C.A. centres have for several years been growing in their understanding of the part they play in improving the conditions under which they work and live." The work initiated by Miss Harrison and carried on by Miss Mary Dingman, who was lent by the World's Y.W.C.A. to China for a year and a half after Miss Harrison's departure, is now directed by two fully trained Chinese industrial secretaries. Although the process of legislation moves slowly, the influence of the educational campaign initiated by the Association is apparent in changes beneficial to the workers which have already taken place in some factories.

While industrial questions have demanded and received a great deal of attention, it cannot be forgotten that the immense majority of China's people live and work in the country, and their needs also have made a strong appeal to the leaders of the Association. Within the last three years three experimental centres for rural

work have been opened by the Y.W.C.A. One of these is at T'oi Shaan, a small town which depends for its life on the villages grouped round about it. The General Secretary of this Association is Liu Yu Hsia, a young Chinese woman who from the age of ten or twelve resolved to devote her life to serving the people of the village district in which she grew up. Her original idea was to be a teacher, but after completing her training at school in Canton and at Ginling College she became convinced that in a community organisation like the Y.W.C.A. she could work much more directly for women than if she taught in a school. Among the 300 members of the Association which she started in T'oi Shaan are many village women; several of them are Board members and the elections to this Board are carried out by postal vote. One of the new secretaries, when told that she looked tired one day, explained "I cut my rice yesterday." Her husband is away in Chicago and the cutting of the rice falls to her. Leaders who are so near to the life of the people must surely be well fitted to devise the most helpful and suitable plans for meeting their needs and enlarging their opportunities.

In many parts of the country the immeasurable disaster of the Yangtse floods of last summer brought a great and urgent challenge to the Association—a challenge to which it has gallantly responded. The city of Wuchang, because it is in the centre of the flooded

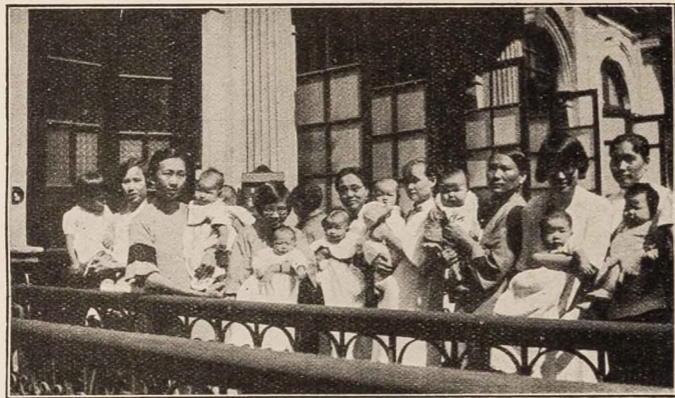
region and also because the Y.W.C.A. local unit there provided a staff nucleus for the work, was chosen as the centre of relief operations, and the activities of the Association were undertaken not only in consultation with the national and local relief agencies, but at their direct request. The courageous and devoted work of the secretaries and committee members has been warmly commended. To them

has been given the huge task of organising a new large camp for refugees a mile and a half outside the city, and distributing relief.

The sympathy of the Y.W.C.A. members in many parts of the world has been shown in a very practical form by the collection of funds for relief. In Denmark alone the Y.W.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. together have collected the sum of 80,000 kronen.

One cannot think of the sufferings of China in the floods without calling to mind the still more terrible shadow of war which hangs over the country. This also touches the Y.W.C.A., with its ideals of international fellowship, very nearly, though unhappily no such direct and practical way of helping as in the case of the flood victims is open to it. In the messages received during the last few months from our members in Japan as well as in China, the acute grief felt on both sides at the failure in Christian peace which is marred by the relationship between the two countries is clearly manifested.

In this time of trouble it is an encouragement to recall the words of the late Mrs. T. C. Chu, first Chairman of the National Committee of the Y.W.C.A. of China, to the Hangchow Convention, with reference to the help given by foreigners in the formation and development of the Association in the country: "When internationalism really comes, you will remember this work, and that the generosity of the women of other nations was to us the beginning of understanding of the true brotherhood of man."



Hong Kong Clinic: Better Babies Week, 1930.

Committee, Miss Dingman, Mrs. Dreyfus-Barney, Miss Kathleen Courtney, Miss Manus and Mme. Guthrie-d'Arcis, followed by the 15 representatives of the organisations represented in the International Committee, all wearing white ribbons across their shoulders which showed in golden letters the names of the organisations, and all wearing a white armlet with the golden word "Pax." Then came the long procession of the representatives of 56 countries, 4 for each being allowed, so that far more than 200 women with their white and golden ribbons marched up to the Conference. The President of the International Committee, Miss Dingman, of the World's Young Women's Christian Association, went up to the speakers' chair and delivered a profound, deeply felt address, a warm appeal to the delegates of all nations to realise their duty and their responsibilities. After this impressive speech, Miss Courtney and Miss Manus read the names of the countries represented and the number of signatures they brought. Woman after woman marched up depositing before the platform her package of petitions. They piled up higher and higher, making a thrilling sight and, as Miss Dingman had pointed out in her speech, this was not mere paper, but "behind each of these names stands a living personality, a human being, oppressed by a great fear, the fear of the destruction of our civilisation, but also moved by a great will for peace, that cannot be ignored and must not be denied."

We women had opened the procession, but afterwards came the representatives of other world-wide organisations, craving for peace: Mr. Mueller spoke for the Churches, for those who in all creeds want to abolish war, understanding that it is opposed to the gospel. The 45 millions of women embodied in the organisations which Miss Dingman represented were re-enforced by another 25 millions of Catholic women, for whose will to peace Mme. Van Steenberghe-Engeringh was the speaker. A young Frenchman and a young American, delegates of the International Students' Organisations, moved all hearts by expressing their abhorrence of war, the horror they had of being compelled to kill their brethren, to kill women and children, to extinguish civilisation. Lord Cecil was spokesman of the International Federation of League of Nations Societies.

The Belgian Minister Vandervelde spoke for the millions of workmen organised in all countries in the Second International for the toilers and the millions of unemployed, and declared: "We have not come here to beg and to beseech. We have come to formulate claims. The people are sick of waiting, they demand not words, but acts." The last speaker, the Frenchman Jouhaux, represented the International Trade Unions, one of the great forces which can oppose war.

None in the hall failed to be deeply impressed with the whole ceremony.

Only a comparatively small number of women had been able to enter the hall. Hundreds had come from foreign countries and from all parts of Switzerland. A big manifestation took place in the afternoon. The huge "Salle de la Réformation" was crammed from floor to galleries and the public listened with the greatest enthusiasm. Unfortunately, our dear friend, the honorary secretary of the Alliance, Mlle. Gourd, who had been working so hard all the previous weeks, was taken ill. She could not attend the manifestation at the Conference and could not deliver her speech in the afternoon meeting. But we had Mme. Ragacz and Mlle. Zellweger from Switzerland, Mme. Puech from France, and to end up two vice-presidents of the Alliance, Adele Schreiber and Mme. Malaterre-Sellier. No need to say that the representatives of Germany and France were welcomed with the same amount of kindness and understanding, and that all felt: If women could make politics we would do away

with war; there would be no more bitter feeling between the belligerent countries!

What else to tell about this first important week? We were able to listen to a number of interesting speeches made by the leading statesmen, and it is worth while pointing out that the German Chancellor, Bruening, made special allusion to the strong will to peace which women had demonstrated to the Conference two days before.

We had international receptions and many opportunities for meeting each other and exchanging our ideas.

The first phase of the big Conference is over. It went off better than most of us had feared. There is no question that even slight progress in disarmament will take a long time to come, and we are far from thorough changes, but no question also that something new has been recognised, the principle that there are limits to the sovereignty and the free will of every State. It is felt that there exists a responsibility of the leaders, not only to their own people, but to the people of the world.

And no question that even ministers of war are beginning to have a vision of the new destructive methods brought about by technical development. Even they shudder at the idea of a new world catastrophe.

But whilst we are observing all this, war is going on in the Far East, though it is not called war, and we read of women and children victims in the streets and buildings of Shanghai.

ADELE SCHREIBER.

EDITOR'S NOTE.

After the above very interesting description of women at the Disarmament Conference had gone to the printer, we received a further article on the same subject from Miss Rosa Manus. We regret that space does not permit us to print this, which in addition to the particulars so well given by Frau Schreiber, throws an interesting light on the many difficulties which Miss Manus, as Organiser, had to overcome in order to achieve success. There is a delightful touch about the following: "Although officially a procession was not allowed, we could not help somehow forming one as we walked towards the building of the Conference." Miss Manus also refers to the Exhibition of the Petitions which has been arranged, some of the countries having taken great pains to send their petitions in artistic form: Czechoslovakia sending them in a large hand-painted peasant chest, and many countries in the form of beautifully-bound books. The petitions are to be displayed in glass cases in the new Disarmament Building as the result of the impression made by the Exhibition on Mr. Henderson, Chairman of the Conference.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN WOMEN.

CONSTANTINE (ALGERIA) MARCH 29-30, 1932.

We have now received the programme of this Conference, organised by the Constantine Group of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, of which Mme. Malaterre Sellier will be the Chairman, the Honorary President being M. Morinaud, Under Secretary of State for Physical Education and Deputy Mayor of Constantine. Very interesting excursions have been planned in connection with the meeting, at favourable prices, and there will also be various exhibitions, public meetings, etc. The programme states that all local information may be obtained from: Mme. Alquier, Musée du Koudiat, Constantine, but in view of later news of the sad death of M. Alquier possibly this

arrangement may have to be altered. No doubt, however, any re-arrangement will be so carried out that any enquiries so addressed will still be properly dealt with. For information as to excursions and the journey, write to Mme. Lauga, Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, Gare de Constantine, Algeria.

The programme is divided into two sections:

1. The legal, moral and economic position of women and children in European countries bordering on the Mediterranean;
2. The legal (the law of custom), moral and economic position of women and children in the musliman Mediterranean countries.

It is proposed to form a permanent committee to co-ordinate efforts for the improvement of women's position in the Mediterranean countries, and to hold annual reunions.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The French Suffragette. Last month we quoted an account from *L'Oeuvre* of a demonstration in the French Senate by Madame Jane Valbot.

We are again indebted to that paper for the following: "Yesterday afternoon (February 4th) a woman chained herself—with a real chain and two solid padlocks—to the back of her chair. In the interval between two reports, Mme. Jane Valbot—for it was this unrepentant representative of voteless women—rose and begged the President to take up the question of women's rights. This produced a striking effect on the members and exasperated the President, who, with frantic tinklings of his bell, gave the order 'Remove her!' 'Impossible,' replied Mme. Valbot. 'See, I am chained.' And she shook her chains to the intense amusement of the assembly. Police officers endeavoured in vain to unlock the padlocks or break the chains.

While all this was going on a messenger was taking a letter to the President which contained the key. Did it reach him? In any case we are able to quote the following extracts: 'For 13 years, Mr. President, the question of woman suffrage has been burked by the Senate, while Spain, Roumania, Portugal and Greece, even Turkey, have given votes to women. Are French women so contemptible that the petitions and resolutions of their organisations are not even worth a hearing? Enchained in the Senate Chamber, I send you this key with which I may be liberated. May this be interpreted as the symbol of our hopes.'

Meantime the police, unable to open the padlocks and too impatient to wait for the key, broke the back of the chair and, gently it must be admitted, lead Mme. Valbot from the Chamber, still heavily chained like some prisoner of old.

In the Office of the Commissary, that official had no difficulty in recognising the recidivist and she was admonished, with a mixture of severity and amusement, and informed that she would not in future be given a card. She was then courteously escorted to the door, for a man may be gallant even if he is no feminist."

Our contemporary "La Française," commenting on these incidents, pays a tribute to the courage of Mme. Valbot, and asks whether "direct action" on such lines is likely to help or hinder the suffrage movement. It is asking its readers to state their views, and it will be interesting to see the result. It was impossible at the time, and is perhaps still impossible, to answer that question as it arose over the militant suffrage movement in England, though the event has indeed proved that no fatal obstacle was raised to women suffrage.

Russian Peasant Women's Rights. The rights of women among the Russian peasantry have always been in contradiction to the

Russian Civil Code as to those of other countries. The Russian Law entitled women—wives and daughters—to only one-fourteenth of the family inheritance, but the peasant custom acknowledged no such limitation. The women were in all respects on an equal footing with the men, sharing the property in proportion to their share in the work. Sisters as a rule did not inherit from their brothers, because on marriage they became members of another family and took with them as dowry the reward of their domestic work; but a spinster sister or a widow who returned to live with her brothers would always receive, or obtain from the tribunal, her share. This right to inheritance being founded on work alone, no distinction was made in this "law by custom" between wives and concubines. It is interesting to note that the husband inherited his wife's property only when they had lived together for more than 10 years; otherwise the deceased wife's property returned to her parents.

This principle with regard to inheritance has been the basis for the verdict given in all sorts of legal cases. Labour is always recognised as giving an inalienable right to property. It is a very striking fact that precisely among the peasants, where the patriarchal principle is still so strong and the ties of blood are held so sacred, kinship gives no right to property. Whenever two interests clash, it is to the rights of labour that the popular conscience gives the preference.

RUTH TONI KEINDL.

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—The above interesting note on sex equality among the Russian peasants has come to us from a Czech correspondent, who states that in spite of changes in the law, the custom still obtains in Soviet Russia.)

The Economic Position of the Married Woman. There is considerable irony in the prominence given in certain organs of the British Press, not noted for feminist sympathies, to statistics of the amount paid to former wives by divorced and separated husbands. Hard cases are quoted of former husbands who are still bound legally to pay maintenance to their former wives on a scale which is entirely out of proportion to their present reduced incomes. The implication is that it is a scandal that these women, quite a numerous proportion of whom are childless, should be supported by a man from whom they have been totally and probably bitterly separated for many years. Well, to feminists also it must seem well-nigh incredible that any self-respecting woman should be content to take money from someone for which she gives absolutely no return. But what we cannot admit is that men as a whole have a right to complain, or that the papers which call attention to this state of affairs show a strong sense of logic when for weeks their columns have been full of fulminations against the wickedness of a married woman in these hard times venturing to "take the bread out of men's mouths" by trying to earn a living.

No one in this world can have it both ways. Either we must encourage the married woman to be self-supporting, or we must recognise the fact that when a man marries he assumes a life-long burden of support. That any woman of decent spirit, without children, would, if her marriage is broken up, endeavour by all means in her power to assume responsibility for her own upkeep is self-evident. But is she encouraged, is

she in many cases even allowed to earn her living, even if she has a pre-marriage training and is not too old or too long out of the labour market to be able to get back? Granted that the large proportion of marriages are permanent, it is a terribly big risk that is taken by both husband and wife under the present system which makes the maintenance of them both and of their children entirely dependent on the continued power of one alone to support the family. A woman, no less than a man, may think that risk too great, even if she is willing to endure the total dependence on another, however willing and whatever their mutual devotion.

Norwegian Women's Farsighted Enterprise. The Norwegian peasant women have issued the following statement:

No-one can ignore the fact that the rural districts are being deserted, while our youth is spending a homeless and insecure existence in overpopulated towns and industrial centres or leaving for foreign countries with uncertain prospects for the future.

Now is the time when women's great love of their children and concern for their future should make practical efforts. We are tired of watching the mass of unemployed youth without helping them. We are tired of watching steamers setting off for America loaded with our adventurous boys and girls. We are tired of hearing them ask questions as to the future which we are unable to answer. Therefore we women now wish to make a special effort to safeguard youth and their future.

The practical steps that the Norwegian peasant women are planning are to establish a Women's Work Fund for the building of new homes either by direct grants or loans. The money will be in the hands of the Norwegian Peasant Women's Council and will be distributed on the recommendation of agricultural societies and of the Association "Ny Jord."

A whole stretch of land called "nytrotsmerket" between Nordkap and Kap Lindeneas will be sold for the benefit of the funds, but naturally other support will be required.

—Kvinden og Samfundet.

REVIEW.

The Purdah System and its Effect on Motherhood. Kathleen Olga Vaughan. W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd., Cambridge. Price 2/6.

This is not really a quite recent publication, and its interest is largely medical. The copy that has come to us is accompanied by a reprinted article from the *British Medical Journal* on "The Shape of the Pelvic Brim as the determining factor in Childbirth." But in fact these two short booklets have an interest outside the purely medical. Firstly the book on the Purdah system should provide valuable propaganda material for those who in any Eastern country are fighting against the system of seclusion of women. It is an ironical turn of fate that such systems which emphasise that men wish to limit the role of women solely to that of the wife and mother, tend to render maternity difficult and dangerous, and often impossible. Dr. Vaughan's contention is that the absence of light and fresh air from which secluded women suffer is the cause of the osteomalchia (bone deformation) which leads to such suffering and loss of life in childbirth. She shows that peasant women who are not secluded, but lead open-air lives, suffer from no such difficulties, nor are they adversely affected by the very heavy work they do.

Nor can European countries plume themselves too

greatly on a superiority in this direction, if Dr. Vaughan is right in claiming that town life, especially in smoke-polluted cities, has a similar though not so marked effect on women. So also has the relatively greater indoor nature of women's occupations and the sedentary nature of a great part of their work. In fact, it would appear that so far from a "protection" from heavy work and varied though strenuous occupation contributing to the safety of maternity and the welfare of the race, it may very easily have a definitely evil effect on the proper development of the pelvis. Dr. Vaughan invites us to consider with pleasure the habits of all those women who live natural lives and exercise their joints by hard manual labour, digging, weeding, hauling in nets, carrying and lifting heavy weights.

K.B.

ALL PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION.

We have received a copy of the News Bulletin of the A.P.A., and take the opportunity of calling attention to this new—it is barely two years old—international organisation. It will be remembered that A.P.A. organised the Peace Conference in Paris last November. Its object is to promote a good understanding between the peoples of the world, and to make them better known to each other. Its aim is to become a universal good-will organisation with branches and an International Club in every important centre of the world.

WIVES IN STATE SERVICE IN U.S.A.

To test the consequences of attacking the unemployment problem by removing the married women from their jobs, a study was made, in one State, of 64 married women in the State service whose husbands were also employed by the State. The most frequent reasons assigned by the women for continuing to work were: to support dependents,—the 64 women reported supporting 153 dependents, 43 of whom were totally dependent; to pay debts; and professional interest in the work. So strong is the economic drive that 46 report they could not have married at the time they did if it would have been impossible to continue to work. Practically unanimously they report that they would seek work elsewhere if the State refused them employment. The report states:

"If the women quit their jobs and remain in the home, support is removed from dependents, and domestic helpers are thrown out of jobs to a number that must be considered. If the women do not retire to their homes, as 62 report they could not, they compete with other workers and either get the jobs because of their training and education or accept work at lower pay because they can do no better. If the women should be driven to divorce, the employment situation is not changed and the social situation is aggravated. No one of these alternatives seems to better the employment situation."

These women employ help in the home directly in the form of cleaning, cooking and nursing and indirectly in the form of laundry and restaurant meals. All of them report that the help they employ would have to be dispensed with if they had to give up their jobs.

The average wage received by the 61 women who reported salaries, is \$1,530 per year or \$127 per month. The range is from \$250 per year for part time work up to \$3,200.

Married Women Whose Husbands Are Also in State Service. Anna Campbell Davis, Research Associate, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin.

Life and Labour.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The first woman to pass the examination for opticians is Mrs. Antonia Cervenka.

In a recent examination for school doctors in Prague, although the first seven candidates on the list were women, the Municipal Council proposed to allot the fourteen vacant places to men. On the intervention of the National Council of Women, however, pointing out that doctors in girls' schools should surely be women, the seven women successful candidates were appointed.

RUTH TONI KEINDL.

DENMARK.

Denmark's first Women Police Inspector has been appointed in Aarhus. Johanne Berg has been in the Police force since 1914, and, though her appointment is due to her long period of service, it is none the less important and joyful news as being one more step forward towards the sound and natural development of justice. Johanne Berg's many years' experience have brought her particularly into contact with women's problems with regard to questions of paternity, adoption, etc., and she is deeply interested in all aspects of the women's cause. Besides her activities in the policewomen's movement she is a member of the Aarhus Town Council and belongs to the Social Democratic Party.

The Students' Council of the University of Copenhagen has elected Lis Tørsleff as its President. The object of the Students' Council is to look after the interests of the students within the University. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed as a leader of the 5,000 University students' representatives.

EGYPT.

Recent figures published by the Ministry of Education show a striking increase in the number of pupils in Government schools, as also in the free schools. The number of girl students has grown even more than that of the boys.

The Minister of Education is proposing a Bill for the employment of young women in the administration, especially in connection with the department for girls' schools.

The Government has adhered to the Traffic in Women Convention of 1921, as also to the earlier conventions on this question of 1910 and 1904.

THE EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION ON PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND WOMEN'S WORK IN GERMANY.

Private households and women's work in Germany are suffering severely from the present economic plight, the individual features of which are generally known—lack of money, curtailed exports, restricted foreign currencies resulting in ever increasing unemployment, which at the present moment already exceeds six millions. Severe measures have been adopted in order to maintain a balanced Budget by securing revenues to cover Budget deficits and Unemployment Benefits. Since July 1931 the German Government has passed a number of Decree Laws, of which the Fourth Decree Law (8th December, 1931) is the most far-reaching. This Decree Law contains the most striking restrictions with regard to rates of interest: the fixed-interest securities are subject to a compulsory rate of 6%, in order to pave the way for a general reduction of prices, and thus to counteract the prevailing deflation.

In order to understand the position the measures of the Government concerning women's work must be considered in connection with the Draconic general regulations. Although there are many persons unwilling to forward women's interests, even glad of any opportunity of restriction, the entire German people, however, is ready to reduce the standard of living, if it can thereby help to maintain the stability of the Budget.

The State control of the prices of food and other articles of general use under official supervision, has been supported by the members of the "Association of German Housewives." On an average the prices of household articles have been cut by 10%. Nevertheless, it is very difficult for numerous families to balance their household budget, as already previously salaries, wages, and pensions had been reduced to a great extent. The situation is relieved somewhat by the Fourth Decree Law which reduces the rent by 10% and annuls nearly all agreements between tenants and landlords. In view of the building activities during recent years, this regulation will necessitate further reductions of rent on the part of landlords. In spite of these measures, at the end of March a veritable migration of tenants will take place, as innumerable tenants wish to find smaller homes. Large flats will be sub-divided and changed into a form of communal dwellings. The reduction of social insurance is an especially painful measure. In Germany the insurance against disablement, accidents, and illness covers a great part of the population. The public organisation of social and old-age benefits is also far advanced. But now even these poorest people of the community will suffer from reduced incomes. The retiring-age of officials has in some cases been reduced from 65 to 62 years, and many are being induced to retire voluntarily at 60.

The greatest pressure, however, is exerted on married professional women. The slogan "Only one income to a home" is a serious attack directed against the married woman working in the so-called independent professions or in public services. The work of married women in industry, agriculture, and retail businesses is not effected. Fear of competition, professional jealousy, and the general despotism of men unite to endeavour to remove women from higher professions; the fight against professional work of married woman is obviously only the thin end of the wedge. Of 11½ millions of German working women (35% of all workers) 5 millions are employed in agriculture, 3 millions in industry, 1½ millions in commerce and trade, 300,000 in administration and public services, 300,000 in the service of charity and public health institutions, 1½ millions in households. These figures seem to indicate the foolishness of endeavouring to conquer unemployment by removing women or even only married women from professional work. These measures, therefore, are directed against married women in higher positions just to quieten public opinion.

Contrary to conditions in France (see: *Jus* of Jan. 1932) the married woman teacher is becoming more and more scarce in Germany. At the present moment a motion—(already passed by the Budget Committee)—is being brought forward in the Reichstag for enactment by which married women state officials (for instance those employed in the postal, telephone and telegraph services) may be dismissed at any time provided that their economic situation is considered to be permanently secure. Their right to a pension is compensated by an indemnification. The law-givers by no means consider the fact that in view of the present economic conditions "permanent security" is out of the question for everyone; and, in addition, the right of self-determination of women is completely disregarded. The German women would adapt themselves to this situation, if the same

economic point of view were adopted with respect to the work of men, i.e., if they, too, were employed or not according to their individual financial position, and double-earning were forbidden (for instance: if no pensioned-off persons were permitted to earn money). But this is completely out of the question.

The work of many women is changed by townspeople having been settled in the country, partly on small farms, partly in small market-gardens near big towns in a generous effort to deal with unemployment. It is obvious that the women must understand this new work. Competent authorities and Women's Organisations have furnished the training required, also endeavouring to place woman social workers and educated women gardeners.

We regret to state that the economic situation also affects social institutions for youth, continuation classes, and instruction in citizenship. It is the particular task of the German Women's Movement to encourage these activities in every possible way.

DOROTHEE VON VELSEN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Memorial to Dame Millicent Fawcett. A memorial to Dame Millicent Fawcett is to be unveiled in

Westminster Abbey early in March. It is to consist of the addition of her name and of the following inscription to the plaque in memory of her husband, Henry Fawcett, which is already set in the wall: "A wise, constant and courageous Englishwoman, she won citizenship for women."

(Few women who knew and wholeheartedly admired Dame Millicent's great work would like to raise the ungracious question as to the accuracy of this sweeping claim, but there must be a feeling that she herself, so ready to give generous recognition to the work of others, would not have wished her memorial to be so worded. But it may be, of course, that criticism is premature.—ED.)

Married Women's Nationality. The Home Secretary received on the 29th January a deputation of women's organisations

on the subject of the nationality of married women.

The deputation was introduced by Miss Thelma Cazalet, M.P., and led by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.

The deputation urged that the Government should give practical effect to the policy that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed, and that, in so far as nationality was concerned, a married woman should be in the same position as a man, married or unmarried, or any single woman; and further, urged that the Government should do all in their power to secure the passage into law of the Nationality of Married Women Bill in the coming session of Parliament.

The Home Secretary, in reply, pointed out that the practical difficulty of giving effect to the demands of the women's organisations arose from the importance of maintaining the principle of uniformity in the law relating to nationality throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. Some of the Dominions were not prepared to propose legislation which went beyond the proposals contained in the Hague Convention.

Children's Bill. The text of the Government's Children Bill has now been published. Amongst

other reforms it raises to 18 the age under which sentence of death cannot be passed (at present it is 16), and raises by a year the age at which a child may be prosecuted, that is from seven to eight. Birching is to be abolished. Up to the age of 17 (at present it is 16) offenders will appear in special courts removed as far as possible from the atmosphere of police courts. Outside London a panel of Justices will be appointed to deal with juvenile offenders. Children under the age of ten are not to be sent to

industrial schools, but will be committed to the care of the local education authority, who will be responsible for boarding them out. The Bill will give juvenile offenders a new start, that their lives may not be handicapped at the outset. Clause 55 provides that no boy under 16 and girl under 18 shall take part in any public performance of a dangerous nature. We can see no reason why the age for boys and girls should not be the same.

N.U.S.E.C. Council Meeting. The Annual Council Meeting will take place from the 9th to 11th March. A new

constitution will be the main subject of discussion. There will be a luncheon to women Members of Parliament and a Conference on Local Government.

Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Mrs. Blincoe, on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C., and

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, on behalf of the Open Door Council, gave evidence before the Royal Commission to the effect that special regulations ought not to be imposed on married women which were not imposed on other workers. There should be equality of benefits and equality of contributions. Miss Macmillan remarked: "It can hardly be said that the doing of nothing by a man was of more value than the doing of nothing by a woman."

The Women's Freedom League. Last January our Hastings Branch, in co-operation with Headquarters,

celebrated the eightieth birthday of Mrs. Dora Montefiore, Suffragist, Democrat, Internationalist, by a Party at Yelton Hotel, Hastings, when reminiscent speeches were made by Mrs. Montefiore and several of her co-workers in the struggle for women's emancipation.

With regard to the Children Bill we have protested to the Home Office that this makes no provision for the further protection of children against sexual offences, and that it fails to stress the necessity for more women police.

We are pressing for equal pay for men and women doing equal work in the Civil Service and the Teaching Profession, and are organising Discussion Meetings on the subject. We have also protested vigorously against the dismissal of married women employees by Education Authorities and local governing bodies.

On Saturday, April 16th, we are holding our 25th Annual Conference at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 1

HUNGARY.

At the General Annual Meeting of the Feministák Egyesülete—on its 27th anniversary, Dec. 18th—Mrs. Eugenie Miskolczy Meller as Chairman stated that after the first period of differentiation of women's organisations, now the co-operation of these specialised organisations was taking place, pointing to the fact that women have joined hands in the Liaison Committee, in the Nationality Committee and lately in the Disarmament Committee. Mrs. Melanie Vámbéry, Joint Chairman and Secretary General, summarised the activities of the year, the main features of which were an International Meeting on Statelessness (apatridie) arranged by the Feministák Egyesülete on the occasion of the Budapest Congress of the L.N.U.'s Federation. At this very interesting meeting the question was dealt with in its various aspects by Lord Dickinson, Prof. Ruysen, Prof. Quidde, Dr. Kunz and several prominent Hungarian experts, men and women. The resolution was presented to the Legal Section of the League of Nations. An equally important meeting was held urging the abolition of capital punishment, at which our first woman lawyer, Dr. V. Margaret Ungár was in

the chair. Prof. Rustem Vámbéry, Dr. Szöke and the Bishop Józán were eloquent and convincing and expressed grave regret at the increased number of death sentences which had occurred recently under martial law. It was resolved by the meeting to have the resolution sent to all Members of Parliament and of the Upper House, as well as to political parties.

Several prominent lecturers such as Prof. Quidde and Mrs. Bakker van Bosse, who spoke on Disarmament and Minorities, kindly gave us their co-operation. Dr. Luisi spoke on Women's Work in Uruguay and her activities in the League of Nations Committee on Traffic in Women and Children. Together with several Hungarian members she made investigations into reglementation and houses of ill-fame which are still flourishing.

Very important resolutions passed at our General Meeting demanded Equal Suffrage (women's suffrage is restricted in Hungary) and also the support of our Government for general and total Disarmament and such an economic policy as would promote the co-operation of Hungary with the neighbouring and other countries.

Another resolution called for a Demonstration on Corporal Punishment in Schools. Accordingly on February 9th a Professor of the University, Sándor Imre, a first rate educationalist, gave an excellent lecture on the question from pedagogic, social and psychological standpoints. A great many teachers attended the lecture. Frau Granitsch, of Vienna, in a very vivid and attractive way spoke of Austrian women's work in the Frauenpartei, especially on their latest activities for Home-colonisation as a remedy for unemployment.

We succeeded in obtaining the signature of seven Hungarian Organisations, affiliated to International Organisations, to our Memorandum addressed to the League of Nations Council convened in Paris. In this memorandum we protested against the violation of the Covenant and the Kellogg Pact in the Sino-Japanese conflict.

We collected signatures for the Disarmament Petition, which were presented in the Special Session of the Disarmament Conference by Mrs. Meller then in Geneva.

Since the creation of the Consultative Committee on Nationality Mrs. Meller has served as a representative of the W.I.L.

Mrs. Melanie Vámbéry made very successful speeches at Birth Control courses, in the country at Kiszvárd on Feminism and at the Erzsébet Academy. She also represented the Feministák Egyesülete at a Joint Meeting of different groups on Disarmament.

The economic depression makes our work every day more and more difficult; we often feel inclined to send out an S.O.S.

IRELAND.

Married Women Teachers: A special meeting of the Dublin Council was summoned to consider the action of the authorities with regard to the dismissal of women teachers on marriage. A resolution

was carried regretting the action of the Education Authority in discriminating between married and unmarried employees, and stating that, in the opinion of the Council, this action was unjust, uncalled for, and likely to lead to serious consequences.

The Irish National School Teachers' Organisation has also condemned this policy on educational, economic and ethical grounds.

Professor Winifred Cullis, interviewed on this question, gave her views as follows:—

"I have no doubt that a woman should be allowed to do exactly what she wants. She should not be forced to resign her position on marriage."

When told about the attitude of the education authorities in Belfast with regard to married women teachers, she stated that if the problem was one of supply and demand so many teachers should not be trained. The question, of course, was largely economic. "But," she asked with a smile, "does anyone ever think of asking a charwoman whether she is married or not?"

Some Drawbacks to Tariffs. There is a Customs Frontier in Ireland. Ready made clothing is dutiable in the Irish Free State. It is therefore cheaper to buy ready-mades on the Northern Ireland side of the frontier. This procedure not only saves the pocket, but gives an additional excitement to the sometimes dull business of shopping, and smuggling on these lines has become a recognised practice on the border. Occasionally the practitioner is caught, as, for instance, the other day when a young woman, under the threat that a lady searcher would be summoned, admitted she was wearing "several under-garments."

The prosecuting Counsel deplored the habit of well-to-do women going on shopping expeditions and returning wearing "numerous under-garments, covered by a heavy fur coat." Clearly the Customs Authorities in Ireland might give valuable hints to British Customs officials, when the new tariffs come into force! One particularly amusing—and true—story tells how a lady, having bought a new fur coat, asked a chance acquaintance to wear it till the Customs examination was over, she herself wearing the old one. The official having departed, she turned to thank her accomplice, but the latter calmly stated "This is my coat," and walked away therewith!

One Woman Member of Parliament. The only woman candidate in the recent general election in the Irish Free State, Mrs. Collins O'Driscoll, has been elected for Dublin City North. She is a member of the late Government Party.

D. MELLONE.

LUXEMBOURG.

A Bill has been introduced to amend the Civil Code in the direction of freeing women from the tutelage of their husbands and giving them equal rights in the family. This is the first effort to deal fundamentally with the rights of the married woman and is definitely based on the need for bringing the civil code in this respect into line with present-day conditions and ideas.

Luxembourg has given its women equal political rights with men, but its Civil Code dates from a hundred years ago, and gives rise to the following pertinent questions:

Should not the law recognise an equal duty of fidelity for both spouses?

Why should the husband have a right to establish the legal domicile of the couple wherever his fancy chooses?

Why should the married woman be deprived of the right to make contracts and to bring legal actions?

Is it not high time to establish a system of marriage contract which would better conform to the real common interests of the couple and safeguard the interests of the wife?

Is it not a crying injustice that a wife, who does not enjoy the system of separate property (*séparation des biens*) is deprived of the right to the disposition of her own earnings?

Why does the father alone exercise parental authority, so that the wife is reduced to the rôle of a mere onlooker?

Why are wives with the exception of mothers and the nearest relatives shut out from the Family Council and from the position of guardians?

These questions do indeed show how completely out of date the old laws are, and it is to be hoped that the new Bill will rapidly become law.

L'Action Féminine.

UNITED STATES.

Seventh Conference on the Cause and Cure of War.
Summary by MISS RUTH MORGAN.

Each year for seven years, under the leadership of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, eleven women's organisations of the United States have met in Washington and tried to solve the riddle of the cause and cure of war. This year it was all about Paradoxes; the paradox of want in the midst of plenty, the paradox of peace and mounting armaments, and Russia—the unknown quantity. The League of Nations, the possible adherence of the United States to the World Court, present international issues, and the question of the reduction of armaments were discussed with freedom and candour.

One feature of the Conference this year was the report of Mrs. Rachel Nason, who was selected as the scholar to be sent to the Polish Corridor to study first hand some of the problems there. She presented the situation as she saw it after five months of observation and study.

The delegates took a great part in analyzing and exposing the questions discussed by able speakers, and agreed that in seven conferences they had learned several things:—that, while causes of friction are many, the cause of war lies in the institution of war itself; that, peace machinery must be ready for use in the day of dispute and that the task now before us is to build that peace machinery and to demobilize the war machine.

The Conference, by four unanimous declarations, asked,—that the American delegation to the Geneva Disarmament Conference insist upon the bold reduction in every category of armament indicated by the report of the Preparatory Commission, that the authorization of the construction of naval vessels be consistent with the spirit of the armament truce, that since public opinion in the United States supports the World Court, opinion should be reflected in Senatorial action, and that the United States' note of January 1st, 1932, to Japan and China be commended on its far-reaching interpretation of the Pact of Paris.

Mrs. Catt, in her usual magnificent style, pointed out the danger of what she called "red herrings"—meaning that we should not allow ourselves to be diverted from our main task, that of building peace through peace machinery, by the temptation to go down the by-paths of steps causing the war. The final injunction which the Conference took home was to build peace machinery on an international basis and to reduce the opposing machinery for war on the same international basis because *there is but one cause for war—the institution of war.*

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ROUMANIA.

Princess Alexandrine Cantacuzene has been made a Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown of Roumania. This is the first time such an order has been given to a woman: women have previously only received special orders in connection with Red Cross Work, etc. We congratulate the Princess and all the women of Roumania on this even-handed recognition of a woman's work. It is an example which might well be widely followed in other countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Peru. Following on the news that women have been granted the municipal vote, we learn that certain provisions for granting the parliamentary vote to women are being discussed in connection with the new constitution.

Slavery. It is reported that it has been decided to include a Portuguese woman in the small Committee on Slavery which has just been set up by the League of Nations.

India. A Bill to secure a share of the husband's property for Hindu widows, was defeated in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi. This was introduced by Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda, the author of the Child Marriage Act against the repeal or modification of which women in India are strenuously working.

Great Britain. We congratulate Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Vice-President of the International Council of Women, on the award by the Geological Society of the Lyell Gold Medal and of a Grant from the Lyell Fund, in recognition of her geological work on the Dolomites.

Japan. The regulation extending to women the right to practise law is to come into force on July 1st.

Chile. A Woman Suffrage Bill has been presented to Congress.

Abyssinia. The first school for girls has been opened in the capital of Abyssinia, under the inspiration of the Empress Manem. The Minister of Education spoke at the opening of the desire of the Government to see schools for both girls and boys in all the provinces of the Empire.

Sweden. There are few Swedish women as freely respected and admired in all quarters as Kerstin Hesselgren, Member of the Upper House and Factory Inspector. She received many proofs of this on the recent celebration of her 60th birthday, amongst other things by the King's award of a gold medal in recognition of her value as a citizen.

The Province of Scania has now got its first woman judge, Elin Nilsson, who recently acted as Chairman at the County Court of Luggude.

A REFLECTION ON THE MARRIAGE BAR.

We do not often joke in "Jus," but perhaps the following limerick from the British Women Civil Servants' paper, "Opportunity," may amuse our readers. The Editor invites readers to send in versions in other languages, but regrets that no prize can be offered.

'Twas a foolish young woman who said:
"If in Leap Year I marry dear Fred,
As the offer was mine,
Will they make him resign,
And keep *me* at the office instead?"

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FOR SUFFRAGE AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1931.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
BALANCES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1930:—			
£1,011 12s. 9d. 4½% Treasury Bonds			
1932-34	988 17 6		
£500 Brazil 6½% Loan, 1927.			
Bearer Bonds	495 13 6		
£500 Western Australia 5%, 1945-75	500 1 0		
Army and Navy Stores Deposit A/c.	800 0 0		
Joint Nationality Demonstration:			
Loan	5 0 0		
Petty Cash Expenses repayable	5 1 11		
Due to Miss Macmillan	5 17 8		
General Fund	538 15 11		
Petty Cash	6 4 8½		
	3345 12 2½		
Jus:—			
Subscriptions	127 13 11		
Cash Sales	2 1 10		
Advertisements	45 10 9		
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	30 0 0		
Special Donation from Mrs. Schwyzer	16 0 0		
	221 6 6		
DONATIONS			
	36 7 1		
REPORT RECEIPTS			
	1 16 0		
MEMBERS' FEES			
	112 18 11		
AFFILIATION FEES			
	108 5 5		
BERLIN CONGRESS PLEDGES			
	249 13 8		
DIVIDENDS:—4½% Treasury Bonds			
	43 15 0		
DEPOSIT INTEREST:—			
Army and Navy Stores	27 18 0		
Barclay's Bank	3 1 10		
	30 19 10		
TWELFTH CONGRESS FUND			
	136 16 3		
LITERATURE SALES			
	0 8 1		
DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE FUND			
	4 0 0		
JOINT NATIONALITY COMMITTEE			
	1 12 4		
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS			
	1 15 6		
TRANSFER FROM CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FUND			
	914 17 5		
	£5210 4 2½		
Jus:—			
Printing and Dispatch	261 9 10		
Editor's Fee	150 0 0		
Assistant Editor's Fee	41 13 4		
Advertisement Manager's Expenses	24 10 0		
Advertisement Manager's Commission	4 0 1		
Rent	20 0 0		
Blocks	6 14 7		
Cartoons	10 10 0		
Articles	1 3 0		
Translations	25 4 0		
Postages	8 3 0½		
	553 7 10½		
GENERAL:—			
Salaries	832 9 0		
Light, Heat and Cleaning	45 17 1½		
Rent	130 0 0		
Printing and Stationery	73 7 3½		
Telephone, Telegrams and Messenger	39 16 1		
Postages	39 11 4½		
Insurances	4 18 6		
Geneva Office	76 13 10		
	1242 13 2½		
JOINT NATIONALITY COMMITTEE:—			
Miss Macmillan—Loan repaid	6 7 10		
N.U.S.E.C. repaid on Guarantee	1 2 2		
	7 10 0		
LEAGUE NATIONALITY COMMITTEE			
	33 18 10½		
MISCELLANEOUS:—			
Subscriptions	11 0 4		
Income Tax	6 15 0		
Corporation Profits Tax	16 2 1		
Audit Fee	5 5 0		
Press Cuttings	7 12 3		
Travelling	61 17 1		
Peace Committee (from Catt Donation)	14 11 1		
Repairs (typewriter)	0 13 6		
Cheque Books and Stamps	2 9 2		
Sundries	15 14 6½		
	142 0 0½		
BALANCES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1931:—			
£500 Brazil 6½% Loan, 1927.			
Bearer Bonds, at Cost	495 13 6		
£500 Western Australia 5%, 1945-75, at Cost	500 1 0		
Army and Navy Stores Deposit A/c.	800 0 0		
Barclay's Bank Deposit Account	332 10 0		
Disarmament Committee Fund	4 0 0		
Current Account, Barclay's Bank	1093 0 0		
Petty Cash	5 9 8½		
	3230 14 2½		
	£5210 4 2½		

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Vouchers of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. We have verified the cash at bank and the securities.

106, St. Clement's House,
Clement's Lane,
Lombard Street, E.C.4.

February 5th, 1932.

HOMERSHAM & Co.,
Incorporated Accountants.

CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The Alliance is a member of the above Council (Comité d'Entente des Grandes Associations Internationales) which works in co-operation with the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in Paris. We have recently received from the Council some suggestions as to methods whereby young people can help their fellows during the present economic crisis. The Junior Red Cross League sends in reports of what its national branches have been doing in the different countries, and definite suggestions are listed in regard to the provision of meals, clothes, accommodation, etc., for those whose parents are out of work.

These are really practical suggestions for training young people, even school children, in the duty of personal aid to their less fortunate comrades. The importance of individual and voluntarily organised corporate social service must not be lost sight of in these days when the State is being more and more looked to as the only source of assistance. Societies with youth groups, or those with children of their own or who work among young people, might well consider the question of getting into touch with this movement possibly through the Red Cross Organisation in their countries.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

EST-CE UN ECHEC?

(Réflexions d'une "Franco-Anglaise").

Le Ministère Laval est tombé. Il est tombé parce que le Sénat a repoussé le projet de réforme électorale qui assurait le passage, au premier tour, d'un député ayant reçu 40% des votes. La majorité des Sénateurs veulent conserver le ballottage. Ils ont pour cela d'excellents raisons qu'on comprend peu en Grande Bretagne où le système d'élections est autrement simpliste. Aussi, certains journaux anglais dont le *Daily Telegraph* et l'*Evening Standard* ont proclamé en haute lettre que le Sénat a renversé le Ministère sur la question du vote des femmes. On ne s'en douterait certes point à lire le *Journal des Débats* du 18 février, qui s'indigne contre le manque de patriotisme des Pères Conscrips, ou l'Ami du Peuple, dont la véhémence tient du délire. Pas un mot, dans ces feuilles françaises, sur le Vote des Femmes "Que diable vont-elles faire dans cette galère?"

Et pourtant il était en effet question du Vote des Femmes dans la Réforme électorale. Le groupe féministe du Sénat avait décidé "de demander par voie d'amendement l'inscription du Vote des Femmes, lorsque viendra en discussion au Sénat le projet relatif aux circonscriptions." L'intransigeance de M. Héry et de ses acolytes qui ont décidé de ne pas rapporter le projet dont M. Héry est rapporteur, autorisait peut-être le groupe féministe du Sénat à cette manœuvre oblique. Si le Vote des Femmes ne peut entrer par la Grande Porte, tâchons de lui ménager une lucarne. Après tout, il y a des précédents. C'est sans éclat, sans proclamation officielle, par un simple mot glissé dans un article de la Constitution, que la Troisième République s'est installée en France.

Mais nos féministes françaises n'étaient pas enthousiastes.

"Devons-nous nous réjouir de cette initiative?" interroge "La Française" du 13 février. "Est-ce vraiment la meilleure méthode d'aboutir que de rattacher le vote des femmes à telle ou telle réforme en cours? Nous ne le croyons pas. Une réforme aussi importante que celle du suffrage féminin mérite une discussion loyale, indépendante de toute manœuvre électorale d'ordre politique."

Indépendante de toute manœuvre électorale. C'est là le langage de la saine raison. Et si le Ministère Laval entraîne avec lui dans sa chute le projet de vote des femmes, il est peu de féministes honnêtes qui le regretteront.

La résolution du Sénat n'est pas un échec féministe. C'est certainement un échec pour les manœuvres électorales de la Droite. La suppression du Second Tour de Scrutin, en effet, interdisait toute combinaison possible, et l'on sait que la prépondérance des partis de gauche est en général assurée par l'alliance des radicaux et des socialistes, qui, au premier tour sont rivaux, mais se font des concessions au second afin d'empêcher l'élection du candidat de Droite.

La complexion du Sénat est connue. Depuis le lendemain de la guerre, où les élections amènèrent une "Chambre introuvable" jusqu'à l'heure de la Conférence du Désarmement, son homogénéité n'a pas varié. Le Sénat est le gardien des libertés républicaines. Certains journaux et non des moindres ont pu jouer sur le motif patriotique de "présenter un front uni à la Conférence." Tout le monde sait bien qu'un changement de personnel gouvernemental ne variera guère l'attitude de la France à Genève, et l'étranger est encore une fois surpris de constater combien la politique extérieure compte peu dans les manœuvres électorales françaises. C'est toujours la traditionnelle opposition de loyalismes dans les termes: républicain, réactionnaire—la seule qui compte en province. Le scrutin du 40% était une manœuvre "réactionnaire" destinée à favoriser les partis de droite. Y annexer le suffrage des femmes—et il n'est pas douteux que la Droite compte beaucoup sur le vote des femmes catholiques—c'était donner à une mesure de justice une saveur de parti peu faite pour enthousiasmer les féministes de l'U.F.S.F.

D'autre part il est plaisant de voir M. Héry que, de par ses idées et son attitude, nous appellerions, nous, un bourgeois réactionnaire, se poser en défenseur des libertés républicaines. Que l'Eglise, par les votes de la Droite, s'ingère de plus en plus dans les affaires de l'Etat, c'est là, en effet, la grande peur des radicaux et la seule raison, prétendent-ils, pour laquelle ils s'opposent au Vote des Femmes.

Et quand il serait prouvé que leurs craintes soient fondées, cela ne changerait rien à la justice de la cause féministe. Le Temps remarquait ces jours derniers que "Le principal argument en faveur du suffrage féminin est un argument d'ordre logique. Il n'y a pas d'infériorité de sexe. Il n'y a plus de nos jours que des êtres humains, des individus aptes à bénéficier lorsqu'ils y sont préparés d'une parfaite égalité de droits. Le France est présentement l'un des derniers îlots de résistance à cette réforme qui tend à l'universel."

"Ilot" en effet! La République Espagnole ne vient-elle pas, dans sa constitution de traiter les hommes et les femmes sur un pied parfait d'égalité? Et nos sénateurs radicaux ne nieront pas que l'Eglise catholique ait autrement d'influence sur les femmes en Espagne qu'elle n'en a jamais eu en France? Pourtant la République Espagnole n'a pas eu peur. Nous lisons que la Ligue des Droits de l'Homme a pris l'initiative d'une grande manifestation suffragiste pour le 26 février à la Salle Wagram, où Dona Clara Campoamor, députée au Cortes, doit prendre la parole. Souhaitons que les organisateurs de cette réunion y conviennent tout particulièrement les sénateurs anti-suffragistes. Ceux-ci pourront apprendre de Clara Campoamor ce que les Républicains espagnols ont fait pour les femmes et ils se demanderont en toute justice si leur attitude, vraiment "réactionnaire" convient à une République et à une démocratie.

ALINE M. REES.

CONFERENCE DU DESARMEMENT.

Dîner du Comité de Désarmement. Vendredi, 5 février, un dîner était offert aux Déléguées à la Conférence du Désarmement par le Comité du Désarmement créé par les Organisations Féminines Internationales (Présidente, Mademoiselle Mary Dingman). La plupart des 15 Organisations Internationales étaient représentées, et parmi les hôtes d'honneur se trouvaient Madame Dr. Hélène Weber (ancien membre du Reichstag), Mademoiselle Forchhammer (déléguée danoise à l'Assemblée de la Société des Nations), et Madame Puech (Présidente du Groupe Féminin de l'Association pour la Société des Nations, France). Citons encore parmi les éminentes personnalités présentes la Princesse Cantacuzène (Vice-Présidente du Conseil International des Femmes), bien connue comme chef des Organisations Féminines en Roumanie, et la Princesse Radziwill envers laquelle le Comité du Désarmement a contracté une dette de sincère gratitude pour l'intérêt plein de sympathie qu'elle a continuellement porté au travail de ses organisations. Le dîner était présidé par Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann (Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté).

Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann introduisit les Déléguées, qui ont pris la parole dans l'ordre suivant: Dr. Mary E. Woolley (Déléguée des Etats-Unis), Mademoiselle Winifred Kydd (Déléguée du Canada), Madame Paradowska-Szelagowska (Déléguée de la Pologne), le Dr. Paulina Luisi (Déléguée de l'Uruguay), et Madame Corbett Ashby (Déléguée de la Grande Bretagne).

Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann conclut en exprimant sa profonde reconnaissance, en nom des Organisations Féminines, pour le travail énergique de leur Présidente, Miss Mary Dingman, dont le courage, la patience et le tact ont permis aux organisations de réunir les 8,000,000 de signatures qui furent présentées à la Conférence du Désarmement.

En un bref exposé, Miss Dingman remercia Madame Ramondt-Hirschmann et au nom du Comité du Désarmement, lui offrit un livre, en signe de reconnaissance pour l'énorme travail accompli par la Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté en recueillant les signatures pour les Pétitions du Désarmement, dont 6,000,000 ont été réunies par elle seule.

Grand Meeting. Le 6 février un meeting eut lieu sous les auspices du Comité du Désarmement créé par les Organisations Féminines Internationales et le Comité des Associations Féminines Genevoises.

En l'absence, pour raisons de santé, de Mademoiselle Gourd, Secrétaire de l'Alliance Internationale des Femmes pour l'Action Civique et Politique des Femmes, Madame Guthrie d'Arcis, Présidente de l'Union Mondiale de la Femme pour la Concorde Internationale, décrivit la cérémonie de la Présentation des Pétitions dans le hall de la Conférence.

Madame Puech (France) rapporta le grand effort fait par les femmes françaises, effort dont le résultat est représenté par 670,000 signatures aux pétitions. Madame Ragaz, Vice-Présidente de la Ligue Internationale des Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté, décrivit la réunion des signatures en Suisse. Mademoiselle Zellweger continua ensuite au nom du Conseil National des Femmes Suisses, après quoi Madame Adèle Schreiber-Krieger, Députée au Reichstag, prononça un discours énergique où elle s'éleva contre l'exploitation des industries de guerre et insista sur le devoir de la Société des Nations dans ce domaine. Son discours fut chaleureusement applaudi.

Le dernier orateur, Madame Malaterre-Sellier, prononça un discours éloquent sur "La Femme et la

Paix," que la nombreuse assistance accueillit par des applaudissements enthousiastes.

Trois des femmes déléguées étaient présentes, mais ne purent prendre la parole à cause de leur situation officielle.

Une note pittoresque fut apportée au début du meeting par une danse exécutée par des écoliers qui chantèrent "La Paix Heureuse" de Jacques Dalcroze.

La présentation des pétitions.

La Session plénière de la Conférence du Désarmement du 6 février fut l'occasion d'une imposante manifestation. Les sections féminines et autres présentèrent les pétitions de chaque pays. Miss Mary Dingman, Présidente du Comité des quinze organisations féminines internationales qui groupent quarante cinq millions de membres, introduisit dans un discours éloquent le texte des déclarations approuvées par huit millions de signataires.

Les délégations de femmes, ceintes d'écharpes blanches, défilèrent dans le Hall de la Conférence; chaque délégation portait les pétitions de son propre pays. La Grande Bretagne venait en tête avec 2,146,062 signatures, puis les Etats-Unis avec 1,135,453, l'Allemagne avec 1,041,345, tandis que les chiffres des autres nations eu égard au nombre de leur population, n'étaient pas moins impressionnants.

L'Association des Femmes Catholiques défila ensuite, ainsi que d'autres groupes représentant les Eglises, les Etudiants et la Fédération Internationale des groupes de la Société des Nations dont Lord Cecil fut l'interprète.

L'opinion publique a donc éloquentement parlé dans le sens désiré par tous les hommes d'Etat, amis de la paix. Nous espérons que leur action en sera facilitée et qu'ils pourront plus aisément amener les partisans des intérêts dits "nationaux" à une action simple et directe en accord avec le désir de paix si largement exprimé dans l'univers.

"DISARMAMENT"

A bi-monthly review of the League of Nations and of Governments, Parliamentary Debates and the Trend of Public Opinion and Action relating to the World Disarmament Conference, 1932.

Subscription rate: 9 Swiss francs for 18 issues.

Publisher:

DISARMAMENT INFORMATION COMMITTEE
31, Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva, SWITZERLAND.

UNE SUFFRAGETTE FRANCAISE.

L'après-midi du 5 février, dans la salle des délibérations du Sénat, une dame s'est subrepticement enchaînée — grâce à une vraie chaîne et à deux solides cadenas — au dossier de son fauteuil.

Entre deux rapports, Mme. Jane Valbot — c'était elle, représentante récidiviste des femmes qui veulent avoir le droit de vote — se leva et demanda au Président, avec beaucoup d'excuses, de s'occuper enfin des droits des femmes.

Cela eut pour effet d'émouvoir singulièrement les membres de la Haute-Assemblée et d'exaspérer le président qui, ayant agité frénétiquement sa sonnette, jeta l'ordre:

— Qu'on la fasse sortir !...

— Impossible, répondit doucement Mme. Jane Valbot. Je suis enchaînée... Voyez plutôt.

Et Mme. Valbot secoua ses chaînes tandis que la Haute Assemblée paraissait s'amuser infiniment.

Trois policiers s'avancèrent et s'efforcèrent d'ouvrir

les cadenas, de rompre les chaînes, en en cherchant le défaut. Rien à faire. Il n'y avait pas de clé. Et les chaînes résistaient.

Tandis que se déroulaient ces incidents, un messenger allait remettre au président du Sénat la clé, avec une lettre explicative...

La lettre est-elle parvenue à sa destination?...

Toujours est-il que nous avons pu prendre connaissance de ces quelques passages:

"Voici bientôt 13 ans, Monsieur le Président, que la question du vote féminin est étouffée au Sénat, et pendant ce temps l'Espagne, la Roumanie, le Portugal, la Grèce, la Turquie elle-même ont accordé aux femmes des droits politiques..."

"Les Françaises sont-elles donc si méprisables qu'on ne puisse même pas leur faire l'honneur de prendre en considération les vœux et les démarches de leurs Associations?"

"...Enchaînée dans la salle des délibérations du Sénat, Monsieur le Président, je vous fais parvenir cette clé qui vous permettra de me faire libérer."

"Puisse ce geste être interprété par le Sénat comme un symbole de notre espoir!..."

Cependant les policiers, nerveux, ne pouvant venir à bout des chaînes et des cadenas, et n'ayant plus la patience d'attendre la clé, brisèrent d'un poing furieux le dossier du fauteuil. Et, sans brutalité, d'ailleurs, ils conduisirent Mme. Jane Valbot, délivrée, mais pareille, sous ses lourdes chaînes, à une prisonnière des temps antiques, jusqu'aux bureaux de la questure.

Les questeurs n'eurent nulle peine à reconnaître Mme. Valbot. Ils admonestèrent, mi-graves, mi-plaisants, la récidiviste et lui annoncèrent qu'elle serait, désormais, privée de cartes. Puis, ils l'accompagnèrent vers la sortie, avec une grande courtoisie. Car on peut être galant, sans être féministe.

L'Oeuvre.

SUISSE.

Les Genevoises sont désormais électrices et éligibles aux Conseils de prudhommes. Ce fut un événement auquel le Département de l'intérieur n'était point préparé, que ce scrutin d'un samedi soir, dans une salle de gymnastique hâtivement débarassée de ses engins, et encombrée par une telle affluence que des centaines d'électrices ont dû piétiner pendant trois quart d'heure avant de pouvoir aborder leurs stands respectifs où attendaient les urnes.

Plusieurs mamans tiraient leurs mioches par la main; plusieurs ouvriers (détail touchant et combien peu antiféministe) accompagnaient leurs femmes. Le résultat fut que sur 330 juges prudhommes, 23 femmes ont été élues. Les sacrifiées ont été les électrices de la campagne, encore mal organisées et à qui il avait été impossible de proposer des candidates. Dans le Groupe XI., patronal, les femmes représenteront le tiers du nombre des juges; dans le Groupe VI., ouvrier, les deux tiers, ceci dû, nous le regrettons, à une pression professionnelle qui n'a rien à faire avec le féminisme.

UNE GROUPE DE JEUNES.

Nous lisons avec plaisir dans la Française du 6 février qu'un groupe de "Jeunes" vient de se constituer en France dans le sein de l'U.F.S.F. On s'étonne en effet, souvent et dans tous les pays, de l'indifférence des "jeunes" à la cause suffragiste. Indifférence plutôt qu'hostilité, causée sans doute par des études spécialisées et absorbantes, un travail qui laisse peu de loisirs, peut être une certaine peur du ridicule, mais surtout, assure une correspondante, cette

tendance à l'individualisme outrancier, au repliement sur soi qui caractérise la jeunesse pensante de notre époque.

Faut-il ajouter aussi ce manque de réactions dues aux injustices si nombreuses autrefois, envers notre sexe et qui tendent à diminuer tous les jours. Une femme en effet ne se rend compte de l'iniquité du Code Civil que du jour où elle doit, personnellement, en souffrir. En Angleterre l'attachement de tant de femmes des professions libérales à la cause féministe est dû aux entraves que l'opinion masculine met encore sur leur chemin, quant à l'obtention de grades universitaires ou professionnels; aux différences de traitements pour le même travail, et enfin à l'impossibilité relative d'atteindre les hautes carrières administratives.

Les féministes anglaises—qui ont le vote depuis des années—bataillent encore pour l'égalité de traitement des hommes et des femmes dans les services ministériels. Par contre dans la Colonne d'Annonces de la Française, sous la rubrique de "Concours ouverts aux Femmes", nous lisons qu'au Ministère de l'Agriculture, au Ministère du Travail et des Travaux Publics la position de rédacteur peut être obtenue après concours "avec le traitement général des rédacteurs sans distinction de sexe." Serait-ce donc le manque d'injustice dans leur existence quotidienne qui rend si tièdes à l'égard du féminisme les jeunes filles et jeunes femmes qui de par leurs occupations professionnelles devraient être ses plus fermes adhérentes?

C'est avec un sentiment de vive satisfaction que nous apprenons la constitution de ce groupe de jeunes, dont l'objet sera d'alerter leurs camarades à Paris et en Province, de leur ouvrir les yeux sur leurs droits et sur leurs devoirs. Il est intéressant de remarquer que ces "Jeunes" se mettant à l'école de leurs aînées s'interdisent une action autonome. Leur propagande s'intégrera à celle du Comité central ou des groupes régionaux de l'U.F.S.F.

CONGRES INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES MEDITERRANEENNES,

CONSTANTINE (ALGERIE) 29-30 Mars. 1932.

Nous venons de recevoir le programme définitif des travaux et des manifestations, ainsi que les excursions, prévues pour la Conférence. Le programme est divisé en deux sections, comme suit:

1. Condition légale, morale et économique de la femme et de l'enfant dans les pays Européens de la Méditerranée;
2. Condition légale (droit coutumier), moral et économique de la femme et de l'enfant dans les pays musulmans de la Méditerranée.

La Conférence sera sous la présidence de Mme. Malaterre Sellier. En ce qui concerne les détails du voyage et les excursions prévues, nos lectrices pourront s'adresser directement à Mme. Lauga, Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, Gare de Constantine, Algérie. Pour toutes les autres questions, s'adresser à Mme. Alquier, Musée du Coudiat à Constantine. Depuis que le programme a paru, nous avons reçu la triste nouvelle de la mort de M. Alquier, mais sans doute si le deuil empêche Mme. Alquier de s'occuper des détails de l'organisation, des arrangements seront pris sur place pour répondre aux lettres qui lui seront adressées.

Les excursions s'annoncent comme tout spécialement intéressantes, et les congressistes pourront y participer dans des conditions particulièrement avantageuses.

NOUVELLES DE TOUS PAYS.

Tchécoslovaquie. La première femme qui vient de passer l'examen d'opticien est Mme. Antonia Cervenka.

Dans le récent concours pour l'inspection médicale scolaire, à Prague, les sept premières places furent données à des femmes. Cela n'empêcha pas le Conseil municipal de Prague de proposer d'allouer seulement à des hommes les quatorze places vacantes. Le Conseil National des Femmes protesta, et fit remarquer que dans les écoles de filles, le poste de médecin devrait de préférence être réservé à des femmes. Son avis fut écouté et les sept femmes docteurs reçues au concours furent pourvues de postes.

Le paysan russe et les droits des femmes. Les droits effectifs des femmes parmi les paysans russes ont toujours été en contradiction avec le Code Civil russe comme avec les Codes des autres pays. La loi russe allouait aux femmes, épouses et filles, seulement le quartzième de l'héritage familial — mais la coutume paysanne ignorait cette limite. Les femmes étaient en tout point considérées sur le même pied que l'homme, et dans les partages leur droit à la propriété était en fonction de leur apport au travail commun. Les soeurs, généralement n'héritaient pas de leurs frères, quand par mariage elles entraient dans une autre famille et recevaient alors comme douaire la récompense de leur travail domestique; mais une soeur non mariée ou une veuve qui retournait au foyer familial vivre avec ses frères, recevait toujours éventuellement sa part, donnée soit de bon gré, soit par arrêt du tribunal. Ce droit à l'héritage, fondé sur le seul travail, ne faisait dans la coutume aucune distinction entre les femmes légitimes et les concubines. Il est intéressant de noter que le mari n'héritait de sa femme que s'il y avait eu cohabitation pendant dix ans au moins — autrement le bien de la défunte revenait à ses parents.

Cette coutume d'héritage a été la base légale de nombreux verdicts délivrés en cour de Justice. Le Travail est toujours reconnu comme donnant un droit inaliénable à la propriété. C'est un fait remarquable que précisément parmi les paysans, où les habitudes patriarcales sont si fortes et les liens du sang sacrés, la parenté n'entraîne pas avec soi le droit à la propriété. Quand des intérêts sont en conflit, c'est à ceux du travail que la conscience populaire donne la préférence.

d'après RUTH TONI KEINDL.

Roumanie. La princesse Alexandrine Cantacuzene a reçu la distinction, la première donnée à une femme, de Grand Officier de l'Ordre de la Couronne de Roumanie. Nos félicitations.

Danemark. La première inspectrice de Police du Danemark a été nommée à Aarhus. Johanne Berg fait partie de la police depuis 1914. Sa promotion est donc méritée et les femmes s'en réjouissent particulièrement. Johanne Berg s'intéresse profondément à tous les aspects de la cause féminine; sa carrière lui ayant permis d'étudier pratiquement les questions de paternité, d'adoption, etc. Elle est membre du Conseil municipal d'Aarhus et appartient au Parti Social Démocrate.

Le Conseil d'Etudiants de l'Université de Copenhague a élu Lis Tørsloff à la présidence. Ce Conseil d'Etudiants veille aux intérêts de ses membres universitaires. C'est la première fois qu'une femme a été mise à la tête des délégués de 5,000 étudiants.

Égypte. Des chiffres récents publiés par le ministère de l'Instruction publique montrent l'accroissement considérable des élèves — encore plus sensible pour les filles que pour les garçons — dans les Ecoles de l'Etat, et aussi les Ecoles libres.

Le Ministère propose l'admission des femmes dans les postes administratifs de l'Instruction publique.

Le Gouvernement a adhéré à la Convention contre la Traite des Blanches de 1921.

Pérou. Maintenant que les Péruviennes ont le vote municipal, nous apprenons que certaines provisions touchant la Franchise parlementaire seront sans doute introduites dans la nouvelle Constitution.

Portugal. Une femme portugaise a été désignée pour faire partie de la Commission de l'Esclavage qui vient d'être constituée par la Société des Nations. C'est Mme. Castro a Aimeida, représentante du Portugal à l'Institut de Coopération Intellectuelle.

Inde Une loi qui aurait autorisé une veuve à bénéficier d'une partie de l'héritage de son mari vient d'être repoussée par l'Assemblée législative de Delhi.

Angleterre. Nous félicitons Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Vice-présidente du Conseil International des Femmes, pour la distinction qui lui a été décernée par la Société Géologique. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon a reçu la médaille d'or Lyell et le Prix Lyell en reconnaissance de ses recherches géologiques dans les Dolomites.

Japon. Les femmes pourront exercer toutes les professions en cour de Justice à partir du 1^{er} juillet.

Chili. Un projet de Suffrage féminin vient d'être présenté au Congrès.

Abyssinie. La première école de filles s'est ouverte dans la Capitale de l'Abyssinie sous l'inspiration de l'Impératrice Manem.

Le Gouvernement a l'intention de fonder des écoles pour garçons et filles dans toutes les provinces de l'Empire.

Suède. Il y a peu de femmes aussi honorées en Suède que Kerstin Hesselgren, Députée à la Chambre Haute et Inspectrice du Travail. Parmi les cadeaux reçus par elle lors de son 60ème anniversaire on pouvait voir une médaille d'or décernée par le Roi en récompense de ses services civiques.

La province de Scanie a maintenant une femme juge, Elin Nilson, qui fut récemment présidente du Tribunal de Comité à Luggude.

Norvège. Une association de paysannes norvégiennes, regrettant de voir la jeunesse abandonner la campagne pour la surpopulation des villes et l'insécurité des carrières industrielles, sans compter l'émigration aux Amériques, propose de faciliter le Retour à la Terre par l'établissement d'un Crédit Foncier féminin qui prêterait l'argent nécessaire à l'installation de Ménages paysans. Les fonds seront entre les mains du Conseil des Paysannes Norvégiennes et seront distribués sur la recommandation des Sociétés agricoles et de l'Association "Ny Jord."

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur a reçu une députation présentée par Miss Cazalet, M.P., sur la question de Nationalité.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, parlant au nom de ses collègues demanda que le Gouvernement fit tout en son pouvoir pour donner force de loi au Bill sur la Nationalité de la Femme Mariée qui est devant le Parlement.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur indiqua dans sa réponse que la question demandait à être résolue d'une manière uniforme dans tout l'Empire Britannique — et qu'il lui était difficile de progresser tant que certains des Dominions refuseraient d'aller plus loin que la Convention de la Haye.

Le Code Pénal des Enfants et Mineurs.

Le texte de ce nouveau Bill vient d'être publié. L'âge où peut être encourue la peine de mort vient d'être relevé jusqu'à 18 ans et l'âge de poursuite jusqu'à 8 ans. Jusqu'à 18 ans les prévenus seront jugés par des tribunaux spéciaux éloignés autant que possible de l'atmosphère des tribunaux de police. Les enfants au-dessous de 10 ans ne seront pas envoyés dans les maisons de correction dites en Angleterre "écoles industrielles" mais seront placés sous la surveillance de l'autorité municipale. Le Bill est destiné à faciliter la réhabilitation des jeunes prévenus, sans entraver leur carrière. La Clause 55 interdit à tout garçon au-dessous de 16 ans et à toute fille au-dessous de 18 de prendre part à des représentations de nature dangereuse.

La Réunion annuelle de l'Union des Sociétés pour l'Egalité civique, aura lieu à Londres du 9 au 11 mars. Le sujet principal de discussion sera "une nouvelle Constitution."

Un lunch sera donné aux femmes membres du Parlement.

LES ATTAQUES CONTRE LE DROIT DES FEMMES AU TRAVAIL.

Si nous avons eu en France les attaques verbales de M. Charles Richet contre le droit des femmes au travail, et en particulier contre le travail de la femme mariée, du moins n'a-t-on encore pris dans les grandes entreprises privées et dans les administrations d'Etat aucune mesure discriminatoire. La dureté des temps hélas, frappe les femmes comme les hommes; les chiffres cités plus loin par M. Justin Godart en sont une preuve. Mais les lettres qui arrivent à "Jus Suffragi" d'Irlande, des Etats-Unis, d'Allemagne contiennent des plaintes autrement désespérantes. La restriction du travail féminin, et en particulier du travail de la femme mariée dans l'enseignement et les postes administratifs est imposé par mesure gouvernementale. Le Conseil National des Femmes d'Irlande proteste, en vain. Aux Etats-Unis une statistique rigoureusement conduite par Anna Campbell Davis du Département des Etudes économiques de l'Université de Wisconsin a prouvé que sur 64 cas examinés, 46 déclarent l'impossibilité pratique d'abandonner leur situation. Ces 64 femmes ont des charges de famille chiffrées à 153. Si on les force à démissionner, elles encombreront la demande pour d'autres emplois ou s'offriront à bas prix.

La note d'Allemagne est encore plus triste. Une réduction de 10% sur les prix et les salaires est générale et patriotiquement acceptée. L'Association des Ménagères a promis son concours pour faire respecter les lois sur la vente des denrées. Les retraites sont diminuées; leur terme est avancé. Enfin la femme mariée institutrice ou fonctionnaire se fait rare. Un projet de loi est devant le Reichstag proposant que dans les services publics, toute femme mariée qui n'a pas strictement besoin de son salaire, doit démissionner. Son droit à la retraite est compensé par une indemnité. En Angleterre où la femme mariée dans les services d'Etat n'existe plus depuis de longues années, l'attaque se fait d'autre façon. Ce sont les femmes mariées qui ont les premières supporté les diminutions ou la suppression de l'Assurance-chômage. "On ne voit vraiment pas dit Miss Chrystal Macmillan pourquoi le non travail d'un homme aurait plus de valeur que le non travail d'une femme."

La seule note optimiste nous vient du Luxembourg. Un projet de loi a été introduit pour amender le Code Civil, dans le sens d'une égalité plus complète entre les époux. C'est le premier pas vers la reconnaissance des droits de la femme mariée, du moins en matière-domestique.

Ce récit de nos misères en plein 20^{ème} siècle, où la femme semblait avoir conquis tous ses droits, nous fait comprendre une fois de plus la nécessité de la propagande féministe et le besoin d'une organisation internationale telle que l'Alliance. "Notre journal" écrit plus haut notre Secrétaire générale, continue à paraître bien que battu par le vent de l'adversité. Aidons-le de toutes nos ressources: par la plume, par l'argent, par la parole. Nous avons toujours ce devoir envers notre sexe de nous maintenir à la charrue pour tracer notre sillon, droit et profond, à travers le monde."

A. M. R.

CHOMAGE ET TRAVAIL DES FEMMES.

Sous ce titre, M. Justin Godart, sénateur du Rhône, écrivant dans la République proteste contre la campagne menée par les disciples de M. Charles Richet. Certains chiffres donnés par lui sont significatifs: "A Paris—qu'on réfléchisse sur ce détail révélateur de lourdes responsabilités pour la femme—le mois dernier dans les 61,000 chômeurs inscrits il y avait 14,000 femmes chefs de famille."

Mlle. Braut dans Le Radical demande si M. Charles Richet prétend supprimer le travail de la femme à la campagne qu'advient-il de toutes les exploitations agricoles?

d'après La Française.

LE CERTIFICAT PRÉ-NUPTIAL EN FRANCE.

Le Parti Social de la Santé Publique a obtenu de son président, M. Justin Godart, qu'il dépose au Sénat la proposition dont nous publions aujourd'hui le texte intégral, en souhaitant qu'elle soit prochainement adoptée:

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