

JVS SVFFRAGII.



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MME. HODA CHARAOUI PACHA.



WE are publishing in this number a very interesting account of the beginnings of the feminist movement in Egypt, which refers to the valuable and devoted work of Mme. Hoda Charaoui in many directions. Mme. Charaoui is the president of the "Union Féministe Egyptienne," which was formally affiliated to the Alliance at the Rome Congress. Those of our readers who were present at the Congress will not have forgotten the

charming and graceful figures of the Egyptian delegation, the leader of which they will recognise in the delightful portrait we now publish. Mme. Charaoui is a great figure in Cairo, and her charm and forceful personality are a valuable asset to the women's movement there. Though women in Egypt are already experiencing the truth that supporters of the woman movement when in power are not quite so helpful as their previous promises had suggested, yet they are not losing heart.

THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

A SUGGESTION has been made on behalf of the unfranchised countries which demands the co-operation of those readers who have helped to win the vote in their own country. Mme. Theodoropoulos, of Greece, wants to learn just how the women of the enfranchised countries set to work to make the mass of their countrywomen take an interest in the question of suffrage; and, further, how they organised propaganda among the different political parties. We beg former suffrage workers in all the countries where women have won the vote to think back to the time of their active campaigning and to send us accounts of different aspects of their work of propaganda: such as election campaigns, paper selling drives, picketing, house-to-house canvassing, processions, etc., etc.

Another piece of information needed is whether in any country readers can suggest really worth while plays which illustrate some point on the suffrage programme. In England our readers will perhaps remember a play called boldly "Votes for Women," by Elizabeth Robins, which was produced in London in 1907. There were a good many others of varying degrees of merit, and the same must be true of other countries: certainly France can produce some. We appeal to our readers to send us brief notes of any plays of this kind which, apart from their special subject, are sufficiently well written to interest the general public.

In the Great Britain Notes this month will be found a brief reference to the death of Miss I. O. Ford. Miss Ford was a delegate to the Alliance Congresses at Buda Pest in 1913 and at Geneva in 1920, and she was one of those who did not lose interest in our work even when her own time and energy were largely given to other things. To quote from a notice in the *Times*: "The struggle for such political rights as women need in the traffic of modern politics, national and international, the healing of what she thought economic wrongs, the protection of animals from cruelty, the furtherance of peace, stirred her to brave and unselfish effort. She was animated, frank, and tender, a good fighter and a gay friend. You might disagree with her but never quarrel."

Our readers will all be interested to learn that our President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, has been adopted as the Liberal candidate for Watford. Mrs. Ashby has waged several good fights in the—from the party point of view—very difficult constituency of Richmond, and we all hope that Watford will have the good sense to gain what Richmond has lost, and return her as its member at the next election.

We are publishing an account of what women in New Zealand are doing to try and reduce their high figure of maternal mortality, and we recall that the recent international Child Welfare Congress referred also to the very high rate in Great Britain. This—the protection of women in the exercise of the maternal function which calls forth such lyric outbursts from sentimentalists—would seem to be a matter which, though far from being a "woman's question" in any exclusive sense, women's organisations might well study. Frau Urban referred last month to a new Midwives Law for Austria: perhaps our readers will tell us what their own countries are doing in this important matter.

Another matter on which information would be of interest is that of how far women have retained their hold on occupations into which female labour was introduced during the war. In England the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories states that there is practically not a woman remaining in such occupations. One suggestion is that the special provisions that have to be made where women are employed act as effective barriers to their continued employment. In countries suffering from unemployment women have formed a large part of the sad band of those who would work if they might: and so often by jugglery of the law, women are not eligible for unemployment benefit. This loss of the

mobility of employment which women gained during the war seems a sad thing: we would like to know whether it is universal. It is not only from the economic point of view that it seems regrettable, but also because we feel that many a "square peg" of a woman to whom wider opportunities brought the comfortable squareness of a congenial job has now perhaps been forced back into the tidy little round hole which cramps her individuality and prevents her growth.

Where is the weak spot of women's influence in politics? The fact that women have the vote certainly affects the views of candidates, makes them consider questions of social reform, very often produces pledges of action in Parliament if the women will help to put them there. Nor would we suggest that these pledges of individual members are necessarily of the piecemeal variety; what seems to be the difficulty is that when parties composed of individuals of feminist sympathies, and with a party programme in accordance with those sympathies, get into power their views suffer a most unconscionable diminution. This sort of party is generally one which has appealed to the woman's love of ideals, and I think as far as women are concerned, it trades on the fact that its women supporters though disappointed with its actual legislative production yet will never quite have the heart to vote it out of office because its practice has not emulated its theory. Women must beware of this weakness, or they will never be able to keep their parties up to the mark.

Most organised women are one way or another interested in the maintenance of peace: here again perhaps women might turn their attention part of the time away from the large—and somewhat vague—ideal of world peace to the smaller, practical matter of preventing violence in their own countries. It is not much use hoping that one's countrymen will dress in the fleece of the lamb for the benefit of other countries, when the wolf's pelt is the costume they adopt for the benefit of their fellow citizens. There are women in the Ku Klux Klan, in Fascism, in Bolshevism: what have they done to prevent the outbreaks of violence, which have undoubtedly disfigured those movements, though I am far from suggesting that such violence is an integral part of their policy. If women have no influence within those organisations—I mean the women who work in close connection with them—it seems hardly worth their while to join them; if they have, do they raise their voices against the horrors committed in their name? It is the eternal paradox, that the peacemakers must bring not peace but a sword: women must fight for sweet reasonableness, for toleration, for understanding, and in order to bring peace and harmony they must be prepared for division and misunderstanding and unpopularity.

THE EDITOR.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

IT is a cause of great satisfaction to see from the resolutions of the above Conference (which was held in Rome last May), that the point of view regarding certain restrictions on the freedom of women put before the Conference by the Alliance has received the complete assent of the Conference. Their resolution runs as follows:

The Congress is of opinion that precautions adopted for the protection of emigrants against traffic in women and children should be taken in such a manner as not to infringe the personal liberty of women who have attained their majority. Legal measures adopted for these should not be different from those for all emigrants regardless of sex.

We must specially congratulate Dr. Paulina Luisi, whose resolution in this sense as put before the Consultative Committee on Traffic in Women and Children of the League, was the basis of our protest, which was indeed taken on her initiative.

BOARD MEETINGS: JULY 7-9.

THE Board meeting of July will remain as a very memorable one in the minds of those members who were able to be present—not so much on account of the work done, though that was particularly interesting, as from the fact that Mme. de Witt Schlumberger invited the Board to meet at her beautiful country house in Normandy, le Val Richer. This interesting old abbey was acquired by Guizot, Mme. Schlumberger's grandfather, as his "maison de famille," and is full of his books and pictures, and thus the charm of historical association is added to its many natural advantages. The house is beautifully situated above a green and exquisitely wooded little valley in the heart of the "real country." Every little village is full of interesting old houses and barns of the typical Norman lath-and-plaster construction, set amid miles of apple orchards. Lovely as it looked in July, what a dream of beauty it must be in blossom time! But perhaps most of all, the charm of our visit lay in the unique opportunity of seeing what family life is among French people of culture: the kindness, the delicacy of feeling must remain as a vision of all that is best in French social life.

The Board had as usual a good many questions of ordinary internal policy to deal with, but the greatest part of its time was given up to the important question of how best to organise the work of the Alliance so as to ensure that every question on its programme can be dealt with constructively. A tentative scheme of organisation was drawn up, and in the course of this year experiments will be made to see how this scheme can be fitted into the actual work of the Alliance. Then next summer further discussion will take place, and a fully formulated scheme will be put together and laid before the Alliance, so that it may have a year in operation before the next Congress. With regard to the conduct of the Congress also, certain decisions were taken, which will, it is hoped, result in a smoother working of that great assembly. The Board feel strongly that now the programme of the woman's movement includes so much more than the question of equal franchise, the programme of a big Congress needs an amount of careful preparation and forethought if it is to result in well-balanced decisions.

Miss Gourd made a most interesting report on the proposed production of a suffrage film—a piece of propaganda which has been carefully thought out in Switzerland. This scheme has been put before the annual meeting of the Swiss society which has just taken place, and it is hoped that we may soon be able to publish some of their conclusions in *Jus*, so that all those interested may be able to judge of it.

Another very up-to-date suggestion made by Miss Gourd related to the establishment of an international press service for women's papers all over the world. That this is needed, no harassed editor of a feminist paper would deny; but there are, alas! the usual difficulties of finance to be faced. A tentative effort is to be made between Headquarters and the Swiss paper the "Mouvement Féministe," and if successful other papers will be approached to join in the scheme.

The Board rejoiced that Fru Arenholt was able to be present, and as chairman of the Equal Pay Section she initiated a very interesting discussion on this thorny question. It was agreed that the name of the committee should be changed to "Committee for Like Conditions of Work for Men and Women," because it is found that the term "Equal pay for equal work," however well understood by feminists, gives rise to misunderstandings and opportunities for evasion on the part of those who oppose this measure of justice. Further, in view of the present economic depression, it was decided that all affiliated societies should be urged to work rather for the maintenance of such reforms as have already been won, than for further extensions of economic rights. Not that women's demand should be one jot abated, but when on every hand women are getting crowded out from the professions in which they have with difficulty secured a footing, it is of the greatest urgency that women's organisations everywhere should keep a careful watch to see that the waves of reaction do not little by little wash away hard-won privileges.

On the question of the nationality of married women, both the Swedish and Danish Governments have been specially approached with the request that they should ask the forthcoming Assembly of the League of Nations to call an international conference to discuss this question so as to avoid the conflicts of law which inevitably arise where national legislation is passed without reference to international conditions.

The financial position of the Alliance, satisfactory as regards its current expenditure, is still a matter of anxiety as regards the future. The international sale recently held in London realised £25, a result which, in view of the difficulties of attracting people at a time when all London has been vying in providing attractions, is not too discouraging. Still, it does not go a long way towards the £500 which the treasurer laid down last year as the necessary minimum to carry the Alliance over its next Congress. The financial support of the International is a matter which must very seriously engage the attention of all its national auxiliaries: they must come to the next Congress fully prepared to state what their societies can do to help. We cannot leave this question of finance without referring to the kindness with which M. Schlumberger gave our treasurer the benefit of his wide experience and advice as to the best means of disposing of the funds we are now trying to put aside towards the expense of the next Congress.

Finally, in view of the fact that the title of the Alliance, International Woman Suffrage Alliance, sometimes conveys to outsiders the idea that the work of the Alliance can nowadays only concern the unfranchised countries, the use of an explanatory sub-title has been sanctioned where it is felt it will be useful—viz., "To win and to use the Vote."

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Agenda of the Fifth Session of the Assembly.

To be held at Geneva, at 11 a.m., on September 1, 1924.

1. Election of the committee to report on the credentials of delegates.
2. Election of the president.
3. Examination and adoption of the agenda.
4. Nomination of committees and election of chairmen of these committees.
5. Election of six vice-presidents.
6. Report on the work of the Council since the last session, on the work of the secretariat, and on the measures taken to execute the decisions of the Assembly.

ITEMS INSERTED BY THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY.

7. Reduction of armaments. Report of the Temporary Mixed Commission.
8. Article 16 of the Covenant. Amendments submitted to the Fourth Assembly by the British Government and referred to the Fifth Assembly.
9. The principle of closer municipal relations. Proposal made to the Fourth Assembly by the Cuban Government and referred to the Fifth Assembly.
10. Protection of young women travelling alone. Proposal made to the Fourth Assembly by the Cuban Government and referred to the Fifth Assembly.*
11. Legal assistance for the poor. Question submitted by the Norwegian Government to the Fourth Assembly and referred to the Fifth Assembly. Report by the Secretary-General.
12. Slavery. Reports of experts in accordance with the resolution of the Fourth Assembly.

* The delegation of Cuba has informed the Secretary-General that it does not desire the maintenance of this question on the agenda. Resolution as follows:—

Protection of Young Women Travelling Alone.
The Assembly decides to place on its agenda, and to refer to the Fifth Assembly of the League the following proposal submitted by the Cuban delegation:—

"Young women not having reached their majority, and travelling alone, shall be required to provide themselves with a certificate from the authorities of the port of embarkation, containing assurances as to their previous conduct."

13. Intellectual co-operation. Reports by Committee on Intellectual Co-operation on—

- (a) Senator Ruffini's scheme concerning protection of scientific property;
- (b) Recognition of secondary educational diplomas.
- (c) Meeting of experts for the revision of the International Convention on the Exchange of Publications.

14. Request by the Lithuanian Government, referred by the Fourth to the Fifth Assembly: "Reference of certain questions to the Permanent Court of International Justice for an advisory opinion."

15. Scheme for the reorganisation of the South American Bureau submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with the resolution of the Fourth Assembly.

ITEMS PROPOSED BY THE COUNCIL.

16. Report on the work of the Economic and Financial Committee, including the reconstruction of Austria and the reconstruction of Hungary.

17. Report on the work of the Organisation for Communications and Transit, including the results of the Second General Conference, held in Geneva, November-December, 1923.

18. Report on the work of the Health Organisation of the League, including the work of the Epidemic Commission.

19. Report on the work of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other dangerous drugs.

20. Report on the work of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children.

21. International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare. Resolution of the Council of March 14, 1924.†

22. Refugee questions. Reports by the High Commissioner.

23. Report on the work of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

24. Allocation of the expenditure of the League. Report by the Committee on the Allocation of Expenses.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS.

25. Budget for 1925, including the Budgets of the International Labour Organisation and of the Permanent Courts of International Justice.

Audit of accounts for the fifth fiscal period (1923).

Reports of the Supervisory Commission.

OTHER ITEMS.

26. Appointment of the six non-permanent members of the Council.

The League's New Department.

The League of Nations is to have a new special department to handle all matters concerning the protection of children. Heretofore this work has been done by the International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare, which has been functioning in Brussels under the auspices of thirty governments and various national organisations.

CORRECTION.

In her interesting account of the Northern Women's Congress, Mrs. Corbett Ashby inadvertently repeated the name of Fru Lindblom as speaking on the question of the Nationality of Married Women, whereas it was in reality Fru Mathilda Stael v. Holstein who spoke on this question. Mrs. Ashby assures our readers that it was not possible to forget the striking personality of the speaker, but pleads for forgiveness for a pen that had some excuse for slipping when used on the return journey by sea.

† RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL.

International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare.

Subject to ratification by the Assembly, the Council decides that the work hitherto carried out by the International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare shall in future be entrusted to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

The Council authorises the Secretary-General to take at once steps as may be necessary to give provisional effect to the above decision.

INVALIDS?

WHEN the arguments against equal industrial rights for women are boiled down, they are found to consist of but one thing—the concept of woman as a semi-invalid.

This idea is a permanent and unalterable piece of the mental furniture of most men and many women. To them womanhood is something in the nature of a disease—a polite, even a useful ailment, but chronic, and permanently to be reckoned with. A woman can never get over her womanhood; consequently, she needs "protection" that is not requisite for the able-bodied. That is the whole case, in a nutshell, for welfare legislation. Maternity, of course, accentuates the malady, but even in the unmarried it is there, obstinately, persistently recurring as does the moon at regular intervals. Womanhood is regarded as a sort of intermittent malaria, or relapsing typhoid, or chronic gall-stones, keeping steadily on in cycles until it is time to buy a coffin. A cheerful picture, and one which is burned into the minds of great numbers of young girls until it is like a brand or a religion.

But is it a true picture? Does science, observation, experience indicate that women are necessarily congenital invalids? Certainly peasant women, who live a free life in the open, indicate none of the symptoms of chronic illness. Women athletes, women tennis players, women swimmers, women trapeze artists regard their natural bodily functions as natural, and proceed successfully in accordance.

In no other animal than the unnaturally clothed, unnaturally repressed human female does the oestrus cycle parade under the guise of invalidism. Nor does a normal function appear as abnormal save in the minds of those who have been educated so to regard it. And here it must be remembered that the parasitic woman has as her sole justification this concept of her sex as semi-pathological. She has no call to do her share of the world's work because, forsooth, she is physically incapacitated. So she puts on high heels and other articles of clothing perfectly designed to create and advertise her invalidism, and man comes to her aid, poor dear, and accepts her harrowing diagnosis.

We cannot blame men for believing this myth, for womanhood is so frequently exploited at home as a blanket excuse for any shortcomings. Nor can we blame women, for too often venereal disease contracted in wedlock passes for natural feminine ailments.

Already science has done much to dispel the notion of the vast differences between the physical and mental potentialities of the two sexes. Good stock, hygienic living, exercise, vital interests, opportunity make equally healthy human beings, whether they are male or female, and opposite conditions react equally unfavourably without regard to the sex of the individual.

Are women invalids? Ask the man who knows one, and then contrast his answer with that of an economically independent woman. The result? That the latter, not the former, response conforms with the verdict of the ages.—"Equal Rights."

WOMEN OF 1924.

THE Women's News Service, 106, East 19th Street, New York, has sent us the 1924 edition of "Women of 1924," price 2dols. a copy. There is a good deal of information about women's work from the international point of view which should prove of value to those who speak, write, or work for the woman movement. If we find that in the list of "Notable Women" a large proportion of the names are those of American women, we must realise that this is probably due more to the difficulties of extracting information from European women celebrities than to any desire to keep to the national note. Still we must regret it, as a really comprehensive list of women well known all over the world in feminist and social movements would be such an inestimable boon to many workers. There is however a very interesting series of brief articles dealing with the different countries, grouped alphabetically under their respective continents, which in many cases contain brief notes of representative women.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

FINLAND.

FROKEN FANNY BONN looks as though she might enjoy a good game of tennis. She looks as though she would be at home in the water swimming, or in a pink bungalow apron making blueberry pies. She looks like any fresh-coloured, bright-eyed, alert American girl, a few years out of college—but not too many,—being a most efficient secretary, or the kind of a teacher the boys all like. But she is none of these things. She is at the head of one of the largest wood-exporting concerns in Finland, and she divides her time between managing sawmills and managing office details. She has to look after the men in the woods and the men in the office. She has to decide how much timber shall be cut, and make sure that what is cut is sold. She has to hunt markets in France and in Germany and in every other country to which Finland can sell, which means understanding the present very involved financial affairs of European countries whose depreciated currency makes them an especially difficult market for the merchant who wants to show a credit balance on the ledger.

But Fanny Bonn does all of these things, and she does them with a characteristic calmness and surety. One could never imagine her losing her temper with a stubborn German buyer, or losing her calm, serene poise over any of the countless problems of an office.

Fanny Bonn has other outstanding characteristics, among them a very large and lively endowment of humility. She says that women have not really so much opportunity in Finland that she can feel that her own position has been gained through her own efforts. It is because of an uncle in the office, she declares, an uncle with large timber interests, that she has her present position. But however Fanny Bonn got her opportunity, certainly she holds her job because she is capable and energetic and well poised, a trio of qualities which have much to do with the success of any woman anywhere.

She is a feminist, one of the group of Finnish women headed by the dean of women in Parliament, Miss Annie Furuhejm, who is now serving her fifth three-year term in the Finnish Parliament, and who has been an outstanding figure in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Froken Bonn was a delegate to the last Alliance meeting in Rome, Italy, in the summer, and she is taking a prominent part in the Finnish campaign for equal pay for equal work.

"There is a great opportunity for women in business in Finland," she says. "Women are in shops and offices, where they have had an entrée for a number of years. But they are going even farther. They have good positions in banks, even to the point of sub-directorships. In fact, there is one bank in Finland to-day which was robbed of two-thirds of its capital by a former cashier, and which has been put back on its feet by its present managing director, a woman."

"There are women architects, one of them in business for herself. There is a woman builder, several women in building construction, and women engineers. Women, of course, have shops of their own in which they sell all kinds of wearing apparel and handicraft. Women are good linguists, and there are a number of them who know four or five languages and who act as correspondents in manufacturing concerns and other offices. There are also many women lawyers."

"Women agronomes form one of the largest groups in business. Sometimes these women in agriculture are educated and with a little money of their own. They buy farms and manage them. Others hire out, working in the fields for their living and a very small sum besides. The presence of women in agriculture is an accepted fact, and there are classes for them in farm work in the lower schools, as well as in the universities."

"Helsingfors is our largest city, and its population is only 200,000. Even in a city of this size, however, there are openings for women in factories and mills, as well as in offices and the professions. Textile factories employ

large numbers of women, and women work in the paper mills. Sorting paper and packing it into bales is not heavy work or hard to do, and women are to large extent employed at this, with men to do the heavier parts of the labour.

"The average hours for women are from nine until five o'clock, with an hour for lunch, or from ten until four o'clock, with a little rest and coffee in the offices. Many of the big institutions serve luncheon to their employees."

"The big question with us is that of payment. The situation is better now than it was five years ago, but women still receive far less than men for equal work. In fact, women are sometimes given the preference over men for certain work, because the employers can give them a smaller wage. This is the problem which is engaging the attention of women all over Finland at the present time, and we hope to secure from our Parliament an equal pay for equal work law."—The "Woman Citizen."

GERMANY.

Conventions of National Organisations.

THE annual or biennial meetings of several large professional organisations which have recently taken place, partly in remote places of the country, have proved by their large attendance, as well as their lively and thorough proceedings, that the German women on all lines are well aware of the significance of the present situation for women's interests and for the solution of so many pending woman questions. The greatest stress was of course laid on special professional concerns which, however, as a rule correspond with women's aims and ends in general, and therefore are of interest also for wider circles.

The reform of our whole public relief system (due to a large extent to the energetic efforts of the women members in the Reichstag), and the women's tasks in carrying it out for the welfare of the people, were the central points in the deliberations of the Society of Social Officials (Deutscher Verband der Sozialbeamtinnen) in Gotha, which was attended by numerous women Government councillors and State and municipal officials of all grades from all parts of Germany, and by Reichs and States' representatives of the Labour and Public Welfare Ministries. In her impressive opening speech, Frau Oberregierungsrat Dr. Marie Baum (Baden) pointed out that it was the special task of the women officials to fill the dead form of the law with a living spirit, and so to be responsible for its effect. In this regard the statement of another prominent speaker that the application of the dismissal law on women in the social professions had not turned out as fatally as had been expected, was welcomed with satisfaction.

The same cannot be reported of the women officials in the Post and Telegraph Service, whose ranks have been thinned perceptibly—by about 15 per cent.—by the dismissal law. So it was only to be expected that their large organisation (the "Verband der Deutschen Reichspost und Telegraphenbeamtinnen" includes about 42,000 members) at its convention in Königsberg, June 18-21, culminated in an energetic protest against these measures.

It certainly does not often occur—if ever!—that German women, who from old habit are cautious and reserved in such cases, use such strong and sharp words as they did at this opportunity, calling things by their right names, not only in this protest resolution, but also in the discussions, and in the excellent report of the president, Frau Kolshorn, on the present conditions of the profession. Several women members of the Reichstag and men and women representatives of the Ministry of Posts were present at the meeting, amongst other Government and municipal authorities. The Minister's substitute pointed out that further development would be more in accordance with the wishes of the organisation, and the women Parliamentarians promised to use their influence in the same direction.

One of the largest professional organisations of women, the Union of Commercial and Bureau Assistants (Verband der Weiblichen Handels und Bureauangestellten), held its last convention from June 9 to 11 in Eisenach, to discuss several vital questions of their department. The most interesting part of the agenda, the official annual report, gave a lively picture of the admirable work the union was able to carry out for its members, notwithstanding all the difficulties and social and financial crises of the last years, with regard to professional and general education, legal help (in over 30,000 cases!), influence on social and political reforms, etc. The report and the whole proceedings confirmed anew the high standard of the union as a model organisation, from its start thirty-five years ago.

In Frankfurt-on-Main, in the historical coronation halls of the ancient, picturesque "Römer," and received with all possible honours by State and municipal authorities, the numerous delegates of the organised Housewives (Reichs Verband Deutscher Hausfrauen) assembled, from May 21 to 24. Cordial welcome speeches and interesting lectures on "State Economics and the Household," and "Economics and Culture," demonstrated to the Hausfrauen the close connection of their little every-day work with the great vital questions of the nation and of humanity, and so helped to strengthen their courage and idealism for the struggle with the needs of our hard times. These needs, however, and the most familiar difficulties, especially the housing and the domestic assistants problem, were thoroughly treated and discussed by experts. Concerning the latter, it was stated that we had almost reached the American state of things—but without the many technical advantages which facilitate the work and life of the American housewife. So the poor German Hausfrauen must do their utmost to reanimate the interest of young womanhood in the neglected domestic professions.

In closing this short survey, I will mention a significant occurrence which was reported at the meeting of the Provincial Council of Women of Rhineland-Westphalia, in Münster, in June. Amongst other important topics, that of Women in Politics was on the programme, and after a spirited speech of Fräulein Treuge the question so often raised of a special Women's Party came up again, but was decided, as usual, in the negative; while another idea, that of a special women's list, met with more approval, in view of the following fact: At the last communal elections, in the small place of Warendorf, not one woman's name was put on the professionals' lists. Whereupon the women voters resolved to present their special women's list, with the surprising result that four of their candidates were elected. Time will show if this example will be followed, and if this way is practicable also for women voters in larger places.

Dresden, July 16.

MARIE STRITT.

GREAT BRITAIN. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

DURING the last month many of the Bills for which we have been working have advanced one or two steps in their Parliamentary career. The Government has definitely taken over the Equal Franchise Bill, though it is doubtful if any time will be found for its further stages this side of the autumn. The Guardianship of Infants Bill has passed its Committee stage in the House of Lords, and has successfully survived the tactics of those Peers who attempted to wreck it by moving amendments to delete its vital clauses.

The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill has completed its House of Commons stages, and has been taken over by the Government. The Legitimacy Bill also has not only passed through the House of Commons, but has passed its Committee stage in the House of Lords. This Bill, it will be remembered, provides for the legitimation of children on the subsequent marriage of their parents. In the House of Lords an amendment similar to one added to earlier versions of this Bill has resulted in the inserting of a proviso which exempts from the benefits of the Bill those children either

of whose parents was at the time of their birth married to someone else. It remains to be seen whether the House of Commons, when it considers the Lords' amendments to this Bill, will go back on its decision of a few weeks ago and accept this contentious proviso. The Council of the N.U.S.E.C., by a narrow majority, decided to support it.

Considerable interest has been aroused in two Bills which specially affect industrial women workers. One is the Lead Paint Bill, which has passed its second reading in the House of Commons, and which seeks to ratify the international agreement arrived at in Geneva by all the States affiliated to the International Labour Office. This prohibits the employment of women or young persons in the painting of any part of a building with lead paint. The most ardent adherent of equal restrictions for men and women in industry will no doubt be prepared to recognise that with respect to this Bill a special case for the protection of women can be made out in that the evils of lead poisoning are far greater in their racial effect in the case of women than in that of men. In the case of painting the interior of buildings, moreover, the use of lead paint by men is also forbidden.

The Factories Bill which has passed its second reading in the House of Commons is a measure which codifies much of the present law, and which three successive Governments have tried in vain to have time to deal with. This portentously long measure of 143 clauses deals with subjects such as hours of labour, sanitary conditions, proper accommodation at meal time, etc., fencing of dangerous machinery, care of buildings, etc., etc. Much of this Bill will be welcomed by all, but those parts of it such as those which impose further restrictions with regard to hours which apply to women and young persons only, will be sharply criticised by many of the women's organisations. The National Union feels that to reduce the hours of women's work to 48 a week and a single shift to 4½ hours, unless at the same time similar limitations are imposed for men, will lead to a still further reduction in the choice of occupations for women, and will prejudice their claims for equal pay.

Peereesses Bill.

A Bill to allow peereesses in their own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords was introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Astor in an admirable speech in which he stated: "I think that the representation of women in another place has proved itself to be an enormous success. In the course of less than five years that representation has been increased eightfold." Lord Banbury, in opposing the Bill, stated that he "had never met anybody who did not regret that there were women in the House of Commons!" Although Lord Banbury's arguments are not taken very seriously in the Upper Chamber, the House was not inclined to give a favourable reception to the Bill, and the debate was adjourned.

Women in the Civil Service.

Although a statement has been made in the House that men and women Civil servants are to be given equality of opportunity, much disappointment has been aroused by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement that equal pay for equal work cannot be given in view of the great expense involved; and, further, that no pledge had been given by the Labour Party to this effect. In view of the fact that the Labour Party has always stated that it stood for equal pay for equal work, this statement was received with surprise and indignation by women's organisations.

Programme of Constructive Work.

The N.U.S.E.C. has just published a Programme of Constructive Work (price 1d.) in which are outlined practical suggestions of ways in which affiliated societies can best carry out the policy of the Union. We venture to suggest that this might be of considerable interest to readers of this paper who in their own country are tackling similar problems. It can be obtained from 15, Dean's Yard, Westminster.

Obituary.

We have to announce with great regret the death of Miss Isabella Ford, of Leeds. The personality of Isabella Ford was one of the most striking and most universally popular of those associated with the suffrage movement.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Our members have taken their full share in looking after the British Overseas Committee's Women's Pavilion at Wembley and in helping with the arrangements for the Women's Week at the British Empire Exhibition. We also arranged an informal meeting at the Minerva Club, to which women from overseas were invited to discuss with British women suffragists the peculiar difficulties of the woman's movement in their own and in our country.

In spite of the Prime Minister's belated promise that the Government intends to adopt and proceed with the Equal Franchise Bill this session, the chances of its becoming law are very meagre now that the session is so near its end. If it does not, we shall in every possible way urge the Government itself to introduce and to pass through all its stages into law at the earliest possible date an equal franchise measure next session. We have strongly supported the Peereesses Bill introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Astor, and we have urged the Prime Minister to see that a woman is sent as a fully accredited Government delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations in Geneva in September.

We are running during July and August a Women's Freedom League campaign on the Clyde Coast, holding public meetings each night at Rothsay pierhead, and occasional meetings during the day at Dunoon, Largs, and Millport. The subjects dealt with are: Equal Franchise, Equal Opportunities and Equal Pay for Equal Work, Equal Guardianship for Mothers and Fathers, etc., etc.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.



I.W.S.A. Hut: British Empire Exhibition.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

A most interesting meeting was held at Berners Street on July 2, when Miss Helen Douglas spoke on "The Women of Chili." The lecturer, who has just returned from Chili after a two years' visit, is the author of a recent book on the development of land ownership in Europe.

Miss Douglas took her hearers back to the middle of the sixteenth century, when the Spaniards discovered the country, finding there a sturdy, dignified, courteous race, with grave faces and straight black hair. These Indians dressed in garments dyed in beautiful colours of vegetable dye. The men hunted and fought, while the women, besides rearing families, tilled and wove, and were the guardians of the arts. The men were polygamous, and had as many wives as they could afford owing to their value and usefulness.

The Spaniards introduced Christianity and their particular form of civilisation, and some intermarried with the natives. The Spanish women who accompanied them remained chiefly in the towns, which were like garrison cities. They lived somewhat indolent lives, married early, had large families, and amused themselves by doing exquisite needlework and cultivating music.

The Spaniards at first were landowners, and chiefly occupied themselves in agriculture; but later, when nitrates were discovered in Chili, they became more interested in commerce and speculation.

Miss Douglas captivated her audience by telling them of the present awaking of interest in the Woman's Movement in Chili. The Chilean woman of every class is beginning to think of her rights and to resent her present legal and economic slavery and the double standard of morality.

Chili is ready for the organisation of a live Woman's Movement.

Guardianship of Infants.

We have decided to support the present Bill, particulars of which appeared in last month's *Jus*. With all its deficiencies, we believe that it will bring relief and a sense of security, where her children are concerned, to many a mother. Nevertheless, we are by no means satisfied with the Bill, and we will continue to work for an *Equal* Guardianship Bill which will give the mother equal rights and responsibilities with the father as regards her children.

HOLLAND.

THE Vereenigen van Staatsburgeressen has recently opened a new Woman's Club in Amsterdam. The club is known as "De Nederlandsche Vrouwenclub," and is situated in Keizersgracht 580-582. The club is affiliated to the international Lyceum Clubs.

IRELAND.

Miss Dora Mellone.

MISS DORA MELLONE has for long been a kind and punctual correspondent of our paper, and in publishing her brief review of the woman's movement in Ireland, we should like to prefix it with a few words about herself.

The suffrage movement in Ireland began rather late, because the interests of all those who cared for political questions was always so much absorbed by the pros and cons of the Nationalist movement. Mrs. Haslam, the great pioneer of the Irish movement, did indeed form her Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Society 'way back in the sixties, but it appears to have been the impetus given by the foundation of the militant movement in England that really brought the question to the forefront. Miss Mellone was among the founders of a suffrage society in the North, for which she worked from 1909 to 1913. In 1910 also she founded a society in Co. Down. In 1914 she came to live in Dublin, which has been her home ever since, though she still keeps up a close connection with women's work in the North. It is this personal experience of women's organisation both in the North and the South that has been of great assistance to Miss Mellone in helping to secure co-operation between the women of North and South. She has worked for the Belfast Women's Advisory Council (representing ten women's organisations and over 2,000 voters) and for the Women Citizens' and Local Government Society in Dublin. She was instrumental in helping to bring these bodies with others into a national organisation, known as the Central Council of the Women of Ireland, which now, however, to avoid confusion, is to be merged into the newly formed National Council of Women of Ireland, of which body Miss Mellone is press secretary. This organisation shows that the women of North and South will and do work together for the woman movement, without in the least giving up their own particular political views. All shades of political opinion are represented by the members of the Council, and it is no small achievement that they have managed to keep going a non-party organisation in the very difficult times through which Ireland has recently passed. Miss Mellone writes:—

The Feminist Movement in Ireland.

Feminism in Ireland, as elsewhere, has felt the reaction following the war years. It is a mistake to think that Ireland did not feel the world catastrophe. In the South the national movement was deeply affected: the recruiting campaign of the first years of the war, and the economic difficulties of the later stages, had far-reaching effects on the life of the people. If on the one hand there

was not the withdrawal of young men for compulsory military service abroad, on the other hand there was a revolutionary movement on a nation-wide basis, and, like every other movement of this character, the young women were drawn into its ranks in large numbers. The demand for labour in Great Britain had its reactions in Ireland, as hundreds of girls of all classes, many of whom had never been out of Ireland before, took up work there. In the South very able women took a foremost place among the leaders of the Sinn Fein movement in the years before the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Political and still more economic rights may be withheld from women, but during periods of stress and strain, a front place in the struggle, whether it be on an international or, as in Ireland, a national basis, is never refused, and women are ever forward to claim such a place.

In the North, again, as elsewhere, women undertook the various forms of war work and fulfilled them with that organising ability and sound business capacity characteristic of the women of Ulster. The millgirls, with their inherited skill for spinning and weaving the finest damask table-linen, turned willingly to the very different looms used for turning out the aeroplane cloth. The women of Ulster gave their husbands and sons to die in the ranks of the Ulster Division as bravely as did the women of every other country. The economic depression following the closing-down of war industries, and the disturbances at home, caused widespread unemployment in Ireland. In such periods of distress the father must be fed, else he will not be able to take any chance job which may come his way; the mother is content with a cup of tea and a "piece," for it seems to be impossible to persuade the pregnant mother that her duty to her unborn child requires that she herself should be fed. So infant mortality forms a sad index to the unemployment register, while the disturbed conditions and the frequent street fighting have had a serious reaction on the physical and mental development of the children, North and South alike.

The Government of Ireland Act of 1920 established a Parliament for Northern Ireland, as the six counties of North-East Ulster are officially termed. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 established the Irish Free State, which includes the remaining twenty-six counties. In the Northern area the political status of women is identical with that in Great Britain. The existence of a strong feminist organisation in Belfast is a guarantee that present proposals for equal franchise before the Imperial Parliament will be immediately adopted by the Parliament of Northern Ireland. In the Free State equal citizenship is guaranteed under the Constitution. With the restoration of order came the inevitable anti-feminist reaction, felt most strongly on the economic side. For instance, during the "black and tan war" before the Anglo-Irish Treaty, women police trained in Great Britain formed part of the Crown forces. After the Treaty a proportion of these were drafted into Northern Ireland and were used for special police work, being still an auxiliary to the military authorities. In this capacity their services were greatly appreciated by the Northern Government. Yet for three years the Belfast Women's Advisory Council has in vain urged the appointment of additional women police as part of the ordinary police force. The Minister for Home Affairs has definitely refused this most urgent reform. Thus, as usual, military necessity is held to be sufficient justification for the employment of women; the civil necessity is ignored.

In the Free State the reaction is felt most strongly on the economic side. Recent proposals by the Minister of Education included a differentiation between the scholarships of boys and girls to the extent in some cases of £10 a year. The official scale of salaries for secondary teachers commences with £200 for men; the minimum figure for women is significantly omitted. A recent advertisement for assistant librarian in the National Library fixes the commencing salary and maximum amount at differing rates for men and women applicants. The same tendency is felt in other directions. A recent Act of the Free State Parliament provides that every woman on the register for jury service may ask for exemption at the commencement of each year, without

giving any reason. If she omits to send in the form provided for this purpose, no exemption will be given except for the most definite reason, such as a medical certificate stating the woman summoned is unable to attend. It is not surprising that 5,000 women in Dublin City alone availed themselves of this opportunity so kindly afforded by a benevolent Government, ever anxious to consider the needs of the weaker sex—when war needs are over. It is rather curious that a Dublin newspaper should have seen in the applications of these 5,000 women a justification for the measure. A recent judicial pronouncement warned male shirkers of jury service that the extreme penalty of a £5 fine would be meted out unsparingly. This looks as if a similar Declaration of Indulgence for men liable to jury service might have met with an even larger response.

The Irish Women Citizens' Association actively opposed both these reactionary measures. In the case of the women jurors, the members of Dail Eireann were circularised and a Press campaign carried on. The Minister for Home Affairs defended his refusal to withdraw the measure by a reference to the "few advanced women" who claimed the onerous privilege of jury service, and so far nothing has been effected. At the instance of this Association, questions were asked in the Dail with regard to the differentiation of the scholarships and the varying scales of salary, and in the former respect something may be done to remedy the proposed injustice.

The official scale of salaries sanctioned by the Northern Ministry of Education is based on the same principle of unequal pay for equal work, in spite of the brilliant successes of women in the recent examinations in Queen's University, Belfast. The outlook of women in Ireland has, however, changed since the war. They have realised that for the sake of the community they must claim their just share in the service of the community. Hence the greatly increased work of the Belfast Women's Advisory Council; hence the formation of a Dublin Council of Women, to focus the opinions of the "few advanced women" in matters Parliamentary and municipal. Hence the linking-up of these two organisations by the formation of the National Council of Women of Ireland, acting as the national unit for affiliation with both international women's organisations. This co-operation between North and South, commenced under circumstances of extreme difficulty, is a hopeful augury for the future of the woman movement in Ireland.

DORA MELLONE, Hon. Press Sec.,
National Council of Women for Ireland.

JAMAICA. THE WOMEN'S SOCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

THE first published report of the Women's Social Service Association (then known as the W.S.S.C.) recording the meetings and especial activities of the club from its inception, October 24, 1918, to May 30, 1921, was written by Miss Lambert at the request of the committee, and included a report of the Health Committee, by Mrs. Spooner.

Since the above date until April 24, 1924, there have been about 24 meetings, a few being specially called; the regrettable but happily terminated illness of the president, of one of the vice-presidents, of the daughter of the hon. secretary, and the sad losses by death of near relatives of other officers and members, having caused the regular meetings to be deferred from time to time.

The club, on September 20, 1922, changed its title to that of Association; and the Association itself accepted affiliation to the British Dominion Women's Citizen Union, paying annually a fee of £2; and with the International Women's Suffrage Alliance (£1 yearly). At the first conference, in Rome, in May, 1923, the Association was admirably represented by the kind services of Miss Harriet Newcomb (of the I.W.S.A., London), acting as proxy.

The Association has contributed £5 towards the Women's Pavilion at Wembley. It hopes that some of its members may arrive at the great Exhibition in time

to take a representative part in the conventions open to colonial delegates; the names of Mrs. Ashenheim, Mrs. Vickers, and Miss Lambert have been accepted as delegate members possibly able to be present. All members, however, are desired to present themselves, if in London, attending according to their opportunity.

To clean up the city and to improve its general appearance has engaged the thought of the committee. Consideration also has been given to the subject of pay to employees, especially women, and the matter from time to time rears for additional discussion. The hon. secretary, however, made inquiries at most of the better class, central establishments, and from her report it is concluded that, with one or possibly two exceptions, the conditions, pay, and privileges are fair, employers considerate, and the employees satisfied that they receive, in justice, what circumstances allow. Especially in the matter of fines, the exceptions (to this decent yet not very high wage) noted in the report, are a cause for regret; it is to be hoped that reform may come speedily.

At present, the Association, following the example well set by many women's clubs elsewhere, is examining the question of film displays, with the object of learning whether it can assist the reclaim of really worth while productions by any expression of its sanction. This would in no way involve a censoring of less desirable photo-plays, but should, it is believed, aid in creating a taste for the best.

In March, 1922, the attention of the Association was drawn to their need of increased hospital accommodation, by a definite call to render such assistance as may be possible, the available beds at that time, at the General Hospital, being, strictly speaking, nineteen, amid a city population of 60,000. In practice, of course, many more children—forty or fifty at times—receive admission; but the strain upon physicians, nurses, and the resources of the hospital is severe, nor does the narrow margin of expenditure permit much additional aid.

The idea immediately found favour, and after discussion it was agreed that an attempt should be made to raise funds for the establishment of a hospital for children, to be open to all classes and both sexes from all over the island. So admirable an effort could not but meet with instant approval, and from all sides came congratulations and good wishes. By November, 1922, from contributions and entertainments, the sum had reached £900. The privilege of franking the correspondence entailed by this movement was requested, courteously granted, and later renewed; and the appeal for funds continues, while entertainments and entertainers bring in, or share, their gains. At the present moment the fund has reached to £1,211 9s. 4d. Circulars apprise all influential visitors to the island of the fund and its object, and the sympathetic replies thereto have been numerous and welcome. Many entertainments, teas, sales of work, concerts, and dances have been given to aid either the Girls' Work-room or the Children's Hospital Fund, and more are planned; but the unparalleled drought of this spring necessitated a postponement of the recently proposed sale of fruit, flowers, vegetables, and work. It is hoped it may take place shortly.

In conclusion, the W.S.S.A. acknowledges its indebtedness to His Excellency the Governor for the continued use of its present rooms; for the freedom of the mail for its Hospital Plan, and other courtesies; to the many who extend to it patronage and goodwill; to the "Daily Gleaner" and to the "Weekly Times" for ready assistance such as only the Press can give; to the Management of Myrtle Bank Hotel, of the Bournemouth Bath, etc., etc.; and to all who so kindly, by subscriptions, donations, entertainments, or personal encouragement, have aided our efforts and experiments in social service.

April 24, 1924.

H. LAMBERT.
C. DE CORDOBA.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE National Council of Women and affiliated societies are among those in New Zealand who have been deeply stirred by the instances of maternal mortality which have occurred in the Dominion, the result being

that a sub-committee was appointed to thoroughly study and consider the matter and report to the Council. A special meeting was convened in view of the vast importance of the subject, and the sub-committee, consisting of Mesdames J. Henderson, J. C. Anderson, Kerr, and Moors, presented the following report:—

"The committee desires to stress the unfavourable position New Zealand holds in comparison with Great Britain, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and other countries as regards maternal mortality. The committee is of opinion that in our sparsely populated young country such a deplorable condition should not exist, and they request the National Council of Women (Wellington branch) to urge the Government to do all that is humanly possible to remedy this grave state of affairs as regards maternal mortality in New Zealand.

"Your committee is strongly of opinion: (a) That the facts elicited at the recent maternal mortality inquiry point to the urgent necessity of extending the scope of St. Helens Maternity Hospitals; (b) that patients be admitted thereto on a sliding scale of payments according to their financial circumstances, thus lifting the care of maternity cases from its present commercialised basis, with the ever-present necessity of showing substantial profit on capital invested, to the safety zone of well-equipped State maternity hospitals in which a high standard of surgical cleanliness, combined with a well-disciplined, qualified nursing staff, ample in number to meet the needs of the patients, would be paramount considerations; (c) that central buying offices for stores and equipment, district advisory boards whose personnel would be principally composed of married women with personal experience of the difficulties and trials of childbirth, would add greatly to the efficiency of the proposed State maternity hospitals. The fact that the State successfully operates community services such as the post and telegraph and railways indicates the possibility of successful State control in the infinitely more important subject of safeguarding the women who go down into the 'Valley of the Shadow of Death,' in many cases enduring prolonged agony to carry on 'The Torch of Life.' Surely these 'citizen soldiers' are entitled to all the care and protection those in charge of the State affairs of our country can extend to them.

"The committee recommends that all cases of maternal mortality shall be the subject of a magisterial inquiry, such proceedings to be open to the Press and the public.

"The committee recommends that maternity hospitals shall forward to the district health office duplicates of patients' temperature charts, such duplicates to be forwarded at least twice a week.

"The committee considers that strong emphasis be laid on (a) the importance of adequate precautions and early treatment in all maternity cases where a temperature of 100 persisting beyond a period of twenty-four hours is recorded; (b) the importance of extreme care in handling patients, in order to minimise bruising and lacerations, and the elimination of what may be termed 'meddlesome midwifery.'

"The committee recommends that where medical attendants or nurses have been proved to be favourable hosts for the carrying of sepsis germs, they shall be debarred from attending maternity cases.

"The committee considers that the surgical standard of health of all medical men, women, and nurses engaged in active practice in New Zealand should be established at least once in two years.

"The committee recommends as a valuable safeguard the withdrawal from maternity practice for a definite period of time of medical attendants and nurses who have been in contact with a case of puerperal sepsis.

"That the practice obtaining in New Zealand of indiscriminately using the title of doctor by medical practitioners who have not qualified as doctors of medicine should be rigidly discouraged.

"Your committee recommends the New Zealand National Council of Women to maintain a standing committee to watch all matters pertaining to maternal welfare in New Zealand."

SPAIN.

THE Consejo Supremo Feminista—the Spanish Auxiliary of the Alliance—recently presented a petition to the Military Directory expressing their gratitude for the grant of the administrative vote to certain classes of women, and asking that this vote should be extended to all women, including the married woman, on the same terms as it is given to men.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Conference at Maritzburg, May 26, 27, 28.

THE decision to hold the Annual Conference of the W.E.A.U. in May was due to the imperative necessity of formulating a policy for the approaching elections.

The suddenness of the Dissolution of the Legislative Assembly made it impossible for the agenda to be in the hands of the Leagues two months before the date arranged for Conference, and therefore the resolution restricting the vote to European women, which affects the Constitution, has to be referred to the affiliated societies, and must be confirmed at a future meeting of Conference.

At the afternoon session the discussion on Electoral Policy was resumed. Miss Johnstone Scott moved the resolution standing in her name: "That no support should be given by suffragists during the election to any candidate who does not definitely pledge himself to support the enfranchisement of women, by voting for a Woman's Suffrage Bill in all its stages in the House of Assembly."

She spoke strongly of the urgent importance of making our influence felt at the approaching elections, and suggested that certain prominent suffragists should be opposed.

Mrs. Bell, Maritzburg, said that their policy in the past had been to work for no candidate until women had been enfranchised.

Mrs. Gunn, Ladybrand, said the Civic Reform Club in that town had worked for the S.A.P. candidate, who had definitely promised to support suffrage.

Mrs. Abrahamson, Bloemfontein, said that Nationalist women were rapidly becoming more enthusiastic about suffrage, and instanced the recent formation of a League at Edenville; but they could not be expected to work against their party. She therefore proposed that the words "It is recommended" should be placed at the beginning of the resolution.

The mover accepted this amendment, and the resolution was carried by a large majority.

Mrs. Smallridge, as proxy for Oudtshoorn, then moved the resolution from this League: "That this Association recommends that every Suffrage League canvass General Smuts on a certain date as to his willingness to bring forward a measure in Parliament in favour of Woman Suffrage, if the Leagues pledge themselves to work for him."

An amendment was moved by Miss Johnstone Scott that the words "on a certain date" be omitted, also the clause "if the Leagues promise to work for him," and that "the leaders of all parties" be substituted for "General Smuts."

This was carried. Greytown abstained from voting.

Mrs. Kelly moved that Miss Johnstone Scott be asked to draft a suitable Bill for introduction into the next Parliament.

Mrs. Abrahamson considered it was only right that Conference should give Miss Johnstone Scott some indication of what they thought advisable.

Miss Johnstone pointed out that the drafting of the Bill must be in the hands of the Parliamentary House Committee; everything must be done in consultation with them and with the Executive of the W.E.A.U. in Capetown.

From the answers received to the circular sent out, it would be possible to judge what measure of Suffrage would be acceptable to the majority of members. At the same time, she thought it most important that the opinions of Conference should be expressed on this subject. She therefore begged to move the resolution that

stood in the name of the W.E.L., Dordrecht, "That the Suffrage Policy of the W.E.A.U. ought to be to work for the grant of the vote to European women only."

Miss Miller seconded. She considered it was most important at the present juncture to get some women enfranchised, however limited the number.

Mrs. McGregor pointed out that the question of the coloured and native vote only affected the Cape Province.

Miss Johnstone Scott considered this was the most serious question before Conference, and must be given their most careful consideration. From her knowledge of the House she thought it was impossible to pass a Women's Enfranchisement Bill which would enfranchise the non-European woman. For years we had not faced this question, and now we had seriously to consider. Shall we not be of more service to our country if we are content to ask for the extension of the vote to European women only? Was it not possible that we might be of more help to the native if we obtained the grant of citizenship? She spoke of General Hertzog's policy of segregation, and pointed out that to take the vote from the natives already on the register he would have to obtain a two-thirds majority of both Houses sitting together.

Mrs. Abrahamson said that General Hertzog intended to treat the "coloured" people as Europeans.

Mrs. Kelly thought that by passing Dordrecht's resolution we should remove many objections to Woman Suffrage.

A recommendation to Conference from Lady Innes was then read: "That in view of the peculiar difficulties of the Union of South Africa in regard to the Suffrage question—such as the coloured vote, and difference of male franchise in the Four Provinces—the W.E.A.U. recommends the acceptance of any compromise that will give women the vote on the lines of a reliable education test, and the raising of the age to 25 or 30."

Miss Johnstone Scott moved that the words "as a preliminary step to obtaining full political status" be added after the word European in the resolution from Dordrecht.

The resolution was carried, with one dissident.

The question of accepting an educational and age restriction was discussed. The Conference felt it was very difficult to suggest any restrictions which might be acceptable to the new House, until the elections had taken place. After discussion Mrs. Smallridge moved: "That this Conference is willing to accept an education test if the restriction of the franchise to Europeans should not prove practical." This was carried.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WOMEN, politically speaking, have gained a signal triumph at the hands of the great political parties these last few weeks, a triumph second only to that gained when they were given electoral equality with men.

In all three national conventions, the Republican, the Democratic, and the Conference for Progressive Political Action (the launching of a third and independent party), women figured largely in the deliberations and achievements. They presided over the conventions, they were appointed chairmen of important committees, they made nominating speeches, and even received complimentary votes for the presidential and vice-presidential nominations.

Of the many organisations participating in convention doings, there is marked evidence that the National League of Women Voters proved itself a forceful adjunct at Cleveland during the Republican convention, and in New York City during the Democratic gathering. The League took a programme of suggested planks to the platform makers of all three political gatherings, and, while no party adopted all the planks in their entirety League officers feel that there is cause for gratification over the League's demonstrated prestige.

At Cleveland the League maintained imposing headquarters in the lobby of the Hollenden Hotel, and for a week members of the Cleveland and Ohio Leagues assisted national representatives in keeping open house. Miss Belle Sherwin, League president, and a native of Cleve-

land, was a close observer of the Republican meeting, and is said to have felt like a seasoned politician after attending the Democratic gathering in New York and the third party meeting in Cleveland.

The official delegation, composed entirely of Republican women, included Miss Julia Lathrop, of Chicago, first vice-president; Mrs. Ann Webster, of New Mexico, social hygiene chairman; Miss Ruth Morgan, of New York, third vice-president; Miss Gladys Pyle, assistant secretary of state of South Dakota; Mrs. James W. Morrisson, of Chicago; Mrs. Sumner T. McKnight, of Minneapolis; and Mrs. Craig Miller, of Michigan, an alternative delegate-at-large to the convention.

At New York the League again made an impressive showing with its delegation of Democratic women, headed by Mrs. Solon R. Jacobs, of Birmingham, Ala., former vice-president and a one-time member of the Democratic National Committee. Other members were: Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, of Texas, second vice-president; Mrs. La Rue Brown, of Boston, former National Child Welfare chairman, and a daughter of the widely known educator, Dr. George W. Kirshewy, former dean of Columbia Law School; Mrs. Gertrude Ely, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., national director; and Mrs. William G. Hibbard, of Chicago, director, who is now touring the Continent.

The League headquarters in the Waldorf Hotel were buzzing with activity while the Democrats met. New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey members of the League acted as hostesses to greet the hundreds of visitors. The registry book, containing names of callers from all parts of the country, gave evidence of the widespread popularity and power of the League's work.

Miss Elizabeth Hauser, of Ohio, national secretary, and Mrs. Edward P. Costigan, of Washington, D.C., former living costs chairman, were the League representatives at the Conference for Progressive Political Action, opening July 4, in Cleveland.

Chief of the League's planks presented to all parties for incorporation in their platform was that advocating the entrance of the United States into the World Court, under the Harding-Hughes plan, with reservations by Secretary of State Hughes. Other declarations sought for were: Prompt ratification of the federal child labour amendment, which must be ratified by thirty-six States; adequate appropriations for public welfare agencies of the Government; creation of a federal department of education, with its head a member of the President's Cabinet; establishment of the merit system throughout the Government service, especially in the prohibition enforcement bureau; removal of legal discriminations against women by specific measures not prejudicial to women's labour laws or to social welfare legislation.

The League is opposed to the so-called equal rights amendment. The League's plank stated:

"We believe that any legislation for equal rights between men and women should be drawn with most careful consideration of each specific type of law involved, instead of attempting to deal with the subject by blanket legislation such as the so-called equal rights amendment. Otherwise, the complexities of the subject may cause inequalities instead of the desired equality."

Arkansas is the first State in the Union to ratify the proposed Federal child labour amendment. The voters of Massachusetts will decide, by a referendum this November, whether the Congress should have power to prohibit and limit the employment of children. Georgia is the first State to defeat the ratification proposal. This action, however, was expected by amendment supporters, as Georgia is one of the several Southern States opposed to Federal regulation concerning the restriction of child labour.

A new idea in politics is the woman's advisory committee on platform, appointed by Mr. Cordell Hull, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and headed by Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, of New York. The Committee had a two-day session a fortnight before the National Democratic Convention, and considered matter of special interest to women. Representatives of various organisations appeared by invitation and presented their proposals for legislation to be endorsed by the conven-

tion. The women members of the committee were chosen from all parts of the country, and represented many different organisations and movements. Among their number were Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham, of Texas; Miss Gertrude Ely, of Pennsylvania; and Mrs. LaRue Brown, of Massachusetts, all of the National League of Women Voters; Mrs. Gordon Norrie, of New York, whose special interest is law enforcement; Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, jun., and Miss Josephine Goldmark, known for their work for women in industry; Miss Mary Archer, of Pennsylvania, who has suggested a central organisation for the study of crime, its remote and immediate causes, and methods of dealing with the whole subject of reform and correction; and Miss Olive Jones, whose subject is education.

The findings of the committee, which covered in part several subjects dealt with in full by the convention, were presented to the women members of the National Democratic Committee before the convention, and formed the substance of their recommendations for platform planks.

Mrs. Harriet Taylor Upton, who has been vice-chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee in the Administration of President Harding and that of President Coolidge, resigned her position during the Republican National Convention and announced herself a candidate for Congress from the Nineteenth Congressional District of Ohio. Mrs. Upton is a native of Ohio, and a daughter of the Honourable Ezra Taylor, who represented the Nineteenth District in Congress for many years. In 1890 she became actively interested in the Woman Suffrage movement, and from 1899 until suffrage was granted, served as president of the Ohio suffrage organisation with the exception of two years. She was long treasurer of the National American Suffrage Association, a member of the Board of Education of Warren, Ohio, her home, for fifteen years, and president of the Board for two. The fight for Federal suffrage owes much to her ability as an organiser and leader. In the campaign in Tennessee, the necessary thirty-sixth State, for ratification of the suffrage amendment, Mrs. Upton took a leading part.

Mrs. Upton is one of the wittiest women in public life, and as a teller of entertaining stories is unequalled. Her stories follow the Lincoln tradition, and are told not for their own sake, but for the sake of the point they illustrate.

Mrs. Upton succeeded in the vice-chairmanship of the Republican Party's Executive Committee by Mrs. A. T. Hert, of Louisville, Kentucky. Mrs. Hert was never active in the suffrage movement, but, like Mrs. Upton, comes of a political family. Her husband, who died suddenly in Washington in 1921, was a member of the Republican National Committee from Kentucky, and after his death Mrs. Hert not only took on his business responsibilities, becoming in a short time the successful chairman of the board of directors of the American Creosote Company, but assumed his political obligations as well, serving as committee-woman from her State.

For the last fortnight of June Mrs. Soledad Chacon occupied the office of Governor of the State of New Mexico. Under American law, whenever the Governor of a State leaves it for any purpose, the Lieutenant-Governor assumes his office, performing legally all the duties of a Governor even to the granting of pardons to criminals. In New Mexico the Lieutenant-Governor elected at the last election was Jose Baca, who has since died. Mrs. Chacon was elected Secretary of State, and by the custom of successions takes on the functions of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Governor's absence. She is said to be the first woman who has ever exercised the powers of Governor of an American State.

The first negro woman to serve on the national committee of a major political party is Mrs. Mary C. Booze, of Maund Bayou, Mississippi, who has been elected committee-woman from her State under the new ruling of the Republican Party, which gives each State two members in the national committee—one member a man and the other a woman. Mrs. Booze is the daughter of a slave belonging to the late Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, who was President of the Confederate States, 1861-65.

WHY DO WOMEN NEED PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

IF hitherto physical education was spoken of, the community has nearly always thought only of gymnastic exercises. So closely connected are those two conceptions that all who do not occupy themselves with the problem have the idea that physical education includes exercises and much gymnastic apparatus. There are fanatics of gymnastic exercises who assert they only keep well if they pass an hour daily in gymnastic exercises. Many of these fanatics swear by special systems, and it is often amusing to observe how they, in following blindly the only blessed doctrine, come not only to one-sided opinions on what is advantageous for the body or not, but also to a one-sided physique which is neither æsthetic nor suitable for making them specially skilful in any daily work. Modern pedagogics have recognised that no dead knowledge in a school of learning, but capacity for life in a school of working, must be obtained. This idea has brought into play physical education, of which gymnastic exercises only form a part, or, still better, the basis. The bodily education which will influence all life and work sets itself a higher aim than gymnastic exercises.

What is physical education based on? On nothing else than on the acknowledgment and observation of biological demands. Hitherto instruction in gymnastics had one aim—to make man skilful in gymnastics, to make him capable of certain performances. Physical education will obtain much more. It will cause man to recognise the laws of his body, so that he may endeavour to conform his life and his work to them. Man must first of all breathe and walk rightly. Any exercise or any movement, turning, twisting, stooping, etc., must be executed by him rightly to suit the disposition of muscles, the connection of the joints, the process of breathing. Not only does the man thus move more freely, more pleasantly, more lightly, more harmoniously, approaching the eternally current ideals of beauty, but also—in contradiction to that premature wearing-out of the body which leads to wretchedness and dissipation of strength—aims at a saving of strength, a facilitation of work, a practical profit for life. If one considers that in most nations manual work is predominant, it will be confessed that it is of the greatest importance how man is prepared physically for his work in life. Physical education includes, therefore, beyond the gymnastic lesson all that belongs to life. The connections of the psychological process, the regular course of all bodily functions, are explained; a conscience for the body is to be awakened which will cause the forces used in all exercises and performances to be applied with foresight, neither spontaneously nor senselessly. The aim of physical education is also the intelligent treatment, conscious cultivation, and training-to-capacity of the body according to natural requirements, and the awakening of a feeling of responsibility towards the body. That the attainment of this aim also requires instruction in feeding, in the use of simple and substantial nourishment, in the choice of convenient clothing, goes without saying.

It is not easy to teach bodily education. New ways must be trodden, new methods of instruction must be found. One thing is already accomplished: children are no longer led to a slavish imitation of demonstrated exercises, but to creative work, at first only in the shape of play, which will awaken and make grow in them the sense for exercise. In this way the consequence of the exercise will be for them a matter of course; and the more their minds develop, the more they will be persuaded of the necessity that every exercise must be in accord with biological laws. The teacher only instigates fresh, free exercises for this purpose. Walking, swimming, and also winter sports are of great importance in physical education.

In Vienna there is a woman teacher, Dr. Margarete Streicher, who especially stands up for the new physical education. She is an apostle of the new doctrine. Her knowledge in her sphere is admired by large circles, as she is the chief of the practical exercises for women at the Vienna University course for gymnastic teachers, and also teacher at a Federal State school for girls, in which capacity she deserves great praise for the systematic

formation of the new educational doctrine. Last year she aroused great interest by an excellent speech at the International Pedagogic Congress at Geneva. Women must be very thankful to her, as she is endeavouring to find the way to a physical education ruling the whole of life.

Gymnastic exercises for girls have been very much neglected hitherto. In better-class families, where the daughter is still educated first of all to become a lady, many parents believe that gymnastic exercises make her boyish, that they spoil her delicacy and charm. The lower people, especially workmen and peasants, frequently think gymnastic exercises indecent and immoral. But mostly the lack of appreciation is due to the fact that they have no relation to the later work of girls. Therefore one very often hears, "Why should the girl idle away her time? Is it not better for her to learn sewing and cooking?"

But physical education can become a benefit for women. Applied to girls, its aim is to fit them for their work, and mainly for their special task as women, the work of protecting life. Even this labour is too often done in a way that contradicts Nature. Physical needs are not respected; forces are wrongly used, with the consequence that awkward, feeble, prematurely faded women fulfil their mission without joy, without their soul being in it, without the happy consciousness that their work is prospering. Work for protecting life, that widely spread complex of remarkable performances in the interests of human welfare, is disregarded by women themselves, because they find that they fret and toil without appreciation, that they waste their strength in tiring daily work which is not directed towards any inspiring aim, while their vital force is being drained.

Is it not clear that this work would be done more joyfully and more intelligently if young girls could be physically educated for it—if they could be made acquainted with all exercises, with marching, standing, sitting, carrying, lifting, etc., which they need in order to perform their daily work with more ease? But physical education pursues still further aims. Women are to be led to a right relation between the value of strength and work and the value of the thing done; they may find in this way the measure for all the necessities of life, in order to cast out from their life that useless ballast which nowadays, when men and things are not balanced one against another, is regarded as an agreeable necessity. The work for protecting life must serve mankind, but women must never undertake this work without judgment. This being sucked up by a work which is begun without training and continued automatically, whose results disappoint and fail to awaken the strong, virile desire for final achievement, hinders the spiritual evolution of womankind. How can woman become ripe for her work of life if she does not realise her human individuality—if she does not claim her right to her own spiritual life? If she will recognise that full health is the best basis for the work of life and for intellectual development, then her labour will be turned to the welfare of mankind, will concentrate itself on its proper purpose. The superfluous, effeminated, and useless blossoms of civilisation which are surrounded with so much care that yet fails to stimulate intellectual life will fall away of themselves. Disciplined in body, the woman will master her exactly calculated work of life with satisfaction, feeling its benefit; and without exertion will still find time and leisure to extend this work to the whole of public life.

Physical education can and shall bring about insight into the natural conditions of our existence, and lead us to a conscious shaping of life. As women, as mothers are the most important factor in education, it is their duty, quite apart from the effect of physical education on their own sex, to familiarise themselves with it and to understand its tendencies. To spread this idea of physical education in the interest of the evolution of women and of human welfare as a whole, that should be a point in the programme of organised womankind. It is to be hoped that this work will be supported by all who wish merely material endeavours to be less regarded while intellectual and cultural efforts are accentuated.

GISELA URBAN.

BOOK REVIEWS.

DAEDALUS; OR, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE: A Paper read to the Heretics, Cambridge; by J. B. S. Haldane, Sir William Dunn Reader in Bio-Chemistry, Cambridge University. 2s. 6d. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd., London. 1924.

It is difficult to apply any of the ordinary journalistic adjectives to Mr. Haldane's little book. "Daring," "startling," "extraordinary," "brilliant"—all handy words to the rapid reviewer—have been used, and the *British Medical Journal* has remarked that no scientific man after reading "Daedalus" will look at the facts of life and the possibilities of the future in quite the same way. We believe rather that all sorts of men and women, after throwing the book, into the fire, will not only look on life in the same way, but in an even samer way—out of sheer self-protective fear, lest some of Mr. Haldane's fancies should turn out to be facts. "Daedalus" is really something more than a "squib," something less than formal scientific prophecy. It is, rather, a hint that science may have some secrets up her sleeve—uncomfortable secrets for those who will not think, and who insist on living in a world of formal phrases and formless ideals. Mr. Haldane, in his introduction, says of his essay: "It will be criticised for its undue and unpleasant emphasis on certain topics. This is necessary if people are to be induced to think of them, and it is the whole business of a university teacher to induce people to think." It should be; but much of the evidence tempts us to believe that the universities, and some of their professors, spend their labours in putting thought to sleep.

The first part of Mr. Haldane's essay foreshadows the developments in industry—synthetic food production, power supply and storage, transport, and communication—which science can bring about during the next few hundred years. With the exhaustion of coalfields will come the use of wind and sunlight as sources of energy, and therefore the decentralisation of industry and the death of the smoke nuisance. Pleasant and satisfactory synthetic food, produced on a commercial scale, will make agriculture a pastime instead of a problem. Light and heat will be bought for next to nothing, and "the alternatives of day and night" must go the way of other temporal and spatial checks. Inter-planetary communication may or may not be attained. On this planet, at any rate, Mr. Haldane tells us that we are "working towards a condition where any two persons on earth will be able to be completely present to one another in one-twenty-fourth of a second." We are glad to be assured that we shall never reach anything quite so breathless in the way of meetings. The too frequent, complete, and immediate presence of the income-tax collector, for instance, would certainly cause an alarming rise in the statistics of homicide.

Mr. Haldane observes, and truly, that idealism will never make wars to cease. But he throws out a small hope that where idealism has failed the realism of another scientific world-war or two may bring mankind to its senses.

But the most interesting part of Mr. Haldane's book is that in which he foreshadows the separation of sexual love and reproduction by the biological invention of ectogenesis—i.e., the fertilisation of the removed ovary and the growth of the embryo in serum for the necessary period of nine months. To some people this will be a suggestion of sheer horror. But the majority of civilised mankind live in that world of formal phrases and formless ideals already referred to. A minority—and a very able minority—think almost entirely along the line of the development and reorganisation of existing institutions. There remain the scientific experimentalists, such as Mr. Haldane, who are willing to envisage even such changes as must uproot traditional morals; and those few who have retained the only natural gifts with which man is born—curiosity and a judgment—till the world's teaching mars it—unfettered by any reference to religions or traditions. The fulfilment of Mr. Haldane's suggestion would certainly destroy any idealisation of the family—and that it has been over-idealised surely many will admit. From

being a very useful idea for primitive peoples, and a gracious and natural bond for civilised individuals—of whom there are very few—it has too often become a cruel and unnatural bondage. When the sacrificial smoke of the single worker's earned but unpaid wages, and the tax-payer's (earned or "unearned") mulcted money—for it will come to that—rises from the altar of "family endowment," perhaps we shall proceed to second thoughts about the idol we have built. If the threat of the ectogenetic baby helps to shake some false ideals, we may be something to the good.

It is interesting to read Mr. Bertrand Russell's gloomy reply* to "Daedalus." Mr. Russell is a philosopher, and therefore has a "point of view," which is always a sad thing to have. What is refreshing in Mr. Haldane is that he has no point of view, no axe to grind, no lesson to enforce. He writes in the exuberant spirit of discovery for discovery's sake.

Even the orthodox may well forgive him his deicidal peroration. After all, he was talking to "The Heretics." Man who creates god in his own image can destroy him. And to some of us the god-destroying facts of scientists seem much less irreverent and irreligious than many of the "proofs" of the theologians. But the destruction of a man-made god and the final solution of the mystery of existence are two very different things. The mechanist, of course, denies the mystery; the test tube and the slide will yet reveal all. Perhaps: perhaps not. The question is an idle one. Our business is with life as we know it on this particular planet. And the depressing thing about life—to-morrow or a thousand years ago, West or East—is its essential sameness: all the differences that the fussy, clever minds make so much of are superficial and ephemeral. Inasmuch as Mr. Haldane makes us imagine for an hour that the monotony might be broken, orthodox and heretic alike should be grateful to him.

[Note.—The Editor accepts no responsibility for the views expressed, but is glad to draw attention to a vivid and interesting little book.]

ASPASIA AND AFTER.

SUFFRAGISTS who have to counter the centuries-old argument that women are inferior to men in intellectual power would do well to study Dr. H. J. Mozans' work, "Woman in Science"—an excellent book, which has, however, one grave practical defect: an irritating omission of the dates at which his heroines lived. His brief epitomes of the lives of women remarkable for their intellectual achievements are a full answer to those whose stupidity or prejudice lead them to take up this attitude. The introductory chapter brings out certain very interesting points in the history of women's emancipation. Beginning with the Hellenic civilisation, particularly in Athens, Dr. Mozans shows how widely different was the treatment accorded to the "woman who did" to that accorded to her who did not, and how deep was the influence exerted by the former on the most brilliantly intellectual society that history has as yet revealed to us. It is, moreover, a point of deep significance that this influence was exerted not only through individual achievements, such as those of Sappho, but through the men whom they inspired, more than one of whom speaks of such a woman as his teacher. It is noteworthy that while in intellectual Athens her native women were secluded and treated as chattels, the Spartan girls raced, wrestled, and boxed with the young men, and the influence of the Spartan women in inspiring their menfolk to such exploits as the defence of Thermopylae is proverbial. Since what we know of the Spartans comes mostly from persons whose dislike of them was based on fear, we cannot appraise their intellectual attainments as we should like. It is, however, quite safe to say that their long succession of able military commanders clearly demonstrates that their intellectual potentiality was probably as high as that of the other Hellenes. While giving the fullest credit to those who "did," whether

* "Icarus; or, Science and the Future." 2s. 6d. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd.

in art, science, or philosophy, and especially to those who taught these subjects in the schools, we must admit that the hetairai were the most striking class of emancipated women in Athens. While Dr. Mozans' claim that Aspasia more than anyone else made the Golden Age of Athens must, on many grounds, scientific and historical, be disputed, no one can deny that the genius of this outstanding woman had a very powerful influence on the history, not of Athens alone, but of the world. How the hetairai succeeded in making their position in Athens in face of the general contempt for women is hard to say. They were mostly, if not entirely, metoikai—that is, non-Athenian Hellenes,—which may have gained for them the same sort of toleration regarding departures from custom as schoolboys allow to aliens—which, indeed, often results in positive disappointment when the said aliens turn out to be as normal as themselves. With the spread of the Hellenic culture over Western Asia and Egypt there appeared not a few remarkable women, the most noteworthy being the famous Hypatia.

Unlike Athens, Rome had always accorded to her women a very considerable amount of freedom and influence. The traditional history of the early kings shows pretty clearly that Roman society began as a matriarchate, and to this may be due the honourable position of the Roman matron. Nevertheless, it was not until the period of expansion had long set in that girls received an education in any way comparable with that of boys, and for many generations there existed a school whose grumbling was voiced by Cato in the saying, "We Romans rule over all men, and our wives rule over us." Under the Empire women seem to have had more freedom and a better position than at any subsequent period, a condition of affairs that in some respects continued into Byzantine times. In spite of St. Paul's cynical gibes at the sex, St. Jerome gave practical proof of his views as to the intellectual equality of women with men, and there is much evidence to show that during the dark ages the churches generally recognised it. During the Middle Ages intellect in most countries found its only chance of systematic development in the convents. These were the only societies in which education was to be had, and the long list of distinguished abbesses, the counsellors of Popes and Emperors, given by Dr. Mozans, shows that the educative and inspiring power of the intellectual woman, so noticeable in Athens, was felt by the ablest men of this time also. One writer holds that "the career open to the inmates of convents in England and on the Continent was greater than any other ever thrown open to women in the course of modern European history."

In Italy a line of teachers, writers, physicians, and lawyers maintained the Roman tradition until, with the coming of the full tide of the Renaissance, that country produced the most astonishing succession of brilliant female intellects that the world has yet seen—a succession that has not yet died out. Those who wish to follow the careers of the more noteworthy of these women will find them briefly epitomised in "Woman in Science." It is sufficient to say that the personality of Elizabeth Gonzaga, Duchess of Urbino, drew from Cardinal Bembo the tribute, "I have never seen or heard of anyone who was her equal, and know very few who have ever come near her," and from Castiglione the aphorism, "Man has for his portion physical strength and external activities—all doing must be his; all inspiration must come from woman."

In Spain and England the Renaissance produced a short flowering time for woman's intellect, brought to an end in the first by national decay and bigoted Jesuitry, and in the second by the Reformation—that strange dual reaction against all that was corrupt in Catholicism and all that was free in Renaissance thought.

In Germany, largely owing to Luther's preposterous ideas—perhaps the result of his tussle with the Devil,—woman never got into the tide of the Renaissance—a fact which need cause no surprise, seeing that the Germans never came within the civilising influence of Rome, and still remain outside it. Most of the few German women who have left names for themselves went abroad, especially to Holland.

In France, Margaret of Navarre and Louise Labé are almost the only women quoted by Dr. Mozans as having graced the 16th century. Such women as in any way came to the front were forced to conceal their identity or to endure open taunts on their immodest behaviour. The sarcasm of Rabelais and the flippancy of Montaigne did in France what the boorishness of Luther did in Germany and the fanaticism of the Puritans in Britain. It must be admitted that the era of the Reformation has been the dreariest time in the history of woman's long struggle, and it has borne bitter fruit for men in the peculiar sordidness which marks it ever more strongly up to its close. The barbarism of the religious wars of the 17th century; the intolerable despotism of the feeble hands to whom Louis XIV. passed on his sceptre; the Industrial Revolution, which has made the horrors of peace more terrible, because more dreary, than those of war; the French and Russian Revolutions, with their banal fatalities, waste, and brutality, are in themselves enough to make humanity shudder.

Had woman in those 300 odd years held anything like the position she did in Renaissance Italy, it is inconceivable that anything so wicked, so stupid, and so ugly as the condition of the greater part of the earth now shows us could have been allowed to come into existence. The restriction of women to Wilhelm II.'s four "K's"—Kinder, Kirche, Küche, Kleider—has, indeed, had a deadly effect on history.

Now we have entered on a new era—that of Revolution. Woman has everywhere made great strides in the direction of intellectual equality and of extended opportunity; it is for her to win a full equality, and by regaining her position as the centre of human inspiration, to bring about as quickly and as humanely as possible the inevitable revolt against the "slumfire" of the industrial magnates.

M. M. H.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

INTERNATIONAL.

Women's Housing Congress.

A Women's International Housing Congress, under the auspices of the National Housing and Town Planning Council, was opened in the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Delegates were present from Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, America, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Sweden, and the British Overseas Dominions.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen, who presided, said that as president of the International Council for Women, she had had opportunities of hearing the bitter cry that was going up from the women of all civilised countries as to the inadequacy of housing accommodation everywhere, and the consequent suffering, disease, and wastage of physical, moral, and social life thereby entailed.

The Christiania Conference.

At the end of July Christiania will be the scene of a gathering of a novel character. On July 28 will be formally opened there the Conference of the International Federation of University Women, and representatives from the twenty National Federations will spend a week in the historic capital. The Federation is a product of the Great War, though it was not formally constituted till 1920. Its direct aim is to foster intercourse and friendly relations among the university women of the world. Underlying this aim is a conviction that such a cordial understanding may grow to be an important factor in the maintenance of world peace.

CONGO.

Mrs. John M. Springer, a member of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, brings back news from Africa that the women of the Congo have forged ahead. She states that the women are refusing to put up with the marriage system of being sold to their husbands, and that they are gaining equal property rights.

GREATER BRITAIN.

Women Lunacy Commissioners.

Mrs. C. J. Matthew, J.P., who, with Miss Madeleine Symons, has been appointed to serve on the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder, is a metropolitan magistrate and an Alderman of the London County Council, and is the widow of the late Mr. Charles Matthew, formerly Labour member for Whitechapel.

Besides her experience on L.C.C. committees, she has been many years a member of a Board of Guardians. She has in this capacity done much asylum visiting, and has therefore considerable knowledge of the subject.

Women Planters.

Miss Stella Wolfe Murray, writing recently in the *Daily Express*, states that there are several women coffee-planters in Kenya entirely on their own, one of whom breeds cattle in addition to growing coffee. She also mentions a woman tea-planter in India, a woman rubber-planter in Malaya, a woman indigo-planter in Assam, and two or three women coconut planters.

Women and Science.

No fewer than 23 papers will be contributed by women at the annual meeting of the British Association, which will take place at Toronto, from August 6 to 13.

Recognition for Miss Royden?

Miss Maud Royden gave the address in the chapel of St. George's Co-educational School at Harpenden on the occasion of the giving of prizes, in the presence of a large congregation including the Headmaster, the Rev. Cecil Grant, Dr. Edward Lyttelton and the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, who later distributed the "Awards." Suffragists may recall with pride the day in 1920 when Miss Royden preached the sermon of welcome in Geneva in Calvin's pulpit to the delegates to the Suffrage Congress. Since Oxford University has recognised Miss Baylis' noble efforts for the "Old Vic," perhaps a similar recognition may be given to Miss Royden's Lectures on Oxford University Extension and her Literary interpretations.

HOLLAND.

On April 29 the National Council of Women of the Netherlands celebrated its 25th anniversary. The celebrations took place in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Council and began with an evening reception at Arnhem at which Miss Johanna Naber, one of the pioneers of the movement, made a speech expressing her appreciation of all that the Council had meant to women.

The Council also considered a resolution brought forward by Meij. Anna Polak protesting against the decision of the Government to dismiss all women Civil Servants on marriage. The delegates from the various "Christian" Associations voted against the resolution, which was lost.

The eighth woman member of Parliament, Mev. Annie Meyer, has just taken her seat, a vacancy having occurred through the death of M. Kolkman, a member of the Catholic party.

INDIA.

The second session of the United Provinces Social Conference, which since last year has become an adjunct of the Provincial Liberal Conference, was held in Allahabad recently. A feature of the gathering was the presence of a number of Hindu women who took a lively interest in the proceedings. The conference was also presided over by a talented Bengali in the person of Mrs. Jwala Prasad, a niece of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. This is the first time since the social conferences were held in this country, that a woman has guided the deliberations of a conference. That this precedent has been set in a province where people are least willing to depart from custom, is full of significance.

ITALY.

Women Barred from Italian Nautical Institute.

According to the April 15 number of *Attivita Femminile Sociale*, organ of the National Council of Italian Women, a royal decree of March 9, 1924, excludes women from the royal nautical institutes. However, those who have already begun the course of study in such institutions may complete them.

Hospital Positions Open to Italian Women.

A recent issue of *Attivita Femminile Sociale*, the organ of the National Council of Italian Women, contained a protest against the action of the municipality of Arezzo in excluding women from competing for three vacant positions in the municipal hospital. The Director-General of Public Health took note of the protest and withdrew the exclusion.

JAPAN.

Madame Chikako Kuroda, a teacher in the Tokio Higher Normal School, has just received her M.D. degree and has registered for practice in the city of Tokio. She is the first Japanese woman to receive a medical degree.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Schweizer Frauenblatt*, organ of the Swiss Federation of Women's Clubs, in a recent issue, contains an account of the recent elections in the Evangelical Reformed Church of Basle. This church, unlike the Republic of Switzerland, has already granted women full suffrage and made them eligible to office. In the recent election nine women were chosen for membership in the synod of seventy members, and out of the seventy-one presbytery members seventeen are women. Of the nine women members of the synod, three are fundamentalists and five progressives; the other was elected from a list not belonging to either of the two parties.

UNITED STATES.

Child Labour Bill Passed.

The Senate of the United States voted 61 to 23 for the 20th Amendment to the federal constitution which will, if ratified by three-fourths of the States, give Congress power to regulate the labour of minors under 18 years of age. As our supreme courts have twice declared anti-child labour legislation unconstitutional on the grounds that "Congress had no such power" this amendment was made necessary.

American Women Ministers.

According to the latest year-book of the American Churches, the Congregationalists have 75 women who have been ordained as ministers, of whom 17 are in sole charge of churches.

CANADA.

The Six Nations.

OUR readers will remember that in the December number we published an interesting short note on the women of the Six Nations, or Pays des Iroquois. In this connection we have been having some correspondence with the Canadian Government which has not resulted in anything very satisfying to our sense of justice. The Government sent us the following information as to the inheritance laws contained in the Indian Act of Canada:

(a) One-third of the inheritance shall devolve upon his (i.e., an Indian's) widow if she is a woman of good moral character, and the remainder upon his children, etc.

(b) If there is no widow, or if the widow is not of good moral character, the whole inheritance shall devolve upon his children, etc.

This curious provision struck us as savouring very distinctly of sex discrimination—to take the point of view with which we are specially concerned. However, we are well aware that there are often special difficulties to be met where legislation concerns people of native races, so we made further inquiries as follows:—

(a) Whether these provisions are in accordance with native customs or native desires; and

(b) Who is entrusted with the delicate duty of deciding on the moral character of the widow?

To these inquiries the Canadian Government merely replied that they had nothing to add to their previous letter giving the above quotations from the Act.

We would appeal to all our Canadian readers, or those who have any special interest in Canadian affairs or matters referring to the position of native races, to help us to secure further information, and if that further information reveals the necessity of reform, do all they can to secure fairness for the women of the Indian race in Canada.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

L'ÉVOLUTION DU FÉMINISME EN ÉGYPTÉ.

Les premières revendications féministes en Égypte se sont fait entendre bien avant la formation de l'Union.

C'est en 1900 que pour la première fois une voix d'homme, celle de Kassem Bey Amin s'éleva pour protester contre la situation d'infériorité faite à la femme égyptienne dans la famille et dans la société. Le livre que publia Kassem Bey Amin sur l'émancipation de la femme égyptienne souleva à cette époque de nombreuses polémiques. Bien que l'auteur s'appuyât sur notre religion qui n'entrave nullement les droits de la femme les esprits n'étaient pas encore assez préparés pour accueillir favorablement des idées si nouvelles.

Quelque temps après, une femme cette fois, Maleka Hefni, plus connue sous le pseudonyme de "Bahsat el Badia" enhardie par les théories de Kassem Amin, adressa au premier congrès égyptien formé en 1911 dix demandes, considérées comme les premières revendications féministes, parmi lesquelles j'en extrais les suivantes :

- (a) Libre accès des femmes dans les mosquées comme aux premiers temps de l'Islam.
- (b) L'enseignement primaire obligatoire pour les filles comme pour les garçons.
- (c) Création d'une école de médecine équivalente à celle des hommes.
- (d) Augmentation du nombre des dispensaires et hôpitaux gratuits.
- (e) Protection de la femme sur la voie publique par les agents de police.
- (f) Création d'écoles ménagères et professionnelles pour les filles.
- (g) Restriction du droit de polygamie.
- (h) Invalidité du divorce en l'absence de la femme.

Ces vœux si justes furent pourtant accueillis par une désapprobation générale de la part des hommes; jugés inopportuns ils furent rejetés par l'unanimité du Congrès.

Ce ne fut cependant pas une défaite. Si "Bahsat el Badia" n'obtint pas alors le succès escompté, elle n'en travailla pas moins à développer, dans ses écrits et dans les conférences qu'elle donna à l'Université Égyptienne, les idées qu'elle avait déjà exposées. Ainsi elle éveilla dans toutes les femmes le sentiment de leurs droits méconnus et par son acte de courage leur montra le rôle qu'elles étaient appelées à jouer dans la société et dans les destinées futures de leur pays.

A elle et à Kassem Bey Amin, les femmes égyptiennes doivent une éternelle reconnaissance car ils ont été tous deux les premiers apôtres du féminisme.

Ils ne purent cependant être que des semeurs d'idées. En leur temps la femme égyptienne vivait ignorée du reste du monde, enfermée dans "le harem"; elle ne pouvait pas se montrer dans les endroits publics et chez elle, même, par suite de son ignorance, elle était très souvent victime du despotisme de l'homme. Il fallait donc pour que des théories si avancées puissent se réaliser dans la pratique que le temps et les événements se chargent de les faire fructifier.

A partir de 1909 les dames égyptiennes plus instruites et ainsi plus conscientes de leurs droits et de leurs responsabilités, commencèrent à s'intéresser aux œuvres humanitaires et fondèrent plusieurs dispensaires et écoles gratuites pour les filles. Cet intérêt aux œuvres sociales marqua une première étape dans l'évolution du féminisme. Mais ce sont les événements de 1919 qui affranchirent nos femmes des usages qui les mettaient à l'écart dans la société. Entraînées par leur patriotisme elles prirent une part active dans la lutte pour l'indépendance, intervenant dans les manifestations, écrivant dans les journaux, fondant enfin un comité chargé de collaborer avec celui des hommes pour la défense des droits du pays. Ce sont tous ces services rendus à la cause nationale qui permirent à la femme de se révéler sous son vrai jour et de renverser les derniers obstacles qui l'empêchaient de se mêler à la vie publique.

Ici comme Égyptienne et comme femme, je suis fière de devoir nommer une autre grande figure féminine de notre pays: je veux parler de Mme. Hoda Charaoui Pacha, la Présidente de la Délégation Politique des dames, et présidente de plusieurs autres associations. En dehors des services que son grand patriotisme lui fit rendre à la cause nationale durant les événements politiques de 1919, les égyptiennes ne pourront jamais oublier tout ce qu'elle apporta de dévouement et d'activité au service des humbles et des malheureux dans les nombreuses œuvres de bienfaisance auxquelles elle prête son appui.

Mais il n'a pas suffi à Mme. Charaoui Pacha de rester une grande philanthrope. Jugeant avec raison que pour améliorer le sort de ses sœurs il ne suffisait pas de secourir leurs misères matérielles mais de guérir leurs plaies morales, elle voulut faire siennes les idées généreuses de Kassem Amin et usant de l'influence que lui confère sa haute personnalité donner au mouvement féministe l'impulsion nécessaire pour l'amener au succès.

Une occasion se présenta: L'Alliance Internationale pour le suffrage des Femmes ayant invité au début de 1923 les femmes égyptiennes à envoyer des déléguées au Congrès de Rome, celles-ci accueillirent l'invitation avec empressement et Mme. Charaoui Pacha se proposa pour le départ. Le 26 mars, 1923, à la suite d'une grande réunion de dames tenue chez elle il fut décidé de former sous sa présidence une Union féministe égyptienne chargée de revendiquer les droits de la femme. Les membres du Comité furent élus par l'assistance et Mme. Wissa Bey Fahmy, Mdle. Nabawiya Moussa et moi fûmes désignées ce jour là comme devant représenter avec Mme. Charaoui Pacha la femme égyptienne au Congrès de Rome.

La présence de nos dames au Congrès international de l'Alliance aura marqué une date importante dans l'histoire du féminisme égyptien, car en même temps qu'elle fut une manifestation officielle de nos droits, elle donna à notre mouvement un caractère de solidarité. La presse fut unanime à approuver notre initiative et à encourager l'évolution féminine.

A notre retour de Rome, dans le but de faire connaître au public le programme de l'Alliance I.P.S.F., le Comité de l'U.F.E. convoqua à l'Université égyptienne une grande assemblée de dames. Il fut soumis à l'assistance avec les vœux émis par le Congrès, deux requêtes que le Comité avait décidé de présenter au premier Ministre l'une fixant à 16 ans l'âge de mariage pour la jeune fille, l'autre réclamant l'égalité de la femme et de l'homme dans toutes les branches de l'enseignement. Les requêtes ayant été approuvées par l'unanimité de la salle, une députation de l'U.F.E. se rendit le 1er juillet, 1923, au Ministère de l'Intérieur pour les présenter au Président du Conseil. Ces dames furent reçues par Yéhia Pacha Ibrahim avec beaucoup d'égards; il leur exprima toute son admiration pour le mouvement féministe et leur promit son appui dans la réalisation de leur programme.

Cinq mois après fut promulguée la loi fixant à 16 ans l'âge du mariage pour les filles et le projet sur l'instruction alors à l'étude aurait été sûrement réalisé si le Ministère Yéhia Pacha n'avait démissionné. Cependant le nouveau ministère formé par Zaghlul Pacha s'annonçait comme très féministe, son Président s'étant toujours montré favorable à l'émancipation de la femme, comme on peut en juger d'ailleurs d'après les termes encourageants avec lesquels il envisagea dans le discours du trône, la situation qui doit être faite à la femme.

Il nous parut donc fort étonnant que les dames égyptiennes se soient vu interdire l'entrée du Parlement, le jour de son ouverture, malgré toutes les démarches qu'elles avaient faites pour y être admises, et bien qu'une tribune spéciale leur ait été destinée.

Mais il faut croire que notre ministère très absorbé par la politique actuelle semble vouloir remettre à plus tard l'étude des questions féministes; toutefois le Comité de l'U.F.E. sans se décourager est en train d'élaborer un rapport détaillé sur nos revendications et le présentera prochainement au Parlement.

Pour le moment notre activité s'emploie à faire connaître à la masse les droits de la femme pour la préparer peu à peu à l'idée de suffrage. A cet effet des locaux ont été préparés dans les quartiers populeux de la ville pour permettre à nos dames d'être en contact direct avec les femmes du peuple, et de pouvoir ainsi leur inculquer les idées féministes de même que les premières notions d'hygiène et d'économie domestique.

Il ne faut pas croire cependant que nos efforts soient toujours couronnés de succès car nous avons à combattre l'ignorance qui est la pire ennemie du progrès, mais nous sommes convaincus qu'avec de la persévérance nous arriverons à surmonter tous ces obstacles et réaliser petit à petit tous les points de notre programme.

CÉZA NABARAOUV.

LETTRE DE BELGIQUE.

Chère Mrs. Bompas,

Je viens répondre à votre demande d'un article plus complet que mes brèves communications précédentes, concernant la situation suffragiste dans notre pays.

Notre échiquier politique est assez compliqué. Parmi les catholiques il y a les démocrates, tous dès longtemps partisans du vote des femmes, et les conservateurs qui n'y sont ralliés que depuis quelques années. Ceux-ci n'auraient pas cru nécessaire d'étendre le vote aux femmes sous un régime de suffrage restreint, mais ils considèrent le suffrage universel des femmes comme le complément logique et le correctif (du point de vue "parti catholique") du suffrage universel masculin et font bloc avec les démocrates pour essayer de l'instaurer. Ils se heurtent à l'opposition très vive de la gauche libérale et de l'extrême gauche socialiste.

Les libéraux disent qu'ils ne sont pas — en principe — opposés à ce que les femmes votent mais qu'ils ne veulent à aucun prix leur accorder ce droit maintenant, parce que leur éducation politique n'est pas faite, ce qui dans leur pensée signifie: "Parce qu'elles sont en majorité catholiques."

Les socialistes sont, d'après leur programme, féministes et suffragistes; néanmoins tous leurs derniers congrès se sont prononcés fortement contre le vote des femmes parce que... la majorité d'entre elles ne sont pas socialistes!

Et quand les catholiques parlent d'étendre le suffrage féminin, libéraux et socialistes leur reprochent à peine de faire de l'électoratisme sous le couvert de la justice; eux-mêmes cependant ne se gênent pas le moins du monde pour commettre une flagrante injustice sans autre mobile que ce qu'ils croient être leur intérêt électoral!

Ces édifiantes discussions durent depuis la fin de la guerre.

En avril, 1921, nous avons exercé le vote communal. Le lendemain, *tous les partis* chantaient victoire et nous couvraient de fleurs, disant que nous avions voté d'une manière si remarquable qu'on ne pouvait vraiment pas nous refuser le vote pour les élections provinciales.

Cependant, quand fut discutée la loi provinciale en juillet et octobre, les partis de gauche refusèrent le vote aux femmes. Comme ils avaient besoin du concours de la droite pour achever l'œuvre révisionniste qui requerrait une majorité des deux tiers des voix, les socialistes proposèrent le singulier compromis suivant: les catholiques feraient à leurs adversaires plusieurs concessions immédiates, en échange desquelles on leur offrirait — la promesse d'une concession ultérieure.

Cette concession "à terme" consistait en ceci: après qu'une loi provisoire, valable pour les seules élections de 1921, aurait donné le vote aux hommes seulement, une loi provinciale définitive serait discutée en temps utile pour être appliquée aux élections provinciales de 1925. Vingt huit socialistes prenaient l'engagement formel de donner leur concours à la droite pour faire alors adopter le vote des femmes. Cinq libéraux faisaient des déclarations personnelles concernant leur sympathie pour cette réforme.

La droite hésita, craignant un piège: Pourquoi les suffragistes que comptaient les partis de gauche ne votaient-ils pas l'extension du suffrage provin-

cial aux femmes, quitte à spécifier que celles-ci n'en bénéficieraient qu'à partir de 1925?

Les députés suffragistes des partis de gauche alléguèrent qu'ils refusaient une solution immédiate, parce qu'ils ne pouvaient admettre que l'achèvement de l'œuvre révisionniste fût subordonné à l'adoption d'une loi ordinaire. Ils protestèrent de leur loyauté en termes tels que la droite céda, considérant la réforme comme virtuellement acquise.

C'est ce pacte qu'on appelle l'engagement de 1921 et que les deux gauches remettent actuellement en question.

Par suite de décès, démissions ou non réélection, le nombre des signataires de l'engagement de 1921 se réduit aujourd'hui à 20 socialistes. Cet appoint est encore suffisant pour nous donner la certitude d'une victoire à la Chambre et certaines chances de succès au Sénat. Aussi beaucoup de socialistes antisuffragistes insistent-ils auprès de leurs amis signataires, afin que ceux-ci renient leur engagement. Quant aux libéraux ils ne reculent devant aucune stratégie pour empêcher que la proposition vienne en discussion; ils menacent même les catholiques d'une crise ministérielle et d'une dissolution du Parlement si les catholiques exigent que l'engagement pris en 1921 soit loyalement tenu. Toute la presse a discuté à perte de vue, depuis quatre mois, tous les aspects du litige. Ce qui rend l'opposition des gauches si âpre est le fait qu'un quart environ des Sénateurs sont élus par les conseillers provinciaux, ce qui donnerait aux électorales provinciales une certaine influence indirecte sur les élections législatives.

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En dehors du monde parlementaire, il y a encore, même dans les milieux catholiques, quelques personnalités isolées, mais marquantes, hostiles au vote des femmes; quand la presse adverse obtient d'eux une déclaration ou une interview, elle en fait grand état et cela complique d'autant notre campagne. La Fédération revendique fièrement pour toutes les femmes le droit de choisir librement leur opinion et leur parti et de voter pour qui bon leur semble. Elle organise des conférences partout où elle le peut, et mène maintenant campagne avec le concours du Conseil national des femmes belges. Malheureusement les appuis locaux font souvent défaut, car dans les milieux libéraux où la propagande serait surtout nécessaire, bien des associations féminines sont fermées, par ordre, à toute pénétration suffragiste. Aussi faut-il féliciter les vaillantes qui affrontent bien des difficultés et des inimitiés dans leur parti pour rester fidèles à leur idéal suffragiste. Il faut citer en première ligne notre vaillante présidente, Mme. Jané Brigode (échevin libérale de l'instruction publique) à la fermeté de caractère et à la loyauté de qui chacun rend hommage, mais qui se heurte à des oppositions intraitables.

Mlle. Verbeke, présidente des Femmes libérales d'Anvers, mène aussi très courageusement le bon combat dans son journal *Le Forum*.

Chez les socialistes Mme. Claire Baril proteste avec énergie contre la prétention des dirigeants du parti ouvrier, de refuser l'accession aux droits politiques à la moitié de la classe ouvrière.

Du côté catholique nous n'avons pas une situation aussi pénible, parce que nous ne sommes pas en lutte contre les hommes de notre parti. Dernièrement encore, à une grande réunion des Associations catholiques masculines qui s'est tenue à Ostende, la thèse suffragiste présentée par la signataire de ces lignes a reçu un très chaleureux accueil. Mais nous ne pouvons nous défendre d'une certaine mélancolie au souvenir de maintes occasions perdues, où plus de décision et de fermeté de la part de la droite nous aurait obtenu le succès...

Dernières nouvelles, la discussion de la loi provinciale est ajournée au-delà de novembre. Il faudra cependant que ses adversaires se résignent à l'aborder à la fin de cette année puisque les listes électorales devront être préparées pour les élections de mai, 1925. La tâche n'est pas facile: car tous les arguments s'épuisent contre le roc des hostilités quand celles-ci sont basées sur les calculs de l'intérêt électoral qui'll soit clairvoyant ou aveugle.

LOUISE VAN DEN PLAS,

Secrétaire générale de la Fédération belge pour le suffrage.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Etats Unis.

Aux trois conventions nationales, Convention républicaine, Convention démocratique et Conférence pour l'action politique progressiste (3^{me} parti indépendant) les femmes ont figuré en grand nombre. Elles ont présidé des Conventions, ont été élues présidentes de séances de comités importants; elles ont proposé des nominations et ont même eu des voix aux élections présidentielles et vice-présidentielles.

La Ligue des Femmes électriques a pris part à la Convention républicaine du Cleveland, et à l'Assemblée démocratique à New York. La Ligue prépare un programme qui comprend tout spécialement: Entrée des Etats Unis à la Cour Internationale, ratification de l'amendement sur le travail des enfants, organisations adéquates des offices du gouvernement pour le bien-être général, création d'un département fédéral d'enseignement sous la direction d'un membre du cabinet présidentiel, établissement d'un système qui récompense le mérite dans les services publics, suppression des discriminations légales contre les femmes.

Arkansas est le premier Etat qui ait ratifié l'amendement sur le travail des enfants. La Georgie est le premier Etat qui l'ait repoussé.

Une nouvelle idée politique est celle de la réunion d'un Comité Conseil féminin nommé par Mr. Cordell Hall, Président du Comité National démocratique. Le Comité a tenu une réunion de deux jours une quinzaine avant la convention nationale démocratique et a examiné les questions spéciales aux intérêts féminins.

Mme. Upton qui a été vice-présidente du Conseil exécutif du Comité national républicain pendant l'administration des Présidents Harding et Coolidge, a démissionné pendant la Convention républicaine nationale afin de se présenter au congrès pour le 19^{me} district congressiste d'Ohio. Elle sera remplacée par Mme Hert de Louisville, Kentucky.

Pendant la dernière quinzaine de juin Mme. Soledad Chacon a rempli l'office du Gouverneur de l'Etat de New Mexico. C'est la première fois qu'une femme remplit ces fonctions.

La première femme nègre qui ait servi au comité national d'un parti politique important est Mme. Mary C. Booze, du Mississippi. Elle est la fille d'un esclave de Jefferson Davis qui fut Président des Etats Unis. Elle aura pour collègue au comité, le nègre, Perry W. Howard, un Attorney-Général Assistant des Etats Unis, élu aussi par le Mississippi.

Nouvelle Zelande.

Le Conseil National des Femmes et les sociétés affiliées ont organisé un meeting pour rechercher les moyens de lutter contre la mortalité effrayante des femmes en couches. Le rapport suivant sera présenté au gouvernement:

Le Comité désire attirer l'attention sur la position déplorable de la Nouvelle Zelande par rapport à celle de la Grande Bretagne, du Danemark, de la Suède, de la Norvège, en ce qui concerne la mortalité des mères. Le Comité est d'avis (a) de donner un plus grand développement aux hôpitaux-maternités, (b) de ne faire payer aux malades que des prix proportionnels à leurs revenus, que les maternités ne soient pas des établissements commerciaux, mais qu'elles soient placées sous la patronage de l'Etat qui y entretiendra un personnel qualifié et un matériel de chirurgie suffisant et propre, (c) que des offices centraux composés de mères expérimentées soient annexés aux hôpitaux. Le Comité demande qu'une enquête sérieuse soit faite pour tous les cas de mort pendant ou après l'accouchement; que des précautions spéciales soient prises lorsqu'on déplace les malades, et que leur température soit sérieusement surveillée. Un Comité permanent s'occupera spécialement de ces questions.

Afrique du Sud.

La Conférence annuelle s'est tenue à Maritzburg en mai à cause des prochaines élections. Après la discussion sur la politique électorale, Miss Johnstone a présenté la résolution suivante: Qu'aucun appui ne soit donné par les sociétés suffragistes, pendant les élections, aux candidats qui ne prendront pas l'engagement de

voter un projet de loi accordant le suffrage aux femmes. Mrs. Smallbridge a présenté la résolution suivante: Que l'Association recommande aux groupes suffragistes de soutenir la candidature du Général Smuts s'il s'engage à présenter au parlement un projet de loi en faveur du suffrage féminin. L'Assemblée substituée au nom de "Général Smuts" le terme "tout chef de parti."

L'affranchissement des négresses complique la question du vote dans le pays. L'Assemblée recommande l'acceptation de tout compromis qui donnera le vote aux femmes remplissant certaines conditions d'âge et d'éducation si la restriction du suffrage aux Européennes ne paraît pas pratique.

Finlande.

Froken Bonn, pionnière féministe, mène une campagne en faveur des salaires égaux pour les deux sexes. Il y a, dit-elle, beaucoup de carrières ouvertes aux femmes en Finlande. Les femmes ont aujourd'hui de hautes positions dans le commerce, les bureaux, les banques. Il y a des femmes architectes, entrepreneurs de bâtiment, ingénieurs, agronomes, femmes de loi, etc. Pour les ouvrières les heures du travail sont de 9 à 5 avec une heure de repos. Les salaires sont meilleurs qu'autrefois mais ils sont toujours plus faibles pour les femmes que pour les hommes. C'est contre cette injustice que les féministes travaillent actuellement.

Irlande.

Le féminisme en Irlande a souffert de la réaction qui a suivi la guerre et la révolution. Pendant la guerre les femmes du nord, habiles à tisser et à filer, fabriquaient des toiles d'aéroplanes; les femmes du sud allèrent travailler aux munitions en Angleterre. Avec la paix vint le chômage, d'où sous-nutrition des mères et mortalité infantile considérable; en outre la guerre civile dans les rues produisit un effet désastreux sur le développement physique et mental des enfants. Avec la restauration de l'ordre, la réaction antiféministe inévitable, fut surtout économique. Ainsi pendant la guerre, des femmes avaient été nommées dans la police et les services publics; depuis, aucune nouvelle nomination n'a été faite. Les traitements des membres de l'enseignement sont plus forts pour les hommes que pour les femmes, les bourses d'études sont plus élevées et plus nombreuses pour les garçons. Cependant la mentalité féminine a changé. On sait que le traité anglo-irlandais de 1921 a séparé l'Etat Libre du Sud (26 comtés) de l'Irlande du Nord (les 6 comtés du N.E.). Dans le Nord, le statut politique des femmes est identique à celui de l'Angleterre; la forte organisation féministe de Belfast est une garantie que les propositions pour la franchise des deux sexes seront adoptées par le Parlement. Dans l'Etat libre du Sud, l'égalité des citoyens est garantie par la constitution. Le Conseil des Femmes de Belfast a pris un grand développement, et à Dublin, un Conseil National des Femmes s'est fondé. Les deux sociétés se sont réunies et forment le Conseil National des Femmes Irlandaises.

NOUVELLES DIVERSES.

[Ces nouvelles sont apparues dans la grande presse et leur exactitude n'est pas garantie.]

International

Le Congrès de la Fédération Abolitionniste.—Le Congrès International de la Fédération Abolitionniste aura lieu à Gratz (Autriche), le 22, 23 et 24 septembre prochain, sous la présidence de M. A. de Graaf.

Des rapports seront présentés par MM. de Meuron, Minod, prof. von Düring et F. Ude, Drs. Læwenstein et Weldhuyzen, Mmes. Müller-Otfried et Helen Wilson.

Ecrire pour tous renseignements au secrétaire du Bureau international, M. Reelfs, 3, rue du Vieux-College, Genève (Suisse).

Egalement à Gratz, du 18 au 20 septembre, se tiendra le Congrès des Associations nationales pour la lutte contre la Traite des femmes et des enfants.

Championne de tir.—Le premier championnat international de dames de tir à la carabine vient d'avoir lieu à Reims. C'est Mme. Catherineau, une Française, qui l'a remporté avec un total de 193 points sur un maximum de 200.

Autriche.

A Vienne, sur 1,200 policiers, il y a 400 femmes dont 17 sont vice-directrices d'offices. Ces femmes sont employées dans la police des mœurs, contre l'alcoolisme et dans la police des prisons.

Neuf femmes siègent au Parlement.

Espagne.

Deux femmes ont été appelées comme experts pour discuter les nouvelles lois concernant les contrats du travail.

France.

Succès féminin.—Il convient de souligner cette nomination qui est la première du genre: Mlle. Villa est nommée professeur de littérature anglaise à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Lyon. C'est la première fois qu'une femme occupe, dans l'enseignement supérieur, une chaire de lettres.

Le Parlement a adopté la loi indiquant que "les commissaires-priseurs seront nommés sans distinction de sexe."

Italie.

La Section de législation du Conseil national des femmes italiennes a étudié de façon très approfondie plusieurs réformes intéressant directement les femmes qui ont été remises à la Commission de revision du Code. Ses demandes portent principalement sur la recherche de la paternité, la reconnaissance de l'enfant naturel, la tutelle, la puissance parentale, les sanctions contre le conjoint qui ne remplit pas ses obligations de participer à l'entretien de sa famille, etc., etc.

Portugal.

Le Conseil national des femmes portugaises a fêté son 10^e anniversaire. A cette occasion le C. N. des femmes belges a envoyé à la Présidente, Dr. Adelaide Cabete, ses plus chaleureuses félicitations.

LE SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES AU SENAT.

Commission pour le Suffrage.

Le 10 juillet a été nommée une Commission de dix-huit membres pour examiner la proposition de loi de M. Louis Martin, tendant à reconnaître aux femmes le droit de vote et d'éligibilité (n^o 713, année 1923).

Le Président est M. Pérès (Ariège), pas favorable; Vice-Président, M. Jenouvrier (Ille-et-Vilaine), favorable; Secrétaire, M. Marsot (Haute-Saône), pas favorable; Rapporteur, M. Pierre Marraud (Lot-et-Garonne), pas favorable.

Membres favorables:

Louis Martin (Var), Brindeau (Seine-Inférieure), Morand (Vendée), Henry Chéron (Calvados).

Membres non favorables ou douteux:

Mazurier (Haute-Vienne), Gay (Nièvre), Fernand Rabier (Loiret), Dominique Delahaye (Maine-et-Loire), René Héry (Deux-Sèvres), Messimy (Ain), Alfred Brard (Morbihan), Magny (Seine), Tessier (Vaucluse), Goy (Haute-Savoie).

Cette Commission, nommée à la veille des vacances, il nous a été impossible de voir ses membres. Nous avons seulement envoyé quelques documents au rapporteur, afin qu'il ait le temps de les méditer pendant les vacances.

Nous demandons instamment aux branches du Conseil National, aux Groupes de Suffrage et à nos amis de joindre pendant l'été les membres de la Commission dans leurs départements, ou de leur écrire s'il est impossible de les atteindre autrement.

Il est essentiel que les membres de la Commission sentent l'intérêt que nous attachons à ce que le rapport soit déposé et discuté dès la rentrée. Les deux Chambres doivent prendre une décision avant le 13 décembre pour que nous puissions voter aux prochaines élections municipales.

Prière de nous tenir au courant des démarches faites. Pour le Conseil National, écrire à Mme. Raspail, 41, rue Saint-Placide, Paris 6^e arrond. Pour l'Union pour le Suffrage, 53, rue Scheffer, Paris 16^e.

A La Chambre Des Deputes.

La Commission du suffrage universel a nommé son bureau le 11 juillet:

Président: M. Varenne.
Vice-Présidents: MM. Archimbaud, Flandin (Yonne), Pierre Laval, Renaudel.
Secrétaires: MM. Georges Bret, Baréty, Théo-Bretin, Raboulin, Paganon, Henri Auriol (Haute-Garonne).

C'est cette Commission qui aura donc à s'occuper du suffrage des femmes au Palais Bourbon, et si la Commission sénatoriale peut nous donner quelques inquiétudes, nous sommes heureuses de retrouver dans ce bureau des amis sûrs et actifs.

Il faut donc maintenant que M. Joseph Barthelemy dépose au plus tôt son précédent rapport sur le bureau de la Chambre, avec les vingt signatures nécessaires pour reprendre un rapport d'une législature à l'autre.

C. B.

LE LEGISLATION PROTECTRICE DE LA FEMME.

Il n'y a peut-être pas de question qui suscite davantage de vives discussions dans les milieux féministes. On sait, en effet, et ce journal a eu souvent l'occasion d'y faire allusion, qu'il existe deux écoles parmi les féministes: celle qui admet que la législation (et c'est surtout la législation du travail qui est ici en cause) crée une situation spéciale à la femme en la protégeant par des mesures d'exception contre la fatigue des longues heures d'usine, du travail de nuit, en lui interdisant certains travaux réputés dangereux ou malsains, etc. L'autre école estime que ces dispositions sont nuisibles à la femme qu'elles infériorisent, économiquement parlant: car le premier résultat d'une législation protectrice trop strict sera de décourager les employeurs d'engager des femmes, qui ne trouveront ainsi que difficilement du travail.—Tant mieux: leur place est à la maison, diraient alors des anti-féministes; mais les féministes des deux écoles savent que, dans notre vie contemporaine, il est bien difficile à la femme, dont le mari gagne insuffisamment ou chôme, de rester à la maison, de même qu'elles estiment qu'il est des cas où il y a même avantage moral pour la femme à exercer un métier qui mette en jeu ses facultés et élargisse son champ d'action. C'est plutôt donc sur les conditions de ce travail que se séparent les deux écoles, avec entre elles des nuances, comme par exemple celle que, pour notre part, nous professons: conditions spéciales de travail pour la femme dans une situation spéciale, soit au moment de la maternité; et, en temps ordinaire, aucune mesure spéciale sur le compte de laquelle les femmes n'auraient pas été consultées, car là réside selon nous une injustice d'imposer à qui que ce soit une protection avec laquelle il n'est peut-être pas du tout d'accord.—Fort bien, dira-t-on, mais quelles femmes devront être consultées? Les premières intéressées, soit les ouvrières elles-mêmes, tout naturellement?—Prenons garde ici, toutefois; car de quelle façon exprimeront-elles leur opinion? Dans quelques pays avancés, où elles sont organisées entre elles de façon stable et solide, ce sera par la voix de leurs syndicats féminins, qui sera véritablement leur voix. Mais dans d'autres pays moins avancés au point de vue de l'organisation du travail féminin, les femmes sont rarement groupées autrement que dans les syndicats masculins, où elles risquent généralement, faute d'un entraînement suffisant à faire valoir leurs idées en discussion générale, faute aussi d'une représentation suffisante dans les corps directeurs, d'être complètement minorisées par l'opinion de leurs collègues masculins. Et malheureusement l'expérience des typographes montrant que les hommes ont souvent tendance à exclure les femmes des métiers bien rémunérés et de se réserver en chasse gardée, l'opinion masculine ne pourrait donc être comptée comme celle des intéressées elles-mêmes...

Toute cette question est extrêmement complexe et délicate. Aux Congrès suffragistes internationaux de ces dernières années, on a vu les deux écoles s'affronter avec ardeur, et la résolution votée à Rome concernant le travail des femmes fut un compromis entre elles: "qu'aucune réglementation du travail ne soit adoptée si les femmes intéressées y sont opposées," ce terme

"intéressées" pouvant être interprété aussi bien dans un sens large, en y comprenant les féministes, que restrictif.

D'une manière générale, la France et l'Italie se rattachent à la première école, qui demande une protection légale spéciale pour la femme, et les pays scandinaves et les Etats-Unis à la seconde. C'est donc cette tendance que Mme. Kjelsberg a toujours représentée aux Conférences internationales du Travail; et quant aux Américaines, elles ont entamé une campagne conduite avec ardeur pour obtenir l'égalité complète entre hommes et femmes, aussi bien en matière de législation du travail qu'en matière politique. Un groupement s'est formé à cet effet sous le nom de "Parti National Féminin," sur l'activité duquel les renseignements suivants, envoyés par Mrs. Jane Norman Smith, présidente de la Branche de New-York, à *Jus Suffragii*, sont de nature à intéresser quiconque se préoccupe tant soit peu de la question.

C'est en 1848, à Seneca Falls, dans l'Etat de New-York, écrit Mrs. Smith, qu'eut lieu la célèbre Conférence en faveur des droits de la femme, où, sur l'initiative d'Elisabeth Cady Stanton et de Lucretia Mott, fut votée une résolution demandant l'égalité entre l'homme et la femme dans l'éducation, dans l'industrie, dans les professions, dans l'Eglise, en politique, en législation matrimoniale, en matière de liberté personnelle, d'administration de sa propre fortune, de tutelle des enfants, de droit de signer des contrats, bref en tout domaine de la vie morale et publique. Cette Conférence, la première de son espèce, protestait en somme contre toute forme d'infériorisation de la femme et marquait le début d'une campagne pour établir l'égalité de tous les droits entre les hommes et les femmes.

Or, aujourd'hui, après soixante-quinze ans écoulés, un seul des buts mis en évidence dans la Résolution de 1848 a été complètement atteint: c'est l'égalité des droits politiques. Par conséquent, le Parti National Féminin, qui a joué un rôle considérable dans la bataille dont l'obtention du suffrage fut l'aboutissement, se consacre maintenant à réaliser les autres revendications de 1848.

Une enquête faite dans les lois des différents Etats-Unis par le Département d'Etudes législatives de notre Parti Féminin a établi le fait que, sur plus de 50 points,

des lois infériorisent encore les femmes. Dans certains Etats, un homme a le droit de déshériter son enfant illégitime, dans d'autres les lois sur les successions sont inégales pour les hommes et les femmes; dans d'autres encore, les lois sur la tutelle, sur l'accession des femmes au jury, etc. Aussi, des projets de lois supprimant les cas les plus notoires d'infériorisation furent-ils déposés à la demande du Parti National Féminin dans tous les Etats dont les Assemblées législatives se réunissaient durant l'année 1923. Plusieurs furent adoptés (quatre sur vingt-cinq à New-York, deux dans d'autres Etats, quatre dans d'autres, etc.), mais aucun n'a été voté simultanément dans deux Etats, si bien que pour obtenir par cette méthode ce que voulait le P.N.F., il y aurait fallu soixante-quinze ans encore! L'expérience de ces dernières années a prouvé que, pour parvenir à une législation établissant l'égalité complète sur tous les points entre l'homme et la femme, il faut procéder ainsi qu'on l'a fait lors des dernières luttes pour le suffrage, c'est-à-dire s'adresser aux Chambres fédérales, donc au Congrès. Et à la demande du P.N.F., MM. Curtis, sénateur, et Anthony, député, déposèrent au Sénat et à la Chambre des Représentants, l'amendement à la Constitution appelé 'Amendement Lucretia Mott,' établissant l'égalité des droits en ces termes: 'Les hommes et les femmes ont des droits égaux sur tout le territoire des Etats-Unis et dans tous les lieux soumis à la juridiction de ceux-ci.'

Un des avantages de cet amendement fédéral est qu'il garantira d'une manière permanente l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, alors que les lois votées par les Législatures des Etats risquent toujours d'être abrogées par la Législature suivante: ce qu'une Chambre a fait, une autre peut le défaire, et nous, femmes, devons avoir constamment l'œil au guet pour surveiller ce qui se passe dans la législation de nos Etats. En outre, un amendement à la Constitution évite le danger du referendum populaire nécessaire dans chaque Etat et si difficile à mener à bien, alors qu'il suffit pour amender la Constitution fédérale d'un vote favorable des Parlements des trois quarts des Etats (36 sur 48).

(A suivre: du "Mouvement Féministe.")

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