

JUS SUFFRAGII.

# The International Woman Suffrage News

The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

FRENCH EDITION.

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

### Notice on the Policy of Jus Suffragii.

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

### Features of the Month.

The great events of the last few weeks in Russia will stand out amongst the greatest in history, and Women Suffragists all over the world will welcome the liberation of the hundreds of millions of inhabitants of that vast empire. A crushing weight has been lifted from the neck of a multitude which will now become a nation. Freedom of speech, of religion, of the Press, of public meeting; freedom to work or abstain from working; freedom for nationality, now promised to the people, will open the doors to them of full participation in public life, and the free development of all their faculties. Dr. Harold Williams, in a telegram to the London *Daily Chronicle* of March 23rd, states that it is decided that women are to vote for the Constituent Assembly, and that Woman Suffrage follows as a matter of course. If this forecast turns out to be correct, there is, indeed, cause for rejoicing. Will the Western nations of Europe be suddenly outstripped by this young giant? Will the women of Great Britain and Germany, France, Italy, and the United States, with all their inherited traditions and more widespread culture, be unrecognised as citizens, while women of the Steppes, of the Caucasus, of Siberia go proudly to the poll?

There is nothing impossible in such a revolution. It may prove easier for Russia to go at one spring from absolutism to universal suffrage than it is for the hidebound political parties of the West, with vested interests in male privilege, to allow even a measure of freedom and justice to women. Time will show. At present everything is in the melting-pot, and who knows what may emerge from the mighty cauldron? With our heartiest wishes to Russian women for their speedy enfranchisement, we send also heartfelt congratulations to the women of Finland on the re-establishment of their constitutional rights, and the fervent hope and belief that they may never again be threatened. Finland was the first European country to enfranchise its women, and to give them seats in Parliament. The Finnish women, led by their twenty-four women members of Parliament, can now proceed unhampered with the work they have at heart. To the sorely tried Polish women we would also send sympathetic good wishes, and the hope that this may be the dawn of a better day for them.

How this great liberation may react on the rest of the world we dare not prophesy, but it seems impossible that it should not have a bracing and stimulating effect. It brings new faith and hope for the future of the human race.

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Autocracy will, we hope, be replaced by a true democracy, in which women will take their place as free citizens. Fresh life animates those who have a new hope; vigorous and gifted races can now develop their resources, and this vivifying stream will pour fresh vitality into the veins of Europe and Asia.

In America the tide of women's enfranchisement continues to flow, and has now reached the Atlantic Coast. The first Eastern State to enfranchise women is the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia, where the Bill giving them full Suffrage was passed unanimously on March 21st, at the same time as a Bill giving women the right to practise law. The Suffrage map in our March issue is already out of date!

These important events have already made themselves felt in other countries. In Great Britain, where in the report of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform a proposal for a very limited measure of Woman Suffrage had been put forward, and even then shelved for two months owing to Conservative opposition, the sweeping proposals for universal Suffrage in Russia have produced a marked effect, and shame is expressed that British women should lag behind Russians. The Executive Committee of the National Council for Adult Suffrage passed the following resolution of sympathy with the aims of the Russian Provisional Government at its meeting held on Monday, March 19th:—

That the National Council for Adult Suffrage rejoices greatly at the resolve of the Provisional Executive Committee of the Duma to establish Universal Suffrage for the election of the Constituent Assembly, and hopes that the British Imperial Parliament will speedily follow the example of our great Ally, enfranchising all adult men and women. At a mass meeting in London on March 27th, the eve of the Parliamentary debate, a resolution was carried that "this meeting, encouraged by Russia's great charter of freedom, heartily supports Mr. Asquith's resolution calling for a Reform Bill on the general lines of the Speaker's Conference, and urges the inclusion of women on the widest possible basis." The following day the late Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, in the House of Commons moved a resolution urging the Government to bring in a Bill embodying the proposals of the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform, and including Woman Suffrage. Mr. Asquith generously and unreservedly expressed his conversion to the principle of Woman Suffrage, as a result of women's national services during the war. Mr. Walter Long, the Colonial Minister, who has hitherto also been an inveterate enemy of Woman Suffrage, supported Mr. Asquith, as did the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, who has always been a supporter. For many years Mr. Asquith has been the great obstacle to Woman Suffrage in Great Britain. His unrivalled influence with the Liberal party will now be for instead of against Woman Suffrage, so that victory is now assured. It is a strange reflection that men who have been blind all their lives to the priceless and unique value of women's life-giving work in peace time, as mothers, home-makers, educators, and industrial workers, should be converted by their utility in the death-dealing occupations of making shells and machine guns. It has needed the most disastrous war in history to open to women skilled occupations—closed by trade union jealousy and the ballot-box—closed by the indifference of the party politician.

M. S.

Mrs. Catt on Advisory Committee of National Defence.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, is the only woman to be appointed by President Wilson to the Advisory Committee of National Defence.

Deputation to Mr. Lloyd George.

On the day following the debate in Parliament the Prime Minister received a large deputation of women representing every class of woman worker. City councillors, Civil servants, doctors, teachers, dentists, nurses, business women, clerks, the new type of skilled artisan—engineers, fitters, munition makers, locomotive cleaners, tailors, bakers, bookbinders, "bus conductors,—the older trades of textile workers and chain-makers, and the domestic workers were all represented, and all the great Suffrage societies and women's organisations.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., was chief spokeswoman, and in reply to her the Prime Minister urged women to accept the compromise proposed by the Speaker's Conference, which, although indefensible on grounds of logic and equality, was the only solution likely to be successfully carried at the present time, when controversy must be avoided.

Table: I.W.S.A. AFFILIATION FEES. Lists various international organizations and their 1917 contributions in pounds and shillings.

Table: HONORARY ASSOCIATES' SUBSCRIPTIONS. Lists individual names and their 1917 contributions from various countries.

Table: SUBSCRIPTIONS. Lists individual names and their contributions for 1915, 1916, and 1917, including totals for 'Already acknowledged' and 'New Member since February'.

\* New Member since February. ADELA COIT, HON. TREASURER

FRANCE.

For the May number we shall send full reports of the Congress of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes which will take place in Paris on April 5th. We wished to treat separately the important subject of girls' secondary education, and Mme. le Verrier will give in May the conclusions of the appended report, which will be combined with those of Mme. Pichon Landry on the same subject.

DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

The Reform of Girls' Secondary Education.

We have for long been demanding the reform of our secondary teaching. We reproach the system with leading girls to a test called the diploma of the end of study ("diplôme de fin d'études") which is of no use to them.

Our secondary system was created in 1880. The law which established it clearly expressed its decision not to educate girls and boys alike. It appears to have wished to occupy the time of girls of the well-to-do class by furnishing their minds agreeably. The plan of study had been drawn up to enable them to converse on all subjects, but without being blue stockings. Latin and philosophy were omitted as dangerous speculations; psychology was permitted, but its vocabulary was not taught; the pupils learnt for the sake of learning, but not at all with a view to using their knowledge. However, in order to stimulate them it was arranged that at the end of their five years they should pass an examination in their own lycées and before a jury of teachers, and this should be an opportunity for them to revise their knowledge. If the jury found the answers satisfactory, it would award as recompense a diploma to testify to the family the pupil's industry. This is the "diplôme de fin d'études." Only pupils in State schools may possess this diploma, since the examination takes place in each lycée at the end of the year. Free secondary teaching cannot therefore give this pledge of good work to the parents of its pupils. It is obliged, if it wishes to prove that its pupils have made good use of their time, to send them to pass some examination in an academy.

This measure, whose object it was to favour State teaching, quickly proved injurious to it. Pupils did not come forward for the lycées from the well-to-do class as the legislators of 1880 had expected, but from the lower middle class. Poor and ignorant parents think that education saves people from poverty, that State instruction is a better preservative than private instruction; they sacrifice themselves to assure a lycée education for their girls. Then they discover their mistake. When their daughter brings home the famous diploma which has cost her family such privations, and when she tries to get some benefit from it, she discovers that she would have had the same advantages, and others in addition, if she had been content with primary instruction and her "brevets." For this reason families gradually found themselves opposed to the law of 1880. Legislators had decided that girls' secondary education should be disinterested; families in straitened circumstances decided that it ought to be practical. They brought pressure to bear for the addition to the courses at the lycées of supplementary classes preparing for the "brevet simple," the "brevet supérieur," and for the "baccalauréat," for parents wished more and more to give their daughters the same advantages as their sons. It was then that independent schools (l'enseignement libre) developed considerably. Whilst the lycées, hindered by their general programme, could only put professional training alongside their regular courses, the free establishments who cannot prepare for the diploma arranged easily to prepare for the baccalauréat. From year to year the number of diplômées diminishes, and that of bachelères increases, so much so that most teachers demand a unification of programmes. And why indeed should girls be given a different education from boys, since girls are called upon, owing to the war, to replace those who are missing and to follow careers that men formerly reserved for themselves? No one must remain idle; all are called upon to work either to gain their living or to help their country to the best of their ability, to repair its losses, and to recover its strength. It is not enough to develop in them a taste for letters and art; science and industry claim them. They must be given a scientific preparation which the present secondary education does not give them.

The Minister of Public Instruction wishes to transform the curriculum of our lycées and to adapt them to present needs, but he alone cannot decree the unification of programmes. As our secondary education was created by Act of Parliament, a

radical alteration needs a new Act. That depends on Parliament. But the war scarcely leaves Parliament the possibility of thoroughly studying questions which do not concern the national defence. It has, however, nominated an extra Parliamentary Committee to discuss the reform project drawn up by the Superior Council of Public Instruction.

The Superior Council proposes to bring the diploma into harmony with the new needs of society and the aspirations of the family, and to give it a value equal or nearly equal to that of the baccalauréat. It suggests:—

(1) A rearrangement of the plan of studies; alterations in the teaching of history and modern languages; increase in the time given to Latin, science, and mathematics; and six years' secondary study instead of five.

(2) New regulations for the diplôme—that is to say, addition of Latin or science.

(3) Pupils having the diplôme may be excused the first part of the baccalauréat.

(4) Alterations in the examination.

The examination will remain in the lycées, so that pupils of private schools may not be admitted to benefit by the diplôme.

But the jury will be altered, the element from outside will be increased; the oral examination will be public. A note book will be kept for each candidate. Corrections and questions will be made by two members of the jury. Altogether, the Superior Council for Public Instruction, which has no power to make radical changes in teaching, shows by proposing these alterations that it agrees with the parents, and admits the value of their claims. We do not know yet what judgment will be passed by the extra Parliamentary Commission. We have reason to think that it will oppose the unification of programmes, as this would bring about disorganisation of the teaching staff, which would put the university into difficulties, and also because in the opinion of university people the girls' course of study is superior to the boys' from the point of view of general culture. To give them the course of study for the baccalauréat would seem a step backward.

MARIE LOUISE LE VERRIER,

Vice-President of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes.

(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

"Feminist Poison" and Male Modesty.

No doubt owing to the absence at the front of the young journalists, mediæval survivals are having their say in the Press. One of them ascribes the army of 600,000 women who are replacing men in industry to "feminist poison," and wishes to send them home.

S. de Callias has some pungent remarks on the subject in la Française. After describing the excellent work done by women on the trams and railways, work equal to men's but paid less, she adds the tribute paid to his workwomen by a big steel smelter, who said that his firm preferred women as being the more conscientious. The writer continues:—

"It is a pity to see the prejudice of man's infallible superiority so deep seated at a period when the economic life of the nation depends on the women. And then—and then—is there not one consideration that should make these gentlemen more modest? If the normal functioning of Europe is totally disorganised at present, whose fault is it? . . . After all, it was not women who unchained this horrible war, or were responsible for the events that led up to it. The holocaust of nations is the work of men only, as women were never consulted. Therefore it seems to me that until men have brilliantly restored the chaos they should never again talk of the incompetence, want of logic, or nervousness of the feminine brain, but, on the contrary, bless them for having maintained the life of the country while the men were busy killing each other."

—la Française.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

A law has been passed securing to wives in receipt of the military allowance the benefits of the law of July, 1913, granting to mothers a daily allowance for a month before and after childbirth. Unfortunately, the law of 1913 restricted this benefit to wage-earning wives, and, although a Bill was before the Chamber in March, 1914, extending the benefit to wives whose whole work was in the home, the war interrupted its passage, and the proposal is not included in the present law. The women who are excluded are usually those with several children, and who need assistance as much as, or more than, any other class. It is striking that, in spite of all the lip homage to the home-keeping woman, she is the last to be included in beneficial legislation.



## GERMANY.

**National Service.**

It is now decided that women, although not included in compulsory national service, shall have the same rights as men when engaged in war industries. The ordinance on workmen's committees states: "Adult workmen or employes who are compulsorily insured shall have a vote and be eligible for election without distinction of sex."

A War Office order of January 29th also gave directions for the employment of women in national service. The employment bureaux in connection with the War Office all have women's sections, and all are connected with the central office, under Dr. Else Lüders, at the War Office. In connection with this is the "National Committee for Women's War Work." The German National Council of Women has three representatives on this committee. Its first session took place in January, and was presided over by Excellency v. Groener.

In connection with the women's employment bureaux welfare centres are organised which are to increase productivity by protecting the health of the workers and relieving them of domestic duties. The work will be carried out in close co-operation with municipal authorities, factory inspectors, chambers of commerce, etc. The link between the workers and the welfare agency is the factory nurse. The women's societies in town and country will work hand-in-hand with the employment bureaux, recruiting women for agriculture and munitions.

**Equal Pay for Equal Work.**

In Frankfurt a. Main a decision has been given in favour of a woman employed by a brewery, who sued them for wages according to the tariff of the workmen, one of whom she was replacing. The defence was that the tariff only applied to men, but the Court decided that the woman was doing man's work, and entitled to the same pay; moreover, that it would be harmful to allow employers to substitute women for men at less pay in war-time, as that would close the occupation to men after the war. The excuse frequently made for under-payment of women, that they have not to support families, is not valid now that the bread-winning man is at the war.

**Race Hygiene.**

The Berlin Society for Race Hygiene recently arranged a conference on the subject of health certificates before marriage. The conference recommended the exchange of such certificates between bride and bridegroom, but did not recommend any legal prohibition of marriage in the case of those who had not a clean bill of health, as they considered the responsibility too great to lay upon doctors, and that it would drive prohibited persons to illicit connections. The fact that a health certificate was required of persons wishing to marry would emphasise the importance of healthy parentage, and would, by informing the prospective couple of each other's health, save many from a wretched marriage with a diseased partner.

**Women's Schools of Social Service.**

The first conference of Women's Social Schools took place in Berlin on January 24th. Eleven schools were represented from Berlin, Hanover, Elberfeld, Frankfurt, Mannheim, Cologne, and Leipzig. The Prussian Ministers for Education and the Interior were represented. The unanimous conclusion of all those present was that the object to be aimed at was the thorough training of the professional worker, and that for this an all-round training in all branches of social welfare work was necessary, so that the pupils should appreciate the unity and harmony of all social effort, and also should be able to transfer from one branch to another. The war has caused a demand for trained social workers far exceeding the supply. Pupils must be over 20 and under 35, and must have had previous training, either in teaching, nursing, or domestic economy. The training includes theory and practical work.

It was anticipated that when the social workers now so largely employed in the war zone are no longer needed there may be an excess of supply over demand. The conference proved that the experiences of the schools for social workers in the different towns were similar, and led to the adoption of common principles, and that close co-operation was possible and helpful.

**The Importance of the Moral Problem for the Future.**

A second conference on this subject was held in Berlin during February, and was very well attended. Police-matrons, factory and house inspectors (who were in some cases officially sent by their authorities), nurses, teachers, trade unionists,

midwives, and wives of Ministers of State were present. There was a general harmony of outlook and principle, and unanimous condemnation of the State system of regulation, segregation, and the brothel.

The situation is a critical one. Information was received from members of Parliament that a project of Professor Neisser's for segregation of prostitutes according to the Bremen system was being promoted and likely to be enforced. This system was entirely condemned by the conference, which passed a resolution of protest.

Frau Katharina Scheven spoke on "The State and Prostitution," Fräulein Paula Müller on the "Social Causes of Prostitution," and Countess Groeben and Fräulein Dittmar on the duty of protection of young people against vice. These speakers emphasised the part played by bad housing, want of vocational training, and lack of recreation and enjoyment, in driving girls on the streets. The part played by economic pressure is illustrated by the fact that at the beginning of the war unemployment drove many girls to prostitution, while now plenty of well-paid work has attracted even registered women to abandon prostitution for work.

Countess v. d. Groeben laid great emphasis on housing inspection, temperance, and raising the age of consent. In view of the numbers of children and young persons in the large towns under no control who got into trouble, she suggested the formation of an office of welfare for young persons, which should send them back to the country under proper supervision.

Fräulein Dittmar, who occupies an official position in the Berlin police (possibly analogous to an English probation officer), made practical suggestions—viz., appointment of many more women police assistants, the establishment of small homes for girls needing protection, who in so many instances come from unhappy homes, and can be reclaimed by kindness. Hitherto the tendency has been to herd them into Magdalen penitentiaries.

Fräulein Anna Pappritz spoke on the task of social insurance in combating sexual diseases. A paper by Dr. Else Lüders on the measures taken with regard to prostitution in the war zone was read in her absence. Frau Marianne Weber gave a general survey of the problems of sex relations, now accentuated by the social upheaval. The modern economically independent woman revolts against the dreary monotony of unrelieved work, and the knowledge of preventives has made possible relations otherwise too dangerous. She is actuated less by sexual impulse than by a thirst for happiness and companionship. This kind of connection tends to replace prostitution, but has dangers and evils of its own. On the whole, most women desire a permanent and stable relationship. Formerly unmarried women renounced the satisfaction of one side of their being. Nowadays they are less inclined to do so, believing that natural instincts have a right to satisfaction. This tendency is increased by war conditions, which take away from so many all prospects of marriage. Thus there is a danger of widespread irresponsibility, and irresponsibility in love is, as the speaker showed, the obstacle to the highest development. "Only through the incorporation of sex love with responsibilities which carry mankind beyond the joy of the moment does love become the bearer of moral values and one with universal law."

The speeches are published by Edwin Runge, Grosz Lichterfelde, under the title, "Die Bedeutung der Sittlichkeitsfrage für die deutsche Zukunft."

—Frauenfrage, February 16th.

**Women in Town Administration.**

The Berlin Town Council has decided to nominate women members on certain committees, and has appealed to the Minister of the Interior to alter §59 of the Towns Act (Städteordnung) so as to allow these women a vote.

Although women welcome this recognition of their usefulness, they wish for more than is offered—e.g., a place on more committees than those mentioned. Those recommended are: Committees on hospitals, homes, asylums, housing, school meals, markets, technical and continuation schools. Women think it equally important that they should be included on the committees for parks, baths, athletics, traffic, libraries, and higher educational institutions. Women also think that not only one, but two women should be on the committees. They also think that members should be chosen not only from the married women, but from experienced professional women.

Women, as it is, do an immense amount of unpaid municipal work. In 1913 about 20,000 women were in paid or unpaid municipal posts, and since the war they have extended their work in care for soldiers' dependents, war feeding centres, the

food supply, and the giving out of army work. Since last autumn they have been given many seats on municipal committees, but they still have no vote for these bodies, nor can they be elected.

**Housewives and Food Supply.**

The Town Council of Neukölln will no longer allow the food supply to be dealt with by the town municipal authorities which do not and may not include women. A conference, including women, has considered the question, and in future women will be consulted as to the provision and division of food supplies. For this purpose a special committee is formed, including women of all shades of politics.

**Suffrage in the Prussian Diet.**

On February 16th the Prussian Diet again had the subject of Woman Suffrage before it. A petition was presented asking for the Parliamentary and Municipal vote for women. The Reporter emphasised women's activities in the war, and asked the representative of the Government whether in the eventual electoral reform women would be considered. The representative of the Government said that when the municipal constitution (Städteverfassung) was altered, women's position should be thoroughly considered. As to the granting of the franchise he could say nothing. The petition will be handed over as material (Die Petition wird als Material überwiesen).

**Women's Work in Bavaria.**

The Bavarian War Office has now published its scheme for the organisation of women's work. The women's department of the Bavarian War Bureau is placed in charge of Fräulein Dr. Gertrud Wolf, who thus acquires equal rank with Fräulein Lüders in Berlin.

The Bavarian scheme follows the Prussian model as regards the importance attached to welfare work as essential in the employment of women. It is stated that most "social work" will continue to be done without payment. Every volunteer will be allowed free choice of the kind of work which she wishes to do, "but anybody who undertakes any work must be conscious of the moral obligation to hold out for the period contemplated by the competent authorities." The following statement is made about the scope of employment:—

Women workers are intended to fill the gaps created by the calling up of more men for military service, in order that the productive power of the whole people may not be diminished. At present it is a matter not so much of mobilisation as of organisation, for there is no scarcity of women workers in Bavaria. While, however, the rush to particular occupations is extraordinarily great, there is in other occupations, and especially in agriculture, an appreciable shortage of labour. One of the most important tasks will be to create a balance. It is necessary, first, to determine what women workers are available in town and country; secondly, to sort out the available labour according to suitability for the various occupations; and, thirdly, to regulate supply and demand.

The Bavarian authorities insist especially upon the voluntary character of women's work.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

**National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**

## POLITICAL SITUATION.

**ELECTORAL REFORM.**

Although nearly two months have elapsed since the report of the Conference on Electoral Reform was published, no step has yet been taken by the Government to deal with this vital question.

A meeting of Liberal members on March 6th passed unanimously a resolution expressing the hope that the Government would introduce without delay a Bill based on the recommendations of the Conference, and promising support for such a Bill. A similar meeting was held by the Conservative party, but no vote was taken; but there was a section of those present who were hostile to the findings of the Conference.

At the National Labour Conference which met on March 20th, a resolution in the following terms was moved by Mr. Clynes, M.P.:—

"That this Conference, representing the industrial and political organisations of the working class, both men and women, while adhering to its repeated demands for complete Adult Suffrage and other such reforms in registration and

constituencies as will make elections clearly representative of the popular will, welcomes the efforts made by the Speaker's Conference to arrive at an agreement upon these questions; it is of opinion that the Parliamentary Labour Party should support as a minimum the resolutions of the Speaker's Conference, provided that the enfranchisement of women, including women wage-earners and widows, is agreed to, and calls for immediate legislation on the general lines of the report, so that a decision of a truly national character may be given at the forthcoming general election. This Conference further requests the Parliamentary Labour Party to endeavour to secure the inclusion of women on the broadest possible basis, and especially to ensure that the bulk of the wage-earning women are not excluded from any franchise measure."

An amendment in favour of complete Adult Suffrage was defeated by a large majority, and the resolution was adopted. A deputation was formed to present this decision to the Prime Minister.

**PROPOSALS OF THE CONFERENCE TO BE DEBATED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

A day is to be given by the Government for a debate on the recommendations of the Conference. Meanwhile, Mr. Asquith has given notice of the following motion: "That this House records its thanks to the Speaker for presiding over the Electoral Reform Conference, and is of opinion that legislation should be promptly introduced on the lines of the resolutions of the Conference." It is stated in the Press that in moving this Mr. Asquith will speak in support of Woman's Suffrage. There are rumours that the opposition to the Conference proposals is growing in strength among the Conservatives. If this be true there is considerable danger of the Government refusing to introduce a Bill on the ground that legislation on matters of franchise reform must command the consent of the majority of all parties in the House at the present time, when prolonged controversies should be avoided.

There is still hope that wiser counsels may prevail, and that the party spirit, which has been in abeyance, will not be invoked in order to wreck the prospects of reform.

**SUFFRAGE MEETING IN MANCHESTER.**

A crowded and enthusiastic public meeting was held at Manchester, presided over by Mrs. Fawcett. The speakers were Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr. Clynes, M.P., and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Resolutions were passed, urging the Government to introduce without delay a Bill based on the recommendations of the Conference, and expressing the opinion that women should be enfranchised before the election of the Parliament which was to deal with the problems of reconstruction. Sir John Simon believed that the situation created by the Conference made it impossible for any Government to introduce, or for the House of Commons to pass, any Franchise Bill unless it gave votes to women.

## WAR WORK.

**SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.**

The America Unit of the Scottish Women's Hospitals has been working at its outpost dressing station near Monastir, with Dr. Cooper in charge. Her work has been much appreciated by the Russian staff, who have conferred a decoration on Dr. Cooper. The transport column, recently under the command of the late Mrs. Harley, is attached to this outpost, and the two make a very efficient and mobile camp.

There is distress among the civil population in the district, and the hospital staff does all it can for them. An interesting feature of the work is that all the staff at the dressing station are voluntary workers.

Mrs. Abbott has just concluded a most successful tour in India. Nearly £20,000 has been subscribed to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. £13,000 of this sum was subscribed by the residents in Calcutta alone, and the money is to be given to a special unit, to be named the Calcutta Unit.

**LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.**

Dr. Elsie Inglis and her staff and the Transport have undertaken work for the Russian Red Cross until the Serbians need them again. The Hospital under Dr. Inglis is still at Reni, working in conjunction with an evacuation station. Dr. Chesney has been sent to Barlat, in Roumania, also for work in connection with an evacuation station. Mrs. Haverfield, the commandant of the Transport Section, has arrived in England to make arrangements for taking out materials for refitment of cars.

**MILLENCE FAWCETT UNITS IN RUSSIA.**

The revolution had evidently penetrated to Eastern Russia shortly after it succeeded in Petrograd, as a telegram was



received from the Unit in Kazan, saying "All safe and sound."

The Zemstos of that district have sent an official letter of grateful thanks to the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies for the splendid medical help sent out by them. The South-Western Zemstos at Kieff are working wholeheartedly with the Galician Unit.

#### THE DEATH OF MRS. HARLEY.

The sad news of the death of Mrs. Harley was received with deep regret by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Scottish Women's Hospitals. After close on two years' work with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, Mrs. Harley threw herself with characteristic zeal and energy into the task of relieving the Serbian refugees at Monastir. Here she organised an orphanage, and brought together eighty children under her care. On March 7th, shortly after Mrs. Harley had completed her daily work of distributing food to the refugees, she was struck down by a fragment of shrapnel from a bomb which had exploded under the window where she was seated. Her youngest daughter, Miss Edith Harley, who had been working with her, had her conveyed at once to the hospital, but Mrs. Harley died almost immediately. The end came under circumstances which Mrs. Harley would herself have desired—namely, at the close of a day spent in ministering to the needs of the Serbians, to whom she had devoted her services heedless of danger. Her courage and unsparing efforts for the amelioration of the civilian population, and the services she had rendered to the wounded soldiers while working with the Scottish Women's Hospitals, had won the admiration and affection of the Serbian people. The Crown Prince of Serbia sent the following telegram to Lord French (Mrs. Harley's brother):—

"Deeply grieved by the heroic death of Mrs. Harley, whose Christian charity, as becomes the worthy sister of a great soldier, was equal to the completest sacrifice. I address to you my sincerest condolence and warm expression of sympathy.

(Signed) ALEXANDER."

The funeral of Mrs. Harley took place at Salonica with full military honours, and was attended by representatives from all the Allied armies and from the Scottish Women's Hospitals. A Serbian detachment fired the last salute over the grave.

A memorial service was held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, when Lord French and other members of the family were present; also representatives from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The Shrewsbury Women's Suffrage Society (N.U.W.S.S.), of which Mrs. Harley was president, arranged a memorial service, to be held on March 25th, in Shrewsbury.

#### WOMEN'S NATIONAL SERVICE.

A very large gathering of women assembled at the Albert Hall, London, on March 17th. Her Majesty the Queen was present, and much enthusiasm was shown. The speakers were Mr. Neville Chamberlain (Director of National Service), Mrs. Tennant, Miss Markham, Lord Derby, and Mr. Hodge, M.P. (Minister of Labour).

All the chief organisations of women were represented, including the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Mrs. Tennant and Miss Markham spoke of the various ways in which women could immediately give their services. Among these was the work of infant welfare centres, schools for mothers, and children's care committees.

Miss Markham outlined the policy of her department, which was to organise definite sections of work on specialised lines to meet an ascertained demand. There was to be no general appeal to women, only appeals for several special classes of work.

Mr. Prothero appealed for support of the scheme of the Board of Agriculture for placing women on the land. He did not draw an attractive picture of work on the land. Women would have to sacrifice a great deal in taking up this work, but he felt sure they would not shrink from sacrifice where the need was great.

Lord Derby asked for women recruits for the Voluntary Aid Detachments. He announced that in response to the call for women for Army work in France, far more applicants than were needed had sent in their names.

#### WOMEN FOOD DIRECTORS.

Mrs. C. S. Peel and Mrs. Pember Reeves have been appointed Directors of Women's Service of the Ministry of

Food. A great campaign is being organised to give help and advice on the vital importance of voluntary rationing.

EDITH PALLISER.

#### Debate in the House of Commons on Votes for Women.

Mr. Asquith moved a momentous resolution in the Commons on March 28th in favour of the Franchise Reform proposals advanced by the Speaker's Conference, and calling upon the Government to introduce a Franchise Bill accordingly. He announced his conversion to the principle of Female Suffrage, more especially with a view to reconstruction work after the war, which is a part of the scheme.

Mr. Lloyd George, after the rejection of the resolution had been moved, cordially accepted his predecessor's motion, advancing the argument that the matter was one of urgency, even if some contention were aroused.

Mr. Bonar Law, ending the debate, announced that the Government intended to introduce a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference.

The voting was as follows:—

For Mr. Asquith's motion .....	341
Against .....	62

Majority for Reform .....

279

A clear majority of the whole House of 670 members voted for Mr. Asquith's motion. The minority consisted of 61 Unionists and one Liberal (Mr. Joseph Martin). The Irish Nationalists, 55 strong, were included in the majority.

On the point of women's franchise, Mr. Asquith observed, the Conference was divided, the majority deciding that any woman who possessed herself or was the wife of a man who possessed the proposed new local government qualification—that was to say, six months' occupation as owner or tenant of land or premises—and had attained a specified age, say 30, or perhaps 35, should have the Parliamentary franchise.

"The House will not be unprepared to hear that I myself, and I believe many others, no longer regard this question from the standpoint which we occupied before the war. (Cheers.)

I am not in the least ashamed, indeed, I am glad to have the opportunity of disclosing the process which has operated upon my mind. My opposition to Woman Suffrage has always been based, and based solely, on considerations of public expediency. I think some years ago I ventured to use the expression, 'Let the women work out their own salvation.' That is what they have done during this war. (Cheers.) How could we have carried on the war without them? Short of bearing arms in the field, there is hardly a service which has contributed or is contributing to the maintenance of our cause in which women have not been at least as active and as efficient as men.

"What, I confess, moves me still more in this matter is the problem of reconstruction when the war is over. (Hear, hear.) The questions which will then necessarily arise in regard to women's labour and women's functions and activities in the new order of things—for, do not doubt it, the old order will be changed—(hear, hear)—are questions in regard to which I for my part feel it impossible consistently with either justice or expediency to withhold from women the power and the right of making their voices directly heard. (Cheers.) And let me add that since the war began, now nearly three years ago, we have had no recurrence of that detestable campaign which disfigured the annals of political agitation in this country, and no one can now contend that we are yielding to violence what we refused to concede to argument. (Cheers.) I am, therefore, prepared to acquiesce in the general proposition of the majority of the Conference that some measure of Women's Suffrage should be conferred."

On Women's Suffrage the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, was as clear as Mr. Asquith. The war, he contended, had resolved every reasonable doubt and hesitation. Drawing from his experience as Minister of Munitions, he paid a glowing tribute to the courage, the devotion, the tirelessness, and the capacity evinced by women in every sphere they had been called to enter since the war began.

On the whole question Mr. Lloyd George's decision was a little unexpected. He declared, not that the Government gave the Conference proposals their full support, but that they proposed to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House. But in view of the attitude both of the Prime Minister and Mr. Asquith, that can only mean that the door is being left open for a broadening rather than a restriction of the proposed basis of the franchise for women.

#### Women's Freedom League.

At the beginning of the month we held a protest meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, at which the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

This meeting protests with indignation against any attempt to return to the discredited and immoral policy of the Contagious Diseases Acts, which Clauses II. and VI. of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill now before Parliament would practically reintroduce.

This meeting therefore demands the deletion of Clauses II. and VI. from the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and further urges the Government to introduce a measure extending the political franchise to women, whose co-operation with men in all legislation, but especially legislation on moral questions, is essential to the well-being of the nation. Mrs. Despard was in the chair, the speakers being Commander Wedgwood, M.P., D.S.O., Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Eva Gore Booth, and Miss Hessel, and the societies co-operating in this meeting were: Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Independent W.S.P.U., National Council for Adult Suffrage, National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, New Constitutional Society, Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., United Suffragists, Women's International League, Catholic League for Woman Suffrage, and the Women's Freedom League.

On March 13th Dr. Patch made her third appearance in the Bankruptcy Court because of her refusal to pay income-tax while women were not enfranchised. When asked to sign an official paper in connection with the alleged debt, she crossed out the word "debt," substituting "claim" for the Government's demand, and made it clear on the document that she refused to recognise the authority of the Court in this matter. In the evening a meeting in support of Dr. Patch's protest was held in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., the speakers being Dr. G. B. Clark (ex-M.P. for Caithness) and Miss K. Raleigh, the chair being taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

This month we have run vigorous Suffrage campaigns in Stockton during the bye-election there, and in North Wales. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### IRELAND.

A combined meeting of Irish Suffragists was held in the Mansion House, Dublin, on Wednesday, March 14th. The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a demand that the enfranchisement of Irish women should be included in any settlement of the Irish question, whether by an Imperial Conference or otherwise, and, further, that the majority resolution of the Electoral Reform Conference, approving the principle of enfranchisement, should extend to Ireland. The meeting was most representative, as the following societies co-operated: Catholic League for Woman Suffrage, Church League for Woman Suffrage, Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation (including the Irishwomen's Reform League and the Munster Women's Franchise League), the Irishwomen's Franchise League, the Belfast Suffrage Society, and the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association.

The chair was taken by Mrs. Stephen Gwynn, of the Catholic League, who emphasised the fact that, however those taking part in the meeting might differ on other points, they were all united in the conviction that immediate enfranchisement was of the most vital importance for the country. The salaries of women teachers, and the pensions given them on retirement, were an insult to educated women; the underpayment of girl and women workers was a fruitful source of many ills. The belief that such wrongs would not be remedied without the help of women drove them to set aside all differences, and meet together on the common platform of women who realised what their country needed.

Amongst other speakers were Mrs. Connery, of the Irishwomen's Franchise League, and Miss Mary Hayden, M.A., of the Catholic League for Woman Suffrage and President of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation. The former referred to the housing problem in Dublin as a disgrace to civilisation, and expressed her belief that if it had been a question affecting horses or pigs or potatoes or whisky, it would have been settled long ago. Miss Hayden dealt with the injustice of the ever-increasing taxation, levied on men and women alike, the women having no voice in the incidence or the amount; simply paying, without the fundamental privileges of citizenship, while sharing in all the burdens.

An interesting speech was contributed by an Australian member of the audience, who contrasted the poverty he had seen in Dublin with Australian conditions. He expressed his astonishment on finding all the stale old arguments that had been used in Australia and proved false, used here as something fresh and effective.

The resolution was carried unanimously. The meeting was well attended, and was altogether most satisfactory evidence of the real strength of the Suffrage movement in Dublin, in spite of the distractions of party politics and of the war.

DORA MELLONE.

#### CANADA.

We are pleased to confirm the announcement in the March number that the Suffragists of the Province of Ontario, Canada, have won a great victory. On February 27th, when seated in the Speaker's Gallery of the Legislature, it was a supreme moment to many of us to hear Premier Sir William Hearst read the Bill granting the women of Ontario their political freedom!

The granting of this inherent right to the women of this Province will proclaim to the world that Ontario, too, has placed herself side by side with the other progressive and freedom-loving Provinces in the forward march towards a higher civilisation in our great Dominion of Canada.

The passing of this Bill will mean in Ontario an addition of about 389,000 names to the provincial voters' list.

During the past fourteen months in the Dominion of Canada five Provinces have enfranchised their women—namely, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and—Ontario!

Following are the Bills granting to women the right to vote at municipal elections and at elections to the Assembly:—

#### BILL.

An Act to Grant to Women the Right to Vote at Municipal Elections.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as *The Women's Municipal Franchise Act*.

2. There shall be granted to women the same right to vote at municipal elections as is possessed by men and for that purpose the following amendments are made:

(a) Subsection 1 of section 56 of *The Municipal Act* is amended by striking out clause (a) being the words "a male, a widow or an unmarried woman," and by striking out of clause (e) the words "or in the case of a male whose wife is or was entitled to be rated" in the first and second lines.

(b) Subsection 11 of section 37 of *The Assessment Act* is repealed and the following subsections substituted therefor:

(11) Where a married woman is assessed as owner of real property rated for an amount sufficient to entitle her to vote at municipal elections and desires that her husband shall be entitled to vote instead of herself she may file with the assessor, or if there is one, the assessment commissioner, before the date fixed for the return of the roll, a notice setting out all the real property owned by her in the municipality and stating that she desires that her husband shall have the right to vote instead of herself, and the assessor or assessment commissioner shall thereupon enter upon the roll as owner the name of the husband instead of the wife.

(11a) If the notice is not filed as provided by subsection 11 a notice to the same effect may be filed with the clerk within the time allowed for appeals to the Court of Revision, and the Court of Revision shall in compliance with such notice and without further evidence direct the name of the husband to be entered on the roll as owner instead of the wife.

(11b) In either case the husband shall be entitled to be entered on the voters' list as the owner of the property and to vote.

(c) Subsection 2 of section 6 of *The Ontario Voters' Lists Act* is amended by striking out the word "male" in the second line; subsection 3 of the said section is amended by striking out the words "male persons and of all widows and unmarried women" in the second and third lines and substituting the word "persons."



## BILL.

An Act to Grant to Women the Right to Vote at Elections to the Assembly.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as *The Women's Legislative Franchise Act*.
2. There shall be granted to women the same right to vote at elections to the Assembly as is possessed by men, and for that purpose the following amendments are made:
  - (a) Section 14 of *The Ontario Election Act* is repealed.
  - (b) Sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of *The Ontario Election Act* are amended by striking out the word "man" wherever it occurs and substituting the word "person."
  - (c) Subsection 1 of section 2 of *The Manhood Suffrage Registration Act* is amended by striking out the word "male" in the first line.
  - (d) Subsection 4 of section 6 of *The Ontario Voters' Lists Act* is amended by striking out the word "male" in the second line.
  - (e) Subsection 1 of section 26 of *The Assessment Act* is amended by striking out the word "male" in the fourth line.

The Executive of the Canadian and Toronto Suffrage Association met at Dr. Margaret Johnston's, and the following resolution was passed and sent to Premier Hearst and his Government:—

"The National Canadian Suffrage Association, with its affiliated branches, including the Toronto Suffrage Society, desire to express their deep appreciation and extend thanks to our Premier, Sir William Hearst, and the members of his Government, for the espousal of the principle of justice (which is the fundamental basis of all democracy), and that you and your Government, realising the ethics of equality, so ably and expeditiously extended to the women of this Province the right to vote for the benefit and service of our country."

Resolutions of thanks were also sent to Mr. N. W. Rowell, M.P.P., and his supporters, and a letter to Mr. Allan Studholme, M.P.P., for their able assistance in helping the women of this Province to have the right to vote.

M. LOUISE LONG,  
Convener of the Press Committee for the  
Canadian Suffrage Association.  
(Affiliated to the I.W.S.A.)

Toronto, March 1st, 1917.

## Some Incidents in the Ontario Campaign.

One of the motives which converted the Ontario Government to Woman Suffrage may have been their perception of the advisability of getting the women on the voting list before the referendum is taken in 1919 on the continuance or otherwise of Prohibition in Ontario. Two bye-elections have been lost to the Government since Prohibition came into force in September, 1916, largely due to the disgust of that section of the Conservatives which is against their party's Prohibition legislation. Hence the need to obtain fresh support for this policy, and where is it so likely to be found as among the women?

The campaign was carried on with the greatest energy, in spite of the intense cold and the vast country, which makes canvassing for signatures anything but a "cinch." Organisation was complete in fifty out of the fifty-two counties of Ontario. In one—Norfolk County—the work was organised and financed by a man, who walked into the Headquarters one day and said, "This is a grand work you are doing; I want to be in with it!" The country districts responded in a way which goes to prove how many scattered women have been only waiting for a lead from those more in the centre of things. One woman—the mother of eight children—in a village ten miles from a railway, wrote offering to get up a meeting if we could send a speaker. Mrs. Erichsen Brown volunteered to go, and the difficulties of such a campaign are illustrated by her experiences. The only train reaching the nearest railway station got there at 2 a.m. No hotel was open, and the district is one of such proverbial dishonour that the speaker's husband went with her for her protection! The thermometer stood at 15 degrees below zero. But Mrs. Brown said that the meeting was an inspiration, and attended by an enthusiastic audience gathered from miles and miles around!

For the past month the temperature here has ranged from zero to 30 below (Fahrenheit), and the Committee felt that the present returns of over 35,000 names in the country districts,

gathered under such difficulties, should impress even an indifferent Government.

Ottawa City Council forwarded a resolution to Headquarters endorsing the campaign and wishing it speedy success. The campaign proved that little or no opposition exists among the general public, and also that opposition was often due to ignorance of the real things of life and their relative importance, as illustrated by a woman, who said "she could not sign anything which would help Prohibition, because she could not make her Christmas mincemeat without liquor!"

## Welfare Work for Munition Workers.

Other events of importance to women in the Dominion are continually taking place. At last the munition plants are beginning to employ women, and the Government has brought out Miss Wiseman from England to encourage this policy, and to supervise welfare work among the girls. The National Y.W.C.A. has been asked by the Government to supply hostels and run canteens, and they have undertaken this work with zest and success.

## Laws Benefiting Working Women.

British Columbia women, as well as men, will be greatly benefited by the compulsory half-day business holiday, and by the Workers' Compensation Act which came into force on January 1st. Manitoba's Workmen's Compensation Act comes into force on March 1st, 1917; while Nova Scotia has added to its existing Act a second part which deals with the liability of the employer in cases of injuries to employés due to defective machinery or plant, and also abrogates the common law rules as to contributory negligence and negligence of a fellow-workman. This part does not, however, apply to farm labourers or domestic servants and their employers.

## Liquor Prohibition.

The value of Prohibition to Ontario is being demonstrated every day. The Toronto Local Council of Women reported its startling success, as illustrated by the case of the Women's Court, which they said would soon be unnecessary, on some days there being "no cases at all!" Saskatchewan, by an overwhelming majority, has decided, after a year's trial, that the system of Government dispensaries for the sale of strong drink is a failure, and that a system of complete prohibition is to be preferred.

EDITH LANG, Hon. Sec.,  
National Equal Franchise Union.

## Debate in Ontario Legislature.

Premier Sir Wm. Hearst, in supporting Woman Suffrage, said:—"Having taken our women into partnership with us in our tremendous task . . . I ask: Can we justly deny them a share in the government of the country, the right to have a say about the making of the laws they have been so heroically trying to defend? My answer is: I think not. I feel the time has now come when we should give our women a greater part in the public affairs and the greater service that the ballot affords."

The Premier went on to say that the Government supported the Bill, and would try to enable women to vote in the next elections. After a general survey of the movement, he continued:—"Opinion on this measure has advanced more since the war commenced than in a quarter of a century before. The splendid work of the women throughout the British Empire has changed the attitude of the public entirely. The splendid part they have taken and the splendid sacrifices they have made have broken down the prejudices that existed in the minds of many men, and women, too. Men, some of them members of this House, who bitterly opposed this measure a year ago, are now enthusiastic supporters in view of the fine record made by the women in this province in connection with the war."

Mr. Rowell, the Liberal leader, in supporting the Bill, showed that the Liberal party had supported women's enfranchisement solidly for the past five years, while the Conservative Government was solidly opposed to it. They welcomed the Government's conversion. He went on to show that there were in Ontario 175,000 women workers earning their own living, bearing their share of industrial burdens, but with no share in making the laws. In the public schools of Ontario there were 10,786 women teachers, compared with 2,760 men; women who were entrusted with the responsibility of education might well be entrusted with political responsibility. Their most important work was in the home, and perhaps they were most needed in social reform.

## INDIA.

The Society for Promoting Scientific Knowledge held a great meeting in Lahore, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of a new hall by the Lieutenant-Governor, who drew special attention to the need of securing greater co-operation from women. Women are especially concerned in combating disease and in checking infant mortality.

Mrs. Caleb was re-elected secretary of the Women's Branch, and Mrs. Hendley and Mrs. Hashmat Rai were elected to the Executive Committee. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal was one of the principal donors.

Four silver medals, awarded by Mrs. Caleb, were presented to two men and two women who had qualified in first-aid and home nursing. A large number of Indian ladies had qualified in home nursing, including two Mohammedan girls, who were present in burqa.

Colonel Hendley, in his presidential address, referred to the pioneer work of Florence Nightingale, who, although she never set foot in India, perceived the lines on which health work should be undertaken, and sketched a scheme for training women health visitors.

## A Woman Sovereign's Sense of Justice.

Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal, the ruling sovereign of that State, in opening the new law courts at Bhopal, said that the administration of justice decided the fates of her people, affecting their very lives and property and honour. "The duty of doing justice is the only duty in this world which sets at naught every force and authority, and nothing can overpower the conscience of a judge. To do justice is to abide by the solemn vow made to God by man."

## ITALY.

## A Bill on the Legal Status of Women.

On February 25th the Minister of the Privy Seal, the On. Sacchi, presented to the Chamber a Bill concerning "Dispositions Relative to the Juridical Capacity of Women," the object of which is the abrogation of every law by which, in the field of civil and commercial rights, such capacity is at present curtailed. The Bill consists of two parts. The first concerns the abolition of marital authority, and the second entails the equality of the sexes in the exercise of the functions of guardianship.

This is the first Bill which has been presented on the subject by Ministerial initiative. Five Bills on the abolition of marital authority have already been presented, but all by Parliamentary initiative (private members). The last, presented by the On. Sandrini in December, 1916, . . . is still before the Chamber. The Privy Seal has, however, decided to present a new Bill in order that Parliament should have the means of giving its opinion on a scheme having a wider and more exhaustive content.

The scheme is accompanied by a long report, which illustrates its historical and Parliamentary precedents, and places in evidence how the admission of the institution of marital authority in our Code encountered lively opposition in Parliament at the time, for the reason that such an institution—which has no necessary relation with the recognised exigencies of the family in which a pre-eminent position is due to the husband—has given, and still gives, rise to very frequent disputes, and that it has no parallel in other European Legislatures, except in the Code Napoleon and in some others which were modelled on it; while, on the other hand, there is no logical justification whatever for the present almost absolute incapacity of women in the exercise of the offices of guardian.

The reform, according to the Minister who is moving it, while it will not injure the development of family life, will, in this grave period of our history, have a high moral significance, inasmuch as it will constitute an act of justice—of reparation almost—to which women have now more right than ever, eliminating from the midst of the family, which is her especial kingdom, an unjust accusation of natural disability and of subjection to man.

A deputation, composed of Dr. Paola Tarugi, Dr. Vera Modigliani, Signora Laura Casartelli, and Romilia Troise, accompanied by the Hon. Gasparotto, was received by the Minister Sacchi, to whom it presented a resolution on the Bill for abolishing marital authority. The resolution bore the signatures of the principal women's national associations—

viz., the Association "per la Donna," Women's National Union, Suffrage Federation, Women's Postal and Telegraph Union,—teachers, librarians, and others, and begged that the Sacchi Bill might be completed by enabling women to exercise all professions, and to fill all public offices for which she had acquired the necessary qualifications, and from which she has been excluded more by the force of tradition than by legislative disposition. The deputation explained and illustrated the resolution, and expressed the hope that the Ministerial Bill would be completed in the sense indicated in the resolution. The resolution showed that the Minister is personally favourable to a more ample participation of women in the liberal professions and public employment, from which they should not necessarily be excluded by the particular nature of the employment. The Minister added that he would not be opposed to the additional proposals, which would be presented by the Parliamentary Commission which would examine the Bill.

## Note on Marital Authorisation.

Women have control over their earnings, but if the earnings are capitalised they come under marital authorisation. Women may not make any gift, nor sell nor mortgage real estate, nor lend money on interest, nor touch capital or cede it, without marital authorisation. The husband is free to give authorisation, but can revoke it. The wife may protest against her husband's opposition if her interests and those of her husband are opposed, or if they are separated through her husband's fault or by mutual consent.

## OBITUARY.

## Emilia Mariani.

The name of this splendid woman, so dear to all those who knew her personally and by her works, will always be deservedly remembered amongst the women of the Alliance.

Our friend, who died recently at Florence, was born and settled in Turin. She was a municipal teacher, and was always highly esteemed even by those who did not share her opinions. The loyalty of her character, her untiring goodness, added to a keen intelligence, gained for her many friendships, in spite of the prejudices from which nobody is immune. Emilia Mariani was from her first youth a fervent upholder of Woman Suffrage. She saw in this right the key to many reforms, both for the benefit of women and children and for the public benefit, for she never could divide human good by separating the cause of one-half of the population from the other, and it was particularly for those less favoured by fortune that she worked with strong and tender conviction. Ready to understand with her good sense the import of every social amelioration, she knew how to make very acceptable propaganda out of it. When in 1895 I had informed her of the Insurance benefit for Maternity, it was she who amongst all succeeded the best in founding a well-chosen Committee at Turin. Always to the fore as a member of the affiliated society of the "Lega per la tutela degli interessi femminili," founded at Milan, she upheld with lectures and brilliant articles the necessity of Woman Suffrage, and she never ceased to work for this. During the war she enlarged her generous activity by working for the Information Bureau for the families of those fighting.

The Committee "pro Vota donna" and that of the Bureau have decided to award an annual prize for the best pupil of the elementary school (Ecole Sacchetti) to celebrate the memory of this noble woman, this being the school where this great and sweet woman carried out for many long years her work of real educationalist.

The proofs of sacrifice, of intelligence, and capacity, which have come to light during the present painful period, spread rays which will serve more than ever to crown the great hope of Emilia Mariani—that is to say, the hope of obtaining the same rights for women citizens as men, for the two inseparable representatives of humanity.

DR. PAULINE SCHIFF.

## THE NETHERLANDS.

## Women and Political Parties.

Much discussion is taking place in Suffrage circles as to the policy to be pursued with regard to women's eligibility for Parliament, which is promised by the new Constitution. One party urges that women should be entered on the party list as candidates for election; the other party advises the setting up of special women's lists of candidates. It should be noted



that Holland has proportional representation, so that members are elected from the lists of candidates according to the numbers of votes cast.

The March number of *Maandblad* gives a number of arguments on each side. V. C. Van Kuffeler says that women should have independent members, especially as the great present need is for social reform, which is not a party matter, and in which women should take a useful share. Women who are only elected by men are not what is wanted, but the present opportunity of getting women elected must, of course, be made the best of.

J. Van Der Schuijt urges, on the other side, that women who were not supported by political parties would have no chance of election, and thus votes would be wasted.

Dr. Jacobs has argued that party politicians cannot be warm feminists, but the present writer disagrees with this, and says that women members of Parliamentary parties should see that the lists include women's names, and it is their duty to see what kind of women are on the lists.

B. Bakker-Nort maintains that women on a woman's list would be free and not bound by party programmes, but the nature of Parliamentary work is such that they would soon be compelled to choose a direction, and therefore to choose a party. It is said that women members of Parliament might work together, but it has been overlooked that there is no women's programme. The only subject on which Suffragists are united is in desiring the vote; on other points members have different views. This applies specially in the case of women's eligibility as members of Parliament without the support of women voters. Later on, when women are able to vote for or against women candidates, the case may be different.

F. de Vries Viehoff is in favour of a women's list, because of the likelihood of women becoming subservient to parties if they were on party lists. She even thinks it would be better to have only one woman in the Chamber, or no women at all, rather than ten who were put there on a party vote.

J. C. Adriani Bekaar approves of women joining political parties, and regrets that this view is only supported by the minority.

The reasons why women have not been enfranchised in the new Constitution are not in the least due to sex conflict, but to purely Parliamentary reasons. It is exclusively conservatism that has left women empty-handed in the revision of the Constitution.

The Bond has published a charming souvenir, "Gedenkboek," in an artistic cover and with illustrations. The introduction, "What Have We Reached?" sums up aptly the present political situation in these words: "The gate is not yet open, but the bolt is drawn back." A review of Suffrage work is given, and sketches of the leaders; the opinions of many eminent public men are given in support of Women Suffrage.

## SWEDEN.

### Women Suffrage in the Riksdag.

In the King's Speech at the opening of our Riksdag there was, of course, no mention of Woman Suffrage this time, for, as you have already heard, our Conservative Government had refused to introduce a Bill for Woman Suffrage. In the debate on the Address, however, both the Liberal and the Social Democratic parties pleaded for the citizens' rights of women. One of the most prominent Liberals in the First Chamber, Mr. Mauritz Hellberg, complained that the Government had not taken the initiative in this great national question of justice; and in the Second Chamber, Mr. Jakob Pettersson, President of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage, reminded the members of the Riksdag that already ten years ago they had pronounced their opinion that it was incompatible with the sound evolution of the community to withhold the political suffrage from women.

The strongest words were used by Mr. Värner Rydén, Social Democrat, who on behalf of his party declared: "The claim of the women to get at last their citizens' rights in their own country, which their sisters in our neighbouring countries have already got, and which seems likely to be soon acknowledged all over the world—this claim the Government has refused with a reference to the necessity for keeping back all party-splitting questions, though hardly any act of legislation were so fit to unite the whole nation as that which would make our whole people feel as full-grown citizens."

The Government's refusal of the claims of the women has been much commented on in the Press. The Liberal papers protest against this refusal, and emphasise strongly that the desired unity of the country would be best furthered if that half of the nation which is now left outside were to get the same citizens' rights as the other half. The Conservative Press has found a new argument against Woman Suffrage in the peace sympathies of the women, and makes a frequent use thereof. An exception of great value is to be found in the Conservative paper, *Lunds Dagblad*, which has always fought bravely for Woman Suffrage. Among other things, it says: "The belief of this party—i.e., the Conservative—that Woman Suffrage would give new force to the devastating powers of society shows no practical insight in political realities. On the municipal field, where women have already got the vote, this has not been the case; on the contrary, it seems that our experience goes in quite the other direction."

In this Riksdag party Bills are expected from the Liberals and the Social Democrats. The latter party has already introduced a Bill for adult and equal municipal suffrage, pointing to the earnestness of the times, the increasing taxes, the diminishing value of money, and the great misery which now reigns in thousands of homes, as demanding the united efforts of all citizens. Besides, Mr. Carl Lindhagen, Mayor of Stockholm, and a staunch friend and supporter of Woman Suffrage, has introduced twelve Bills concerning a revision of the Constitution. Among amendments concerning the nation, Mr. Lindhagen puts first—Political Suffrage for Women.

### Protection of Children and Unmarried Mothers.

A question of great importance that the Riksdag will have to deal with is the Government Bill concerning children born outside marriage (the old term "illegitimate children" is abolished in this Bill). In many cases this Bill marks a progress, but in others there is much to be desired. At the last annual meeting of the Central Board of the S.W.S.A. a committee was appointed to compose a memorial expressing the demands of the women.

In the first place, this memorial points out that women have at least as much experience as men in all questions concerning children, and expresses their regret at having no right to decide together with the men in this question of such great importance. After acknowledging the merits of the Bill, which shows considerable progress in its efforts to lessen the sufferings of these unfortunate children, it holds forth the following claims of the women: (1) The support of the child should be secured in a far more reliable way than in the Bill; (2) these children should inherit from their father as well as their mother; (3) they should be allowed to take the name of their father or their mother; (4) a removal of the rule that if a sum for the support of the child has been fixed once for all, there may not be raised action-at-law for an extended duty of support in case of an improvement in the circumstances which were deciding when the agreement was made; (5) the guardian of the child (a new institution proposed in this Bill) should not try to maintain his authority if the parents take care of the child and give it a home together with themselves, and should carefully vindicate the child's rights without pointing out to the child the special position of its mother and itself; (6) when the child is registered, not only the name of the mother, but also that of the father should be entered in the register.

And now we are eagerly expecting the Suffrage for our English sisters, and feel sure that their success in getting the vote will be of the greatest possible help also for us.

Stockholm, February, 1917.

ESTER BRISMAN.

### Socialists and Suffrage.

The Social Democratic party in the Riksdag has again brought forward a resolution in favour of equal and universal Suffrage. The reasons assigned for this renewed motion are: The seriousness of the present situation, the increasing burdens of taxation, the sinking value of money, and the distress which prevails in thousands of homes, and which only Government preventive measures can deal with. "Is not the time come," they ask, "to make an honest attempt to break through the system which produces such unmerited distress and poverty, and has such a weakening and devastating effect on the community?"

### Position of Midwives.

The Stockholm Society for Women's Suffrage has sent a memorial to the King asking that the Government shall introduce a Bill into the Riksdag this year to effect various much-needed improvements in the position of midwives. The memorialists point out that a large proportion of midwives,

especially those who fill communal appointments in country districts, are living in a state of actual want. It is pointed out that this constitutes a danger to the community, as the number of women who adopt this profession has in consequence a tendency to decline, a state of affairs which, by endangering the lives of mothers and infants, would inflict an irreparable injury on the country. The Managing Committee of the Swedish Association of Midwives sent up a petition to the King praying that the salaries of midwives appointed by the communes shall be raised, and that the State shall undertake the responsibility of carrying out this measure. The petitioners point out that owing to the decline in the value of money salaries which were in themselves too small are now quite insufficient for present needs. Attention is drawn to the legislation recently introduced by the Danish Government into Parliament for the amelioration of the position of midwives, and the hope is expressed that the example of the Danish Government may soon be followed.

### Education Committees.

The Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage has received from the Stockholm Society of Working Bookbinders a resolution, passed at its ordinary meeting on January 17th, 1917, expressing sympathy and agreement with the petition sent to the Government praying that qualified women shall serve on the Committee appointed by the Ecclesiastical and Educational Department to deal with the question of primary technical training, continuation classes, and trades schools.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

### A New Woman Town Councillor.

December 16th, 1916, was a great day for the Social Democratic women of Gothenburg, as for the first time a woman was elected to the Municipal Council on the list of the Labour party. Fru. Nelly Thüring—a member of the Social Democratic Women's Club—is well known for her sympathetic and refined personality, and her deep interest in everything that rouses and intellectually stimulates women and humanity in general. She has worked in the Club for the peace and temperance movements, and also for Women's Suffrage, and in this connection her name is known and respected within and without the party.

—Morgonbris.

A new branch of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage has been formed in Färgelanda, Dalsland.

The Committee of the Men's League for Woman's Suffrage in Kristianstad has sent a memorial to the Moderate members of the Riksdag asking them in the name of justice to work for the cause of Women's Suffrage in this year's Riksdag.

### New Town Councillors.

Umeå: Bank cashier, Fröken Helene Ljingsberg (Moderate). Västerås: Fru Nina Andersson (Radical).

The Town Council of Köping has appointed the following women to various Committees and Boards of the Municipality:—To be members of the Relief Committee of the Provisions Board: Fröken Amalie Salén and Fröken Anna Rosén; to be members of the Temperance Board: Fru Alma Waldén and Fröken Anna Holmberg; to the County Council School Board: Fru Emilie Johansson; to be Examination Censors at the Public Schools examinations: Fru Ester Lutteman and Fru Emelie Johansson; to be Supervisor (Huvudmän) in the Municipal Savings Bank: Fröken Amelie Salén.

Fröken Anna Jönsson, elementary school teacher, has been elected a member of the Temperance Board of the town of Sölvesborg.

—Rösträtt för Kvinnor.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### American Women and War.

Pursuant to a call from the President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the Executive Council held a conference in Washington, February 23—25, to consider the crisis that has been precipitated in America's international relations, and the responsibility of American women towards it.

The Executive Council is made up of the official board, the chairman of standing and special committees, and the presidents of all State Suffrage organisations. It is, therefore, a comprehensive delegated body empowered to act for the Association, and representing the consensus of opinion among members, so far as it can be represented by a delegate body.

What challenged attention most especially at that meeting was the poise maintained by women in the face of the immi-

nence of America's being drawn into the war. The most noisily patriotic would hardly have impugned the evidence of woman's deep and abiding interest in America's welfare, as shown by the assembled Suffragists. On the other hand, it was equally apparent that any effort to catch the assembly's imagination by florid flappings of the flag would fail to shake the profoundly sentient calm of the women.

At a great mass meeting at the conclusion of the conference they issued a note to the President and the Government of the United States, declaring their belief that the settlement of international difficulties by bloodshed was unworthy of the twentieth century, their confidence that the Government of the United States was using every honourable means to avoid conflict, and their specific plans to serve the country if conflict could not be avoided.

They proposed that a National Central Committee be formed of a representative from each national organisation of women, to serve as clearing-house between the organisations and the Government, and expedite the rendering of service, this Committee to have the power to select the executive committee which shall do the actual work.

The establishment of employment bureaux for women, the training of women in agricultural work, in the elimination of waste in production, distribution, and consumption, Red Cross Aid, and a systematic tutelage of aliens in Americanisation, were among the features of the constructive programme formulated.

### Suffrage Progress.

It is not proposed that this entirely hypothetical programme shall sidetrack the Association's programme to secure the vote for women as the right protective of all rights. That programme is growing on its own end with astonishing rapidity. It was only last year that the National American Woman Suffrage Association instituted its "big drive" for Presidential Suffrage. Only last year—yet the first six weeks of 1917 saw three great commonwealths bestow the Presidential Suffrage on their women. 1916 had been a year of preparation. State Association after State Association was lined up and initiated into the mysteries of a Presidential Suffrage campaign. The time was opportune. The Legislatures of 41 States were scheduled to convene in 1917, and Presidential Suffrage is a matter coming under the jurisdiction of the Legislature of each State. By the beginning of 1917 Presidential Suffrage Bills had been introduced in a round dozen of the convening Legislatures, and were about to be introduced in eight more. The reaping has been swift and sure. North Dakota, one of the territorially vast States of the North-West, led the way by passing her Presidential Suffrage Bill on January 23rd. One of the densely populated States, Ohio, followed on February 14th. Indiana, which lies between Ohio and Illinois, could no longer resist the Suffrage pressure east and west of her, and on February 22nd this great State also gave her women Presidential Suffrage.

For the benefit of those of your readers who are unfamiliar with the legislative procedure by virtue of which these victories were scored, let me say that under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States each State shall appoint, "in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors," who constitute the Electoral College. It is the votes of these collegians that elect the President of the United States. A voice in choosing them is, therefore, equivalent to a voice in choosing the President of the United States. Before the 1917 harvest women had a voice in choosing 91 electors, North Dakota added 5, Ohio 24, and Indiana 15, making a total of 135.

The history of the effort to secure Presidential Suffrage for the women of the several States goes back to 1873, when the proposal was for the first time introduced into the Legislature of a State. The State was Indiana, and it is fitting that one of the first scores made in the "big drive" should be made in Indiana. Since 1873 a Presidential Suffrage measure has frequently passed one House or another in this State or that, but not until 1913 did such a Bill become a law in any State. The State was Illinois. The "Illinois Woman Suffrage Law," as it came to be called, was the model for North Dakota's Suffrage measure and for Indiana's. In these three States women get Municipal Suffrage as well as Presidential, all that they lack being the Suffrage for State offices. Ohio's Bill gives women the Presidential Suffrage only. Indiana is to have a new constitution in all probability, and for the first time in the world women will, as legally qualified voters, vote on the question of giving themselves the franchise when Indiana women go to the polls to deposit their ballots on the ratification of the constitu-



tion, if one is submitted. That constitution will include a measure for full Suffrage for women.

The list of States in which Presidential Suffrage Bills have been introduced, or will be introduced during 1917, now includes Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas. Referenda Bills have been introduced in the Legislatures of twenty-two States.

It seems likely that there will be three States in campaign this autumn. They are Maine, where a Referendum Bill has already passed both Houses and been signed by the Governor; New York, where a Referendum Bill will come to final action in the Senate this week; Oklahoma; and Indiana, where a constitutional full Suffrage Amendment Bill has passed both Houses, following the passage of the Presidential Suffrage Bill.

In happy augury for future Suffrage victories, the five great Canadian successes in 1916-17 interlinked with the three great successes in the United States in 1917. It is expected that in at least three States which will have referenda, Suffrage will be successful. All told, 1917 promises to be an unprecedented Suffrage year.

New York, March 6, 1917.

P.S.—I am taking this from the outgoing mail in order to chronicle one more victory. The State of Arkansas has just passed a Bill, and the Governor has signed it, giving women the right to vote in the primaries. This is equivalent to full equal Suffrage, as the State is overwhelmingly Democratic, and the nomination at the Democratic primaries always means election. Arkansas is the first Southern State to grant Woman Suffrage.

ROSE YOUNG, Press Chairman,  
National American Woman Suffrage Association.  
(Affiliated to I.W.S.A.)

#### NOTE.

The Executive Council of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, consisting of the official board, chairmen of standing and special committees, and State presidents, called together in conference to consider a crisis in the affairs of our nation.

#### TO THE PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

We devoutly hope and pray that our country's crisis may be passed without recourse to war. We declare our belief that the settlement of international difficulties by bloodshed is unworthy of the twentieth century, and our confidence that our Government is using every honourable means to avoid conflict. If, however, our nation is drawn into the maelstrom, we stand ready to serve our country with the zeal and consecration which should ever characterise those who cherish high ideals of the duty and obligation of citizenship. With no intention of laying aside our constructive, forward work to secure the vote for the womanhood of this country as the right protective of all rights, we offer our services to our country, in the event they should be needed, and, in so far as we are authorised, we pledge the loyal services of our more than two millions of members. We make this offer now in order to avoid waste of time and effort in an emergency; also, that the executive ability, industry, and devotion of our women, trained through years of arduous endeavour, may be utilised, with all other national resources, for the protection of our country in its time of stress.

#### WE PROPOSE:

That a National Central Committee be formed at once, composed of a representative from each national organisation of women willing to aid in war work if the need arises. The object shall be to establish a clearing-house between the Government and those organisations, in order that service may be rendered in the most expeditious manner. With this end in view, we recommend that each component organisation list its resources and report to this Central Committee concerning the definite work it is prepared to do. To further the practical application of this suggestion, our organisation declares its willingness to undertake the following departments of work:

#### I.—THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX FOR WOMEN.

Through its local, State, and national headquarters, to register the names and qualifications of women available for occupations which men will leave to enter the army; to supply

these women to employers, and to protect the work of such women.

#### II.—THE INCREASE OF THE FOOD SUPPLY BY THE TRAINING OF WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK AND THE ELIMINATION OF WASTE.

The aid of the Department of Agriculture will be sought in planning systematic courses for women to accomplish these purposes. The cultivation by women of garden plots and vacant lots in cities will be encouraged at the same time that the larger importance of regular farming is urged.

#### III.—THE RED CROSS.

As the Red Cross, in which many of our members are zealous workers, is already equipped to render hospital, medical, and general supply service, we offer our organised service in other fields, and we promise continued co-operation with the Red Cross, as needed.

#### IV.—AMERICANISATION.

A problem unknown to other lands will become accentuated in the event of war. Within our borders are eight millions of aliens who by birth, tradition, and training will find it difficult if not impossible to understand the causes which have led to the war. War invariably breeds intolerance and hatred, and will tend to arouse antagonisms inimical to the best interests of a nation.

With the desire to minimise this danger, our Association, extending as it does into every precinct of our great cities and into the various counties of the States, offers to conduct classes in school centres, wherein national allegiance shall be taught, emphasising tolerance, to the end that the Stars and Stripes shall wave over a loyal, patriotic, and undivided people.

#### V.—CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

In order to carry out our expressed desire and purpose, a committee of three is hereby ordered appointed to confer with the proper authorities of the Government. If need arises, this committee shall be the intermediary between the Government and our Association.

#### Women's Night Work.

In Connecticut it has been assumed that women did not need the vote to protect them from night work. The chivalry of man had put the law on the Statute Book. But when the war came, and women were needed in the factories to make munitions, the law went by the board. It only declared that women should not work after ten. So the employers had them stop at ten and begin again at midnight. Then the court decided that the law did not apply to factories anyway. If Connecticut were an equal Suffrage State, the law would in all probability get enough starch put into it this winter to stand the strain of use, but as it isn't, who can tell what will happen?

#### A Suffrage Hope.

Women of the district of Columbia may be granted a vote on a prohibition referendum. The United States Senate, acting through its committee of the whole, voted 54 to 15 in favour of this bit of Equal Suffrage. In amending Senator Sheppard's Bill to make the capital "dry," Senator Underwood moved an amendment providing that the question be submitted to the "people" of the district. Senator Williams, of Mississippi, then moved an amendment which would permit all persons, "regardless of sex," to participate in the voting. Senator Williams's amendment carried, but when the full amendment went to a vote it lost on a tie, 38 to 38. When the Bill comes up for final action before the Senate proper, Senator Underwood will ask for a separate vote on his amendment. Meanwhile the women of the district may indulge in the hope that they will be allowed to help decide a question that is of as vital interest to them as it is to men.

#### An Important Step.

The Federal Amendment has been reported out by the House Judiciary Committee. As the policy of smothering the measure in Committee has long been pursued, this is a decided victory for its backers. The Bill was reported out without a declaration either for or against its passage, and is now in the House awaiting action by the Rules Committee. The thousands of Suffragists interested in its success believe that it has a good fighting chance in Congress.

#### BOOKS TO READ.

##### THE CONTROL OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

"WAR, VENEREAL DISEASE, AND WORKERS' INSURANCE IN GERMANY." ("Krieg, Geschlechtskrankheiten, und Arbeiterversicherung.") By Dr. Kaufmann. (Published by F. Vahlen. Price M.2.)

Dr. Kaufmann, President of the German Government Insurance Department (Reichsversicherungsamt), has collected the experiences of the past years, including the first period of the war, gained by the German Empire in its dealings with venereal disease and insurance. The campaign against venereal disease in Germany has been so speeded up by the emergencies of the war that, brief as is the period with which this book deals, an immense amount of work done, and of schemes for the future after the war, come under consideration. Dr. Kaufmann gives some interesting figures. For the past 20 years the frequency of venereal disease in the German army has shown a steady decline, which continued even during the first year of the war. In this year the incidence of venereal disease was only 14.4 per 1,000, as compared with 137 in 1895. It seems to have come as a surprise to the Germans that their armies in the fighting line were less subject to venereal disease than the forces stationed within Germany's own frontiers. Indeed, the difference between the incidence of venereal disease in the armies at home and abroad seems to be remarkably great. Hence the necessity for that vigorous campaign against venereal disease throughout Germany inaugurated, apparently, by the temporary administrator of Belgium, von Bissing. Dr. Kaufmann describes the conduct of this campaign, the machinery and organisation of which are those of the Workers' Insurance. This organisation, which has done so much to suppress alcoholism and tuberculosis, has begun to establish dispensaries for the subjects of venereal disease, including not only the discharged soldier, but every insured person in Germany. The author touches on the delicate subject of specialist versus general practitioner in connection with treatment, and emphasises the importance of expert treatment. He also discusses the problems associated with the quack, whose activities in tinkering with the disease and blackmailing its victims are notorious, notably in Southern Germany.

—From the *Lancet*.

THE FLAMING SWORD IN SERBIA. By Mrs. St. Clair Stobart. (Hodder and Stoughton.) 6s. Illustrated.

If there are still people who cherish ancient prejudices as to woman's sphere and the "protection" due to women, let them read this book, and we may safely say that few such delusions will survive. It is the narrative of a heroic adventure, planned and carried out by women, and typical of the unique part played by women in this war. The author had had previous experience in the South African War, and organised and commanded the Women's Convoy Corps which did fine work in Bulgaria in the Balkan War, and which was described by her in her book, "Women and War," published in 1913.

The present book, after briefly describing war hospital work in Belgium (where Mrs. Stobart was captured and condemned to death) and in France, gives a vivid account of the invasion of Serbia and the terrible flight of the population and retreat of the army over the frozen mountains of Albania and Montenegro, where tens of thousands perished of cold and hunger. Again, if there are any people so deficient in heart and imagination as to believe in the "glories" of modern warfare, let them read of these hapless fugitives, driven from their village homes in mid-winter; families separated, the men and boys with the army, the women struggling through seas of freezing mud with their babies, dying on the road, losing everything, the guns crashing behind them; and finally unable to scale the icy heights of Montenegro, and forced to turn back to devastated homes to starve. Out of 30,000 reservists (who were boys and old men), 20,000 perished on the road. Such suffering is beyond computation, and yet it is only a small part of the agony of this hideous war.

The narrative, in spite of the tragedy it depicts, is by no means all gloom; the active work of the hospital unit called forth all the powers of the women, and such energy and heroism are inspiring in the highest degree. The hardships undergone by these women were severe; days and nights together in the saddle or on foot, the conditions varying only between rain and mud and snow and ice, scanty and irregular

food, no shelter, no possibility of change of clothing. Nothing but their own high courage and the unfailing goodness of their Serbian comrades could have carried them through. Reluctantly and bit by bit, they had to discard their precious hospital equipment as transport became more and more difficult, and at last, on foot, with a few pack ponies carrying the minimum of food and blankets, they made their way to the coast, after nine months of useful service and heroic effort.

For the first time a woman has been put in command of a flying field hospital column, with women surgeons, doctors, and orderlies, and having soldiers under her orders. The result has shown that women can bear the hardships of even the severest campaign and continue to carry out their work; that they can maintain discipline and secure respect, even from soldiers who do not understand their language, and who have inherited from centuries of Turkish rule somewhat Oriental ideas of women.

Of the author's general reflections on her experiences we learn something from a long conversation she had with a Serbian artillery major, as they rode onwards in the darkness of the retreat. It reminds us of the discussion on immortality described by Tolstoy in "War and Peace," as carried on by two Russian officers during the Battle of Austerlitz. The English lady and the Serbian soldier agreed in their condemnation of war. "It is logically impossible for civilised mankind to preserve simultaneously two opposed standards of conduct—for individuals, a high form of morality, in which life, honour, and justice are revered; and for nations, a cynical non-morality, in which murder, dishonour, and injustice are inculcated as the highest virtues. We must raise the international standard or we shall inevitably debase the individual standard of human right and wrong. My friend and I were agreed that militarism must be exterminated root and branch if mankind is not to regress towards a monstrous sub-humanity."

The author adds, elsewhere: "Militarism is likely to find in woman its most vigorous opponent, not because woman lacks courage to face death, but because she is awake to the duty of facing life. Until woman had obtained some experience of war she could only express sentiments concerning war; but now she is at liberty to give opinions as to the meaning of war. And in the opinion of woman—at least, of one woman, who is presumably representative of some other women—war means the failure of society, which has failed in its primary function of preserving life. . . . To this end has the wisdom of man brought man. Could the wisdom of woman bring us to a worse abyss than this?"

We fear we must add that, unless women learn from the terrible experience of this war the true lessons of internationalism, and devote their whole strength to combating the false ideals and policies of the past by which they as well as men are still swayed, women's influence in bringing society back to its true function of safeguarding life will be nil.

#### WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

DER FRAUENERWERB IN DEN HAUPTKULTURSTAATEN. By Dr. Gertrud Wolf. (Beck, Munich: 8M.)

"Women have not only entered the labour market since the war," writes Adelheid Popp in an interesting article in the Vienna *Arbeiter Zeitung* of February 21st, on women wage-earners in various countries. She points out that long before 1914 the influx of women into trade, industry, and commerce had been steadily growing. Especially in Austria, where many more married women are wage-earners than in other countries. In the census of 1910, 43.4 per cent. of the female, as opposed to 61.5 per cent. of the male, population were wage-earners. These figures prove that woman's share in the economic life of the country is so great that one can no longer even imagine her being forced out of it. 41.4 per cent. of the women workers are, moreover, married, which shows that they are not only indispensable to their profession but also to their families. Whether we regret it as a sign of an unhealthy development or welcome it as a step towards the future emancipation of women, we are forced to recognise that their work can no longer be dispensed with. It is interesting to note that in Germany only 29 per cent. of the married women are wage-earners; in England 10.4 per cent., whilst in France, higher even than Austria, 52.2 per cent.

In a valuable book on the subject, Dr. Gertrud Wolf puts this down partly to the fact that in Austria wage-earning is regarded by married women as of equal importance with household duties. Dr. Wolf quotes as another authority Dr. Most. He considers, and probably rightly, that in many cases it is



a better financial position, and in many also the difference of national custom and point of view, which causes women to cease earning wages the moment they marry in some countries and not in others.

In Austria, according to the census of 1910, women's labour fell under the following heads:—

	No. of women per 1,000 of total persons employed.
Agriculture, cattle, and gardening	4,288,269 ..... 510
Clothing and cleaning industries	329,918 ..... 445
Textiles	274,112 ..... 528
Food, drink, restaurants, and bars	214,932 ..... 349
Commerce	208,046 ..... 363
Institutions	188,706 ..... 437
Education	62,372 ..... 474
State and public service	59,131 ..... 172
Stone and earth	44,320 ..... 196
Wood and carving	29,143 ..... 100
Paper and leather	26,871 ..... 238
Miscellaneous industry	23,896 ..... 474
Metal	23,154 ..... 67
Transport	17,760 ..... 95
Building trades	16,710 ..... 96
Chemical industry	14,330 ..... 256
Free professions	11,510 ..... 245
Polygraphic industry	10,576 ..... 210
Manufacture of machines & boilers	9,540 ..... 48
Mining	8,381 ..... 43
Forestry	4,862 ..... 51
Other trades	4,651 ..... 116

In nearly all the above-mentioned professions increasing numbers of women are to be found at every census. Dr. Wolf further remarks in her book that the wife, sister, or grown-up daughter who works at home comes under no heading, although of equal economic value to the country. In the census of 1900 there were 13,000,000 wives and 1,860,000 widows, not to mention the unmarried women who kept house for fathers or brothers, all entered as having no profession. One may therefore be certain that many million women whose career is their homes exist, and should be counted as productive workers.

In England, in the census of 1901, daughters and female relatives who helped in the house work were classed under the heading of "household duties." Later they were again considered as having no profession. The article closes with a short statement on women wage-earners in England. According to the census of 1911, whether on account of the better social standing of the working-man or not, only 25.9 per cent. of the women are wage-earners. Women's position is also better. And perhaps for this very reason people hesitate to admit that women are the fellow wage-earners of husband or father.

THE SWISS WOMEN'S YEAR BOOK. "Annuaire Féminin Suisse." (Berne: A. Francke.)

The success of the first issue of its annual last year has encouraged the editors and the Berne section of the Swiss National Suffrage Society to publish a successor for the past year. The book gives a comprehensive survey of the Swiss women's movement for 1915-16, and a chapter on the International movement by Emilie Gourd. The unrest and difficulties occasioned by the world war affect Switzerland deeply in her economic and political life. Nevertheless, the women's organisations continue their good work, and, indeed, the pressure of war conditions has drawn women of all classes and the various races and religions together as never before, so that they united in collecting the women's freewill offering to the State of over a million francs, they have formed clubs and women's centres, have published this Year Book, in which all sections are represented, and co-operated in war work (care of prisoners and wounded, work for the Swiss soldiers, for French and Belgian refugees, tracing the missing, and all branches of Red Cross and relief work).

More attention than ever is paid to education. Statistics show that, whereas out of 160,000 males and 180,000 females between the ages of 14 and 18, all the boys come under social welfare organisations, but only 25 per cent. of the girls. Women's complex social function includes her wage-earning occupation, her maternal duties, and her rights and duties as a citizen, and her education should be framed accordingly. Swiss women's organisations are demanding, and gradually obtaining, compulsory domestic training in the State schools. And here a remark must be made: If the highly individualised family unit is to persist in the future as in the past, women

must be trained as house-mothers in all branches of domestic economy. But possibly the future will develop on other lines. In the belligerent countries we see indications of something more approaching communal housekeeping. The married woman factory-worker sends her children to the communal crèche and school, where they have better food, care, and surroundings than she could give them, and are under trained expert supervision. She herself has her meals at the canteen. Such developments may possibly be the lines of the future; communal kitchens, labour-saving devices, and skilled care for the children may relieve the working mother of much labour, and an 8-hours day in the factory may prove lighter than 16 hours' drudgery in the small home. Moreover, for the former she is paid, and not for the latter. However, so far, Swiss women are of opinion that domestic training is essential for every woman. In Bâle systematic inquiry was made of the mothers as to what they required for their daughters' education, and the replies showed a demand for domestic training, preparation for social work, gymnastics, hygiene, and law!

The housekeeping schools of the Gemeinnützige Frauenvereine are sought after and successful, as are those of the Catholic women's societies. Industrial and professional training are also keenly demanded, and trade schools for girls teach hairdressing, dressmaking, tailoring, millinery, paperhanging, polishing, lace-making, etc. Training is also provided for girls as housekeepers for large public institutions. Employment bureaux are established in many cantons.

In preparation for social work Zurich and Bâle lead the way. The training includes instruction in economics, education, poor relief, legislation, and combines theory and practical work.

Women's "voluntary-service year" is being tried in Bâle by three volunteers. The object of this year, which is so much discussed as a possible equivalent to men's military service, is to train girls in work of public utility, to "enable the students to understand the needs of the times, and to prepare a personnel suitable for welfare work." Physical training becomes more and more valued by women and girls, and the girl-scout movement has many branches and supporters.

The peace movement has found warm support from Swiss women, who have studied the bases of permanent peace. The National Council of Women sent a petition to the Federal Council to support President Wilson in calling a conference of neutrals. Another international subject, that of the Nationality of Married Women, has been referred by the Swiss Suffrage Society to the International Alliance.

The societies, both Catholic and Protestant, of "amies des jeunes filles" have taken up the important question of the young girl and the proper provision for her leisure, which is such a decisive factor in life. Summer holidays and Sunday excursions and meetings are arranged for shop-girls, servants, factory girls, etc. The modern outlook is again shown in the provision recommended for girls who have gone astray, for whom rural colonies are planned, with varied outdoor employments. A welcome change, this, from the old "penitent" systems. The societies have, unfortunately, to note the increase of immorality which in every country accompanies war, and contradicts the claim made by militarists for war as a "purifying" influence! The question is asked: What is happening to orderly family life? Where are the mothers? Surely the best preventive of sexual excess is the training of the young in reverence for parenthood. In Switzerland, as elsewhere, women wish to see cinema films controlled, and suitable films provided for the children, and censored by women.

The woman teacher is still struggling for entrance to the higher positions. In Glarus, by a decision of the Communal Council of March 7th, 1916, women teachers were permitted for the first time, with the proviso that no married teachers should be appointed.

The special work and progress of the Suffrage Societies was dealt with by Emilie Gourd in *Jus Suffragii* for February, and need not be repeated here.

The Social Democratic women number 2,000. They demand an 8-hours day, the enforcement of prohibition of night work and Sunday work for women, and of all work physically injurious; communal care of children of wage-earning mothers, and Woman Suffrage. The growing absorption of women in industry makes their organisation a pressing necessity, and the authorities urge it in order to increase efficiency.

Swiss women may soon be accredited pastors. In 1915 a Zurich woman took her degree in theology, and in July, 1916, a woman theologian held a children's service in church in Oberstrasz.

In Switzerland, as in belligerent countries, the food scarcity has led housewives to combine and confer,

Maternity insurance is proving a blessing, but as it is not compulsory, it is not yet used to the full.

Women police assistants have been appointed in Lausanne, Neuchâtel, and Geneva. In the two former cases they are appointed and paid by the town; in the latter case she is employed by Women's Societies, but receives a subvention of 1,000 francs from the Department of Justice, and children's cases are officially referred to her.

In addition to the chronicle of the women's movement in German and French Switzerland, as described above, by Elisa Strub and Emilie Gourd, the Year Book contains chapters on the Women of Ticino, by Guiseppina Gabuzzi; on the Engadine, by Clementina Gilly; and on the Search for the Missing, by Antonia Girardet-Vielle. A particularly interesting chapter by Marguerite Gobat is devoted to the peace movement in many countries.

Other sections are devoted to accounts of Swiss women's work (Julie Merz), women factory workers (M. Th. Schaffner), a table of existing Suffrage rights in Switzerland, and a list of women's international organisations.

The Swiss Factory Acts forbid Sunday or night work for women, also work for eight weeks after confinement (now to be shortened to six). It is found that uninsured women suffer greatly from this enforced forfeiture of wages. Insured women receive a compensating maternity grant. Women who have families have 1½ hours at midday to get the family meal, and in 1911 they numbered 28,332. Such women are greatly overburdened. In addition to 10 or 10½ hours factory work, they spend the dinner interval in cooking, and the evening in cleaning, mending, and necessary buying of provisions, so that by 35 or 40 they are worn out. These women are by no means all married, but in many cases have invalid parents or brothers and sisters to care for. Much useful information is given as to conditions and wages, and an eloquent plea made for improvement.

The whole book gives an admirable survey of activity and progress in every department of women's work.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, *Jus Suffragii*.

MADAM.—As I read *Jus Suffragii*, and other organs of women's opinion, it is borne in upon me with dread that women are too hopeful of the benefit to themselves of man's recognition of woman's services during the war. "Gratitude is more rare than fortitude." Man's gratitude to women is as transitory as any. On the other hand, the pressure of economic and social laws is constant like gravitation.

After the war women will be redundant. The supply will be in excess of demand, certainly as to marriage, and probably as to work, owing to exhaustion of capital and prostration of buying power. The consequence will be on the part of unthinking women to hold themselves cheap both in the marriage market and in the labour market. I hesitate to call such women "scabs," but no other word will carry the true significance of the effect of such selfish weakness on the position of women as a sex.

We stand in danger of losing what we have gained in fifty years of bitter effort by the pusillanimity of any considerable body of women, each ready to take what she can get from some employer or what she is offered by some pretended lover. As the level of a body of water falls with a leak, so will our social level fall with the disloyalty of such women to what is due to themselves and to us.

The question of equal pay is economic, and can best be solved by each country individually. But the problem of repopulation can be made international if organised women will see to it. Repopulation is as much a matter of concern to neighbouring States as rearmament is. Numbers of men and women are as basic an element in military force as warships or cannon are. When the negotiators of peace take up the limitation of armament, as they will, there is every reason why they should agree to forbid to any State the adoption of measures of repopulation which will tend to degrade women, if organised women insist.

What we women want is quality, not quantity; civilisation, not bloated populations. Women must be captains of their souls; not mere breeders of men. Frau Marie Stritt goes to the root of the matter, as quoted in your last issue: "All steps taken for a population policy must harmonise with woman's right to decide her own destinies, and with respect for her own personality. All measures tending to reduce women to objects without will are to be rejected." In terms of German metaphysics, Frau Stritt expresses what every self-respecting woman must feel.

By all means organise, agitate, and work for equal pay, hours, and conditions within each State; but let us not fail, if we are in the least threatened, to work also for an international agreement which will save any European women, and therefore save all women, from any degradation engineered by men for the increase of military power. Let us rise and silence all discussion of polygamy, irregular unions, the encouragement of illegitimacy, and any other measures calculated to subvert our dignity and freedom.—Yours,

MARY HUTCHESON PAGE.

21, Hawthorn Road, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A.,  
February 19th, 1917.

## Women Want an Eight-Hour Day in U.S.A.

There are 26 States and three Territories, besides the District of Columbia, which have passed laws establishing an eight-hour day for public work. In this work men, for the great part, are engaged. Four States only—and these equal suffrage States—have provided for an eight-hour day in woman's labour. There are: Arizona, California, Colorado, and Washington. In Oregon women working in offices have an 8½-hour day, and women in mercantile employments 8½. All other industries for women in Oregon have a nine-hour work-day.

Women of the East also want an eight-hour working day, and to this end they have just called the first Middle Atlantic Eight-Hour Conference of the National Women's Trade Union League, whose chairman is Miss Mary Dreier, also chairman of the Industrial Section of the New York State Woman Suffrage Party.

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland responded to New York's invitation, and sent delegates to the Conference. One after another, these delegates told their experiences of working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., sometimes, as in New Jersey shirt factories, for \$3.00 a week. In Up-State New York, machine stitchers are reported to be running machines at the rate of from 3,000 to 4,500 stitches a minutes for ten hours a day.

It begins to look as if women are determined to take their destinies into their own hands. Said Miss E. Dreier: "We shall draw up resolutions endorsing an eight-hour day for all working women, and then try to arouse women everywhere to work for favourable legislation." The following resolution adopted shows that working women put their faith in the ballot as their only hope for better working hours:—

Whereas, the ballot is of the utmost importance to working women for their own and their children's protection, not only because in daily living all questions of light and air, of food, health, play, schools, morals, and work, are matters of public control through laws and their enforcement, but also because in the wider interests of the nation and in the establishment of greater justice the working women have an abiding share, and

Whereas, the legislation for securing the eight-hour day is of fundamental interest to the working women, and can be more speedily secured through the votes of those directly affected, and

Whereas, Woman Suffrage is a paramount public issue in the State of New York; therefore be it

Resolved that this First Middle Atlantic Eight-Hour Conference of the National Women's Trade Union League urge the incoming Legislature of New York speedily to pass the law for the resubmission of this question in November, 1917; and be it further resolved that we call upon our half-million Trade Union brothers of New York, who have the power to give or to withhold suffrage, to fulfil their pledge to support Woman Suffrage made at Conventions of the State and American Federation of Labour, and in every way to work and speak on our behalf, so that on November 6th, 1917, the working women of the Empire State may be released from political bondage and become free citizens, uniting with their brothers in building a free and great State.

## OBITUARY.

Thomas Joseph Haslam.

"There must be hundreds of men and women in England and in Ireland who will feel life is poorer to-day by the passing hence of this gentle, fragile, much esteemed, and most beloved of old men," wrote Professor Oldham of Thomas Haslam, who died at the age of 92, having devoted his long life to working with his wife for the cause of women's enfranchisement, educational, social, and political. Since 1867, when John Stuart Mill came forward on behalf of Woman Suffrage, the Haslam home in Dublin became the centre of the Irish Suffrage movement, and of all the movements for throwing open higher education to women. Mr. and Mrs. Haslam were both members of the Society of Friends. Women owe a deep debt of gratitude to these early pioneers, who, long before the cause obtained popular support, fought against hostile and indifferent public opinion, never losing heart, and never lowering their ideals.

Mr. Haslam, like so many who bore the burden and heat of the day, did not live to see the triumph of the cause for which he had worked. The sympathy of all will go out to Mrs. Haslam in her bereavement.



**"Jus Suffragii."**

The Women's International Suffrage paper, *Jus Suffragii*, to which the Girls' Social and Political Union now subscribes, has been very helpful to us in giving so much information concerning the Woman Movement in its widest sense in all corners of the earth.

—*Woman Voter* (Australia).

**Nationality of an Alien Married to a Frenchman.**

The Chamber has adopted a Bill by which a woman of alien enemy nationality, married to a Frenchman, can only acquire French nationality by Government authorisation. The Bill is before the Senate.

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