



THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SVFFRAGE NEWS

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THE MONTH'S MISCELLANY.

AS a result of the audit of our accounts, the painful fact has become apparent that we are losing rather than gaining subscribers to the paper. Our affiliated societies have been asked to send us the names of people whom they consider would be interested in seeing the paper free for some months and would then find it worth while to subscribe. This method of propaganda has brought us some new subscribers, but it is not enough to bring up our circulation to the desired point. The Editor has received an encouraging number of letters saying that readers do find the paper both useful and interesting, and on that evidence of friendly feeling she ventures to base an appeal for their personal help in making the paper more widely known. For many it is impossible to help the Alliance by actual donations, but here is a method by which you can help our funds in a very practical way out of your friends' pockets—persuade them to take out a subscription to *Jus*. Nearly everyone must be able to think of just one person who is more or less interested in the matters with which we deal. If a little friendly pressure is not sufficient inducement to make such a one send the necessary 6s. to headquarters for a year's subscription, send us the recalcitrant's name and address on a postcard marked "*Jus* Propaganda," and we will send the paper gratis for six months with a persuasive letter explaining why we do it. Even if no subscription results, we shall have done something to make ourselves more widely known. *Jus* is not a commercial venture; it has not at command the means for widespread advertising—it is dependent on the interest taken in it by feminists all over the world. Please do all you can to show that your interest is active and practical and not merely academic.

We publish elsewhere a request from Mme. Theodoropoulos for information on the application of electrical power to household activities, and very gladly do we welcome the opportunity, because we consider that this and kindred matters are of real concern to feminists—even to those rather mythical ones who are still sometimes pictured in the general press as valkyries with wild hair bent on riding down the whole of the male sex. Probably a good many women who have most time and thought to spare for the woman's movement are not those on whom the actual burden of domestic life presses most nearly, but that movement has got to succeed in getting at a much larger majority of women than it does at present if it is to accomplish its widest aims. Now, one of the reasons why it is still difficult to do this is just because for so many, many hundreds of thousands of women the daily business of running a badly equipped household takes an altogether undue proportion of their time and energy. There is still little organised help or information available for the housewife. If she is a born organiser she plans, perhaps invents, methods to save her time and energy, but the average housewife works alone, out of touch with others' similar problems, and with very little assistance from architect, builder, or shopkeeper. Labour-saving devices indeed there are, but their cost puts them for the most part outside the capacity of the very women who most need them. Moreover, though they may save time and labour, they very often need an open mind and an alert intelligence which have never been encouraged in the harassed wife and mother. Inventors must pay more attention to the human factor, to the individuals who are going to use their inventions; the housewife, on the other hand, must be made aware that it is worth while to put intelligence and method into work which is her "job for life." The

rough-and-ready way of insisting that every girl should give up a portion of her short educational life to domestic economy, learnt at an age which permits of its being thoroughly forgotten long before the time she is likely to put it into practice, does not commend itself to us. Rather would we see associations able and willing to give practical help and advice to those who are actually faced with domestic difficulties—advice which would take full cognisance of the actual conditions under which those difficulties would have to be faced and would strive to foster a spirit of co-operation among the all-too-isolated class of "women in the home." Above all, a great deal of good, hard thinking is needed on the difficult question of the economic position of the married woman. A spirit of professionalism, both as regards the work to be done by a married woman who is occupied only in the work of her household, and as regards the just payment due to her for those services, would be no bad thing. If home making is to be the business of her life, let the housewife tackle that business both intelligently and loyally, but not without ensuring that it, like any other business, receives its just recognition and reward. It is here that she will need the support of the organised woman's movement most.

At no point does the discrimination against women assume such a definite form as in the case of the prostitute. Every time she prostitutes herself some man is concerned in her action, but she is the sole scapegoat. Different legal conditions obtain in different countries, but is there one where in this respect the action of the police is above suspicion? In England the Solicitation Laws are such, and are so administered, as to put endless temptations for bribery and blackmail in the way of the police. If a street walker is to carry on her sordid traffic, is not the most obvious first step that of squaring the police? If she does not she can be arrested, and when taken to the court no evidence of annoyance other than that given by the police is demanded, and they have but to label her "a common prostitute" practically to ensure her conviction. I make no imputations on the police force, but the temptation is obvious and should not be put in their way. On the other hand, several recent cases show that the ordinary decent woman is liable to arrest on such a charge, apparently merely because she has to walk through the streets alone. So much so that counsel in one such case declared that no woman should go up and down Regent Street or Piccadilly alone for fear of—the police! So that not only in defence of a very helpless class of women, but also for the liberty and security of all women, should women keep a sharp look-out on legislation and administration dealing with the difficult question of police control of street morals.

THE EDITOR.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby is sailing on March 17 for the States, where she will be the guest of the American Association of University Women at their annual convention, April 8 to 11, at Indianapolis, and will be the only speaker at the luncheon on April 10.

From there Mrs. Ashby will travel to Richmond, Virginia, to be the guest of the National League of Women Voters at their annual convention, April 15 to 22. After giving some lectures Mrs. Ashby will attend the Quinquennial Congress of the International Council of Women on May 4, at Washington, as one of the three delegates of the Alliance.

INFORMATION NEEDED.

Mme. Theodoropoulos has asked the Editor to publish the following request for information in the hope that some of our readers may have had actual experience which would enable them to help her: "Would readers kindly supply information from their own experience as to the practical application of mechanical or electric force to household purposes?"

We not only very gladly publish this question and beg our readers to give Mme. Theodoropoulos all the help they can (replies may be addressed to the headquarters of the Alliance), but we also welcome the suggestion that other readers who need information should use our columns in the same way. We shall, of course, publish any replies received, and hope that in this way a useful and interesting feature may be added to *Jus*.

IN MEMORIAM F. MERRIFIELD.

The Brighton and Hove Standing Committee for Equal Citizenship has sent to the Alliance a contribution to its funds of £26 5s. as a memorial to the late Mr. F. Merrifield, who was from the beginning a stout supporter of the women's movement. This amount has been collected among the members, and has been presented to the Alliance in accordance with the wishes of Miss F. de G. Merrifield. We feel great gratitude for this gift, and hope to be able to use it in some direction with which Mr. Merrifield would have been in full accord.

VICTORIES FOR WOMEN IN 1924.

The following further replies have been received to the questionnaire published in our last issue:—

Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

4. The only improvement is the establishment of continuation schools for the training of girls in domestic science.

6. Yes. In the Education Department there have been appointed: (a) An additional woman inspector; and (b) a trained woman psychologist.

TASMANIA.

6. Women have been appointed Justices of the Peace, and women have been appointed to Public Hospital Boards.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

3. No. An event, however, has happened this year in Miss Pitt Morrison having qualified as professional architect.

6. No. (a) A Bill to enable women to act as jurors was introduced this session, but its provisions were of such an unequal nature that the women did not regret when it failed to pass the Upper House. (b) A State Lotteries Bill to raise money for charitable purposes was defeated mainly by the efforts of the women. (c) 1924 has shown a decided advance in the women's movement. The Women's Service Guild has removed to larger premises and opened two more branches, and is a recognised centre of activity for women's work. Women generally are waking up and taking a more active interest in humanitarian work, and are forming organisations all over the State, especially in the rural districts.

South Africa.

2. A change has been made in the Municipal Law of Natal in favour of women voters, brought about by the action of the Durban Women's Enfranchisement League. At the school board elections in Port Elizabeth two women were returned, and a woman candidate for the Municipal Council of the same town was defeated only by a very few votes.

6. The work of the Women's Enfranchisement Association has met with a considerable measure of success. New leagues have been formed at Zeerust, Standerton, and Volksrust in the Transvaal, and also at Cradock—a very important centre.

Sweden.

3. A law according to women the same opportunity as men, with a few exceptions, was passed in 1923, but has not come into force because the question of salaries has not been solved. Probably a Royal Proposition will be sent to Parliament in 1925.

5. No. Unfortunately, although the equal guardianship of both parents as regards the child's religion, education, upbringing, etc., is not affected, a law has been passed which in the event of a child owning property

while under age constitutes the father automatically economic guardian.

6. The new nationality law permits a Swedish woman who marries a foreigner to retain her Swedish nationality, with the sole exception of cases where she takes up residence in her husband's country and there acquires his nationality.

Spain.

1. We have obtained municipal franchise, and can be elected to the municipal councils, but this vote is only extended to unmarried, divorced, and widowed women, not to the married whose husbands still live and who are not legally separated.

CANADA.

WE regret to announce that the President of the Canadian Suffrage Association has announced that owing to the fact that women everywhere in Canada (except as regards the Province of Quebec) have had equal franchise for some time, interest in the work of the Association no longer justifies its affiliation to the Alliance. It is sad indeed to lose this link in our chain of affiliated associations, but we hope that before long we may find some other point of contact with the women of Canada.

In Quebec, which is in the anomalous position of refusing the provincial franchise to its women, while they in common with all their fellow citizens have the federal franchise, we are fortunate to have a kind correspondent in the person of Mrs. John Scott, of Montreal. We print below some interesting news received from her recently.

Every woman in Quebec, married or single, has a vote in Federal elections, provided she complies with the provisions of the Dominion Election Act and sees to it that her name is inscribed upon the voters' list. This franchise does not require a property qualification. No woman has a vote in provincial elections, the result being the ridiculous situation that Quebec women are adjudged to have sufficient intelligence and wisdom to be given a voice in the affairs of the whole nation, but not enough to express themselves on the business of their own province.

Furthermore, a married woman, separate as to property, the tax-bills for which are rendered in her own name, cannot (with one exception) vote upon her own property at municipal elections. She may have voted upon it before marriage, but if her husband, as is usually the case, has already a vote, her property loses its representation. The one exception is that, in the city of Quebec, since 1854, married women so qualified have had the right to vote in municipal elections.

Still further, in school elections, only widows and spinsters with property qualifications are allowed to vote. That is to say, curiously enough, the class of citizens most interested, generally speaking, in educational matters—the mother in the home—is not permitted to express an opinion in a school election. It goes without saying that no woman is eligible for a seat in the Legislative Council or the Legislative Assembly or municipal council, or school board. Here again is a notable exception. We have a woman mayor in this province—viz., the Mother Superior of Longue Pointe Asylum, who is Mayor of the Municipality of St. Jean de Dieu.

The Franchise Committee of the Montreal Women's Club has secured a promise from Mr. Peter Bercovitch, M.L.A., a prominent member of the Liberal Party (which is the party in power here by a large majority) to bring in a resolution to give women the provincial vote at the approaching session of the Legislature. A resolution is not a Bill, but it will give rise to a discussion in the House, something which has never taken place so far. And Mr. Bercovitch definitely promises to bring in a Bill the following year, or, at latest, the year after. Besides this, Brig.-Gen. Charles Smart, M.L.A., has agreed to bring in a Bill to permit married women qualified as to property and separate as to property to vote in municipal or school elections. We are also endeavouring to bring pressure on the Governors of McGill University to have them open the faculty of architecture to women.

A very significant sign of the times is that a few months ago the Presbytery of Montreal passed a resolution affirming that in their opinion every office in the Church, up to and including the pulpit, should be open to women on the same terms as men.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

BRAZIL.

The Chamber of Deputies in Rio de Janeiro has before it a Bill making Brazilian women eligible for all public offices, including the Presidency of the Republic.

CANADA.

Women are asserting their right to sit in the Federal Senate, or Canadian House of Lords. Canadian women can vote at all Dominion and most provincial elections. They may be elected to the provincial Parliaments, but no woman can be appointed to sit in the Senate, because she is not, according to judicial interpretation, a "person" in the sense in which the word is used in the British North America Act, a document that can be amended only by the King.

CEYLON.

Compulsory primary education is in force throughout Ceylon, and the number of girls and boys wending their way to school each morning everywhere in that island invariably strikes a visitor from India. The average of literacy in Ceylon is high: almost every girl can read and write. In these circumstances it is all the more deplorable and unfair that the Ceylon law disqualifies women from enfranchisement. They have votes for neither their local boards nor councils, nor for their legislative council. The Women's Indian Association has forwarded a memorial to the Governor of Ceylon and his Executive Council members, drawing their attention to the dishonoured condition in which the Ceylon women appear in contrast with the women of India and the other countries in the British Empire. It asks the Government to take immediate steps towards removing the sex disqualification so as to do justice to women taxpayers and to raise the whole legal and political status of their womanhood. There is a very fine record of women's services to the youth of that country in former days, when the educational work of the Buddhist nuns was famous throughout the East. It behoves the women resident in Ceylon—Tamil, Singalese, and Western—to be up and doing in the interests of their sex.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Women Harbour Commissioners.

The ban on women Harbour Commissioners will be removed if a Bill originating with the Poole Harbour Commissioners becomes law. The Act of 1895 provided that "any male person of full age" fulfilling certain conditions might become a Harbour Commissioner, but the new Bill, by omitting the word "male," opens up new work for women. The first British woman to take it up will not, however, be the only one in the world, for Miss Hilda Gorman, in her capacity as secretary to the San Francisco Harbour Co., is practically in command of its miles of docks, wharves, and warehouses. The Poole Harbour Bill has thirteen clauses, two of them relating to "boomage" rates. Boomage applies mainly to Poole Harbour, and is the rate (hitherto 2d. per registered ton) charged to any vessel entering, anchoring, mooring, or lying to in the harbour, for any purpose except that of unloading or loading. If bad weather brings the ship, then the rate is halved.

Woman M.P.'s Appointment.

Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., has been elected chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations, in the place of Mrs. Harrison Bell (resigned). This carries with it the chairmanship of the National Conference of Labour Women to be held in Birmingham this year from May 27 to 28.

The Standing Joint Committee is a body composed of

representatives of the Labour Party, Trade Union Congress, trade unions having women members, and the co-operative movement. Thus, there are affiliated to it, either directly or indirectly, practically all the organised labour women in Great Britain.

MEXICO.

Mexican women want to participate with men in the rights which belong to them, and which they have not before demanded because of lack of initiative and revolutionary circumstances, according to a petition individually presented to the Senate by Señorita Emelida Carrillo, of Nogales, Sonora. It is reported that Vito Alessio Robles, Senator, will offer a Bill for Woman Suffrage at this session.

UNITED STATES.

A Citizenship Ruling.

Women who had married foreigners and hoped to regain their citizenship through the Cable Law by residing one year in the United States are doomed to disappointment. A ruling has been passed by the State Department at Washington saying that citizenship thus acquired will be forfeited if residence in Europe is resumed.

Health Consultor.

Sally Lucas Jean, former Director of Health Education of the American Child Health Association, is now telling professional and business groups how to develop their health, and preparing educational programmes for them, at 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City, under the name, Consulting Service.



MME. LA MAZIÈRE.

MME. LA MAZIÈRE, whose picture we print above, is well known in the suffrage world as a journalist and devoted feminist. One of her latest activities is the organisation of a Soroptimist Club in Paris, of which she is President.

The Paris Soroptimist Club has a membership of ninety-two women, each representing a different profession. The two vice-presidents are Dr. Suzanne Noel, a well-known specialist on skin diseases, and Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, one of the best-known women at the Palais de Justice. The organisation dinner on October 14, 1924, was a great success.

Mme. La Mazière is now a Knight of the Legion of Honour, one of the few women of her age who have won that honour. Behind the honour lies an incredible amount of hard work. Mme. La Mazière last December became the international "link" of the Filene Peace Award Committee. Nominally a member of the French

committee, she was the link between the French, English, German, and Italian organisations, being practically in complete charge of the publication of a pamphlet about to appear which tells the complete history of the Filene Award, giving the winning peace plans and all details of the work.

Mme. La Mazière gives much of her time to the suffrage cause, and she is the author of "Les Femmes Françaises doivent-elles voter?", a series of articles recently published in the *Monde Nouveau*, which aroused much discussion.* She was a candidate in the last municipal elections, but will not run this time, although she will continue to take an active part in the fight of women to win the right to vote.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM.

Report of the 4th Congress, Washington, May 1-7, 1924.

WE have just received the English edition of the report of the recent Congress in Washington. The main point of discussion was the various aspects of a New International Order. Many of the ideas discussed are of great interest, perhaps those in connection with economics being among the most actual. The resolutions deal almost entirely with peace matters, and are followed by a manifesto on the policy of the League. The report of the Cahir Commission on the New International Order attached was recommended to the National Sections for study, and is well worth the careful consideration of all those who are not contented with the present social order, and will welcome suggestions for amelioration, whether they are able to regard them as entirely practicable or not.

THE DARK SIDE OF HINDUISM AND VEDICISM.

Cruelty to Hindu Women Under the Garb of Usage and Custom.—I.

WHEN a boy is born into a Hindu family in India there is great rejoicing. Hundreds and thousands of rupees are squandered on this occasion, but if a girl is born there is usually severe mourning—because from the very beginning she is considered to be another's property. On account of this selfishness there is very often little thought given to her up-bringing. Finding few occasions for her to enjoy fully her rightful heritage of parental love, she grows up in constant fear. Sometimes her life also gradually comes to an untimely end. However, if in the providence of God her life is spared, it is a miserable life in many cases. In comparison with the boy she is given very inferior food. All the delicacies, fruits of the season, etc., are largely given to the boy. Even in the coldest weather the poor girl is usually provided with but a single garment of muslin or long-cloth. Oftentimes she is deprived even of the privilege of the comfort and cleanliness of bathing. The male members of the family mostly make her conform to their old superstitions and forbid ablutions on several so-called inauspicious days, to which custom they themselves have never conformed. In short, there is one law for men and another for women. And woman's tendency is usually downward.

Some of the causes of this degradation of Hindu women are based upon some festivals, common sayings, traditions, and religious rites in vogue at present among the Hindus:—

Girl's Place in Hindu Society.

1. Take, for example, the festival of Lohri. Here the birth of a boy, his betrothal, and marriage are rejoiced over in songs, year by year, but no mention is made concerning such events in the life of a girl.

2. In their common form of giving blessings, our people would say, "May God grant you a son." For

(Continued on page 80.)

* See our issue of October, 1924.

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

GERMANY.

The Position of the Parties Regarding Women Candidates.

THE replies to the energetic appeal of the German National Council of Women, as published in its last advertiser (see also report in December *Jus*), are most interesting, and, in many ways, significant. The appeal was sent out in view of the elections (November 3rd) to headquarters of the eight most important parties, of which seven replied more or less punctually. No answer came from the Communists, while the answer of the Radicals—the "Party of the National-Socialist liberty movement"—only stated (by an odd coincidence, by the pen of a woman secretary) that "in accordance with their principles, they would not take up any woman candidate upon their lists." (Considering this unkind treatment, it is somewhat appealing that both the extreme parties had to complain of remarkable losses at this very election.)

Beside those two characteristic exceptions, all other parties rivalled each other in asserting not only their readiness in principle, but also their unceasing endeavours to give the women all possible chances—in number as well as in secure places. The Catholics, who before the revolution absolutely rejected woman suffrage on their programme, hastened to state that they had even sent out urgent telegrams this time to all the constituencies to stir up their party leaders once more in favour of women candidates. The Democrats explicitly acknowledged the justness of the women's claims, and the insufficient results of the party's own efforts in this direction, hoping that, nevertheless, the women on their part would also acknowledge these efforts. About the same was said by the People's party, expressing, besides, their regret that the women had good reason to complain, as well as their readiness, now and in the future, to meet the women's rightful claims, and to destroy the still existing prejudices in this direction amongst men and women. The best position of all parties was, of course, that of the Socialists, who referred to the fact that from the beginning they had declared themselves in favour of all the women's claims, and of full equality for men and women, not only as a plank of their platform, but also in practice, whenever there was an opportunity; further, they firmly stood for women's rights, and provided secure places for women candidates, also in the present election campaign, and only could wish that the other parties might follow their example in this respect.

As the National People's and the Bavarian People's party likewise, though somewhat cautiously, assured their approval and support of the women's wishes, one cannot but acknowledge the satisfactory result of the N.C.W.'s energetic appeal to the political parties. It means, indeed, an immeasurable progress in theory compared with the old "anti-suffrage" times, when such an appeal would not have been replied to at all. From a practical point of view, however, it seems somewhat doubtful, in so far as most of the parties referred to the great difficulties of the realisation of the women's claims, when, obviously, all such difficulties lie only with the parties themselves. But, anyhow, the women will, relying upon these promising responses, have at least another hold on the parties if, in the future, their memory should fail. "Hic Rhodus, hic salta!"

Women in Leading Government Offices.

A survey of the women holding responsible posts in the Reichs and the Prussian State Ministries, based upon an inquiry by the N.C.W.'s section for women's professions, has recently been published. Though by no means satisfactory, it still means a beginning, and may be of some interest also for our international co-workers.

To begin with the Reich: One woman ministry councillor, one head government councillor, three government councillors, and one official belong to the Labour Ministry; one head post councillor (for matters of the female personnel) to the Post Ministry; one ministry councillor and two government councillors, for

special purposes, to the Home Ministry; two scientific officials to the Finance Ministry; and one government councillor, one substitute director in the Coal-distributing Commission, and two scientific officials to the Economic Ministry.

In Prussia two women work as government councillors in the Trade and Commerce Ministry; one official in the Agricultural Ministry; one ministry councillor in the Ministry for People's Welfare; one ministry councillor and one head government councillor in the Ministry for Science, Art and Education; and, besides, five head school councillors and five school councillors on the provincial school boards.

33 Women In the Reichstag.

In addition to the 32 women already reported on in the January issue, I have the pleasure of recording another woman, Frau Lang Brumann, Munich, who, as first-place candidate on the Bavarian People's party's "Reichs" list, was elected as the only woman member of this party in the Reichstag.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, January 16th.

GREAT BRITAIN.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

THE last month has seen two notable women created Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire, and one created Dame of the Order of the British Empire. They are, to name them by their new titles, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Dame Ellen Terry, and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake. They have obtained these distinctions through work in very different fields. Dame Ellen Terry was the delight of more than one generation of playgoers, and her name even now conjures up a picture of all that was most exquisite on the English stage. Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake has won her spurs on a grimmer field. The senior surgeon of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital is well known not only amongst women, but also in the most critical of medical circles, as a brilliant surgeon, and she is moreover a magnificent teacher. We have left our comments on Dame Millicent Fawcett's honour to the last. If Dame Ellen Terry has brought happiness to countless women, and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake has given them health, Dame Millicent Fawcett, more than any other living person, helped to bring them freedom. It is difficult to imagine what the women's movement in England would have been without the foundations she laid by unremitting work during years before women's suffrage became a sensational issue in politics, and without the ballast that her steady judgment gave in the years of stress. Her honour is the recognition of a life spent in service to women, and, through them, to the State.

An interesting event early in the New Year was the annual meeting of the National Union of Women Teachers, which gave considerable time to a discussion of the differentiation against women in the profession. Their pay is less than that of men, though their training is the same; their representation on the joint committee dealing with the question of salaries is ludicrously inadequate; their chances of headships are less, since the heads of mixed schools are always men. The opportunities for girls in the schools are also less than those for boys with regard to scholarships and maintenance allowance. The grievances of the women teachers are, unfortunately, typical of the present attitude to women in many of the professions. The women Civil Servants are also struggling for equal pay, as compared with men in the Service. The Government in 1919 recognised the principle, but later qualified this by stating that the financial situation of the country did not permit of the increased cost; they promised to reopen the question four years later. The four years are up, but the only people who are reopening the question are the women Civil Servants and their supporters, whilst the Govern-

ment, when forced into a statement on the subject, continues its non-possimus attitude, and justifies itself by an estimate of the cost based on entirely false assumptions. The women have started the New Year by the issue of a forceful pamphlet on the subject. It certainly looks as if 1925 will see a battle royal over the question of equal pay in two of the greatest of women's professions.

The Coming Session.

Parliament will be meeting again on February 10th. We are much concerned with what legislation is likely to be brought forward to promote the reforms for which we are working. As stated last month, we have been told definitely that Government measures will be introduced dealing with Equal Guardianship of Children, Separation and Maintenance Orders, and the Legitimation of Illegitimate Children; but we fear that the legislation likely to be proposed by the new Government will be no wider in its scope than similar Bills on the same subjects introduced, or taken charge of, by the last Government. The reason for this gloomy prophecy is founded on the fact that last year's Bills were mainly drafted by the Government Departments concerned, and these did not change with the change of Government. That does not mean that women's organisations will not do all that is possible to see that the scope of these Bills is widened. Only time will show the result of these efforts.

The N.U.S.E.C. is promoting a Bill on the Status of the Married Woman. An Affiliation Orders Bill, promoted by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, will be introduced as a private member's Bill; and the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene are promoting a measure to repeal the present solicitation laws, which it is hoped to have introduced by a private member.

Equal Franchise.

The Prime Minister has been asked by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to receive a deputation of a large number of organisations, urging the immediate appointment of the Committee promised during the election campaign, to consider what legislation should be introduced to provide Equal Franchise. It is interesting at this juncture to see whether the deputation will be received or the Committee appointed, but it is very likely that whenever the Committee is appointed it will report in favour of giving Equal Franchise to men and women at the age of 25. This proposal, which involves taking the vote away from men between 21 and 25, will be so hotly opposed that the whole proposal will, in all probability, be dropped, and Equal Franchise once more elude our grasp.

Annual Council Meetings.

We would remind readers of *Jus* that our Annual Council Meetings will be held on March 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, at King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road. In the last issue we announced our public luncheon, at which the guests of honour will be the Duchess of Atholl, Lady Astor, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, and Mr. Isaac Foot. We can now announce that a Reception will be given on the night of Wednesday, March 11th, to Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, Dame Ellen Terry, and Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake. We shall be very glad to welcome overseas visitors.

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

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

The annual meeting of the Liverpool and District branch was held on January 2nd. The secretary's and treasurer's reports both showed a great advance on last year, and augured well for the future of the branch.

Meetings were held during the year on Probation Work, Widows' Pensions, Humane Slaughter of Animals, Equal Guardianship of Infants, Taxation of Land Values, and the League of Nations.

Resolutions were sent to the Departments concerned, dealing with Equal Franchise, Women Police, Humane Slaughter, and Women on Hospital Boards.

The branch took part in the "No More War" demonstration, and in conferences on Housing and Women on Hospital Boards.

At the General Election the local candidates were questioned on points on the programme of the Alliance, and assistance was given to the one local woman candidate.
J. A. B.

HOLLAND.

A PERMANENT Committee has been formed of representatives of different organisations in order to take immediate action in the event of any attempt being made to reduce the social or economic position of women.

The following amplified account of the winter meeting of the Dutch Auxiliary, of which a shorter note appeared in our last issue, is of such interest that no apology is necessary for publishing a second article on the subject:—

The Winter Meeting of "De Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen."

At its general meeting on June 15, 1924, the "Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Staatsburgeressen" (Union of Women Citizens) passed a resolution that a winter meeting was to be held for the purpose of discussing a women's programme for the general elections in 1925.

In accordance with this resolution a draft programme was set before the meeting on November 23. It contained the following demands of the women citizens:—

1. A marriage law based upon the principle of equal rights and equal duties of both husband and wife.
2. The right to work and free choice of a profession for the married women as well as the unmarried.
3. Equal pay for equal work.
4. Appointment to every profession and post to be open for women, with the same prospects as men for promotion to higher posts.
5. No special protection for women workers with the exception of pregnant women and young mothers.
6. Reduction in the State expenses, save those concerning the cultural and hygienic welfare of the population.
7. Substitution of arbitration for force as a means for settling international differences.

Before the discussions were opened, Mrs. B. Bakker, Nort D.L., spoke about "Women's Concerns in the Coming Elections." She pointed out the wholly unsatisfactory attitude of our present government toward woman and woman's work, and stated that reaction shows its hand everywhere. There is no continuity and no security whatever for women officials. This government does not choose to pay its officials according to the value of the work done by them, but according to the needs of their families. The Salary Bill coming into force in January, 1925, is based on this principle.

Mrs. Bakker also referred to the great damage done to education by the introduction in the school of incompetent, badly paid assistants as teachers, and she urged over again upon the women citizens the desirability of economising on the cost of armaments instead of doing so at the cost of useful institutions and housewives.

The president, Mrs. v/d Hoeve-Bakker, introduced the programme in a speech in which she discussed "our attitude at the coming elections" and the way to make the best possible use of the women citizens' programme so that a new government may come into power less reactionary than the present one, and we may come nearer to our ideal of the social and economic equality of man and woman.

The programme was carried as it was set before the members, except that Article 7 will read as follows: "Compulsory arbitration for the settlement of international differences."

It was proposed and carried:—

1. That the programme be sent to the existing political parties and that they be asked to answer the question whether they agree with the seven points. Their answers will be published in the press, and the women citizens will support the candidates of the parties that accept the programme.

2. That meetings shall be held and parties invited to send their speakers, especially their women speakers, to these meetings. Besides, the branches of our Union must attend the party meetings held in their locality and report about them in the "Maandblad."

3. That pamphlets be written and distributed and personal calls made on the non-party women. This needs thorough preparation, so that everything may be ready when spring draws near with its electioneering work.

Another point of discussion was whether we must ask our government to ratify the Geneva Protocol. The resolution was taken to wait until its contents were published and then to decide.

Two songs were heard, one a hymn in honour of the pioneers' work and the other a kind of battle-song for the new generation. The words are by Angenieta Klooster, the music by Mrs. Lambrechts-Vos. The audience was grateful and enthusiastic, and there is no doubt but that this meeting will have the effect of strengthening the women citizens' action during the coming fight.

H. VAN BIEMA-HYMANS.

IRELAND.

Women in the Civil Service.

IT has been said that the price of freedom is eternal watchfulness. This is certainly true of that freedom to serve the community in whatever form they are fitted for, which women have gained at the cost of long effort. An instance of this has occurred lately in the Irish Free State.

Towards the end of September, 1924, an open competitive examination for junior administrative posts in the Civil Service was announced in the daily press of the Irish Free State. Women applying for entrance forms were informed that women were not eligible to compete. A woman who desired to sit for the examination wrote to the Civil Service Commissioners, pointing out that women were not excluded under the Regulations, as by these citizenship of Saor Stat Eireann was the only condition. As she was born in Ireland of Irish parents, she possessed this qualification. In reply the applicant was informed that the examination would be confined to male candidates. A few days later an announcement appeared in the press cancelling the examination, and stating that revised regulations for a new examination would be issued. When these appeared it was found that by the addition of the word "male" in brackets, the examination was confined to male candidates. Counsel's opinion was then taken, and was to the effect that the Civil Service Commission have no powers to exclude women from this or any similar examination, in view of the Civil Service Regulation Act. This measure provides that all posts under the Civil Service shall be open to all persons born in Ireland, of Irish parents, who are citizens of Saor Stat. Under this the exclusion of women was clearly against the clause in the Constitution which declares that men and women, without distinction of sex, are equally citizens of Saor Stat. A test case was then instituted and application made to the Attorney-General for permission to sue the Minister of Finance for the purpose of restraining him from holding the examination until further order. Under Free State procedure, a writ requires the fiat of the Attorney-General before it can be served on a Minister. It was in due course returned to plaintiff's solicitor from the Chief State Solicitor, with a statement to the effect that it was not intended to proceed with the examination, and that under the circumstances there was no necessity to proceed any further with the proposed action. On January 2nd an announcement appeared in the press, intimating that the examination already announced had been cancelled and that a competitive examination, open to men and women, would be held in April. A few days later it was similarly announced that an examination for junior executive officers, which had also been previously confined to male candidates, would be open to both men and women. When the Constitution was before Dail Eireann the Government tried to word the clause regarding equal citizenship, "Men and women shall have equal political rights." The

history of this successful agitation to secure equal terms for men and women in the Civil Service proves how necessary was the watchfulness on the part of women's organisations, which forced the abandonment of the vague phrase for the exact definition, "Men and women, without distinction of sex, shall be equally citizens of the Irish Free State."

DORA MELLONE,
Hon. Press Secretary.
National Council of Women of Ireland.

ITALY.

Just as we are going to press we learn with great regret that the clauses of the Electoral Reform Bill giving votes to women were defeated in all the Committees, and that the Bill has passed without a single reference to the women's vote, even the municipal vote. Some of the deputies even claimed that there was no demand for it! It is a heartbreaking disappointment after the good impression created by the suffrage leaders' interview with Signor Mussolini, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to the Italian suffragists.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE Otago branch of the New Zealand University is inaugurating a diploma and five-year training course for nurses in Dunedin—an innovation reminding us that Dunedin was the early seat of our University years before the first of the other colleges saw the light. The New Zealand Government assist by sending a hospital matron, Miss Janet Moore, to the Bedford College of Nursing, England, and it is proposed to send a second nurse next year. On their return, these students will train girls for hospital work and supervise the new course at Otago University, the seat of the New Zealand Medical School.

The women doctors appointed to be medical inspectors of the State schools have long won the confidence of parents, and are raising the standard of public health. The much more recent institution of dental clinics in the larger public schools, where the simpler operations are performed by women assistants, has also justified itself, and gone far to spread elementary knowledge of the care of the teeth.

The session, which midway brought so heavy a disappointment when the Women Justices Bill was thrown out in the Upper House, despite strong support from the organised women of the country, ended with two remarkable measures. The Gaming Bill brought down by the Government tended to please the racing clubs. The contentious clause granting thirty-one additional permits for the year ranged the enemies of the illegal bookmaker and the legalised totalisator in a solid body. A long and lively stonewall began, including almost the whole of the Labour members, with the more serious-minded Liberals and Government supporters. But, despite the indignant protests of the Churches and the women's societies the Bill passed.

Very different was the Pensions Act Amendment Bill, also a Government measure. By this, the old age pension is increased from fifteen shillings a week to seventeen and sixpence when the pensioner has no property or other source of income, while the maximum amount of property a pensioner can own without deduction has been raised from £340 to £520 in value, and the pensioner may now earn up to £52 a year without deduction. Most gratifying is the additional 2s. 6d. raising the widow's pension to 10s. a week, while each child under fourteen receives 10s. also. As in the case of the old age pension, the value of home property a widow may own without deduction has been raised from £340 to £520. Widows are allowed to earn, but earnings and pension together must not exceed £5 10s. a week. A merciful provision enables a magistrate to recommend the granting of a pension on these terms to a mother, not a widow, worthily caring for her children when their father is dead. New Zealand is paying £80,000 extra for these extensions to the widow's pension and £60,000 extra for the old age pension.

A most satisfactory provision is the granting of pensions to the blind. Applicants must be twenty years of age or over; must have resided in New Zealand ten years continuously before applying (short absences or time spent in vocational training not counted); must have been born blind or become blind in New Zealand; must be of good moral character and sober habits; and for five years before applying must not have been convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment for two years or upward. For the rest, it must be shown that the applicant has no private means and cannot be maintained by his relatives. The applicant will then receive the same pension, and on the same terms, as an old age pensioner, and may earn without deduction up to £2 10s. a week. The applicant must reside in New Zealand, save that leave is granted to go abroad for vocational training, such leave not to exceed two years.

The just pride we feel in having achieved such a measure is increased by a ministerial forecast of a scheme for universal, or all but universal, pensions in time to come.

Penal reforms of the year include an Act to help young offenders by extending and solidifying the Borstal systems introduced here some eight or nine years ago. Invercargill, our most southerly town, has been set apart for some years as the destination of youthful misdemeanants. Its reformatory school will be adjacent to the newly acquired farm area and homestead: the two will be worked on separate lines, the reward of reformation being promotion to the farm, and the penalty of backsliding re-committal to the reformatory. Less than seven per cent. of the inmates have hitherto been re-convicted after discharge. The new institution will undoubtedly cap this record. Invercargill, the second town in Otago, largely a "dry" province, is a singularly successful Prohibition borough of many years' standing. Reformers, particularly our expert penologist, Miss B. E. Baugham, are concentrating on better treatment and more effective protection for uncontrollable and defective girls. It is consoling to learn that we have only about fifty real women criminals in prison; the men average a little over nine hundred.

More, we trust, will be heard of our recently formed Food Reform and Anti-Cancer League—headquarters in Christchurch. The League stands broadly for vegetarianism, anti-alcoholism, and the substitution of water, fruits, vegetables, nuts, wholemeal, and brown sugar for tea, coffee, gassy drinks, meat, white flour, white sugar, and tinned foods. A growing party in the country favour food reform and natural treatment of disease.

The thinking women of New Zealand close the year with determination to continue the struggle for women police, women justices, and women magistrates—with determination also to fight every reactionary force arrayed against the Prohibition poll in December, 1925.

JESSIE MACKAY.

Christchurch, December 8th, 1924.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE causes and cures of war—what are they? This is the baffling problem which hundreds of representative American women from ten leading organisations, under the leadership of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, gave serious and sane consideration to in a seven-days conference in Washington, D.C., January 18 to 24. Women from every part of the country, recognised for their earnest efforts for peace, gathered in the Hall of Nations in the Hotel Washington for what was a unique conference.

It was not a gathering of women where social events held sway. It was a serious meeting, crammed full of instructive and enlightening addresses devoted to war and its allied subjects. It was the first effort by organised women in America to sweep aside the idealistic features of a world peace movement and look facts boldly in the face. It was the first time that responsible women took up the vexed question of "What Are the Causes and Cures of War?" from a scientific basis. It was a study programme, with round table conferences, public mass meetings, and luncheon and dinner discussions.

Associations which united for the Conference are the American Association of University Women, Council of Women for Home Missions, Federations of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions in North America, General Federation of Women's Clubs, National Board of the Young Women's Christian Associations, National Council of Catholic Women, National Council of Jewish Women, National League of Women Voters, National Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Women's Trade Union League.

Reasons for calling the Conference are clearly summed up in the formal call as follows:—

"The futility of war as a means of settling difficulties between nations becomes increasingly apparent as science is demonstrating the danger of destroying our civilisation by the character of modern warfare.

"The women's organisations of this country which have been working, through their respective programmes, for an ordered human society feel deeply their responsibility in this realm of war and peace.

"They believe it is time for their organisations to unite in taking steps to study the causes and cures of war."

When it is realised that the question of economic rivalries, over-population, imperialism, competition in armament, the traditional belief in war, the present state of naval and army preparedness, inter-relations of nations on the Western Continent, international courts, arbitration treaties, the League of Nations, disarmament, outlawry of war, the World Court, and diplomatic relations was discussed during this week's Conference, no greater proof is needed to support the statement that these representative women were determined to know something of the "causes and cures of war."

One of the first acts of the Conference was the appointment of two committees, whose function it was to bring before the Conference a programme of work based on the findings of the discussion sessions. As this article had to be mailed before the close of the Conference, it will be necessary to postpone the report of the committee until the next issue.

The National League of Women Voters played a large part in the work of the Conference, each of its state Leagues sending several delegates. Miss Belle Sherwin, president of the League, publicly expressed her approval of the aims of the Conference in the following words:—

"I welcome the plans for the Woman's Conference on the 'Cause and Cure of War' because they afford an opportunity which it is difficult to contrive, and which many busy women covet—an opportunity apart from all daily pre-occupations to collect and sift ideas upon a fundamental problem of life and governments.

"The division and topics of the programme are searching, the addresses promise to be illuminating, the discussions by women from all parts of the country are sure to be stimulating. But most important, to my mind, is the decision to set aside a week of the year like 'a quiet hollow scooped out of the windy hill' for the exclusive and thoughtful consideration of many aspects of one problem, and that problem world-wide, but dependent upon profound individual conviction for its solution."

The new year witnessed the inauguration of the first woman governors in the United States—Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, of Wyoming, and Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, of Texas. Mrs. Ross, who succeeded her husband as Governor, was quietly inducted into office on January 5. The inauguration ceremony was simple as possible because of the "tragedy of the circumstances which were responsible for my election," Mrs. Ross said. Taking place in the Governor's office, it consisted merely of a prayer and the administration of the oath of office by Chief Justice C. N. Potter, of the State Supreme Court. Mrs. Ferguson took over the reins of Texas government the middle of January. Her inauguration was attended by a large gathering of citizens from all parts of the state, and many prominent citizens from neighbouring Southern states.

Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, elected Secretary of the State of New York, assumed office on January 1, and had the honour of conducting the inauguration of Governor Alfred E. Smith for his third term. A total of 129

women will sit in state legislatures this year, representing an increase of forty over the number in the 1922 legislatures.

Much interest was displayed in Washington during the early part of the short session of the Sixty-eighth Congress in a visit from Mrs. Mary T. Norton, of New Jersey. Mrs. Norton will be the only woman sitting in the Sixty-ninth Congress, which does not convene until next December unless called into special session by President Coolidge. Mrs. Norton visited the Capitol, was accorded the privileges of the floor of the House of Representatives, and was photographed with Mrs. Mae Nolan, of California, the only woman sitting in the present Congress.

For the first time in the history of Philadelphia a woman has been named a member of the city's minor judiciary. She is Mrs. Violet E. Fahnestock, and was appointed by Governor Gifford Pinchot to succeed Benjamin H. Renshaw. Mrs. Fahnestock is especially fitted for the work, being president of the Philadelphia County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, a member of the executive committee of the Law Enforcement League, and widely known for her activity in women's clubs and independent political circles.

More and more women are entering upon work previously open to men only. A recent example is that of Miss Margaret W. Wythe, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, at Berkeley, California, who has been appointed temporary inspector of foreign birds and mammals at the port of San Francisco. The work is done for the purpose of preventing the entrance of animals and birds injurious to agriculture.

ANN WILLIAMS.

RUTH KIMBALL GARDINER.

Ruth Kimball Gardiner, writer of books, contributor to leading American and English magazines, for two years press secretary of the National League of Women Voters, died in Washington in November. A technician of the highest skill, Mrs. Gardiner was a worker who loved her art. To her, pure and simple English transcended all literary style—simple English was style. Generous in counsel, unstinted in praise where praise was merited, and firm in criticism, her advice was constantly sought by younger writers.

Death loves a shining mark, and aims high when the talented among us fall. Citizens of Mrs. Gardiner's ability are all too few in any place and any time.—A. W.

WOMEN ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

THE Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations was held recently at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., and was presided over by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. At the morning session the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

"The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations offers its warmest congratulations to Mrs. Swanwick on her having been invited to make the last speech in the discussion on the Protocol at the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations, and on the able manner in which she performed it."

"This Council urges the British Government to send a woman as fully accredited delegate to the next Assembly of the League of Nations."

"This Council continues its efforts to induce the British Government to include women among the technical advisers who accompany the British delegate to the Council Sessions."

"This Council records its indignation at the omission of women from the Commission appointed to investigate the whole question of slavery; and urges the British representative of the League to press for the appointment of a British woman to this Commission."

"The Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations wishes to call the attention of the British Government to the fact that although the women members of the Assembly, equally with the men, are interested in all the various aspects of the work of the

League, it has, up to the present, been customary to place them chiefly on the Fifth Committee. This Council, therefore, hopes that women members may, in future, be appointed to those other Committees on which, by their individual knowledge, they are well qualified to serve."

"This Council notes the decision of the Assembly of the League of Nations to deal with the Care of Children as part of the work of the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, and to reconstitute this Committee for the double purpose. In view of the special aspects of the work for children, this Council urges the claim of International Organisations of Women to be permitted to nominate an assessor having expert knowledge of Child Welfare, in addition to their present nominee on the Committee for the work on Traffic in Women and Children."

"This Council of Women desires to point out that by the proposed addition of M. Rappard to the Permanent Mandates Commission, the number of men members will then be nine, and that only one woman has a place on the Commission. This Council urgently petitions the Council of the League at the same time to add another woman to the Permanent Mandates Commission, as they consider the present representation of women upon that Committee totally inadequate, in view of the immense women populations that are dealt with under the Committee, and the unlimited field in the mandated areas for co-ordinated work of men and women."

It was further resolved that a Conference of Women's Societies should be arranged as speedily as possible, in order to press for the appointment of a woman delegate to the new Commission on Slavery, and for at least one more woman on the Permanent Mandates Commission, where Frau Bugge Wicksell now sits alone.

At the afternoon session Mrs. Swanwick, British substitute delegate to the Fifth Assembly, and Mr. Wilson Harris, Editor of *Headway*, were the principal speakers. Mrs. Swanwick impressed the fact that it was not malice on the part of men because so few women were in prominent positions in the League, but rather because there were so few women in their respective Governments. The appointment of women as fully accredited delegates to the Assembly, however, was long overdue. It was comparatively easy for women to get on to the League Commissions, though even these were strictly limited in numbers, with a reasonable representation of nationalities.—*The Vote*.

A SPANISH WOMAN OF SCIENCE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

THERE is a tradition that Oliva Sabuco, born at Alcaraz in 1562, practised in her natal town. But it is as a writer that she made her mark. In the sixteenth century it still seemed possible to take all knowledge for one's province, and it was a "New Philosophy of the Nature of Man" that this young woman published at the age of 25. The book went through many editions, "some of them fraudulent," that being, as Padre Graciano Martinez remarks, testimony to its wide repute. But perhaps it is not so certain what was and what was not part of the original edition, for in 1707 the Inquisition concerned itself to suppress certain passages. This on the demand, not of the theologians (whose domain she had not entered), but of the accredited representatives of medicine, law, and politics.

For Sabuco was a reformer. She cared about the public good, and wrote to be read of all. Great part of her book is in Spanish, the remainder being in Latin. She attacks the law's delays, the corruption of the courts of justice. She publishes statistics to enforce her demand for educational reform and for the protection of agriculture. Her pages show her far in advance of the science of her time, as when she glances at the mutual attraction of material bodies almost as if she divined the theory of gravitation.

In the medical part of her work she is singularly little bound by traditional notions, and gives particular

(Continued on page 82.)

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

LA DEUXIÈME CONFÉRENCE DE LA PETITE ENTENTE DES FEMMES À BELGRADE.

La Petite Entente des femmes a tenu sa deuxième conférence à Belgrade du 30 Oct. au 4 Nov. Les pays qui y sont représentés envoyèrent tous des délégations plus ou moins complètes. Chaque pays a droit à quatre déléguées. Les chefs des délégations étaient: pour la Roumanie, Princesse Alexandrine Cantacuzène, présidente de la P. E. F.; pour la Yougoslavie, Mme. Leposova Petkovitch; pour la Pologne, la doctoresse Budinska Tylicka; pour la Tchécoslovaquie, Mmes. F. Plaminkova et E. Purkinova (la Tchécoslovaquie étant représentée depuis la fondation de la P. E. F. par deux sociétés différentes). La délégation grecque se composait de Mme. Avra Théodoropoulo, présidente; Mme. Hélène Négroponitès et Mlle. Calliope Mitsotakis.

Les sujets qui furent mis à l'ordre du jour étaient répartis en trois catégories. (1) Législative. (2) Féministe. (3) Politique. La première catégorie comprenait les discussions relatives à la position de la femme dans les codes civils des différents pays, et à la situation de l'enfant illégitime. La deuxième catégorie, des propositions et des discussions sur les méthodes à employer pour obtenir l'égalité politique pour la femme et pour éveiller chez celle-ci le sentiment des droits civiques. La troisième comprenait des exposés de chaque pays sur les questions de politique extérieure des pays représentés dans la P. E. F., et l'attitude de la P. E. F. dans ces questions.

Après un travail assidu et des discussions très intéressantes, le congrès vota les résolutions suivantes:

(1) Que les femmes yougoslaves, grecques, et roumaines obtiennent dans le plus bref délai leurs droits politiques intégraux, considérant que, dans les pays où elles jouissent de ces droits, les femmes n'ont travaillé que pour le grand bien de leur pays et pour la protection de l'enfant qui assure l'avenir de la race.

(2) Que toute inégalité soit éliminée des codes civils en vigueur en ce qui concerne la femme.

(3) Que les gouvernements et corps législatifs de Grèce, Pologne Tchécoslovaquie, Roumanie, et Yougoslavie prennent en discussion dès la présente session des Parlements la législation concernant l'enfant issu hors du mariage, sur la base du mémoire rédigé par la conférence et qui sera présenté aux hautes assemblées.

Cette motion sera présentée par chaque délégation au gouvernement de son pays, signée par toutes les représentantes des différents pays.

La résolution sur les enfants illégitimes donna lieu à des discussions prolongées. Une des deux représentantes de la Tchécoslovaquie, Mme. Plaminkova fit la proposition que dans chaque pays soit instituée une caisse, qui sera alimentée par les impôts que paieraient les pères d'enfants illégitimes. Cette caisse assurerait le soutien des enfants dès le moment où la mère en ferait la demande, et avant même que la paternité soit prouvée. Elle fonctionnerait ainsi d'une façon automatique, et la mère elle-même serait à l'abri de la misère pendant le temps de la grossesse et jusqu'au moment où elle serait capable de travailler. Les enfants recevraient tous une pension égale, tandis que les pères paieraient un impôt proportionnel à leur fortune. De cette manière il y aurait un surplus qui constituerait un fonds dont la caisse puiserait pour donner une pension égale à tous les enfants. Cette somme serait fixée selon les nombres indices, pour pourvoir à tous les frais d'alimentation et d'éducation de l'enfant jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans.

La séance politique a été des plus intéressantes. Il y régna une telle sincérité, une telle bonne volonté pour aplanir les causes de désagrément qui surgissent naturellement entre des nations voisines dont les populations s'entreprennent, qui ont toutes des minorités de différentes nationalités, un tel désir d'assurer une paix durable entre nos pays, que nous en sortimes le cœur plein d'espoir et de confiance dans l'avenir. Il régna dans toutes les discussions un tact parfait, et une atmosphère de cordialité tout-à-fait exquise.

Les différentes organisations féminines de Yougoslavie qui se firent représenter dans les réunions dans les banquets, dans les séances publiques, prouvèrent combien les femmes Yougoslaves sont conscientes de leurs droits et de leurs devoirs de citoyennes, et combien elles méritent l'affranchissement pour lequel elles luttent si méthodiquement.

Le monde officiel de Belgrade prit une part très active à cette conférence par des réceptions offertes aux délégations. Le Roi accorda la médaille de St. Sava à la présidente de la P. E. F. et à toutes les présidentes des délégations.

A l'occasion de la conférence, une exposition de travaux féminins de tous les pays de la P. E. F. fut organisée. C'est ainsi qu'on arrive à se connaître mieux et à s'estimer en étudiant les différents produits de l'industrie et de l'art appliqué. On trouve d'ailleurs tant de points communs, tant de ressemblances dans les travaux des pays du Sud-est Européen, que l'idée d'une parenté nationale s'impose d'elle-même pour arriver à la seule solution du problème balkanique, l'union de tous ces états sous une forme fédérative.

C'est dans cet esprit que fut tenu le discours de Mme. A. Théodoropoulo, présidente de la délégation grecque, à la séance publique.

Selon les statuts, la présidente de la P. E. F., passe chaque année à un autre pays. La présidente de la section Yougoslave, Mme. Petkovitch fut unanimement élue présidente pour cette année. La conférence prochaine aura lieu à Athènes.

Le programme de travail pour la prochaine conférence comprend le code matrimonial, la situation de la femme employée et ouvrière, la question des minorités et quelques autres sujets secondaires. En général le travail accompli a été des plus sérieux et chaque délégation y a mis toutes ses qualités et toute sa bonne volonté au service de l'intérêt commun. Nous croyons fermement qu'une force considérable a été créée dans l'Europe par cette union des femmes, force qui deviendra un facteur inappréciable pour l'émancipation de la femme dans nos pays et pour la création d'une paix durable.

—La Lutte de la Femme.

VICTOIRES FÉMINISTES DE 1924.

Les réponses suivantes ont été reçues au questionnaire imprimé dans notre dernier numéro, en plus de celles qui y paraissaient:—

Cuba.

5. Jusqu'à présent nous n'avons obtenu qu'une réforme de la loi concédant à la femme mariée la libre administration de ses biens et de sa dot.

6. Deux jeune filles viennent d'être nommées dans la carrière diplomatique; une autre, avocat consultant au Conseil Communal de la Havane.

Grèce.

3. Les femmes avocates ont été admises au barreau; elles auront le droit de faire un stage auprès d'un avocat professionnel pour pouvoir ensuite passer un examen auprès de la cour de cassation pour obtenir le droit de plaider devant les tribunaux. Un projet de loi a été présenté au parlement selon lequel il sera organisé une section de femmes agents de la police de ville ou police des mœurs. Ce projet a été voté en première lecture.

Australie.

4. *Australie du Sud.*—Les seules améliorations obtenues sont: l'établissement d'écoles ménagères pour les jeunes filles.

6. Oui. Le département de l'Instruction publique a nommé une inspectrice de plus et une femme diplômée en psychologie.

6. *Tasmanie.*—Des femmes ont été nommées juges de paix, et d'autres dans le conseil administratif des hôpitaux.

3. *Australie de l'Ouest.*—Non. Cependant une femme, Miss Morrison, a été reçue architecte.

6. Non. (a) Un bill pour nommer des femmes dans les jurys était fait d'une manière si injuste qu'on n'a pas regretté son insuccès. (b) Un bill pour instituer une loterie officielle au profit des œuvres charitables a été combattu par les femmes et n'a pas passé. (c) 1924 a vu un progrès réel dans le mouvement féministe. La "Women's Service Guild" s'est agrandie, a créé deux branches nouvelles et est devenue un centre reconnu d'activité féministe. Les femmes s'intéressent de plus en plus aux œuvres sociales et ont fondé des sociétés dans tout le pays.

Afrique du Sud.

2. La "Ligue d'affranchissement des femmes" de Durban a obtenu une amélioration des lois municipales en faveur des femmes électrices. Aux élections du Conseil d'administration des Ecoles à Port Elisabeth, deux femmes ont été élues et une candidate au Conseil municipal n'a échoué que par un petit nombre de voix.

6. L'œuvre de l'Association pour l'affranchissement des femmes a prospéré. De nouvelles sociétés ont été fondées à Zeerust, Standerton et Volksrust, au Transvaal et dans le centre important de Cradock.

Suède.

3. Une loi accordant aux femmes les mêmes opportunités qu'aux hommes a passé en 1923, mais n'a pas encore été appliquée parce que la question des salaires n'a pas été résolue. Une proposition royale sera probablement présentée au parlement en 1925.

4. Non. Quoique l'égalité de tutelle des enfants existe en matière de religion, d'éducation et d'enseignement, une loi vient de passer qui n'accorde la tutelle économique qu'au père, si l'enfant mineur possède des biens.

6. La nouvelle loi sur les nationalités permet à une femme suédoise qui épouse un étranger de garder sa nationalité, sauf quand elle réside dans le pays de son mari et acquiert la nationalité de ce pays.

ROUMANIE.

Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme. Rapport pour fin d'année.

L'activité de la Ligue pour l'année 1924 a été des plus intenses et réelles. Durant une année on a fait au siège du Club du Parti National Roumain, Calea Victoriei 80, tous les Vendredis, une série de réunions de 4 à 8 heures p.m.

En tout 26 réunions avec 14 conférences, la conférence que Mme. la Présidente, invitée par le Parti National, a tenue au Cercle d'Etudes du Parti National et 3 grandes réunions publiques avec les paysannes veuves de guerre.

Le sujet à débattre pour les paysannes a été le fait que conformément à l'article 78 Ch. X. de la loi pour la propriété agricole de 1921, les paysannes veuves de guerre ne possèdent pas de terrains cultivables et elles sont laissées dans la quatrième catégorie, la plupart d'entre sont surchargées d'enfants et plongées dans la misère.

La première réunion a été tenue au siège du Club du Parti National. Plus de 5,000 paysannes étaient venues avec leurs enfants. Les personnes qui ont pris la parole sont Mme. Steliana Ciortesco, directrice de l'école d'horticulture pour jeunes filles; Mlle. Maria Pepenaru, présidente des "Paysannes veuves de guerre"; le sculpteur, Stefanescu; deux paysannes, et Mme. Eugénie de Reuss Janculescu, ainsi que l'avocat Maciuceanu.

La deuxième réunion eut lieu dans la Salle des Ingénieurs Constructeurs. La salle était bondée. Des milliers de paysannes étaient venues de tous les points du pays pour défendre leur cause et écouter les nombreux orateurs. Le Dr. Nicolae Lupu, leader du parti des paysans; l'avocat Maciuceanu; l'archevêque Scriban; Mme. Lucia Teodorescu, présidente de la filiale de Bârlad; Mme. Steliana Ciortesco, le Dr. Eugène Petresco, Mlle. Alexandra Stoika, Mlle. Marie Pepenaru, Mme. Eugénie de Reuss Janculescu.

La troisième réunion eut lieu dans la salle de concerts "Transylvanie," sous les auspices du "Contrôle des Citoyens," société sous la présidence de Mme. la

Générale Cotesco. Femmes et hommes ont pris la parole à tour de rôles.

Le 29 juin eut lieu l'Assemblée Générale, qui en premier lieu eut à ratifier le Fédération et les statuts de la Fédération des suivantes sociétés: (a) Ligue pour les Droits et Devoirs de la Femme; (b) Association pour l'émancipation civile et politique de la femme; (c) Société des paysannes veuves de guerre; (d) Ligue Nationale des Femmes Roumaines, et les sociétés féministes de Jassy sous la présidence de Mme. Hélène Meissner.

On discuta les statuts de la Ligue auxquels quelques modifications furent apportées.

On a contrôlé et discuté la situation financière qui aurait eu pour résultat un déficit, si Mme. la Présidente n'aurait pas soutenu tous les frais de la société, durant une année, de sa propre poche.

On a encore créé les sections suivantes: (a) Education physique, (b) Hygiène, (c) Paix, et (d) Section de la Paysanne.

Mme. la Présidente a annoncé la réapparition de la revue "Droits des Femmes" en automne.

Pour son profond dévouement à la cause, pour le fait d'avoir été le pionnier du suffragisme en Roumanie, pour les sacrifices innombrables faits pour la Ligue, Mme. Eugénie de Reuss Janculescu a été élue à l'unanimité dans l'assemblée générale, comme présidente à vie. Cette femme à l'esprit si haut et si large, dont rien n'a pu altérer le dévouement à la cause, a été profondément émue de cette élection qui est comme une récompense pour les longues et innombrables souffrances de cette année.

Dans une seconde réunion elle a raconté le long martyre des 20 années de luttés pour une si grande cause et les hautes initiatives humanitaires que la Ligue a prises durant les 13 années de féminisme militant.

Cette seconde Assemblée a été une bonne leçon d'oubli de soi pour le triomphe d'une cause.

Le couronnement de l'activité de la Ligue a été le fait que Mme. de Reuss passant ses vacances à Sovata, où se trouvait aussi Sa Majesté la Reine de Roumanie, a pu, dans une splendide fête organisée par Mme. de Reuss et un comité de femmes de Transylvanie, présenter à S.M. la question sous un aspect des plus sérieux et profondément documenté. Et le clou de la fête a été le fait que le 21 septembre on a inauguré à Bârlad le statue que la Ligue pour les Droits et les Devoirs de la Femme a élevée au grand poète Alexandre Vlahutza pour avoir été le défenseur des droits de la Femme. L'initiative a été due à notre vaillante et admirable oratrice Mme. Lucia Teodorescu, présidente de la filiale de Bârlad.

Fêtes et banquets furent très réussis, tout le monde officiel donnant son appui.

Ciselée en pierre sur le socle de la statue, le nom de la "Ligue pour les Droits de la Femme" vivra au moins la vie de la pierre.

Avec les grands et nouveaux sacrifices de la présidente, nous avons aussi un organe de publicité, la revue "Droits de la Femme" et à présent on prépare le programme de la nouvelle activité de la Ligue.

BELGIQUE.

Sous les auspices du Comité National Belge de la Défense contre la traite des femmes et des enfants, sous la présidence de Mr. Isidore Maus, a eu lieu une importante réunion des trente principales sociétés belges de protection ou d'amélioration morale. Mlle. Van den Plas fit rapport sur les conséquences de la décision prise par la Ville de Bruxelles de supprimer la réglementation et fit un remarquable discours sur la situation.

Une déléguée anversoise signala les grands services rendus dans sa ville par la police féminine.

L'assemblée approuva la suppression de la réglementation et examinera dans une prochaine réunion les mesures à prendre pour l'avenir.

Une loi importante a été promulguée au tribunal de commerce du royaume qui modifie l'électorat et l'éligibilité consulaire. Dorénavant, les femmes y sont admises.

Pour la première fois le 20 octobre, une femme est officiellement reconnue comme chauffeur de taxi.

BULGARIE.

Le Congrès annuel de l'Union des Femmes Bulgares a eu lieu le 23-26 novembre cette année à Sofia, où il y eut réunies des déléguées de 50 associations féminines toutes remplies de zèle et de bonne volonté de travailler pour la réalisation de l'idéal féminin. Le comité exécutif s'est constitué comme il suit:—

Mme. Julie Malinoff, présidente.
Mme. B. Beron, dr. med., vice-présidente.
Mlle. Liwka Dragnewa, dr. phil., secrétaire.
Mme. P. Preslawska, trésorière.
Mme. B. Iwanowa, rédactrice de "Jenski Glas."
Mme. F. Karawelowa, Mme. Tchakalowa, Mme. R. Stalijiska, et Mme. R. Petrova, membres du comité.

La secrétaire: L. DRAGNEWA.

FRANCE.**L'Eligibilité aux Chambres de Commerce.**

Les commerçants français qui avaient le droit de vote dans les chambres de commerce, viennent de gravir un nouvel échelon.

Voici en effet le texte de la loi qui leur confère l'éligibilité:

Article premier.—Les femmes, commerçantes ou anciennes commerçantes, régulièrement inscrites sur les listes électorales des tribunaux et chambres de commerce et qui satisfont aux conditions d'éligibilité imposées aux commerçants ou anciens commerçants hommes, sont éligibles aux chambres de commerce.

Art. 2.—La présente loi est applicable à l'Algérie, à la Guadeloupe, à la Martinique et à la Réunion.

Nous ne saurions trop recommander aux femmes de profiter de cette occasion qui leur est offerte de faire l'apprentissage du suffrage et de poser leur candidature, en attendant qu'un plus vaste champ soit ouvert à leur activité.

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.**Mme. La Mazière.**

Mme. La Mazière dont nous donnons le portrait, est une journaliste féministe très connue, chevalier de la Légion d'honneur. Elle est présidente du cercle Soroptimiste de Paris qui comprend 92 membres représentant chacun une profession différente. Les deux vice-présidentes sont Dr. Suzanne Noël, spécialiste des maladies de la peau, et Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, avocate connue au Palais de Justice. Mme. La Mazière est l'auteur de "Les Françaises doivent-elles voter?" et d'une série d'articles publiés dans "Le Monde Nouveau."

Voyage de la Présidente.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby s'embarquera le 17 mars pour les Etats-Unis; elle sera l'hôte de l'Association américaine des femmes universitaires à leur assemblée annuelle du 8 au 11 avril à Indianapolis et sera la seule oratrice au lunch du 10 avril. De là, elle se rendra à Richmond, Virginia, pour être l'hôte de la Ligue nationale des femmes électriques à leur assemblée annuelle du 15 au 22 avril. Puis elle assistera au Congrès quinquennal du Conseil international des femmes le 4 mai à Washington, comme une des trois déléguées de l'Alliance.

Grande Bretagne.

Distinctions honorifiques.—Deux femmes viennent d'être créées Dames Grand Croix de l'Empire Britannique; ce sont Dame Millicent Fawcett et Dame Ellen Terry; une troisième a été créée Dame de l'Ordre; c'est Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake. On sait tout ce que la cause du suffrage doit à Dame M. Fawcett, et le gouvernement s'honore en récompensant une femme parce qu'elle a voué sa vie à la cause féministe.

Femmes fonctionnaires et professeurs.—Un événement intéressant a été l'assemblée annuelle de l'Union nationale des femmes professeurs. Leur traitement est moindre que celui des hommes, leur représentation dans les comités est insuffisante, et leurs chances de direction moindres, puisque les directeurs d'écoles mixtes sont des hommes, les bourses accordées aux jeunes filles sont moins nombreuses. En général, les femmes fonctionnaires sont

moins bien traitées que les hommes. Le gouvernement a reconnu cette injustice, il y a quatre ans; mais a allégué la situation financière; aujourd'hui il n'a pas modifié son attitude. Aussi, 1925 verra une revendication énergique des femmes sur ce point.

La nouvelle session.—Le Parlement va se réunir de nouveau le 10 février. On dit que le gouvernement se propose de discuter les projets de loi sur la tutelle des enfants, la séparation, la pension alimentaire, la légitimation; mais on craint que le nouveau gouvernement n'aborde le sujet avec des vues aussi étroites que l'ancien.

Union nationale pour l'égalité des droits civiques.—L'Union présentera un Bill sur le status de la femme mariée et un autre "Affiliation Orders Bill" pour l'enfant naturel et sa mère. L'Union a demandé au Premier Ministre de recevoir ses délégués et de nommer un Comité qui présentera une loi sur la franchise égale; mais si le Comité décide que la franchise sera égale à 25 ans pour les deux sexes, ce projet sera vivement combattu au Parlement.

Réunion annuelle du Comité de l'Union.—Cette réunion aura lieu du 11 au 14 mars à King George Hall. Un lunch public aura pour hôtes d'honneur: La Duchesse d'Atholl, Lady Astor, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, et Mr. Isaac Foot. Une réception sera offerte le mercredi soir 11 mars aux trois nouvelles Dames de l'Empire Britannique.

Canada.

Toutes les femmes de Québec, mariées ou célibataires, ont le droit de vote aux élections fédérales, mais non aux élections provinciales. Les femmes célibataires possédant des propriétés à leur nom peuvent voter aux élections municipales et aux élections scolaires, mais elles ne peuvent plus quand elles sont mariées, de sorte que, si le mari a déjà un vote, leur propriété perd sa représentation. Pour les écoles, le plus curieux est que les mères seules soient exclues. Il va sans dire qu'aucune femme n'est éligible aux assemblées législatives (municipales ou scolaires). Une seule exception à Québec, où il y a une mairesse (municipalité de St. Jean de Dieu), qui est la mère supérieure de l'asile de Longue-Pointe.

Nouvelle-Zélande.

L'Université a inauguré un cours d'infirmières avec diplôme à Dunedin. Des femmes docteurs ont été nommées inspectrices médicales dans les écoles de l'Etat. A la dernière session, deux mesures très différentes ont été prises: 1° Le Bill sur les jeux, accordant 31 nouvelles licences par an, a passé malgré l'opposition des Eglises et des Sociétés féministes. 2° Une mesure plus sage a élevé la pension de retraite aux vieillards de 15 sh. à 17 sh. 6 et la pension des veuves, de 7 sh. 6 à 10 sh. par semaine. Une autre loi accorde aux aveugles la même pension qu'aux vieillards. Les réformes pénales de l'année comprennent un Acte qui appuie et étend le système Borstal pour la protection des jeunes délinquants. Une ferme-école leur est ouverte.

Allemagne.

33 femmes ont été élues au nouveau Reichstag.—L'ancien Reichstag n'en comprenait que 28; le nombre total des députés étant de 493 (au lieu de 471 à la dernière session) la proportion des femmes qui devait être de 29 au lieu de 28, a donc été dépassée. Elles comprennent: 17 socialistes (au lieu de 10), 5 nationalistes (au lieu de 4), 2 communistes (au lieu de 5), tandis que la proportion des autres partis est restée à peu près la même. Les projets de loi du nouveau Reichstag sur lesquels les femmes auront à dire leur mot sont: L'ancien projet contre les maladies vénériennes, voté l'an dernier et repoussé par le Reichsrat; le projet sur la nationalité des femmes mariées; le renvoi des femmes fonctionnaires; enfin d'autres questions plus générales. Ainsi un grand nombre de circulaires ont été envoyées aux nouvelles chambres par les sociétés féministes: elles traitent du bien-être du peuple, du soin des enfants, de la position légale des femmes, des professions féminines, de l'enseignement féminin, etc.

40 femmes au Landtag prussien.—Il n'y a, cette fois, que 40 femmes sur 450 membres du Landtag, contre 46 dans la dernière diète. Les partis féminins s'y

répartissent dans la même proportion que les partis masculins.

Etats-Unis.

Causes et remèdes de la guerre.—Quelques centaines de femmes déléguées des sociétés féministes de toutes les parties des Etats-Unis se sont réunies dans le Hall des Nations à l'hôtel Washington sous la présidence de Mrs. Chapman Catt pour étudier les moyens d'éviter les guerres futures.

Attendu que: la futilité des guerres comme moyen de résoudre les difficultés entre nations devient de plus en plus évidente et que la science a démontré le danger que court la civilisation par les procédés de guerre employés dans les temps modernes, les Sociétés féministes de ce pays qui travaillent à construire une société ordonnée ont le sentiment profond de leur responsabilité en ce qui concerne la guerre et la paix. Elles jugent qu'il est temps que leurs sociétés s'unissent pour étudier les causes et les remèdes de la guerre. Deux comités d'études ont été formés; leur rapport sera publié prochainement.

Nominations.—Les deux premières femmes gouverneurs d'Etats, Mme. Nelly Taylor Ross, du Wyoming, et Mme. Myriam A. Ferguson, du Texas, ont pris possession de leurs fonctions. Une femme, Mme. Violet Fahnestock, a été nommée par le gouverneur de Philadelphie "Member of the City's Minor Judiciary." Miss M. Wythe, du Museum de Zoologie, de Berkeley, en Californie, a été nommée inspectrice temporaire des Oiseaux et des Mammifères du port de San Francisco. Ce poste est créé pour empêcher l'entrée d'animaux nuisibles à l'agriculture.

Hollande.

Assemblée générale de l'Union des citoyennes.—Cette assemblée a discuté un programme en vue des élections générales de 1925: 1° Loi sur le mariage, basé sur le principe des droits et des devoirs égaux de époux. 2° Droit au travail et au choix d'une profession, aussi bien pour les femmes mariées que pour les célibataires. 3° Salaire égal pour travail égal. 4° toutes les professions officielles et privées ouvertes aux femmes, avec les mêmes chances d'avancement. 5° Réduction des dépenses de l'Etat, sauf en ce qui concerne l'hygiène et la culture de la population. 6° Substitution de l'arbitrage à la force comme moyen de régler les différends internationaux.

L'Assemblée vota le programme et décida qu'il serait envoyé à tous les partis politiques, que leur réponse serait publiée dans la presse et que les "citoyennes" soutiendraient les candidats des partis favorables. 2° Que les assemblées locales de l'Union inviteraient les divers partis à envoyer des orateurs. 3° Que des circulaires seraient distribuées aux femmes qui ne sont d'aucun parti.

LES FEMMES PHILOSOPHES.

(Suite et fin.)

Il faut aussi compter entre femmes pythagoriciennes les filles de Théano et de Pythagore: Mya, elle enseignait la philosophie aux femmes; Arignote, elle écrivit des vers et des livres de philosophie; et Damo dont Lysis, disciple de Pythagore, dit que son père lui laissa ses commentaires. La secte pythagoricienne avait ses dogmes secrets. Elle se refusa toujours à les communiquer aux profanes. Il y a encore une autre fille de Pythagore adonnée aussi à la philosophie: Sara. Jamblique classifie entre les femmes pythagoriciennes qui se sont rendues célèbres: Thémistocles, sœur de Pythagore, Philtatis, Ocello, Eccello, Chilonis, Théano femme de Brotin, Abrotelie, Echeeratie, Tyrsene, Bisorronde, Nesthéaduse, Byo, Babelyme, Cleochma, Phintis, Péricione, Mélisse, Rhodope et Ptolémaïs. Philochore fit un livre sur les disciples de Pythagore intitulé: Les femmes héroïques. Il y nomme encore d'autres.

A l'époque de l'apogée d'Athènes nous y voyons rayonner le génie d'Aspasie de Milet. Nous ne possédons d'elle aucun écrit, sauf les vers publiés par Héradius et transcrits par Athénée dans Le Banquet des Savants. Pour étudier sa vie et ses idées nous sommes forcés de nous contenter des données incomplètes et souvent contradictoires des historiens et des écrivains de l'antiquité.

Elle arriva à Athènes aux temps de Périclès. La partie de sa vie antérieure à sa liaison avec Périclès nous est assez inconnue. Elle ouvrit à Athènes une sorte d'académie; Anaxagore la fréquentait; Périclès et Socrate y prirent d'elle des leçons de rhétorique.

Fut-elle la femme de Périclès? Plutarque l'avance comme un fait positif. Les poètes comiques, Héraclides et Eulipolis l'appellent l'hétaïre concubine de Périclès. Mais même de leurs railleries se dégage que Périclès nourrit pour elle un amour inaltérable renforcé par la communion intellectuelle qu'il eut pour elle les égards dus à une compagne réputée digne de soi et l'associa à sa destinée triomphante. Antisthène, Euripide, Aristide, Philostrate s'accordent pour nous dire que sa nature réfléchie une grande facilité à exprimer ses idées, son indépendance à l'égard des préjugés, aidés par l'influence qui exerçait sur elle son amitié avec Anaxagore, la prédisposaient aux spéculations philosophiques. Mais c'est surtout comme moraliste qu'il faut la considérer. La vue du cercle réduit dans lequel se fanait l'intelligence de la plupart des femmes grecques lui inspira l'idée de les réunir et de se devouer au relèvement de leur condition sociale. Elle leur faisait des discours et des dialogues. Elle employait les mêmes procédés dont plus tard Socrate devait se servir pour instruire la jeunesse. Nous avons de cela le témoignage des disciples de Socrate que nous montrent la nature de ces entretiens. Pour apprécier l'originalité des prédications d'Aspasie il ne faut pas oublier qu'elle précéda Socrate.

Diogène Laërce et Clément d'Alexandrie nomment entre les disciples célèbres de Platon Lasthénie et Axiotée.

Dans "La vie des philosophes" de Diogène Laërce se trouve insérée celle d'Hipparchie, disciple de Crates. Elle l'épousa et adopta la vie, les mœurs et l'habillement des philosophes cyniques. Elle renonça à ses biens. Diogène Laërce rapporte comment elle confondit Théodore par ses réponses et en lui opposant des sophismes. Suidas dit qu'elle écrivit plusieurs ouvrages: Hypothèses philosophiques, les Epicherèmes et des polémiques adressées à Théodore, dit l'athée.

Le jardin d'Epicure s'orna aussi de la présence des femmes: Thémisto, dont nous ne pouvons pas apprécier le savoir que par les lettres à la teneur philosophique qu'elle échangea avec Epicure. Cicéron l'appelle savante, Diogène Laërce, Clément et Gassendi la rangent entre les femmes philosophes.

Léonce, épicurienne, prit une part active dans la querelle entre épicuriens et péripatécien. Elle écrivit contre Theophraste.

De Théophile, disciple d'Epicure, Martial dit: "Son jugement ne se ressent ni de la faiblesse de son sexe, ni des préjugés du vulgaire."

Pamphila, fille du grammairien Sotéride, s'adonna dès très jeune à l'étude de la philosophie. Dotée d'un jugement très sûr et d'un esprit ample et fin elle professa une philosophie complètement indépendante. Elle se consacra à la dialectique et aux questions morales et historiques. Elle publia huit livres de Mélanges où elle fait des observations et des réflexions morales très originales. Elle écrivit aussi un ouvrage sur les disputes, un autre sur la fête de Vénus, l'Abrégé de Ctepias et l'Abrégé des Histoires.

Une autre femme célèbre endossa le manteau des philosophes: Hypatie, fille de Théonis. Son père philosophe géomètre et mathématicien était son maître. La science recue de lui ne lui suffit pas. Elle se livra avec ardeur à l'étude de l'astronomie et des autres parties de la philosophie spéculative. Son esprit critique se pencha sur tous les systèmes pour en dégager avec un éclectisme très souple et très sensé ce qui lui semblait la vérité. Elle était devenue une autorité scientifique. Synésius, philosophe, était son disciple. Dans une lettre adressée à Hypatie il avoue d'avoir reçu d'elle toutes ses connaissances philosophiques. Elle écrivit des commentaires sur Diophante, sur le canon astronomique et sur les coniques d'Apollonius.

De Bérénice nous pouvons seulement dire qu'elle fournit à Stobée ses maximes philosophiques.

Parmi les femmes versées dans la philosophie il faut mentionner: Cléa à laquelle Plutarque dédia son livre "Des vertus des femmes," Eurydice, Eudocie fille du

philosophe Héraclite, Sosipatre, Myro honoré par Suidas du titre de philosophe, Nicarete amie et disciple de Stilfon, Arète fille et disciple d'Aristippe, Théodora disciple de Damacius, les cinq filles du philosophe Diodore, et Hegias la petite-fille de Plutarque.

A Rome nous rencontrons Caerellie amie de Cicéron, Julie Donna, épouse de l'Empereur Sévère, appelée philosophe par Philostrate, Anne femme de Nicéphore, artiste et philosophe, Gemine mère et fille et Amphistée disciples de Plontin, Eudocie, et Nouvelle qui a été peut-être la première femme juriconsulte.

Si donc les femmes, dans une époque où le jeu des circonstances étouffait chez elles l'éclosion des hautes facultés intellectuelles, sont allées chez les philosophes plutôt que d'accourir aux écoles des Phidias et des Praxitèles, cela est, ce me semble, une preuve assez éloquente qu'elles sont capables de s'élever d'elles-mêmes aux généralisations sûres et méthodiques.

Elles sont pourtant moins nombreuses que les hommes philosophes pourra-t-on m'objecter. Certes, mais pour donner à un fait sa valeur réelle il faut en tenir compte de toutes les circonstances qui le modifient. A Grèce et à Rome (et cela n'a pas beaucoup changé depuis lors) quand on découvrirait chez un jeune homme des dispositions pour l'étude de la philosophie on l'éprouvait : s'il s'agissait d'une jeune fille il lui fallait pour aboutir, non seulement les aptitudes naturelles, mais aussi l'énergie suffisante pour réagir contre les mœurs et les traditions, ce qui diminuait considérablement les chances.

Il reste encore un autre point où peuvent se cramponner les détracteurs : Ont-elles été des créatrices de doctrine ? Cela demande examen. Dans la science et la philosophie le génie et l'originalité consistent à analyser et à vérifier les travaux des antécédents pour leur opposer ses propres interprétations, et après cela poser en avant un pas, un humble petit pas. C'est cela une loi de la marche de l'esprit humain à laquelle n'ont échappé les plus puissants génies. L'histoire des sciences nous révèle que leur marche à travers le temps a été une chaîne ininterrompue aux mouvements ondulateurs. A ce point de vue les femmes se sont rangées très honorablement, comme nous venons de le constater, et ont contribué à l'évolution des idées philosophiques.

J'ai tenu à préciser qu'une grande partie de femmes philosophes est composée par des filles de philosophes et elles ont donné naissance à des filles et des fils qui se sont adonnés à la philosophie aux sciences et aux arts. Cela confirme les nombreuses observations que nous montrent que les hautes facultés intellectuelles ne sont pas transmissibles par hérédité unilatéralement, mais bilatéralement. Ces germes latents la société et l'éducation tendent à les étouffer chez la femme, pour éclore ils ont besoin, comme nous l'avons vu plus haut, du concours de l'énergie et des réactions individuelles.

Avant d'affirmer catégoriquement la femme est comme ceci ou comme cela, il faut examiner les causes qui l'ont ainsi faite : Rien n'est en soi ; tout se fait dans la nature ; nous ne sommes que le résultat des différences progressives survenues dans le cours de l'évolution. Et nous ne savons pas, nous ne pouvons pas savoir ce qui aurait produit l'intelligence masculine soumise au même emprisonnement qui a déprimé l'intelligence des femmes.

SARA REY ALVAREZ.

Londres, le 14 décembre, 1924.

THE DARK SIDE OF HINDUISM AND VEDICISM.

(Continued from page 70.)

sons are considered to relieve the father from every sort of debt—either of this life or of a former life.

3. Many Hindu religious writings testify that whenever and wherever the ancient people prayed for any offspring, they always asked for a son, but never for a daughter. In face of such facts, how can such writings be considered to be infallible or inspired or sufficient guides for the betterment of a society based on existence of both the sexes?

4. Infanticide was customary among ancient Hindus. Though this cruelty has been prohibited by legislation, yet it is very sad that cases of female child murder do sometimes take place secretly.

5. At the time of illness of the sons of the family large sums of money are spent in securing the best medical help, as well as in giving alms to promote recovery, but no such solicitude is shown on behalf of the daughters at such times. The appalling mortality of female children is reported almost everywhere.

6. Another handicap which the Hindu girl suffers, and which is not generally recognised by the public, is the sad lack of recreation, especially at an early age, when pastime is very necessary to normal development.

7. Generally, the Hindu daughter occupies the position of chattel. She, as a human being, has no choice at all in her marriage. That is why the husband can often purchase his bride from her relatives.

8. One of the strongest claims of the Hindu society is that their religion provides for the betterment of every living creature, but it is sad that their religious laws regarding legacies, etc., make no provision whatever for the daughters, whilst therein every provision is made for the sons and even for the male relatives very distantly related to the family.

Hindu Women's Handicaps.

9. In the midst of night little girls are often given away in marriage, long before they can understand the significance and responsibilities of married life. The boy and girl do not see each other until the marriage is over. And this is looked upon as a great meritorious act.

10. Marriage by purchase and marriage by exchange are also seen in many places.

11. Hindu law regards woman as designed by Nature to create a son. Hence the wife having a son is loved and respected, while the one who has had a girl is looked down upon. But to be barren is an even greater calamity.

12. The great Hindu law-maker, Manu, says, "Woman is essentially inferior to man. She is as impure as a falsehood. This is a fixed rule." (Manu, Chap. IX, 2-3-18.) Thus belief in woman's inferiority is a prepossession of the Hindu mind.

13. The Ramayan, one of the sacred scriptures, enjoins: "Drums, peasants, the depressed, animals and women—all these ought to be kept under iron sway."—Sundar Kand, 5.)

14. Manu says: "Women ought never to have any freedom."

15. Hinduism teaches that no woman as woman can obtain salvation. Even the message of Holy Scriptures is usually confined to men only. This is why the Hindu women, to avoid such miseries, always pray to God that their souls, after departure from this world, may not be placed again in the body of a woman.

16. Even in these days the rights of poor women are often generally ignored. If there is a sermon (*katha*) or lecture given, or book or article published by a pandit or a leader concerning the family life and its duties, the heaviest duties for the wife are mentioned, but with a desire to humour the prejudices of the general public, no mention is made of the duties of the husband towards his wife. Similarly, the Hindu Press is almost indifferent to the cause of women.

In a society where such injustices are practised, and such unfair distinctions are made, can there be any real progress? Never! If we expect any concessions, or privileges from those who are in authority over us, is it not only reasonable, and absolutely necessary, that we should also consider the rights and claims of the wives and mothers, or of other lowly folk who are so dependent upon us for their protection, sympathy, and love? Until we come to a place where we are willing to recognise these things and endeavour to right these wrongs, which for many long years have been inflicted on the weaker sex, it is useless to expect God to help us in the achievement of better recognition and higher privileges at the hands of those above us.

17. Another evidence of the disrespect shown to woman is that at times of any disputing, most of the people would very commonly take the names of their innocent mothers and sisters in a most obscene way.

18. There is to be found a number of such silly men who would, with no sense of shame, compare the wife

with the shoes on their feet—which means that she could be discarded at will without the least disquietude. Were not their ideas so ignoble they would never have felt free to accord to their weaker mates such cruel and merciless treatment.

19. At the very place where the great teachers of mercy were born are now to be seen strange and incomprehensible inconsistencies. If anyone ventures to speak about the better treatment of women the majority of our people would look upon such a one in the same light as they look upon one who advocates the better treatment of animals. This means that women are considered no better than the lower animals. Perhaps this is why the Press here is so indifferent to this cause.

Position of Hindu Widows.

20. The widow's lot is a very hard one. To see the bright ornaments and garments suddenly removed, and sometimes the head also shaved, to realise the future of misery, is a terrible shock.

21. The very presence of a widow in Hindu family is often looked upon with disfavour, and for any misfortune that may befall the family the blame is usually laid upon her, simply because she has become a widow. What is still more pitiful is that many a time the whole personal property of the poor widow is illegally taken possession of by her husband's survivors, on some pretext or other.

In short, in every stage of an ordinary Hindu girl's life there are great injustices to be seen—the result of which is that the sons of a family, reared in an atmosphere of partiality, naturally grow up to exercise the same partiality to the male, and injustice to the female, and do not hesitate to treat their wives in a cruel way, similar to that which they have seen practised from

childhood. It is also very apparent that selfish men have, for their own selfish purposes, helped and encouraged the practice of such wrongs to the righting of which the chosen sons and daughters of God are everywhere called upon to devote their time and strength.

Thousands of poor Hindu women have thus passed away from all over this land of ours, without ever having had just and proper treatment from their husbands or other guardians. Thousands more of them will likewise be going, with saddened hearts and dejected minds, to join their predecessors; unless, and until, the justice-loving and broad-minded men in India rise up to administer a due share of justice and mercy towards their weaker sisters and thus free them from their sad state.

The fact could also be admitted that there is a certain portion of Hindu society which bestows an equal amount of care and love upon their daughters as upon their sons, but their number is quite small.

All the endeavours of Swaraj will be vain and useless so long as we are not willing to give justice—nothing but pure justice—to the women of our own families, so near to us. When there are hundreds of humane societies to defend even the lower animals in other civilised countries, why should not we do as much to defend the Hindu women and give them a place which is rightly theirs.

Dear readers, will you not do all in your power to hasten the emancipation of womenkind—the real moulders of a country and its people?

BHAGAT RAM,

Secretary, Jiv Daya Sabha.

Ferozepore Cantonment (Punjab).

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, LONDON.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for the Year ended December 31, 1924.

"JUS"		DISBURSEMENTS.	
RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Transfer from General Fund, being loss on "Jus" for the year ended December 31, 1924.	334 4 3	Printing	358 9 11
Subscriptions	211 13 3	Salaries	181 2 8
Cash Sales	5 11 11½	Rent	25 0 0
Y.W.C.A. Supplement	48 0 0	Miscellaneous expenses	34 16 10½
	£599 9 5½		£599 9 5½
GENERAL FUND.			
<i>Balance, January 1, 1924:—</i>	£ s. d.	Salaries	603 5 4
Cash at Barclays Bank, Ltd.	267 12 6	Light, Heat, and Cleaning	37 8 1½
General Donations	218 19 0	Rent	50 0 0
Leslie Commission Donations	920 17 0	Printing and Stationery	36 13 3½
Members' Fees, less Transfers to "Jus," Subscriptions and Report Receipts	166 14 0	Telephone, Telegrams, and Messenger	32 2 8
Report Receipts	54 18 3½	Postage	32 7 5½
Affiliation Fees	38 15 9	Repairs	4 12 0
"Woman Suffrage in Practice":—		Insurance	10 19 2
Excess of Receipts over Expenditure—		Miscellaneous Expenses	84 1 4½
Mlle. Gourd	£11 2 3		891 9 5
Receipts—England	1 7 10	Transfer to "Jus"	334 4 3
	12 10 1	<i>Balances, December 31, 1924:—</i>	
Congress Fund	10 8 9	Loan to British Overseas Committee ..	£30 0 0
Rome Congress Pledges	145 15 10	Deposit Account, Standard Bank of South Africa	100 0 0
International Sale	29 9 10	Bons du Tresor, Fr.8,500 held by Credit Lyonnais, at cost	100 0 0
Miscellaneous Receipts	7 9 6	Cash in hand, Mlle. Gourd, Fr.270.35 at 24.33	11 2 3
	£1,873 10 6½	Cash at Barclays Bank	402 17 11
		Petty Cash in Hand	3 16 8½
			647 16 10½
			£1,873 10 6½

K. BOMPAS, Secretary.

F. M. STERLING, Treasurer.

I have examined the above statement, with the books and documents of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, London, and find it to be correct and in accordance therewith. The English banks have certified as to the correctness of the balances held by them.

106, St. Clement's House,
Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E.C. 4,
January, 1925.

M. M. HOMERSHAM, Incorporated Accountant, Auditor.

(Continued from page 75.)

attention to physical and mental factors as conditioning health or disease. Her burden is that of the Shepherd of Hermas: "Take from thyself grief." Following a convention of the time, it is to shepherds that she assigns what she has to say in her first and perhaps most important dialogue, though to shepherds, as Dr. Lipinska remarks in analysing it, who have evidently been students of philosophy. The dialogue turns on the nature of man, his passions, his reasonable soul. One would like to have in full her portrait of the great-souled man. She accounts magnanimity the comrade of genius and the sister of prudence and generosity. In her psychology, which is contained in this chapter, she asserts the ultimate dependence of the faculties upon sensation. She realised that the static period of life is much the shortest,

and understood that the ideas and sentiments of man vary in intensity with that intimate vital consciousness which is itself the foundation of all psychology.

Sabuco wanted to substitute for the quasi-science which had held the field for centuries, the conception of a sovereign unity of the nervous system, and this not only in mankind but in all animals. A lover of animals, she pointed out that they share with men the capacity for gratitude. She was a lover, too, of fresh air and of music. Dr. Agnes Savill has been the latest exponent of the medical benefits to be derived from music. Her Spanish sister, who lived in Philip II.'s time, expressed amazement that so powerful a remedy as "harmony" had fallen into disuse.

—*Woman's Leader.*

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