

JVS SVFFRAGII.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
International Council of Women	129	Nouvelles Féministes	136
Sermon Preached at the Hague on Sunday, May 14, by Edith Picton-Turbervill	130	India—Well done, Mysore! Women Lawyers	137
A Feminist Triumph	132	Bombay Committee of Inquiry into Prostitution	137
Women Slaves	132	New Zealand	138
East Africa—The Effect of the Granting of Woman Suffrage in Kenya Colony	133	Norway—Another Woman in Parliament	138
Australia	133	Poland—On the Woman's Movement in Poland	138
Belgique	133	Sweden—Girls' School Education and Equal Pay in Sweden	139
Bulgaria—Progress of the Woman's Movement	133	The Married Woman's Right to Work	139
France—La Femme Mariée doit conserver sa nationalité	134	Uruguay	139
Finland—The Question of Equal Pay for Equal Work	134	The Pan-American Congress	139
Great Britain—Need for Investigation	135	Un Mensaje para las Representantes de la América Latina, by Carrie Chapman Catt	140
Our First Woman Barrister	135	United States of America—When Women Voters Meet	141
A Magistrate's Summer School, August 26 to September 3rd	135	The Bookshelf—"Josephine Butler," by L. Hay-Cooper	142
Women Police	135	"Christ and International Life," by Edith Picton-Turbervill	142
Lady Rhondda's Claim to Sit in the House of Lords Rejected	135	International Federation of University Women	143
Germany—Women Judges and Lawyers	135	World-Wide Work for Infant Welfare	144
The Nationality of the Married Woman	136		
A Success in the Citizenships of Bremen	136		
The Domestic Assistants Bill Defeated	136		

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

By THE MARCHIONESS OF ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR.

THE biennial meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Women and of its ten Standing Committees was held at The Hague from May 14-22 under the happiest auspices. Perfect weather, perfect hostesses who cared for their guests' comfort with a thoughtfulness which sent them to their work each day in a most happy and grateful frame of mind, and a most convenient place of meeting at the newly-formed Women's Club, to which a good hall is attached and plenty of committee rooms.

The Standing Committees' work largely consisted of reports of the progress of the work undertaken at Christiania two years ago, and the resolutions passed are for the most part the record of the opinion arrived at by those present at the Committee, and must not be taken as the accepted opinion of the Executive unless in the case of such resolutions as had been placed on any of the Committees' agenda beforehand and then specifically submitted to the Executive. For instance, the resolution of the Suffrage and Equal Citizenship Committee, that women ought to work inside the political parties of their countries and to form within those parties groups of women to press their special interests, cannot be quoted as the decision of the Executive, as it was not discussed by that body but merely received as part of the report of the interesting discussion which had taken place. On the other hand, a resolution sent in by the Italian National Council to the Public Health Committee, and of which notice had been given on the agenda, asking the International Council to initiate a propaganda with regard to cancer, was adopted by the Executive with a modification which was intended to make clear that the propaganda to be undertaken was to be confined to urging National

Councils and their Public Health Sections to devise schemes through which the general public could be made to realize that the great chance for permanent cure lies in early diagnosis and treatment. The high rate of mortality from cancer and its prevalence amongst women renders any action which can be taken to persuade persons having the slightest suspicion that something may be wrong to consult a doctor, urgently advisable.

The Public Health Committee continues to keep in close touch with the great international health movements working under the League of Nations and the League of Red Cross Societies, through which it has been able to secure valuable and instructive literature for use by the various Public Health Committees of the different National Councils, and it is now distributing such literature regarding the development of the Junior Red Cross, which has been taken up with great enthusiasm by the children in various countries largely in response to efforts made by the American Junior Red Cross, and which promises to promote habits of good health and prevention of disease in the best possible way.

The Special Child Welfare Committee, entrusted by the International Council at Christiania with the task of drawing up a Children's Charter which would indicate the minimum rights which the I.C.W. can claim for the children of all nations if they are to have the opportunity of developing into happy, healthy, useful citizens, reported its work completed. Copies of the Charter will be issued in the three official languages to all National Councils, to be by them pressed on their respective Governments with such adaptations as they deem necessary.

The reports given in to the Education Committee regarding the adoption of the system whereby all children of all classes must compulsorily attend the same school during a certain number of years of their school life were received with much interest. Dr. Gertrude Baumer reported that, according to a new law in Germany, all children from 6 to 10 years of age are obliged to attend the public elementary school, no exceptions being allowed except for certain pedagogic experiments or because of a medical certificate. The same system has been in force in Norway for some years and only three private schools remain, which will shortly be transferred to State control. Representatives from the Netherlands, the United States, the Ukraine, Uruguay, Greece, Yugo-Slavia and South Africa explained the development of the same idea in their countries. The testimony of those present was in favour of the system, and it was explained that by a careful selection of teachers, difficulties as to bad habits of language and accent being acquired could be avoided.

It is not possible to even skim over all the subjects discussed at the various Committees, but mention must be made of the most able report submitted by Dr. Thuillier Landry, the Vice-Convenor of the Public Health Committee, on the results of the questionnaire regarding venereal diseases, which had been prepared by the instruction of the I.C.W., under the joint auspices of the Equal Moral Standard and the Public Health Committees.

Madame Avril de Sainte-Croix and Dr. Thuillier Landry had together drawn up the questionnaire, and at a joint meeting of the two Committees it was decided that a special effort must be made to print and circulate this report in the three official languages, and that, in order to meet the expenses of publication, other international societies likely to be interested in the matter should be approached with a view to their ordering a number of copies, so that the publication might defray its own cost.

A good deal of the Executive's time had necessarily to be given to finance, that subject which is ever so full of anxiety to organizations which are federations, and which cannot appeal directly to the heart of humanity.

Organization and propaganda of ideas, however noble, sound very dull, and it is only those who take a personal part in international work and who have experienced the strength and potentiality of international friendships, who can realize what vast things may be accomplished through the medium of such a body as the International Council of Women, which links together women of so many different races in common work for the welfare of mankind in connection with so many different movements.

The Board of Officers went very carefully into the minimum needs of the I.C.W. at their meeting in 1921 and presented the results to The Hague Executive. It was conceded that the demands made on the more than thirty million of women who compose the International Council are not excessive.

There must be a Central Office with a paid Office Secretary acting under the Corresponding Secretary.

There must be official stationery and certain official publications, including an annual report and an official journal, however modest in character, in the three official languages.

But printing and postage are very expensive items in these days and National Councils are urged to consider schemes for increasing the funds and thereby the effectiveness of the I.C.W. Australia has decided at its recent Interstate Conference to try the plan suggested by Madame Chaponnière-Chaix of asking all ordinary subscribers to give sixpence more than their usual subscription, dividing the proceeds between the National Councils and the International. Others are intending to organize special days or weeks for propaganda purposes for the International, hoping to interest individuals who have the means and the will to assist the Women's League of Nations to fulfil its mission.

The question of where the next Quinquennial and the next Executive are to be held was one of burning interest for the various delegations.

Mrs. Piskoi presented the invitation for the U.S.A. with the utmost cordiality, urging that it was time for the I.C.W. to re-visit the land of its birth, and promising a mother's welcome to the far-travelled and long-separated daughter, who was now herself the proud mother of so many children.

France gave her invitation also for the Quinquennial with all the peculiar charm and grace which is hers alone, but afterwards joined with all the other National Councils in making the acceptance of the U.S.A. invitation unanimous.

Next came the presentation of invitations for the Executive of 1924 from Denmark, Great Britain, Italy and Austria. Dr. Gertrude Baumer asked the delegates to feel quite free to choose whichever country seemed best for the interests of the I.C.W., as she thought that in two years' time there should be no difficulty in meeting anywhere. In the end Fröken Forchhammer's invitation to Copenhagen was accepted and made unanimous.

The question of closer co-operation or alliance with the Women's International Suffrage Alliance was brought up by the I.C.W. Suffrage Committee, and it was explained that the Sub-Executive is already in communication with the headquarters of the I.W.S.A. on the subject, and that a preliminary informal meeting was to take place at the close of the Executive between a delegation from the I.W.S.A. and the I.C.W. officers. At this little meeting, which was absolutely informal in character, a basis for conference—suggested by Mme. Avril de Ste.-Croix—was adopted, and it was decided to endeavour to arrange a meeting between the two boards of officers in November for further exploration of the subject with a view of the possibility of presenting some proposition for the consideration of the two bodies, who have so many interests in common. Meanwhile there is one great call now sounding forth to women of all races and lands which should surely unite all women's international organizations for a great common crusade against war and the causes of war.

We heard with great interest and pleasure from the German delegate at the Peace Committee that there is now a clause in the German Constitution making it obligatory to train the children in the schools to understand the rights of all nations, and in a spirit of reconciliation and goodwill with all.

The experience of the I.C.W. itself in regard to the atmosphere of goodwill and practical sympathy and understanding engendered by our common undertaking to be guided by the principles of the Golden Rule are so wonderful and so inspiring that we feel that nothing is impossible. That it is not only our right, as the oldest women's international organization, but also our high privilege, as being enrolled under the banner of the Golden Rule, to invite all other women's international organizations to unite and confer with us as to how best to mobilize the potential motherhood of the world in a great movement for the preservation of all coming generations from the dangers that threaten it in any recurrence of war.

SERMON PREACHED AT THE HAGUE ON SUNDAY, MAY 14,

at a Special Service in connection with the Meeting of the International Council of Women.

By EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL.

"All things are possible to him that believeth."

WHEN a body of men or women meet together, as the I.C.W. is now doing in this historic city, to consider matters of importance that affect not only individuals but the corporate lives of the nations, we are called upon to face with absolute sincerity life as it is and life as in our most inspired moments we think it might be. There is of course a great gulf between the two. There comes a further quest: to discover whether there is a power at the disposal of

mankind that will enable us to transform life as it is into life as it might be.

I am glad the Council meets this year—a year fraught with such great possibilities to the people of Europe—in Holland. Many countries have a history that demonstrates to the world the power of spiritual over material forces; yet there are few countries—if any—where this truth has been so wonderfully demonstrated as in Holland, where in years gone by its people, by sheer spiritual power over vast material forces, won liberty for their conscience and their faith.

To-day, however, we must not let our thoughts linger in the historic past, be it ever so fascinating in the study of moral evolution and spiritual growth. Meeting together here, we are concerned—and awfully concerned—with the things of to-day and to-morrow.

Modern Conditions and Moral Defeat.

There is, I suppose, not a woman, not a man in this church who is content with either social or international life to-day. A sense of moral defeat is taking possession of the noblest spirits in the nations, a defeat which, I am sure, will not be permanent, but still a defeat. Everywhere there is, as never before, a longing for a new foundation of life—a fresh start. Here and there will be found a few who hold to things as they are, and are content. I do not think they will be found in this Conference; in most people the cry that rang out so poignantly two thousand years ago finds an echo in our hearts to-day: "To will is present with us, but how to do that which is good we cannot find."

There are those who look and hope for a great prophet, or world leader, to arise and guide our aspirations into strong channels. This continual looking for a great leader, for somebody who will achieve, is, after all, I think, a moral weakness. The leader has not appeared. In the meantime the human race consciously or unconsciously is passionately longing for a corporate life in which love, sympathy and compassion will rule. Systems that have grown up in the social life of most nations, are to-day so cruel and ruthless that no single individual could, I think, be found so lost to human compassion that he would ever create systems that now obtain. That is the tragedy. What makes the misery and injustices of the world to-day is not the wickedness of the few. It is the indifference, the ordinary selfishness of just ordinary people like ourselves, which arises not necessarily because we are evil, but largely because of the belief, so universally cherished, that man naturally is and must always be self-seeking.

I want, with all the earnestness that in me lies, to indicate one or two paths which, if followed, will, I am persuaded, help in some degree at least to transform the corporate life of the nations, as it is to-day, into the life that it might be.

The Call for Fresh Thinking.

First of all, must we not be willing to think afresh? The key, not to all but to much, lies in the realm of thought. We, most of us, are persuaded that we do really think, but Carlyle was not far wrong when he said: "So few are thinkers, my reader, so few think; there is the rub. Not one in a thousand takes the trouble to think, but is content with hearsaying and active babbling by rote." The best of us fall into the habit of accepting what are called truths, accepting certain attitudes of thought by mere hearsaying, without probing down to fundamentals. The history of every national upheaval warns us that trouble always comes when the leaders of one generation accept without thinking afresh the standard of the generation before them. In that lies disaster. The thinking of past generations has led to what is very like chaos to-day. The voice of God calls to men and women to-day to think afresh and to think truly. Is it not for this that our Conference meets? Often in the midst of such Conferences as will be held here this week, when difficult questions are being thought out, sometimes in what seems like confusion, sometimes, let it be confessed, with weariness of the flesh, and one wonders if it is all worth

while, the words of the mystic Thomas Traherne flash through my mind, "To think truly is to serve God in the interior court." By giving our best at such conferences as these, by willingness to think out the truth at all costs—though in doing so we may have to abandon self-satisfaction, tradition to which we cling, and suffer humiliation—we are doing far more than passing resolutions, we are "serving God in the interior court."

To think truly we must be willing to think afresh. The first message that fell from the lips of Jesus was, "Think anew." It has been translated "repent," and interpreted as a call to penitence for sin. The meaning of the word repent may include penitence for wrong-doing, but it is not its primary meaning, "Think anew."

The call to "think afresh" is an imperative call, and we need continually to think anew, for thus only is moral evolution and spiritual growth possible.

Dignity of Human Race.

And in thinking afresh must we not think differently about ourselves? We have been content almost to say that human nature must be self-seeking, that because we are human certain evils are necessary. We have belittled our humanity. It is not true that because we are human we must be so self-seeking that certain evils become necessary. When I hear men and women say, human nature being what it is, you must expect this or that—and the something you are told you must expect is always something unpleasant, if not morally wrong—I think of the shepherd-poet who sang so long ago a song of incomparable beauty and inspiration. Alone at night-time, surrounded by the beauty and immensity of nature, he sang:—

"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers,

The moon and stars which Thou hast made;
What is man that Thou art mindful of him,
Or the son of man that Thou visitest him?"

How often those words are quoted to imply the insignificance of man! But the opposite thought fills the mind of the singer.

"Thou hast made him a little lower than God,
And crownedst him with glory and honour;
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works
of thy hands
And hath put all things under his feet."

Behold in this the true destiny of the human race! "The nature of everything," says Plotinus, "is the best it can grow into." Therefore they who live for others lives of devoted service do not, as we in our careless thinking so often say, forget themselves. It is then that they remember themselves—remember their true nature. The boy who wandered from his home and spent his money in dissolute living, when "he came to himself," returned to God.

Latent Spiritual Forces.

Fresh thinking will carry us a long way, though it has its limitations. We may think rightly and still cry out: "How to do that which is good we cannot find." Fresh thinking may give us a new conception of what is right, but where is the power that energizes and enables us to achieve? Is there really a power outside ourselves, or is that but a dream of the visionary? The world that we touch and see pulses with unseen forces. Latent in the bosom of this earth of ours great forces have always slept, and are still sleeping, waiting for a deliverer. Think of the power that was hidden in the depths of the earth for ages in coal, until one man learnt how to use it and let loose the power of steam for the service of man. Forces so great that they are almost terrifying to him still lie hid and expectant in the bosom of this dear earth of ours, awaiting their release by human deliverers. Can anyone really doubt that just as the physical world is surrounded with these unseen forces, so the soul of man

is surrounded with forces as stupendous in the world of things, spiritual—latent powers awaiting human deliverers? I am sure of it. Many teachers have offered to mankind the key that will release these powers of the spiritual world. Christ was one of the greatest masters of spiritual power the world has ever seen. His teaching was so sublime, so perfect, so divine, that He is recognized as at least a great Teacher by the noblest spirits of every race and every creed. It is so beautiful that the Christian world has framed His teaching, as it were, in a picture and worshipped it—but looked upon it as impractical, a beautiful dream that could not be realized.

"Love your enemies." Was there ever such impossible teaching? We cannot always love those who are by no means our enemies; so we have said it is beautiful but impracticable, and not even used our powers of thought. The love of which Christ spoke, the love of which Buddha spoke, is not a thing of the emotions such as we ever connect with the word "love." We have prostituted the word love, and when we hear it think immediately of affection, affinity, even passion. The love of which the spiritual teachers speak is not an emotion, it is of the imagination and the will. "Love," Bishop Westcott, one of our most learned and spiritual teachers, says, "is the sharing with others of that which we have and are." With that thought comes, I think, a flood of illumination. We cannot have a feeling of affection for all, but even with those to whom we are least attracted we can share that which we have and are. There is not anyone so poor, so poverty stricken, that they have no sympathy, tenderness, compassion to give to all who come their way. Like calls to like, and here we have, I believe, the key that will release the spiritual powers of mankind. Perhaps what I am saying sounds very simple to you; but, my brothers and sisters, I have long since found that in simplicity lies our greatest strength. We need to think out afresh the meaning of the word love, and purge our minds of much that we associate with it, which, though not necessarily bad, has robbed it of its true meaning. Sharing with others that which we have and are—think what that would mean in international life!

Spiritual Teachers the Truest Statesmen.

Surely the spiritual teachers of the world are also the statesmen of the world, though we have not realized it. We have not taken them at their word. While we have worshipped at the shrine of their teaching, we have considered it in our heart of hearts too visionary for everyday life. No one can accomplish that which they consider impossible. Women of the Nations gathered here to-day, who are beginning to guide the ships of State, do not believe in the impossible! This new power that is coming into the life of the nations, if we are faithful, may release the latent spiritual forces around us, and unite the nations of the world in no sentimental way, but in deep reality, into one great family of the human race.

A FEMINIST TRIUMPH.

WE rejoice to announce that the Government of Uruguay has appointed Dr. Paulina Luisi as their official representative on the League of Nations Advisory Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children. We congratulate Uruguay; we congratulate the Advisory Commission; above all, we thank Dr. Paulina Luisi for the noble sense of public duty which has led her to accept this appointment, which will entail the heavy sacrifice of her own professional work in South America and enforced residence in Europe. Her presence on the Advisory Commission will indeed be a godsend. As leader of the movement in Latin-America for the suppression of State Regulation of Vice and the establishment of an Equal Moral Standard, she brings to this work of the League of Nations a knowledge and a personal force which will be invaluable.

WOMEN SLAVES.

To the Editor INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS.
DEAR MADAM,

In JUS SUFFRAGII this month, at the foot of the front page, there is an allusion to the abolition of *mui tsai*, with the following remark: "Now we hear of a case in Kenya Colony where women have a monetary value set on them. Do we realize that the slavery of women, direct or indirect, still exists?"

If the International Woman Suffrage Association does not realize that elementary fact, it requires some explanation. I personally have been at considerable pains to supply the information. In February, 1919, an Inter-Allied Suffrage Conference assembled in Paris, to which I was invited, by the kindness and courtesy of Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, for the express purpose of submitting an international charter for the liberties of women. I took considerable pains to circulate this charter and to supply information in regard to it. It was more difficult than I expected (I say this with regret) to interest the British delegates in the various matters dealt with in this charter, although the then editor of JUS was warmly sympathetic; but the French Suffragists took it up splendidly, and invited me to expound it at a meeting in the Lycée de France.

Briefly, the facts I dealt with in this connection were, that in British African Colonies and Dependencies women are chattels, purchasable and inheritable, assessable at a specific value when their owner—father, brother, husband or son—dies. They are property; they can own nothing by law, can be disposed of at will, are "bought" for marriage sometimes before they are born, are mercilessly flogged if they shy at the contracts arranged for them; and these contracts are enforced and upheld by British magistrates and justices, who rarely, if ever, put into practice the discretion the law allows them of protecting a native girl from physical force or undue pressure. So afraid are they of the native man and his capacity for mischief and disturbance, that they acquiesce unreservedly in his "rights" over his women as an easy way of keeping him in a good humour. But I need hardly say that, were boys disposable in the same way, they would be "freed" at once! It is an amazing thing that the white Governments that freed black slaves from white men should indulgently contemplate this possession and traffic in slaves by the black men—themselves freed! It masquerades as "domestic and social custom," which it would be dangerous to interfere with—such an easy and time-honoured way of disposing of women's liberties.

Mme. Maria Verone, who gave me splendid support, stated that the same customs prevailed in the French territories in North Africa, where she had practised, and gave a terrible case of an orphaned Arab girl, brought up and educated in a Christian manner, trained for a teacher and married to a Christian teacher, then claimed by a man whose father had paid for her for his son when both were babies. The court took her from her Christian husband and sequestered her while the case was heard, and then gave her to the man whose father had bought her. It was the law.

Quite recently, some noble-minded missionaries from Zululand approached me on this subject. The prejudice against "interfering" rides even the mission field hard when the victims are women! They gave me some shocking cases, and told me of the difficulties they encounter in their crusade for these ill-used girls.

I cannot understand how the I.W.S.A. conferences do not give more time and attention to this matter. I find myself a voice crying in the wilderness, and quite recently was horrified to find some Feminist societies—the Aborigines Protection Society and the National Liberal Club—are running about and putting themselves out to entertain and hold meetings for a parcel of South African natives who came here to protest against the limitations to their own freedom! The spectacle of Feminists applauding the protests of men whose national custom requires "paid" to be inscribed across a marriage

agreement before it is valid, and who can snatch a wife from her husband if he fail to be able to pay the last cow and blanket of her value, is an ugly one, which left me sore and indignant.

At the conference of the I.W.S.A. in Geneva the question of the international charter was brought up in a modified form. Not being a delegate at that conference, I do not know what turn the discussions took. I do know that sufficient attention has not been given to the subject, that few seem to have any definite information to provide, and that little has been done to ventilate or remedy these crying evils. So long as one set of Feminists are concentrating on the League of Nations and Internationalism, another on Labour legislation, or the wrongs of Ireland, or the self-determination of small nations, and yet another on such matters as the Ministry of Health's regulation or "the most effective use of the women's vote," we shall make very little headway in securing the real freedom of women.

The real work we still have to do is enormous. If we try to bring any influence to bear on the League of Nations, it should be to secure an equal measure of freedom for the women of all the nations represented there. Instead of the absurd injunction so frequently given to women voters to "forget they are women" and only think of themselves as citizens, we should instil that the "effective use of the women's vote" must be the securing of equality with men for our sex. So long as, within the British Empire, the cry of the baby brides and widows of India, the shamefully coerced girls of the African tribes, the wife-slaves of the South Seas of whom Miss Grimshaw tells, still rises unheeded to the skies, so long we have failed in our achievement. We want less unctious, less complacency, and more righteous indignation, more crusading. Until the last disability riveted on women because of their sex has disappeared from the last, least island the world over, our task remains uncompleted, our triumph still to seek.

Faithfully yours,

NINA BOYLE.

EAST AFRICA.

The effect of the Granting of Woman Suffrage in Kenya Colony.

IT is always difficult to gauge results in a matter of this kind, but there is, in our opinion, no doubt that the general attitude of mind on women and subjects affecting them has changed and is still moving forward. Not so very long ago the feeling in the Colony generally was that women should "ask their husbands at home," and take their advice on everything. Nowadays we find the women here coming forward, discussing public questions, and holding meetings on their own—independently of what the men may think.

The local Press too shows much more readiness, even keenness, to find out and express the women's point of view than used to be the case.

The Government has lately asked for women representatives on the Divorce Commission, and this is partly due, no doubt, to Woman Suffrage having been adopted.

And whereas before the date of the adoption of woman's right to vote for the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the Nairobi Municipal Council allowed women to vote in their elections, they now ask for women councillors, so that there seems no doubt that the adoption of Woman Suffrage has had its effect in moving the Colony from the rather backward state of feeling (as regards women) of 10 years ago to the more progressive feeling of co-operation between men and women.

EAST AFRICAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

March 15, 1922.

AUSTRALIA.

THERE arrived in South Australia recently the only woman administrator in the British Empire, Mrs. E. M. Zabel. Mrs. Zabel is the Administrator of

the island of Badu, in the Torres Straits. She first took the position nine years ago at the request of the Queensland Government, after the passing of the Aborigines' Protection Act, and since that date she has acted as magistrate, teacher, Governor, and religious leader to her community of 450 souls. Since her advent on the island the native community there has been raised to a much higher plane of usefulness and intelligence than was previously the case. There is a ban upon the importation of alcohol to the island, and no undesirable persons are allowed to land there. One remarkable achievement has been the making of the island self-supporting. The natives were encouraged to work, and now every one is employed, either at pearl or tortoiseshell gathering, or in basket, mat, or lace making. For the past two years Mrs. Zabel has been in England. She intended to resign from her post, but the call of her work was too strong, and she has undertaken to resume her duties early in the new year.

The Dawn.

April 12, 1922.

BELGIQUE.

CHÈRE MADAME,

Je répons un peu tardivement à votre aimable rappel.

Si nous avions eu des grandes victoires à vous annoncer nous l'aurions fait bien vite; malheureusement notre droit de vote provincial, qui nous est formellement promis pour les élections de 1925, n'intéresse pas le Parlement en ce moment.

Vous avez su qu'une femme a été envoyée au Sénat belge comme sénatrice cooptée déléguée par les socialistes. Par une ironie des choses, Mme. Spaak n'est pas féministe; elle le deviendra sans doute en étant mêlée de si près aux choses législatives. Son premier discours, très applaudi, a été en faveur de la loi accordant aux femmes docteurs en droit la faculté d'exercer la profession d'avocat.

La question qui préoccupe le plus en ce moment les féministes et toutes les femmes qui s'occupent ici du mouvement social est la lutte contre l'immoralité. Les femmes échevins ou conseillères communales ont travaillé pour la suppression des licences du Carnaval, pour l'interdiction de l'entrée des sales de danse aux enfants de moins de 16 ans, pour la suppression des affiches immorales, etc. Elles mènent campagne pour l'abolition de la tolérance officielle de la prostitution. Une vaste propagande est faite dans ce sens par l'Union patriotique des Femmes belges qui, l'an dernier, s'occupa si activement d'instruire les électrices communales de leurs devoirs civiques.

Agréez, chère Madame, l'expression de nos meilleurs sentiments confraternels.

Pour la Fédération belge pour le Suffrage des femmes.

L. VAN DEN PLAS,

Secrétaire Générale.

20 avril 1922.

BULGARIA.

Progress of the Woman's Movement.

IT is so long since we sent you any news of our Union or of the Suffrage movement in Bulgaria, that I feel it is my duty to write to you now as Editor of the organ of the Bulgarian Union, *Jenski Glas*, and also as a member of our Press Committee.

Bulgaria has not yet obtained universal suffrage. The Education Act of 1908 gives the vote for the School Board—an autonomous municipal body—and according to the official publications of the Ministry of Education, 25 women have been elected members of this Board.

In 1921 the Church Assembly (Council) granted the vote for the Church Commission to women, but this right has not yet been used.

The greatest victory in this direction, however, is that since the war all the political parties have put Woman Suffrage on their programmes, and have admitted women

as members of their party. As a result of this there are already women's groups in each party.

With the exception of the Socialist Party, including the Social Democrats and the Communists, all the parties have declared for the *gradual* recognition of the women's right to vote.

In March of this year the Communist Parliamentary Group brought a Bill before the Chamber for the political equality of women. At the same time our Union presented a petition to the Chamber asking for the admission of women to full suffrage. The Union also arranged public meetings throughout the country, by means of its branches, in support of political equal rights for women. Women from all parts of the country overwhelmed the President of the Chamber, the Ministers and Deputies with letters and telegrams demanding equal rights for women.

There is strenuous work ahead of us, as the Government in the Autumn Session proposes to amend the Electoral Law, and woman suffrage is left out of this law. Our Constitution puts no ban on it.

In July of this year our Union will hold its sixteenth Congress and there the best methods for future action will be discussed.

D. IWANOWA,

April 23, 1922.

Editor of *Jenski Glas*.

FRANCE.

La Femme Mariée doit conserver sa nationalité.

LE Sénat vient d'adopter en première délibération un projet de loi modifiant les anciens chapitres du code relatifs à la nationalité et particulièrement à la nationalité de la femme mariée. C'est sur la proposition de Monsieur Louis Martin que de nouvelles dispositions concernant les femmes mariées ont été introduites dans ce projet de loi. Et voici le nouveau texte de l'article 19 :

Article 19. — La femme française qui épouse un étranger conserve sa nationalité, à moins qu'elle ne déclare expressément dans l'acte de mariage vouloir acquérir la nationalité de son mari.

En revanche, voici l'article 12 :

Article 12. — L'étrangère qui aura épousé un Français suivra la nationalité de son mari.

Nous nous bornons pour aujourd'hui à signaler ce pas en avant d'une réforme ardemment réclamée par le féminisme en ce qui concerne les Françaises.

Texte de la loi française au sujet de la nationalité de la femme mariée.

Article 12. — L'étrangère qui aura épousé un Français suivra la condition de son mari. La femme mariée à un étranger qui se fait naturaliser Français et les enfants majeurs de l'étranger naturalisé pourront, s'ils le demandent, obtenir la qualité de Français, sans conditions de stage soit par le décret qui confère cette qualité au mari, ou au père ou à la mère, soit comme conséquence de la déclaration qu'ils feront dans les termes et sous les conditions de l'article 9. Deviennent Français les enfants mineurs d'un père ou d'une mère survivant qui se font naturaliser Français, à moins que, dans l'année qui suivra leur majorité, ils ne déclinent cette qualité en se conformant aux dispositions de l'article 8.

Article 19. — La femme française qui épouse un étranger suit la condition de son mari à moins que son mariage ne lui confère pas la nationalité de son mari, auquel cas elle reste Française. Si son mariage est dissous par la mort du mari ou le divorce, elle recouvre la qualité de Française avec l'autorisation du Gouvernement pourvu qu'elle réside en France ou qu'elle y rentre en déclarant qu'elle veut se fixer. Dans le cas où le mariage est dissous par la mort du mari la qualité de Française peut être accordée par le même décret de réintégration aux enfants mineurs sur la demande de la mère ou par un décret ultérieur si la demande en est faite par le tuteur avec l'approbation du conseil de famille.

La Française.

Le 1^{er} avril 1922.

FINLAND.

The Question of Equal Pay for Equal Work.

A REPORT made by Eva Somersalo at the annual meeting of the Finnish Women's Association, February 28, 1922 :—

At the first meeting of the League of Nations questions were raised as to the hours of work and the salary of women, and it was agreed that where a woman performs the same work as a man she must receive equal pay. It sounds very beautiful, but for the most part has remained a mere paper declaration, for although Finland belongs to the League, this rule is not observed, and now, when the new grading of salaries has been made, it is obvious that it observes the principle of equality even less than before. The most responsible woman's work seems to have been considered worth less than that of a quite unimportant man. For instance, the municipal midwives and the night nurses at the surgical hospital are paid less than many of the municipal employees, and the head nurse at the Malaria Hospital is paid less than the book-keeper. Such examples could be multiplied indefinitely. The Salary Board itself admits that it has not observed the principles laid down, but it defends itself by saying that these are single women who have their board and lodging on the premises and have no expenses beyond clothes and opera tickets. The bonuses or "hard-time" salaries were apportioned quite arbitrarily. While men's salaries were raised 275-300 per cent., or even 375 per cent., the corresponding increase of the women's salaries was 250 per cent., or sometimes only 120 per cent.

In all matters of salary and income, equality was not considered, but when taxes were to be paid and social duties to be performed, woman was well remembered. Then the scales were weighed down in the other direction. The follower of a free trade, a physician for instance, may deduct from his income the salaries of the staff he needs for his profession, such as the attendant in his waiting-room. But when the mother of a family has to hire a help in order to be able to go to her work, she is not allowed to deduct the help's salary. Her burden of taxation is increased by the fact that her income is added to that of her husband and is then taxed on a higher scale. Nearly every man in the State service can get the child contribution, even though he has a wealthy wife, but a woman must be a widow before she can claim it. And even though bound by law to support an aged mother, she gets no consideration.

To what is this due? It looks as if men were hastily throwing up barriers against women, lest they should prove dangerous competitors to the incapable and lazy amongst them. But it is equally due to the fact that women have not guarded their rights and have no solidarity; they have not supported each other's just demands, nor elected enough energetic women as their representatives. The gaining of equality on the salary question should be facilitated by the fact that it is now an international question and every country belonging to the League of Nations has agreed to it.

The report made certain suggestions which in their finally accepted form were as follows :—

1. The Finnish Women's Association states that the women in Finland are paid without exception less than men for the same work.

2. As a means of gaining economic equality, the Finnish Women's Association advises :—

(a) That women voters in parliamentary elections should run their own candidates and vote only for them or for such male candidates as support the women's fight for equal pay.

(b) That each local branch should carry on energetic propaganda amongst the women electors before the next election for the town council, particularly explaining to the women what the town council does.

(c) That all women representatives on town councils, in Parliament, on committees or official societies, should make a stand for the woman's right to equal pay.

3. The Finnish Women's Association decides to apply to the other Finnish federations in order to co-operate in—

(a) Sending a letter to the Government petitioning for the economic equality of men and women; for the observance of the League of Nations' principle that men and women must be equally compensated for equal work, and for the appointment of women members of the committees for "hard-time" bonuses.

(b) Exhorting the Board of the Finnish Women's National Federation to take measures for a common fight on the salary question in all countries belonging to the League of Nations.

Naisten Aani.

March 11, 1922.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE next General Election recedes into the dim future, and in the meantime questions in which women are specially concerned continue to attract a good deal of attention, both inside and outside the House of Commons.

On Friday, May 26, the Bill dealing with separation and maintenance orders, which was initiated by the N.U.S.E.C., came up for its second reading. This Bill has been outlined before in these notes; its main points are—in a nutshell—first that it enacts that the grounds for separation shall be the same for both sexes. At present the man, not the woman, is at a disadvantage in this respect. It also extends the grounds to include cruelty to children of the marriage, and venereal disease in a communicable form. The machinery for collection of maintenance allowances is strengthened, and a woman may obtain an order from the Police Court without leaving her home, as is obligatory under the law as it stands at present. This Bill has a very strong backing both in the House and in the country. It is supported by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, which has made a careful study of all its clauses, as well as by leading authorities in the Church of England. It is, however, threatened by some ill-informed opposition, on the ground that it will multiply separations between husband and wife. The fact is, the effect will be exactly the reverse. Strange to say, it meets with some disfavour in the opposite camp by some who hold that any amelioration of unhappy marriages will delay reform of the divorce laws.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill should, if the life of the Government permits, become law this session. But the N.U.S.E.C. is less optimistic about the Bill dealing with the Equal Guardianship of Children.

Another Bill which closely affects the position of women—the Law of Property Bill—was introduced recently. In this there are some important changes in the law of inheritance, which is more unfair to women in England than in Scotland and in many other countries.

Need for Investigation.

Sir James Greig, M.P., a good friend to the causes which women have at heart, has given notice of a motion calling the attention of the Government to the irregularities of the law, civil and criminal, between men and women, and intends to ask for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into these inequalities. The N.U.S.E.C. has been working for some time on the legal status of the woman citizen, and will put all its results at the disposal of such a Commission, if appointed. It feels that the present discrepancies, whether they favour the man or the woman, cannot be dealt with piecemeal. They are the result of the obsolete conception of women in the community, which received its death-blow when women were enfranchised. Much hard work, incessant education and political pressure will be needed before the present chaotic condition of legislation is cleared. Yet there are those who think that women's suffrage organizations have finished their work when the vote is won.

Our First Woman Barrister.

A milestone of some historic importance was passed the other day when Miss Ivy Williams was called to the Bar. Miss Williams thus fulfils her father's ambition for her that she should become a barrister. She does not intend to practice, but will continue her lecturing.

A Magistrate's Summer School, Aug. 26 to Sept. 3.

A special section of the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School will be held for women magistrates. A separate syllabus has been issued. It contains lectures on such subjects as Probation Work, Medical Examination of Prisoners, Recent Improvements in Penal Reform in Great Britain and other countries, and other subjects of special interest to those concerned with the administration of justice. Students of this subject from other lands will receive a very warm welcome. Full particulars may be had from the Summer School Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Women Police.

The fight to retain women police still rages. Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., has done most valuable service in the House by her questions and speeches. There are signs that the Home Secretary's attitude is becoming more favourable; in the meantime, an active campaign is being carried on among the various women's organizations. There is no question which arouses such unanimity among the women of the country, and the appointment of fully qualified women police, not only in the Metropolis but in every town in the country, cannot be long delayed.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

Lady Rhondda's Claim to Sit in the House of Lords Rejected.

By a majority of 20 votes to 4, the Committee for Privileges has rejected Viscountess Rhondda's claim to sit in the House of Lords as a peeress in her own right—a direct reversal of their former decision, given in March, when the then Committee was unanimously in favour of her claim being allowed. But the end is not yet. We are in no doubt that the not-distant future will see women sitting in the House of Lords as well as in the Commons, and their early presence there will be largely due to the public-spirited action of Lady Rhondda.

GERMANY.

Women Judges and Lawyers.

ACCORDING to the decision of the Reichsrat, as mentioned in my last report, the Ministry of Justice has brought a Bill before the Reichstag granting women the unlimited right of admission to the law-career, i.e., to all professions and offices and functions of jurisdiction, under the same conditions as men enjoy this right, as judges as well as lawyers, and for the administrative bodies. As the Reichstag will doubtless decide *in favour* of the Bill this means, after all, another great success for the German women. It is significant, however, and seems rather funny, that the Bill expressly points out that it is *not based* on the idea of a homogeneous activity of men and women, but that, on the contrary, most valuable services for the jurisdiction were hoped from the *different* point of view of men and women—this being the very same, and the *strongest argument* the women themselves had always put forward to support their claims in this direction.

Though the Bill has not yet come into force, nor even to its final decision, the papers already reported on "*the first woman barrister*" who officially was appointed at one of the Berlin courts of justice to act as defender in the case of a woman charged, together

with several men, with robbery. The reports stated that the young barrister, Dr. Jur. Munk, accomplished her task very well—as if she were an old practitioner in the court—and also with a good practical result.

The Nationality of the Married Woman.

The two democratic women members of the Reichstag, Dr. Bäumer and Dr. Lüders, have, together with the well-known pacifist pioneer, Professor Schücking, made a motion in the Reichstag: that the Reichsgovernment be asked for a Bill to change the existing law on the nationality of married women, to the effect that in future a woman marrying a foreigner shall not lose her own nationality, but that it shall—according to Paragraph 119 of the German Constitution on equal rights of husband and wife—be left to her own decision whether she will retain her original nationality or change it with the nationality of her husband.

Perhaps some of our readers will remember, when in the year of 1912-13 the new German law on nationality was treated and accepted by the Reichstag, the National Council of Women, the Association for Woman Suffrage, and other national women's organizations had petitioned, and claimed emphatically the very same reform—not only without any positive result, but meeting with the complete indifference of the law-makers. The many petitions and ardent wishes of the women were not even mentioned in the Reichstag at this opportunity. Since that time the hard experiences of women in all lands, during the war, have given the once mainly in principle important woman's question also a vital and most painful practical importance. So we may hope that as it has been the case in other countries already, the democratic motion this time will meet with a better understanding from our law-makers, amongst whom so many women members are present to support it.

NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES.

Australie. — UNE FEMME COMME GOUVERNEUR. — Madame Zabel est Gouverneur de l'île de Badu. Elle accepta ce poste il y a neuf ans et depuis son administration l'île a fait de grands progrès comme civilisation. Les indigènes sont maintenant à même de se maintenir par leur travail. Ils cherchent la perle fine, l'écaïlle, font des paniers, des paillassons, de la dentelle. Tout le monde y travaille; la moralité est généralement bonne.

Afrique de l'Est. — Dans la Colonie de Kenya, il semblerait que comme résultat du suffrage donné aux femmes l'opinion générale concernant la femme aurait changé, et la femme se trouve invitée à prendre part à bien des réformes. Elle est sur la commission qui doit changer les lois du divorce, elle vote aussi pour le Conseil législatif du Narobi, et généralement se trouve beaucoup plus à même de travailler en coopération avec les hommes.

Finlande. — LA QUESTION DE PAIEMENT AU MÊME NIVEAU QUE L'HOMME. — Malgré la décision prise par la Ligue des Nations, l'égalité de paiement est bien loin d'être observée et il n'y a aucun progrès de ce côté. La position n'a pas changé et le salaire de la femme n'est pas du tout en proportion avec celui de l'homme. D'un autre côté, quand il s'agit de payer des contributions, la femme n'est pas oubliée et elle est forcée de payer largement sa part.

L'homme qui est au service de l'État obtient toujours une contribution pour l'enfant, mais la femme doit être veuve pour obtenir cette contribution. Elle est obligée par la loi d'entretenir une vieille mère, mais ne reçoit en échange aucune compensation.

Ceci est dû au fait que les hommes veulent maintenir une barrière entre le travail de l'homme et de la femme; mais la grande faute est celle de la femme elle-même, qui ne défend pas ses droits avec assez d'énergie. Cette question est devenue internationale et devrait être soutenue par toutes les femmes qui, en général, ne s'entraident pas assez. Toutes les nations qui appar-

A Success in the Citizenships of Bremen.

Experience shows that the women members in the legislative bodies may obtain a good success if, independent of party politics, they will unite in certain questions in considering them from a woman's point of view. This was recently proved again by an instance in Bremen, when a Bill was under discussion in the citizenship, providing for very hard and unjust measures on behalf of the *barmaids*, and putting this class on the same level with prostitutes and inhabitants of brothels in the State of Bremen, under the still existing regulation system. The women members of all parties strongly protested against this paragraph, which was supported by prominent men, and by their united efforts it was defeated, and their motion for the employment of *women trade inspectors* for bars with women employees was carried.

The Domestic Assistants Bill Defeated.

Some readers of the I.W.S. NEWS have shown a lively interest in the Domestic Assistants Bill, as referred to in the December issue. They will, I am sure, learn with the same interest that in the social-political committee of the Economic Council (Reichswirtschaftsrat) which had to deal with it on second reading, the Bill, after long and sharp debates on the main paragraphs, was defeated by 9 to 4 votes. It was obvious from the beginning that on the questions of mutual rights and duties the opinions of the representatives of employers and employees would differ very much. But this is, of course, no final decision, and one may look forward now for the further development of the matter.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, May 20, 1922.

tiennent à la Ligue des Nations doivent participer à l'égalité du salaire pour le même travail.

Les Indes. — LE MYSORE SE DISTINGUE. — Le Conseil législatif du Mysore s'est distingué parmi tous les Etats de l'Inde en ce qui concerne l'affranchissement de la femme. Le 10 avril cette question fut mise au vote pendant la session du Conseil à Bangalore, Monsieur Ventratasa Aiyar proposa que la question de sexe serait annulée et que les femmes pourraient dorénavant être élues membres de l'Assemblée représentative, du Conseil législatif et de tous les corps gouvernant les différentes localités. Cette proposition fut votée sans opposition et à l'unanimité.

Le Mysore est l'un des États les plus importants des Indes et a 6.000.000 d'habitants. C'est un État dont l'esprit progressif est bien connu, et il est certain que l'affranchissement de la femme passera aussi l'Assemblée représentative et que la question de sexe disqualifiant la femme sera rayée de la constitution.

LES FEMMES NOTAIRES. — Il est question de permettre aux femmes de voter pour l'Assemblée législative et d'abolir la barrière qui empêche les femmes de professer comme notaires et comme avocats.

Bombay. — Après une discussion au Conseil législatif, un comité a été formé pour inspecter les conditions de la prostitution à Bombay.

Il est fâcheux que ce comité ne soit pas formé davantage par les gens qui ont montré déjà tant d'activité sociale en inspectant personnellement les conditions de la femme dans ce funeste trafic.

La loi a déjà fait beaucoup, et avec succès, pour améliorer les conditions de la prostitution à Burma et à Ceylan et dans d'autres endroits, et nous espérons qu'aux Indes la loi parviendra à purifier l'horrible atmosphère de la prostitution et à abolir les maisons immorales de Bombay, de Gaya, de Benares et de bien d'autres endroits.

Norvège. — UNE AUTRE FEMME MEMBRE DU PARLEMENT. — Mademoiselle Sara Christie a reçu la permission de prendre la place de Monsieur Klingen au Parlement à partir du 18 mars jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

(La suite à la page 137.)

(Suite de la page 136.)

LA COMMISSION SUR LA LOI CRIMINELLE. — Le comité du Norsk Kvindesaksforening a ces mois derniers envoyé les deux pétitions suivantes:

"Au département de l'Administration de la Justice." La pétition demande que sur la commission de la loi pénale il y ait un nombre de femmes suffisant, vu le nombre de tentatives de viol commis surtout sur les enfants, pour influencer certains changements dans la loi pénale par rapport à ce crime. Nous sommes d'avis que des femmes d'expérience, comme par exemple celles déjà membres du Conseil d'Administration et des pensionnats, devraient être sur ce comité.

"Au conseil d'Administration de la ville de Christiania." La société du Norsk Kvindesaksforening qui, pendant l'année, s'est beaucoup agitée pour obtenir une police plus efficace, demande que, vu les offenses fréquentes commises, la ville soit mieux inspectée par des patrouilles de police (femmes et hommes).

La société demande aussi des patrouilles de femmes police dans les parcs et dans les endroits où les enfants sont envoyés sans protection.

LES FEMMES COMME PRÊTRES. — UNE AUTRE DÉPUTATION AU CONSEIL DE L'ÉGLISE. — Une députation de femmes, parmi lesquelles se trouvaient les présidentes de la plupart des sociétés féministes de la Norvège, se présenta devant le Conseil de l'Église pour présenter une résolution demandant l'admission des femmes aux différentes positions de l'Église, et le droit de prêcher dans les églises. Le Conseil d'Etat promit que la pétition serait immédiatement mise sous les yeux des autorités ecclésiastiques pour être considérée par elles.

Suède. — L'ÉDUCATION DES FILLES ET L'ÉGALITÉ DE SALAIRE. — Une commission établie par le gouvernement et présidée par Madame Emilia Brumée, fut chargée d'examiner la question de paiement à titre égal et fit un rapport en faveur de l'égalité de salaire, mais il y a encore beaucoup d'opposition et la lutte sera difficile.

LE DROIT QU'A LA FEMME MARIÉE DE TRAVAILLER. — Les femmes suédoises docteurs ont nommé un comité qui a envoyé une pétition au ministre de la Justice demandant que les professorats dans les écoles de médecine de Upsala, de Lund et de l'institution Caroline de Stockholm soient ouverts aux femmes aux mêmes conditions qu'aux hommes et que la femme mariée ne soit pas exceptée.

INDIA.

Well done, Mysore!

THE Mysore Legislative Council has broken the record, so far, in India in regard to Woman Franchise as there was not a dissentient voice, vote, nor even a neutral opinion when the subject was put to the vote in the Council Session at Bangalore on April 10. A motion had been proposed by Mr. Venkatesa Aiyar, of Kolar, that "the Council recommends to the Government that the disability of sex be removed for the franchises of the Representative Assembly, the Legislative Council and the Local Government Bodies." For two hours the members spoke on the resolution, Brahmanas, non-Brahmanas and Mohammedans alike giving it their full support. One member at first thought this meant the vote to all women, and from that angle of vision took fright at it, but later voted for it, happily, when it was explained that the property qualifications would hold equally in the women's case. The tone of the speaking was very high and permeated with the ideal and religious spirit. The presence of a number of ladies who are respected throughout Mysore for their fine public work undoubtedly did much to bring about the unanimous show of hands in favour of Woman Suffrage in Mysore when the resolution was put.

The Mysore State is one of the premier Native Indian States, with a population of 6,000,000. It is noted

for its progressive spirit and already there are women on its University Senate and Economical and Educational Committees. The campaign for Woman Suffrage in that State was begun only last May by meetings arranged by Mrs. Cousins under the auspices of the Women's Indian Association, which has a number of branches in Mysore. In July, Mrs. Jinarajadasa organized a representative and influential deputation of women to the Diwan (Prime Minister), who gave them a sympathetic reply and promised to bring the matter early before the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. Three months ago the former rejected the proposal for Woman Suffrage by a small majority, but now that the superior body, the Legislative Council, is so emphatic in its support, it is certain that it will be carried also at the Representative Assembly's next session, where it is to be again brought forward soon. There is no doubt that His Highness the Maharajah and his Government will now remove sex disqualification from the Constitution of the State.

M. E. COUSINS.

April 13, 1922.

Women Lawyers.

Dr. Gour brought forward an amendment on the occasion of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on the removal of sex disqualification for that Assembly's vote. He moved that this disqualification should also be no longer held a bar to prevent women from enrolment as lawyers. The amendment was withdrawn on the assurance of Sir William Vincent that it would again be debated after the Government had received the opinions of the Provincial Councils and High Courts and Women's Associations regarding it. The Behar Council has decided to remove the sex barrier from the Legal Practitioners Act, so that women in Behar may now practise as lawyers and barristers. Other Councils please follow this good example. Meantime a volume of public opinion is being forwarded to the Government in favour of this reform, including resolutions from branches of the Women's Indian Association and the Madras Women Graduates' Union.

Bombay Committee of Inquiry into Prostitution.

Arising out of a debate in the Bombay Legislative Council a Committee has been appointed by the Government to report on the legislation and other action necessary to check the growth of prostitution in the city of Bombay. The people selected are not entirely satisfactory as one fails to find amongst them some of the active social workers who have carried on personal investigations into the conditions of women in this evil traffic and have played a prominent part in the work of rescue and relief. Much has been done in Burma, Ceylon and elsewhere by legislation, which makes the keeping of brothels illegal, which prohibits landlords from letting their houses to immoral people, and makes "procurers" subject to severe punishment. If such laws are made for India, many dark and dangerous and disgraceful spots will be removed from famous cities like Bombay, Gaya, Benares, etc. *The Social Service Quarterly* rightly comments on this subject:—

"It is undoubtedly true that so long as woman's place in society remains that of a defendant, marriage laws remain rigid, and some men and women wallow in luxury while others have to slave or sell their bodies for getting their livelihood, there will be no final solution of this ancient problem. But that is no reason why action should be deferred against the evils infesting and the dangers immediately threatening us. Therefore, while the real remedy consists in the reconstruction of society and the adjustment of the relations of the two sexes, no city can afford to allow the bodies and minds of the younger generation to be poisoned by the kind of vile trade in the human bodies and souls which flourishes rampant in Bombay. It is in this spirit that the Committee must set to work."

Stri Dharma.

April, 1922.

NEW ZEALAND.

YOU will be interested in the amendments made in two Acts. The Legitimation Act of 1908 provided that the subsequent marriage of the parents legitimized a child, provided that at the date of birth there existed no legal impediment to marriage. The amending Act of 1922 removes this bar to legitimation, and further provides that in the event of the father dying without having taken steps to legitimize the child, the mother may make the application.

The Divorce Act of 1920 has been amended. The 1920 Act extended facilities for divorce by enacting that separation for three years—under a separation order or by a legal agreement or by mutual consent—was sufficient ground for a divorce. Further, the Court of Appeal decided that the Divorce Court could not refuse to grant a decree on the ground that the applicant was the cause of separation. The effect of this was to make it possible for the guilty party to make application for and obtain a divorce. The amending Act provides "that if upon the hearing of the petition under this section the respondent opposes the making of a decree of dissolution, and it is proved, to the satisfaction of the court that the separation was due to the wrongful act or conduct of the petitioner, the Court shall not make upon such petition a decree of dissolution of the marriage."

C. HENDERSON,
Hon. Corresponding Secretary,
N.Z., W.C.T.U.

NORWAY.

Another Woman in Parliament.

MISS SARA CHRISTIE, Alternate for Klingen, has been granted permission to take over his duties from March 18 until further notice.

It will be remembered that Miss Christie has acted as Alternate in the Parliament before.

Norges Kvinder, March 11, 1922.

POLAND.

On the Woman's Movement in Poland.

By K. MALEKA.

POLISH women have always taken a distinguished part in public and social life. Even before the partition of the country there were several women who played a great rôle in political life and their influence was often of paramount importance. One may even say that Poles have always been particularly inclined to admit women to a share in public life and to listen to their advice. The attitude of the Polish peasant is quite characteristic. No peasant will undertake any fresh business or make any decision until he has discussed it with his "baba" (old woman), as he calls his wife. This does not prevent him using his stick on her occasionally.

But it is since the partition of Poland that women have attained their greatest and most beneficial influence. It is they who kept alive the flame of national and patriotic feeling. Numberless are the deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice they performed during the dark years of servitude and oppression. It is they who instructed in the Polish language, who taught the young generation their own tongue and their history and literature, always at the risk of imprisonment, banishment and terrible sufferings. When the general movement for the higher education of women burst out in Europe, Polish women were among the first to fight for it and benefit by it, and these same women returned afterwards to their country and devoted themselves to the raising of their people.

And so it is not surprising that when Poland regained her independence and began her political life anew, the right of franchise was at once granted to women. Women have equal voting rights with men, and sit in the Polish Parliament. There are seven women members in the

Diet, amongst them one peasant woman. These women have devoted their energies principally to social questions, foremost of all to the question of the white-slave trade, then anti-alcoholism, the protection of women's work and the social protection of women, also to peasant questions, and they have taken a very prominent part in the care of the repatriated. Women are also members of the municipal councils both in Warsaw and other towns, and in a fairly large and important provincial town, Radom, a woman has been elected mayor. On the municipal council in Warsaw women have been most active in fighting for better sanitary conditions, for the establishment of public baths, and in fact all matters dealing with hygiene. Since the establishment of an independent State there exists a women's political club, the energies of which have been successfully devoted to securing a revision of the Napoleonic Code, which, up to now, is legally binding in the former Congress Kingdom of Poland. This Code includes very unfair and hard articles with respect to women, which, thanks to the energetic action of the women members of the Diet, have been altered; for instance, according to—

Art. 1. A woman had not the right to live in any other house but her husband's.

Art. 2. At the decease of her husband she had not the right to manage his estate, but had to submit to a family council.

Art. 4. Prohibited her from being a witness in a court of law.

Art. 6. Did not allow a woman to dispose of the money she had obtained by her own labours.

Another article debarred her from the right of legal guardianship of her husband in case of his disability through mental illness.

Art. 26. Prohibited a woman from witnessing at the execution of a will.

All these articles have been annulled by the Polish Parliament, thanks to the initiative of the women members.

From the first moment of the existence of the re-born Polish State, women have occupied most responsible positions in the administration. Many women have been appointed inspectors of work, others are employed on municipal and village councils, several women occupy the position of senior referendaries, many are heads of departments, as, for instance, the protection of the work of women and minors, the emigration department, education department, and so on. One woman is a ministerial councillor. In social work women play an important part. There is no social institution in which women are not engaged, more particularly in the social protection of infants and young people. They exercise care over the repatriated and labour with unremitting zeal in all the institutions of social work which have arisen, thanks to the initiative of the community, as, for instance, instruction and educational institutes.

During the war women took active interest in the establishment of Red Cross and White Cross societies, in the opening of hostels and canteens for the soldiers, and many were instructors in the army educational corps. Especially during the invasion of the Bolsheviks it may be said there was hardly a woman not engaged in work for the public benefit, either in the army or the State administration, in citizen committees, etc. They even took part in active military service, and it was thanks to the women and children of Lemberg that that city was freed from the attacks of the Ruthenians, who fell upon it at a time when the young Polish State was employed in a defence of its frontiers on all sides, and had but a small army. In those days the women of Poland inscribed themselves in a glorious way in the pages of history, and their heroism has won for them undying fame. These women formed the nucleus of the women's legion, a volunteer corps, which gave invaluable help during the war, and fulfilled guard and sentinel duty in such a way that the military command especially picked them out by reason of their superior conscientiousness and honesty.

Whilst before the war women generally worked in special women organizations, now there is a tendency

to work together with men, and it is now a commonly accepted fact that their influence has proved beneficial and elevating, so that in all institutions organizers endeavour that in every separate department there should be a certain percentage of women. In this way there are increasing numbers of women engaged in industry and commerce, and these same women use their influence strongly in the direction of nationalizing the different branches of commerce and industry.

Polish women are well aware what a large field of labour lies before them and how grave are the responsibilities laid upon them, but they are actuated by noble ideals and are fully determined to give the best of their energies and abilities for the attainment of a high and noble aim, the reconstruction of their country on a basis of enlightened and humane culture.

Warsaw, March 28, 1922.

SWEDEN.

Girls' School Education and Equal Pay in Sweden.

A GOVERNMENT Commission, of which a woman (Mrs. Emilia Brumée) was President, has examined the whole question and has given a report which suggests the carrying out of the Equal Pay principle.

According to the Swedish papers it appears that the matter has now been placed before the various administrative heads of the Swedish State Departments, who have each given their views on the question.

A very special interest is attached to the remarks made in February of this year by the Chief of the Telegraph Department.

This Chief of the Telegraph Department reports that women are equally as efficient and rapid in the telegraph work as men, and on that ground there is no reason to make any difference in pay.

He bases his claim for lower pay for the women telegraphists on the strange and very ingenious argument that girls at school do not learn as much physics, chemistry and mathematics as boys.

The ideas of the Chief seem to be that as the young men who enter the Telegraph service have learnt more physics, chemistry, etc., in school than the girls, therefore it is easier and naturally cheaper to provide them with a greater technical training than the young women. As the training of one employee must not cost more than the training of another, therefore the women telegraph clerks must not have the same training as it would cost more. As, therefore, the technical training of the woman clerk is not so good, she must have a lower salary even if her work is equally good and rapid.

Miss Anna Westergaard points out that all attempts in this direction will weaken the women in their fight in the struggle for life in which thousands and thousands of women are obliged to take part.

Kvinden og Samfundet.

March 30, 1922.

The Married Woman's Right to Work.

The Swedish women doctors have appointed a Committee, which has sent a petition to the Ministry of Justice requesting that the teaching posts in the medical profession in Upsala, Lund and the Caroline Institute in Stockholm shall be opened to women on the same terms as men and without regard as to whether the women are married or single.

Tidens Kvinder.

March, 1922.

URUGUAY.

IN the September number of *JUS SUFFRAGII* there is published a telegram from the *Times*, in which it is stated that the Parliament of Uruguay is very much disposed to give Woman Suffrage. Alas! how far away it really is! The President's Bill, which I send you, is still only a suggestion which has merely been agreed to by the political party to which he belongs.

However, next year it will be put before Parliament. I doubt very much whether it will be passed. Public opinion is against it.

By the next letter I shall send you more encouraging news on the question of the equal moral standard. We have obtained a real victory so far as opinions go, after a very lively discussion on my book, "La Lutte Sociale contre les Maladies Vénéériennes." As this took place at the American Medical Congress, in which only doctors took part, I think it was a double victory, as most of my colleagues are convinced regulationists.

PAULINA LUISI.

THE PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS.

THE Woman's great Congress at Baltimore is over—a truly wonderful Convention!

Women of all types and from all parts of the two Americas have met and discussed matters of extreme importance to every grade of society.

The method on which the discussions were based was that of a series of Round Table Conferences presided over by women distinguished in the particular subject under discussion.

The leaders sitting at the six tables were:—

Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau, Washington, on Child Welfare.

Julia Wade Abbott, Department of the Interior, United States, on Education.

Mary Anderson, United States Department of Labour, on Women in Industry.

Dr. Valeria Parker, United States Inter-departmental Social Hygiene Bureau, on Prevention of Traffic in Women.

Mabel Walker Willebrandt, Assistant Attorney-General, United States Department of Justice, on Civil Status of Women.

And lastly, which perhaps comes first to us, the table presided over by

Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and Honorary President of the National League of Women Voters.

Interesting papers and addresses were given on the Political Status of Women, by Dr. Stowe Gullan, Canada; Mrs. Shuler, the United States; and Mrs. K. E. Trounson, on the position of women in the remainder of the world. The Treasurer, Mrs. McCormick, made a statement on the work being done by the Alliance, and called for support from American women. We are glad to be able to announce that this appeal met with a prompt response, and much definite interest was aroused, which will, no doubt, prove fruitful for the Alliance later on and increase the number of countries taking counsel of one another.

Lady Astor, in a few cheery words, paid a generous tribute to the British Suffragists; and Mrs. Catt ended the meeting with a fine and encouraging speech.

There were many interesting features in the Convention, but perhaps the most striking was the number of youthful delegates and the keen interest displayed by them throughout, not only at the general meetings but at the smaller which arose out of these throughout the ensuing week.

If the indomitable courage shown by these delegates, who spoke as often in English as Spanish, is any index, we may rest assured that the woman's cause is in good hands, backed as it is by the prominent workers who have been and are doing pioneer work in their own States and who, unfortunately, were unable to be present.

At the frequent social events opportunity was given for a more personal note, and friendships were made which will not be lightly broken.

We understand that under the able leadership of Mrs. Catt a Pan-American Association for the Progress of Women has been formed, with officers elected to represent the different sections of the Americas.

Below will be found the full list of official delegates to the Congress, and Mrs. Catt's message to the women of Latin-America, in Spanish.

Argentina	Dr. Alicia Moreau.
Bolivia	Señora Arcadia Zalles.
Brazil	Doña Bertha Lutz.
Canada	Dr. Grace Ruth, England, and Dr. Margaret Patterson from the Province of Ontario.
Chile	Señorita Graciela Mandujano.
Colombia	Mme. Maria Suarez de Coronado.
Costa Rica	Señora Sara Casal de Quiros.
Dominican Republic	Señora Doña Ofelia P. de Joubert.
Ecuador	Mme. Matilde de Carbo and Señorita Hortensia Balarezo.
Guatemala	Mme. Francisco de Sanchez Latour.
Haiti	Mme. Charles Dube.
Honduras	Señorita Mercedes Lainez.
Mexico	Señorita Elena Torres. Señorita Luz Vera. Señora Luisa Garza. Señora Aurora Herrara, from the State of Taumaulipas.
Nicaragua	Señorita Maria Clotilde Vega.
Panama	Señora Ester Niera de Calvo.
Paraguay	Señorita Maria Felicidad Gonzales.
Peru	Señorita Margarita Conroy.
Philippines	Mme. Jaime C. de Veyra.
Porto Rico	Mme. Milagroa Benet de Newton.
Uruguay	Señora Olga Capurro de Varela. Señora Clelia Paladino de Vitale.
Venezuela	Señora Mercedes de Guevara.
United States	Mrs. Joseph A. Bowen.

The women from Canada and Newfoundland were well represented, officially and otherwise, and among them many pioneers of the early Suffrage movement of Canada were included.

The total number of delegates at the Congress was 55, of whom 28 were official.

Official delegates included 5 delegates from Mexico and 2 from Canada.

The total number of organizations represented was 24. Out of 24 invitations, 22 Governments responded.

UN MENSAJE PARA LAS REPRESENTANTES DE LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

Por CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT.

Día por día el movimiento feminista toma incremento en todas partes del mundo. No pasa una semana sin que tengamos conocimiento de algún nuevo triunfo, unas veces social, otras político o económico. Cada uno de estos triunfos da ímpetu a nuestro movimiento y nos alienta para seguir luchando.

Veamos la posición de la mujer de hoy día y compáremosla con aquella de 1914, cuando se podían contar en los dedos de la mano, por decirlo así, los países que habían concedido el voto a la mujer. ¿Qué es lo que se representa a nuestra vista? ¿Veintidós países que han concedido el voto femenino durante la guerra! El cambio ha tenido lugar en los países grandes lo mismo que en los pequeños. Todo el Hemisferio Occidental, con excepción de los países latinos de Europa y el grupo de Repúblicas al Sur de los Estados Unidos, exige el apoyo de la mujer en la reconstrucción de la vida política y económica que se ha hecho necesaria con motivo de la devastación reciente ocasionada por la guerra.

La Gran Bretaña, Alemania, Rusia, Dinamarca, Holanda, Suecia y Noruega, representan una gran confraternidad de mujeres emancipadas. Alrededor de este grupo se han reunido las mujeres de mucho países más pequeños y más jóvenes.

Islandia, en el Norte, ha devuelto el sufragio a la mujer por medio de su nueva Constitución, proclamada con motivo de su independencia. El pequeño Luxemburgo ha sido arrastrado por esta corriente modernista, así como también los nuevos Estados de Polonia, Estonia, Lituania, Czecho-Slovakia, Ucrania y aún la Crimea

Musulmana. Todos han principiado su vida independiente sobre el cimiento de un pueblo completamente libertado. ¿No es este progreso europeo una profecía llena de esperanzas?

Si agregamos a este grupo los Estados Unidos y el Canadá, tenemos un volumen inmenso de influencia y de poder en manos femeninas.

El Africa Oriental Británica, así como también la Rhodesia Meridional, empiezan a abrirse terreno en el nuevo campo de la emancipación política de la mujer, mientras la India, muy recientemente (1921), ha concedido el voto a las mujeres en las provincias de Madras, Cochín, Travancore, Jhalawar y Bombay, bajo las mismas condiciones que a los hombres.

En Inglaterra, Escocia y Gales, las mujeres tienen el derecho de votar y de ser elegidas a la Cámara de los Comunes y a las administraciones públicas locales, es decir, juntas municipales y de distritos urbanos, consejos de educación, etc. Cualquiera mujer de veintidós años de edad puede presentarse como candidato para estos puestos, pero no tiene el derecho de votar por candidatos parlamentarios antes de haber llegado a la edad de treinta años.

Muy a menudo se nos pregunta: ¿Cuál ha sido el resultado del sufragio femenino? Como contestación no podemos decir que hasta la fecha este cambio en la vida política de nuestros países ha alterado el poder relativo de los distintos partidos. Lo que sí podemos afirmar es que ha obligado a los representantes de todos estos grupos a prestar más atención a ciertas cuestiones llamadas frecuentemente "cuestiones femeninas," esto es, asuntos relacionados principalmente con la salud y bienestar general de la comunidad. Los ha obligado a interesarse más en las cosas de la política doméstica, y a tomar en consideración el efecto que su actitud pueda tener sobre la acción política de la mujer.

Hasta la fecha (1922) hay dos mujeres en la Cámara de los Comunes de Inglaterra: La Vizcondesa de Astor, quien ha sido bien recibida y a cuya influencia se deben muchas medidas que tienden a promover los intereses de las mujeres; y la Señora Margaret Wintringham, quien ha llegado al Parlamento con una notable hoja de servicios públicos, como juez de paz, miembro de juntas de educación y de salubridad pública, así como también incansable trabajadora en muchas organizaciones de bienestar social. Su elección ha causado satisfacción en todo el Reino.

En otras partes del Imperio Británico las mujeres votan sobre las mismas bases que los hombres, como sigue: Nueva Zelandia, desde 1893; Australia, desde 1893 en algunas provincias, y 1908 en otras; el Canadá, con la excepción de la provincia de Quebec, dió el voto a las mujeres en 1919; el Africa Oriental Británica y la Rhodesia Meridional concedieron el voto femenino en el mismo año de 1919. En las siguientes provincias de la India Británica, como hemos dicho antes, las mujeres han obtenido el voto recientemente: Madras, Cochín, Travancore, Jhalawar y Bombay. En Rangoon, Burma, las mujeres han votado por algunos años en las elecciones para consejos municipales. Con respecto a otros países en cuyos Gobiernos las mujeres han obtenido importantes puestos parlamentarios, debemos mencionar los siguientes:

Australia—tiene un miembro femenino en su Parlamento.
Austria—tiene ocho.
Canadá—cuenta con cuatro mujeres en las Cámaras legislativas del Estado y con tres que llevan el título de ministros sin portafolio.
Czecho-Slovakia—tiene trece mujeres en la Cámara de Diputados y tres en la Asamblea.
Dinamarca—cuenta con once. Debido a la influencia de estas mujeres se han dictado las siguientes leyes: (a) igual recompensa para hombres y mujeres por el mismo género de trabajo; (b) derecho sin distinción a todos los puestos públicos; (c) estado legal de igualdad en el matrimonio.
Suecia—ha elegido recientemente cinco mujeres a la Asamblea y una a la Cámara de Diputados.

Noruega—obtuvo igualdad de sufragio en 1911, pero esperó hasta el otoño de 1921 para elegir una mujer para una curul en el Parlamento.

Estonia—el Parlamento de este país tiene cinco mujeres.

Finlandia—tiene diez y ocho.

Lituania—cinco.

Lettonia—cinco.

Alemania—ha elegido cuarenta al Reichstag.

Luxemburgo—cuenta con una mujer en su Parlamento.

Holanda—tiene dos.

Bélgica—dos.

Polonia—ocho.

Rhodesia—una.

Rusia—concedió el voto a las mujeres en términos de igualdad con los hombres durante la primera revolución, y varias mujeres han servido en el Parlamento y en el Gabinete.

Los Estados Unidos—ha elegido dos mujeres al Congreso y treinta y tres a las Legislaturas de los Estados.

Como hemos indicado, los países donde las mujeres aún tienen que obtener el voto son los siguientes: Francia, Italia, España, Portugal, Sud-Africa, Terranova y todos los países de la América Latina.

En Inglaterra, Noruega, Suecia, Alemania, Dinamarca y otros muchos países, las mujeres hemos tenido que luchar duramente por el derecho de discutir y tomar parte en las cuestiones públicas, y hemos ganado grandes triunfos. Unidas con las mujeres de otras tierras que aún están luchando bajo la bandera de la Alianza Internacional del Voto Femenino, estamos resueltas a continuar nuestra labor, haciendo todo lo posible por despertar interés y Terrorar nuestros principales enemigos, a saber, la apatía y la indiferencia.

La responsabilidad del voto ha caído sobre la mujer justamente en el momento cuando el servicio que ella puede rendir al mundo es indispensable para su reconstrucción. Esta es la hora de la oportunidad para la mujer, y tenemos la determinación de luchar porque todas nuestras hermanas se aprovechen del privilegio que por derecho les corresponde.

Así, pues, delegadas de la América Latina, ¡seguid adelante! Haced uso de toda la influencia de que podáis disponer. El remedio de muchos males lo tenéis en vuestras manos. Si las mujeres de vuestros países lo exigen, nada ni nadie les puede impedir el obtener sus derechos políticos.

KATE E. TROUNSON.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

When Women Voters Meet.

A spectator attending the Third Annual Convention of the National League of Women Voters of the United States of America (held at Baltimore, Maryland, April 25 to 28) and living through the crowded days during which the long and arduous business of the Convention was transacted, might easily have gotten the impression that the hundreds of busy workers there engaged were occupied in the weaving of a mighty fabric upon a mighty loom, a tapestry in which were blended gay and sombre colours in an intricate design varied by many pictures of striking interest.

For the most part the background was of sober hue, affected by those serious subjects to which the delegates gave themselves through long hours of grave deliberation. But there flashed out from the soberness at intervals bright pictures, now a single figure struck into prominence, now a banquet scene full of light and colour, and now a great meeting crowded with human figures. And all through the design ran the glowing threads of thought and impressions given by the women of the Latin-American countries who made their influence felt not only through the Pan-American Conference but through the succeeding sessions of the regular convention.

In opening the sessions, Mrs. Maud Wood Park, in her annual address, stated that the guide for their

deliberations would be the motto printed on the programme: "The education of citizens is the safeguard of a republic," and she brought out woman's part in the discussion of public affairs by contrasting the viewpoints of men and women citizens in the words: "Men have done and are doing their best to solve public problems, largely on the basis of their distinctive experience in the economic world. The conduct of large business affairs is almost wholly in the hands of men, and men make up the greater number of wage-earners outside the household. Naturally, therefore, and properly, men have the viewpoint of business interest. That is an important and necessary viewpoint, but it is not the only one. Women, by virtue of their distinctive experience in life, have a tendency to see affairs of government in such terms as education, public health, public morals—the human development made possible by a peace-loving and forward-looking civilization. This is the point of view of social welfare, and it should be reckoned with quite as fully as should the point of view of business interest. Proper respect for business experience is essential if we are to be a prosperous nation; but we shall be a better and happier nation when equal respect is given to that half of the people who know best how to care for human life. The needed adjustment between the two tendencies is far more likely to be brought about if women voters are mindful of their own experience and firm in seeing that it has due weight in public affairs." And she struck the keynote of the Convention's proceedings in the further statement: "Efficient government machinery can do much to bring about results, but efficient machinery alone may be a profound menace. The purposes for which the machinery is to be used are more important than the machinery. No voter is properly trained for citizenship who lacks comprehension of measures on behalf of child welfare, education, the problems involved in the cost of living, the removal of unfair discriminations against women and the promotion of honourable means whereby abiding peace may be secured."

The subjects thus enumerated as essential to an educated citizenship were then taken up day after day by the Convention, through the reports and recommendations of the various standing committees who have during the past year worked not only to educate the members of the League, but to enlighten the public and to bring to the attention of the legislators remedial legislation.

Without doubt the Committee on Limitation of Armaments (Miss Elizabeth J. Hauser, Chairman) gave the most important report and awoke the most interest. Its main resolution was passed with enthusiasm and after many favourable comments. It provided that the "National League of Women Voters assert its conviction that the aim of all international peace efforts should be to outlaw war itself and to abolish it as a legalized institution, instead of to regulate it, and that to this end a code of international law, based upon equity and justice between nations, as municipal law is based upon equity and justice between individuals, be erected, by which the waging of war be made a crime, defined and punishable under the terms of the code." An additional resolution calling upon the Congress of the United States to make a downward revision of the Army and Navy to pre-war status was also passed. The Convention decided to continue the work of the National League for reduction of armaments through a permanent committee, one of whose duties will be to develop an agency to maintain close contact with the women of other nations. And the Conference took as a part of its actual working programme "the initialing and supporting of measures to have war declared a crime and as such outlawed," calling upon its National Board of Directors "to designate what activities belong legitimately to such a programme." It was evident in all the discussions that no word falls more gratefully upon the ears of thousands of women voters in America than the word *peace*, and that they have dedicated themselves with an earnest spirit to those activities that will make it an actuality for all the nations of the world.

Second in importance, from the standpoint of interest, came the welfare of women and children. The recommendations of the Committee on Child Welfare (Mrs. La Rue Brown, Chairman) were readily accepted. These dealt with adequate appropriations for the Children's Bureau in Washington, to Federal aid to the States to promote physical education in the schools, to the immediate acceptance of the Sheppard-Towner Act for maternity and infancy care by all the States which have not yet accepted it, for the proper State school attendance and child labour laws (raising the age of compulsory school attendance to 16 and providing for proper physical examinations of children entering employment), and for adequate provision for detecting children in need of special care and necessary legislation for those that are dependent, defective and delinquent. The affiliated State Leagues were advised to study the scientific work being done in the laboratories of the country for the saving of child life.

Women's welfare was covered by the Committee on Social Hygiene (Mrs. Ann Webster, Chairman), the Committee on Uniform Laws (Mrs. Catharine W. McCulloch, Chairman), and the Committee on Women in Industry (Miss Mary E. McDowell, Chairman). The Committee on Social Hygiene recommended educational, recreational, law enforcement, and legislative measures, and reported that during the year 1921 a total of 182 measures bearing on social hygiene were introduced in the State Legislatures of the country and that 55 were passed. It was said that preventive measures against vice are of primary importance and that the American plan of no toleration is succeeding. The Convention went on record as demanding that neither "police nor court authorities shall have power to examine women for venereal diseases on suspicion before the commission of a sex offence."

The Committee on Uniform Laws declared for an active support of the principle of independent citizenship for women, for the eligibility of women to all offices under the Government, for the removal of all the legal disabilities and the common law disabilities of married women, for the equal guardianship of both parents of the persons and property of children, for a minimum age of consent of 18 years, for mothers' pensions, for the abolition of common law marriages, for the eligibility of women to jury service and to an equal interest of spouses in each other's real estate. It declared that women voters should be adequately represented at all party conventions and on all partisan committees, and stated that since the National League of Women Voters has secured during the two years of its existence the enactment of 62 measures in 28 States, materially improving the legal and civil status of women, it was opposed to blanket legislation on these subjects and approved the continuance of its programme of working for specific legislation.

On behalf of the 12,000,000 wage-earning women of the United States, the Committee on Women in Industry declared for minimum wage boards, for an eight-hour day, for one day's rest in seven, for technical training for women who wish to work with tools and metals, for the prohibition of night-work for women, and for various other measures that will surround the woman worker with better conditions, advance her rate of compensation and safeguard her health. To all of these demands the delegates pledged their continued support.

Interesting points made by the Committee on American Citizenship (Mrs. Walter D. Brookings, Chairman) were: That qualified women ought to serve on every Board of Education in the United States, that there should be adequate financing of public education, a consolidation of rural schools, and trained teachers in all schools with English the basic language.

The Food and Supply Committee (Mrs. Edward Costigan, Chairman) asked and received the Convention's endorsement of a plan for a thorough investigation by the League of the costs of producing and distributing coal in the United States, and gained their support to push State and Federal legislation to prohibit the manufacture of filled milk (a product lacking the

nourishment of real milk and often sold to ignorant mothers for their babies). The Committee also recommended that the Government be urged to increase the production of nitrate and other chemical elements needed in agriculture.

Announcing that 39 State Leagues and the district of Columbia have established branches of the Efficient Government Committee, Miss Belle Sherwin, its chairman, recommended a study of government, the publication of popular digests of election laws, and urged that the utmost influence of the League be exerted in opposition to any attempted repeal of the State Primary Laws and to any undermining of the Merit System in Civil Service.

One of the most interesting discussions of the Convention arose over the proposition made by a State President, Mrs. John O. Miller, that Efficient Government be made the principal department of the National League, that into this be merged the Committees on Citizenship and Uniform Laws, and that other Committees be abolished, on the ground that they duplicate the work of other organizations and restrict the time and attention that ought to be given to the purely political questions that are of paramount interest to women voters. There was a spirited discussion, during which Mrs. Catt was called upon to express her views and agreed that too little time had been devoted to a consideration of women in the political parties as workers and as candidates for office, but thought it inexpedient to decide such a vital question as a reorganization of Departments hastily and at practically the last moment of the Convention. Therefore the matter was referred to a committee and will be taken up again for settlement at the next annual Convention. Since the interest in political subjects like the one discussed by Miss Mary Garrett Hay and others at a morning session, "Should the League endorse or oppose candidates?" and "Tendencies in American political thought," an address given at an evening meeting by Dr. Charles E. Merriam, of the University of Chicago, was expressed in an intense way by the delegates through constant hand-clapping, and since some of the largest State Leagues are behind Mrs. Miller's idea, indications are that the proposed change will be acceptable to large numbers of the women in the National League.

The Convention raised \$55,000 toward its budget of \$103,000, and elected officers for the coming year, with Mrs. Maud Wood Park still at the helm to direct activities. No chapter of the past year's work is more quietly dramatic than the account of Mrs. Park's tireless tours through the various States to advise and inspire the Leagues, to speak before legislative committees on pending State legislation (this done so effectively that many Bills were passed because of her strong appeals), and her efficient and tactful work on the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, which she formed a year ago and on which the National League serves with 13 other national organizations of women to push Federal legislation by means of various sub-committees that work for specified Bills. Mrs. Park, in relating the achievements of this Congressional Committee in securing the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Bill and others, showed her own spirit when she said, "We must remember that what we desire above all things is to get the work done, and not necessarily to get the credit for it."

While there were many more subjects discussed by the Convention and many more decisions made, among the most important being the passing of a resolution in favour of the demand of the nearly half-million totally disfranchised people of the district of Columbia for the right of Federal suffrage, the delegates found time to attend many social events given by the citizens of Baltimore, from the Mayor down, and to participate in a banquet where there were 2,000 diners, and in an immense mass meeting, starring as speakers the distinguished men and women of several countries. They also went for two days to Washington, where they called on their United States Senators and met their Congressmen, presenting to them the resolution on limitation of armaments and informing them of the interest of women

voters in independent citizenship for married women. Other events in Washington were of great interest, but properly belong to the Pan-American part of the Conference.

The Convention was made notable by the presence of many famous men and women, such as Lady Astor, M.P., of England, who proved to be the greatest sensation of the hour, of Secretary of Commerce Herbert C. Hoover, of Jane Addams of Hull House, of Governor Ritchie of Maryland, of Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who received the usual warm homage accorded to her everywhere by women, and by many others known in all walks of life for their achievements, while the presence of the Latin-American delegates gave it a distinction no other conference has had. For the first time, too, in the history of the League the President of the United States took an interest in the gathering of its delegates, sending them the following message: "My interest in the Pan-American Conference of Women has caused me greatly to wish that I might be able to accept the invitation to attend and address your banquet. It would be a great satisfaction to express my interest in this international gathering of women leaders in public life and civic activities. From it, I confidently believe, will issue results calculated to cement the sentiments of friendship and co-operation among the peoples of the Western Continent. . . . I wish, therefore, in expressing my regret at not being able to accept your invitation, to tell you of my deep interest and sincerest wish for the complete success of the gathering.—Warren G. Harding." The Convention made many important matters clear. It showed the steady growth of the League of Women Voters, the widening and deepening of its influence, the numerous friends it has among the thinking people of the country, the great need for its continued existence, its practical value in the field of politics and legislation, and the wonderful possibilities it has in the future of rendering unselfish and important service to the American Government and the American people.

OREOLA WILLIAMS HASKELL.

New York City, May 1, 1922.

THE BOOKSHELF.

"Josephine Butler." By L. Hay-Cooper. (S.P.C.K.)

IF Mrs. Butler had foreseen that her very name would be a trumpet-call and a banner to the generation that came after her it is possible that she would have refrained from laying a charge upon her family and friends that no biography of her should be attempted. The present volume is necessarily small and incomplete, both as an account of an heroic task nobly performed with unflinching courage and as a portrait of a singularly magnetic personality. "They say on the platform," remarked one of her auditors, "she is like an angel of light." Nevertheless, brief and incomplete though it be, this memoir comes as a timely reminder of the difficulties which attended the pioneer workers for the abolition of State Regulation of Vice, as a timely encouragement to their successors in a field of enormous extent, where discouragements are many. The conspiracy of silence which enveloped the whole subject in Mrs. Butler's day has indeed been effectively shattered: in the Press, on the platform, in private conversation, both men and women may speak their minds and utter the truth that is in them without fear of consequence. But full freedom of discussion involves risks as well as gains; for centuries "women have been largely kept moral by the tremendous pressure of public opinion and the fear of disgrace. . . . Now they know how to avoid the consequences." There are not a few who advocate that the "single moral standard" shall be levelled down for women, not levelled up for men, and again to many the old virtues, as Mrs. Butler herself said, "look like the face of a dead friend." It is well therefore to be reminded of the woman whose implacable opposition secured the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts, who permitted no compromise with principle: "Principles know not the name of mercy. What have I to do with peace any more? It is war to the knife." There is a widespread and insidious attempt to re-introduce Regulation under other names and different forms. It is well therefore to remember that any official regulation of vice is an official condonation of vice

and an official incitement thereto. Mrs. Butler lacked the scientific data now available to disprove the efficacy of regulation, but she saw clearly enough that "by and by we shall come down on our opponents with the heavy artillery of statistics and facts." The heavy artillery is now available, and should be used unflinchingly; but the question remains primarily a question of human nature. It is important to know that there is no biological necessity for vice; it is more important to know that men and women are morally equals.

ANGELA GORDON.

"Christ and International Life." By Edith Picton-Turbervill. (Morgan & Scott.)

More than four hundred years ago, in one of the ablest political treatises ever written, Machiavelli laid down the theory that the ethical code which guides the governing authority must needs be on a lower level than that which guides the life of the individual. Few political theorists have been the subject of more general and emphatic denunciation; yet the belief in the necessity of a double code of morality, which he so lucidly maintained, is widespread among the professedly Christian nations of to-day, and a large part of Machiavelli's doctrine has been a potent factor in European politics for four centuries. Miss Picton-Turbervill's little book is an attempt, higher perhaps in aim than in achievement, to assert, in opposition to the Machiavellians, the possibility of basing international relations upon the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. She maintains, as Mazzini maintained, that patriotism and Christianity are not incompatible; and among the passages which she has selected as a heading to her first chapter she quotes one of the noblest sayings of the Italian Risorgimento: "National and international life should be two manifestations of the same principle, the love of God." In the adoption of Christian morality as the keystone of policy lies the only hope of salvation for the wreckage of nations which is the legacy of the greatest war in the world's history; this is her thesis. It is not true, she believes, that Christianity has been tried and has failed; no attempt has yet been made by Christian statesmen to bring Christian ethics into international statecraft. It has been said repeatedly that there is no place for religion in politics; but "it appears clearer, day by day, that the only hope for future politics is to bring the best of religious life into the very heart of them." In short, "the crying need of political life is simple Christianity. The Christian is realizing to-day that it is impossible to keep out of politics, and unthinkable that in his political life he should leave his religion behind." Miss Picton-Turbervill's sincerity is unquestionable, and her case for the suitability of the Christian teaching to the conditions of modern industrial life is stated with spirit and some acumen; but it is open to the critic to wonder why no space should be found even to mention in passing the noble work for the rehabilitation of a ruined Europe that has been done already by the one Society among Christians which has never at any time left religion out of any sphere of life. It is not necessary to look back to Galilee. The Society of Friends offers a nearer example to modern Christians.

ANGELA GORDON.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

DELEGATES from at least eighteen nations will meet in Paris for the Second Conference of the International Federation of University Women, which is to be held from July 15 to 18. The Federation has made very good progress since its inception in 1920, when the University women of the United States and Great Britain invited those of other countries to join them in founding an organization for promoting friendship and understanding between the educated women of the nations of the world by the simple and practical method of personal intercourse. International scholarships, travelling fellowships, exchange posts in Universities and schools, are prominent features of the programme of work undertaken by the Federation. In several centres club-houses for University women are being established. The large and beautiful house in Paris, generously given by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid to the American University women, will be opened for the Conference, and will be the scene of several of the meetings. A comprehensive programme of further

activities will be discussed during the Conference, and there will also be addresses and discussions on Methods of Promoting Peace, Diplomacy as a Career for Women, Le Rôle Social des Femmes, L'Art Féminin, The Position of Married Women in the Professions, and other subjects of general interest. Several of the meetings will be open to all University women who may like to attend. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary, International Federation of University Women, 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

WORLD-WIDE WORK FOR INFANT WELFARE.

THE National Baby Week Council is a body whose work is the cultivation of public opinion on questions affecting the welfare of mothers and babies. It came into existence in 1917, when the Great War was making us realize the necessity of conserving infant life and the rearing of healthy citizens. The need for its continued existence after the war is still very real, for the economic stress and strain, which affects all countries, belligerent or non-belligerent, as a consequence of the war, has perilous effects upon infant life, unless the whole nation is aware of the importance of infant life, and realizes the necessity for safeguarding it.

To safeguard the baby it is first necessary to safeguard the mother. The work of cultivating public opinion is carried out by the National Baby Week Council in various ways. All during the year it seizes every opportunity of drawing attention to maternity and child welfare problems, and of putting facts before the public, so that

each individual may form his or her opinion upon these facts.

During the last few years the National Baby Week Movement has extended to other countries, and we are glad to have regular overseas correspondents, who keep us in touch with the Infant Welfare Movement in their own countries, and with whom we co-operate and exchange literature.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Cape Town—Miss Mabel C. Elliott, Society for the Protection of Child Life, "The Homestead," 6, Dorp Street. *Pretoria*—Mrs. A. B. Anderson, Hon. Secretary, Child Welfare Society, 78-81, Mutual Buildings. **AUSTRALIA.**—New South Wales—Hon. S. R. Innes-Noad, M.L.C., Welfare of Mothers and Babies, Chief Secretary's Building, Sydney. **Queensland.**—W. P. B. Miles, Esq., Children's Welfare Association of Queensland, Brisbane. **South Australia.**—Miss Annie Hornbrook, East Parade Extension, Kensington Park, near Adelaide. **CANADA.**—Ontario—Dr. W. J. Bell (Section Chairman), Child Hygiene Section, Canadian Public Health Association, Toronto. Miss Mary Power, Director, Division Maternity and Child Welfare Provincial Board of Health, Toronto. **Ottawa.**—Dr. Helen MacMurchy, Chief of the Division of Child Welfare. **Saskatchewan.**—Dr. M. R. Bow, Medical Officer of Health, Regina. **INDIA.**—Dr. K. S. Sethna, Health Officer, Delhi. **Bengal.**—Dr. C. A. Bentley, Director of Public Health. **Bombay.**—Dr. J. A. Mistri, Bonny Building, New Charni Road, Girgaum, No. 4. **CEYLON.**—Dr. Walter Peiris, S.J., Sans Souci, Moratuwa.

We shall be glad to hear of other men and women who would be willing to unite with us in this world-wide effort of service for health.

The address of the National Baby Week Council is: Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, London, England. February 16, 1922.

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LECTURES.
 Wed., June 7th, 8.15 p.m., "Women and Religion." The Rev. Canon E. W. BARNES, Chairman: Dr. LETITIA FAIRFIELD.
 Wed., June 14th, 8.15 p.m., "The Future of British Agriculture." Mr. GERALD HOWARD, Chairman: Miss ESPLIN.
 Wed., June 21st, 8.15 p.m., Recital: "Pompeii." Miss MARGARET OMAR.
 Wed., June 28th, 8.15 p.m., From "The Ring and the Book." Announced later.
 Wed., July 5th, 8.15 p.m., "Old Lamps or New." LADY AMHERST OF HACKNEY, Chairman: Mrs. DEXTER.
 Wed., July 12th, 8.15 p.m., "Women in H.M. Forces." Professor DAVID HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, D.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc., Chairman: Miss VERA S. LAUGHTON, M.B.E.

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WELFARE WORK AT ELLIS ISLAND.



Migrants in the process of settling into the life of the country of their adoption. A mother and son outside a Y.W.C.A. International Institute in the United States.

IF Ellis Island shares the taste of Barrie's "Island that likes to be talked about," it must have had an unusually pleasant time during the last year, for it has been discussed throughout America and up and down Europe, from Constantinople to the British Isles.

Since the end of the war and the re-opening of transit possibilities, boat after boat had carried emigrants from Central Europe and Armenia, anxious to join their friends or families from home from whom they had been separated during the war, or eager to escape from the economic and political complications of the war-ridden countries.

This tremendous influx and the prediction of its continuance alarmed the Government of the United States, and in May, 1921, a new Immigration Law was passed which restricted the number of emigrants from each country to 3 per cent. of the number of that nationality residing in the United States during 1910. But this law did not come in time to relieve the congestion on Ellis Island, and the machinery, which had never been humane, broke down under the strain.

Stories of the hardships suffered by migrants on Ellis Island, of their long waits for inspection, insufficient accommodation, the difficulties of obtaining suitable food for children, were circulated round Europe, and as the narrators were frequently deportees, embittered by their disappointment at being refused entry to the United States, the stories lost nothing in the telling.

But by June the United States had begun to put its own house in order, recognizing that the new law had increased rather than diminished the need for social welfare work on Ellis Island. Up to this time the voluntary societies, including the Y.W.C.A., had carried on welfare work on the island, but their work had never received official recognition. The voluntary committee of Immigrant Welfare was created by Commissioner General W. H. Husband and undertook to look into the matter, and a thorough survey was made of the whole island, with the co-operation of Commissioner Tod.

The members of that committee were: Fred. C. Coxtan, Director of Social Agencies, Columbia, Ohio, chairman; Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer, Director of Emigration and Americanization, Massachusetts Department of Education, Boston; Miss Julia C. Lathrop, former chief, United States Children's Bureau, Chicago; W. W. Bibray, Inspector in Charge of United States Immigration Service, Pittsburg; Dr. Charles P. Neill, Director, National Catholic Welfare School of Social Service, Washington; and Miss Loula M. Laskar, New York.

Many of the members spent several days on Ellis Island on various occasions and Mrs. Thayer spent some weeks studying emigration conditions in Europe. The committee were unanimous in their recommendations, and the Secretary of Labour, Mr. James D. Davis, personally inspected and approved the proposed improvements which will be carried out immediately by Commissioner Tod.

In the first place it was decided to appoint a Director of Information, who, under the immediate direction of the Commissioner, should have complete charge of all welfare work on the island. This means that the voluntary societies will in future be authorized to assist, under the direction and supervision of the official Director of Information, in the general welfare work among migrants after they are duly examined.

There have always been interpreters of languages on Ellis Island, but in the past the migrants have not got into contact with them early enough. In fact, they have been brought before the Board of Inquiry before they met the interpreter. Then it was too late to ask for an explanation of the examination and too late to ascertain whether their relatives knew of their arrival on the island and where they were to meet them.

To help the migrants and make the machinery on Ellis Island more comprehensive to the newcomer, it was decided to appoint more interpreters, who should be trained social workers, who would get in touch with the migrants directly they leave the boat, to carry out

the interchange of permissible correspondence between detained migrants and their waiting friends, to keep families advised as to condition of relatives who may be in hospital, and to perform any other social service necessary.

The extension of this service, which has always formed part of the work of voluntary societies on the island, should prevent, in the future, such tragedies as that of P. D. P. D. had come from Poland to join her brother, and after having been under observation at the hospital the usual length of time, had a hearing before the Board of Special Inquiry. On that same morning her brother, a poor miner from Pennsylvania, came to Ellis Island to meet his sister, whom he had furnished with means of transportation, hoping to take her home with him. Although he was sent to the room where she was, he did not recognise her because he had not seen her since she was four years old. He sought her in the hospital an hour later, only to be informed that she had been deported because no relation had been present to guarantee payment for her treatment in the hospital.

Up to the present no welfare worker has been allowed access to emigrants until their examination has been completed, but according to the new regulations the official interpreters will be allowed to meet arriving aliens when they leave the ships for the barges which convey them to Ellis Island, and will be able to explain to the emigrants, in a tongue which they understand, the necessity of inspection and the procedure they will have to go through. The migrant will then at least understand why he is not allowed to join his relatives who are anxiously awaiting him.

If a migrant is deported because he is in excess of the quota he has the right to make an appeal, and the Y.W.C.A., when helping the migrant to draw up his



Future migrants in their home village.

appeal, has always added a Brief, giving a full account of the migrant's past history and social background, without which it is impossible to give fair judgment on his case. The Advisory Committee has now recommended that a Brief shall be attached to every appeal.

Again, the official interpreters will in future explain to the migrant or to his relations the reason for his deportation, which precaution will prevent the migrant from seeking readmission to the United States without attempting to remove his disability.

For example, a Czech, A. D., was deported because he was suffering from gonorrhoea. The case was referred to the Y.W.C.A. Migration Secretary in Prague, through the World's Y.W.C.A. Office, and she got into touch with the local Notary Office, and discovered that A. D. had no idea why he had been deported, and intended to sail for the United States again the following year. The Secretary was able to explain the reason for deportation and advise upon remedial measures.

In the past migrants have been detained on the barge which transported them from the ships to Ellis Island until they passed the necessary medical examinations, which meant a long wait in overcrowded and uncomfortable conditions, which increased the mental and physical strain. Under the new regime migrants are to pass straight from the barge to commodious and comfortable receiving-rooms in the main immigration building, while awaiting medical examination.

Better accommodation is being provided for detained migrants. A large room on the ground floor of the main building, now used as a railway ticket office and money exchange, will be utilized as day-rooms for detained women and children, and both mothers and children will have easy access to the recreation grounds which will be equipped as a playing ground. Other large rooms, adjacent to extensive porches, will be available as day-rooms for other migrants, so that all who are detained for any length of time will have comfortable and pleasant quarters and facilities for out-of-door recreation. A large outside room is to be equipped as a dormitory for women and children who are now obliged to occupy the general dormitory which, in the past, was the only available sleeping accommodation.

To reduce the dangers that result from the improper feeding of young children, a trained dietitian will in future be in charge of the preparation of the children's food, and whereas formerly milk and crackers were provided for small children only, they are now served to all women and children in the dining-room at meals and at bed-time. A night steward has been added to the Commissary force to supervise this service.

As cleanliness is one of the conditions of release from Ellis Island, it is good news to learn that improved laundry facilities are to be provided for the use of detained migrants, and they will be much appreciated by mothers with young children.

Ellis Island can never offer the comforts of a first-class hotel, but the improvements recommended by the Advisory Committee of the United States Bureau of Immigration are eagerly welcomed by the Y.W.C.A. workers at Ellis Island and all other friends of migrants, and the presence of a permanent official director of information should lead to the further mitigation of the hardships and discomforts which migrants now suffer.

To most migrants the United States is a land of promise, and when they reach Ellis Island they hope that their troubles will be at an end, and the first impressions met with on American soil strike deeply and help to determine whether the migrant will become a citizen or remain a mere sojourner.

THE INTERPRETATION OF CHRIST TO YOUNG WOMEN TO-DAY.

THIS is the title of an International Commission that will be meeting at St. Wolfgang, in Austria, from June 10 to 16. There will be representatives from every part of the world, so that the study of the modern girl as well as of the method of the presentation of Christianity will be thoroughly international. In preparation for the Commission, questionnaires were sent out early in the year. The facts and opinions concentrated in these will form the basis of the discussions. During the morning hours the Commission will divide into four groups, committee women, professional workers, girl representatives, and representatives of different societies in touch with young women. Each group will be discussing the same questions, but from the angle of their special experience. In the afternoon all four groups will come together and in common session will compare the results of the morning's work. The composite picture of the young womanhood of the world made up by the contributions of women of many nationalities should be extraordinarily interesting. A study of the answers to the questionnaire reveals how many are the problems which are exercising the minds of young women, the industrial girl caught in the tangle of our present social system, the educated girl in a semi-illiterate country

isolated by her education, the migrant girl denationalized by new surroundings without being absorbed by them, the "teen-age" girl passing into adolescence at a time when the storm and strain within is repeated by storm and strain outside, and so forth. One fact emerges, namely, that whatever her particular problem, the modern girl is not content to be beaten by it, but is seeking solutions for it. This is encouraging, even when the solutions do not seem adequate. It is encouraging also to catch a note of interest in issues larger than personal ones, a concern for social reform, a demand for a re-statement of religion, a desire for a sound basis for internationalism, a recognition of our mutual responsibility for the present state of the world and that "we are all caught in a machine."

As all the delegates have had months of preparation it should be possible to cover a good deal of ground in the week, and the report which may be expected as a result of the months of study and of the Commission should be a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the young women of the twentieth century.

FOURTEEN NATIONALITIES AT A SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SUMMER SCHOOL.

THE Summer School for women interested in the social and industrial questions of our day, planned by the Industrial Advisory Committee of the World's Y.W.C.A., opens in London on July 22 and lasts until September 4. The British Y.W.C.A.'s training centre, Tudor House, Newington Green, has been borrowed for the school, and women from fourteen different countries have already sent in their applications. Only a limited number of students will be admitted to the school, as the work will be intensive, and a feature of it will be the opportunities for discussion. The history of industrial and agricultural developments in different countries will be studied, including trade unionism, co-operative movements, etc. There will also be courses on social theory and social reform; on economic theory and industrial legislation; on land tenures, and so forth. As the school is planned primarily for Y.W.C.A. workers, or women attached to or interested in similar movements, there will be supplementary courses on the Bible, especially in its relation to modern social theory and practice, and on methods of group recreation, self-governing clubs, etc. A number of distinguished lecturers who have specialized in the subjects to be studied have promised their services, and though it would be impossible in so short a time to go deeply into every topic, the students will at least have the opportunity of getting into touch with the results of recent scholarship and experiment, so that they can continue to study after they return to their own countries. In many countries there are at this time different groups of people interested in the questions of the day, but from different standpoints and with differing backgrounds of knowledge. In consequence, these groups, which should be co-operating, often misunderstand each other. This Summer School, on a modest scale, is an attempt at bridging some of these gulfs and at inculcating a different point of view. Visitors to England who would like to see or take part in the School should write to Miss Mary A. Dingman, Industrial Secretary to the World's Y.W.C.A., 34, Baker Street, London.

THE CHINESE CHURCH STANDS FOR GOOD CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY.

LAST month we had the privilege of publishing an article by Zung Wei Tsung, the only Chinese woman to be present at the International Congress of Working Women, on "The Chinese Church and the new industrial system." This month by cable comes the news that at its big conference the Chinese Church has accepted the recommendations of the Commission, of which the late Miss Grace Coppock, National General

Secretary of the Chinese Y.W.C.A., was chairman. This means that the first public declaration of desire for a new social order has come from the Christian Church, which has pledged itself to work for justice and right conditions in industry, before Chinese workers suffer, as Western workers have, from an industrial system based on profit and not on service. The full text of the resolutions passed by the Conference has not yet been received, but the recommendations which were sent up by the Commission on Industry were summarized as follows:—

"In full realization of the swift oncoming of the modern industrial system from the West, the Committee urges that the Church fearlessly takes the lead in the forming of such public opinion as shall prevent a repetition in China of the industrial tragedies of the West, and as shall put China in line with the other civilized countries which have endorsed the industrial standards of the League of Nations.

"The Committee asks the Church to take this international standard as its ultimate goal, and for the immediate future to endorse and promote the following three points: No employment of children under 14; one day's rest in seven; and the safeguarding of the health of workers by shorter hours, improved sanitary conditions and the use of safety devices.

"It also recommends that in connection with the National Christian Council, a Council on Economic and Industrial Problems be formed, with a permanent secretary; and that the training of social workers be given as strong consideration as is at present given in the fields of education and medicine."

Commission II., which had 14 sub-committees, only submitted its recommendations, of which the above is a condensation, after prolonged study and consideration and after much consultation between different societies and groups of people. The recommendations thus represent considered opinion, and their acceptance by the Conference is not an empty form merely, but a pledge of action.

"FEETURE FILMS."

THE modern woman, in spite of the increase (or because of the increase?) of means of transit, is so much on her feet that they are of greater importance than in the days when to be small and prettily formed was all that was asked of the well-bred foot. The boot and shoe trade flourishes—so do chiropodists—and doctors lecture on the height of heel which gives the human form the best poise. In shop windows one notices every possible contrivance for propping up feeble feet, and in the United States it is possible to go to the cinema and see three films produced by the Y.W.C.A. Each of these now well-known films is 1,000 ft. long, their running time being about 15 minutes and they have the suggestive titles of "How do you stand?", "We're wrong about shoes," and "Foot folly." It is now some years since the Y.W.C.A. in the United States brought together a conference of boot manufacturers to discuss the ideal shoe, which should be, as an American woman expressed it, "both hygienic and handsome," and nowadays the leading firms stock, as a matter of course, at least one line of shoes that have a low, broad heel, a flexible shank and a straight inner line, with room across the broadest part of the foot for the toes to lie flat. This, in cold print, suggests the experimental footwear that has too often frightened the well-dressed woman back to the "fashionable" productions of the trade, part of whose profits at present rest on providing novelties, regardless of their possible effect on human health. But, in fact, the American shoes endorsed by the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. in the United States are as attractive as they are sensible, cut on good lines, thoroughly well made and daintily finished. To see a pretty girl shod in "Y.W.C.A. shoes," standing, walking, running, dancing, is a revelation of the way in which the ordinary "smart" shoe to which we are all accustomed throws out some of the loveliest lines of the human frame. An enthusiast said that feet wrongly shod, and eventually spoiled, or weakened by

wrong shoeing, were as pitiful as cripples on crutches. This, possibly, is going too far, but at the same time it would be interesting to know how much time is wasted, how much energy lost, how much health impaired, how much work inefficiently done because of painful or weak feet, which, with the exercise and freedom given to hands, would be as unobtrusive as hands commonly are. Women are carrying so much of the work of the world that they cannot afford the luxury of ill-health.

The study of feet in relation to health and efficiency is not confined to the West. News comes of a meeting in the Tokio Y.W.C.A. which was attended not only by women and girls, but by business men, manufacturers, and the head of the Army shoe department! Japan is wearing a larger number of shoes on Western models, in place of the sandal and clog, year by year, and Japanese women are anxious to preserve the perfect feet that are their enviable heritage. Standards are not yet set, and meetings such as this have a part to play in seeing that beauty and health in footgear shall be essentials, not accidentals.

Members of the Canadian Y.W.C.A., too, have a "Y.W.C.A. Shoe" at their disposal, for a manufacturer in Toronto stocks "a natural tread" shoe which it is a pleasure not only to wear but to see.

LUNCHEON FOR MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

It is a common thing to find a daughter out of touch with her mother, especially in countries where the mother's generation is of the old regime and the daughter's of the new. Affection and the tie of blood keep the two together in certain respects, but changes come so rapidly that there is always a danger that the daughter, in touch with new conditions, may view life from a different angle and may imagine that because her mother is not interested in or disapproves of this or that, she is not qualified to judge in other spheres where actually her mature experience would be invaluable to the younger woman. Such a division may be understandable, but it need not be inevitable. Youth cannot reform the world without the backing of age, any more than age can put the brake on youth without understanding where it can be applied.

An interesting experiment was tried in Constantinople this spring, when 377 mothers and daughters of all nationalities lunched together at the Hotel Tokatlian. Filial and maternal pride had full scope that day, and anyone seeing the spirit of spontaneity which prevailed, could hardly have guessed at the careful preparations that made the luncheon such a success. Four little committees with an international membership worked for weeks beforehand on the details which are so important in planning such a gathering: speakers, music, order of events, menu—nothing was forgotten. Possibly the two most striking features were the girls' speeches and the way in which the topical songs printed on the programme infected everyone with a desire to sing. The Y.W.C.A. members, Turkish, Greek, Armenian, French, English, American, etc., had two special songs of their own, but they were not the only people singing them; and if the mothers clapped the young speaker on "A Mother through a Daughter's Spectacles," the daughters were equally enthusiastic over "A Daughter through a Mother's Spectacles." Speeches on "Daughters To-day, Mothers To-morrow" expressed the feeling of fundamental solidarity that the luncheon brought out; while "Mothers of the World" and "Comrades" expressed the girls' point of view that mothers and daughters must stand together if the work that is waiting to be done in the world is to be accomplished. Conferences and lectures on things as they are, no doubt, accomplish much; but there is a magic which defies definition about an informal gathering such as this luncheon. To do a thing together and in sufficient numbers to get the infection of the group spirit and to lose consciousness of self, provides an impetus that carries the individual over many awkward stumbling-blocks to the firm ground of common interest. The

Y.W.C.A. of Constantinople is to be congratulated on its enterprise and imagination.

EIN FERIENLAGER FÜR JUNGE MÄDCHEN IN ÖSTERREICH.

IN der ganzen internationalführenden Welt ist es bekannt, welchen schweren Kampf das aus den Trümmern des alten, stolzen Kaiserreichs sich emporringende neue Österreich zu kämpfen hat, um sich aus der Nacht, die es immer noch umgibt, ein bescheidenes Plätzchen an der Sonne zu schaffen.

Nicht gering ist die Zahl der Menschen, die die Methoden der neuen Staatsregierung kritisieren. Eines jedoch wird wohl von Wenigen bestritten werden, nämlich das Faktum, dass in dem neuen Österreich sehr vieles im Dienste der Jugend getan wird. Das wurde mit grosser Dankbarkeit anerkannt von allen Teilnehmerinnen an dem Ferienlager, das während der Osterferien dieses Jahres für eine Gruppe junger Mädchen des Evangelischen Vereins für die weibliche Jugend Österreichs eingerichtet wurde. Mit grösster Zuverlässigkeit wurde diesen jungen Mädchen eine der dem Staate angehörigen Jugendherbergen zur freien Benutzung zur Verfügung gestellt, völlig möbliert und eingerichtet, sogar Freikarten zur Bahnfahrt waren bewilligt worden, und so brauchte man nur mit dem persönlichen Effecten enthaltenden Rucksack anzukommen, um sich sofort für die schöne, leider nur allzu kurze Osterferienzeit „ferien-lagermässig“ niederzulassen. Hochwolkersdorf, im sogenannten „Buckligen Lande“ gelegen, mit dem im Sonnenlichte aus weiter Ferne wie ein wunderbares Wolkengebilde herüberglänzenden Schneeberge, schon dieser Name gibt einen Begriff von dem in luftiger Höhe gelegenen Örtchen, in welchem die frohe junge Schaar am Donnerstag vor Ostern bei schönstem Frühlingswetter einzog, um bis zum darauffolgenden Dienstag die Freuden des Lagerlebens zu geniessen. Besprechungen ernsten Charakters wechselten mit Spielen, fröhlichen Volkstänzen und Reigen auf dem



Volkstanz von jungen Wienerinnen getanzt.

grünen mit Veilchen bewachsenen Rasen des grossen Gartens. Wanderungen in der reizvollen Umgebung wurden unternommen und Lieder, viele, viele Lieder wurden gesungen, denn die zwei Guitaren mussten immer mit dabei sein, und in Österreich kommt jedes Menschenkind mit Lust und Liebe zur Musik auf die Welt. Was die Harmonie des Zusammenlebens erhöhte kam gewiss auch dadurch, dass keine der Leiterinnen zu alt oder zu müde war, um an allen jugendlichen Freuden voll teilnehmen zu können. Ja, es ging sogar so weit, dass es nicht lange dauerte bis einer jeden von ihnen ein Tiername angehängt wurde, um ihre besonderen Charaktereigenschaften zu versinnbildlichen. Erfrischt, gebräunt und mit geröteten Wangen zog die junge Schar, fröhliche Marschlieder singend, in die Grosstadt zurück, und Hochwolkersdorf wird wohl lange noch als sonnige Erinnerung in ihren Alltag hinüberleuchten.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Lady Rhondda's Claim	145	France—Congrès National Féministe	151
Obituary—Mme. Jules Siegfried	146	Mme. Jules Siegfried	152
Women in the League of Nations	146	Nouvelles Femistes	152
Equal Moral Standard Section—Uganda Venereal Disease Regulations	146	The Senate fails Again	153
Chicago Purity Conference and Neo-Regulation	146	India—Well Done, Mysore!	153
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene; Reply to N.C.C.V.D. Questionnaire	146	Germany—Welfare of Infants Bill carried	153
Correction to Miss Nina Boyle's Letter	147	A New Divorce Law	153
Australia—League of Nations; Deputation of Women to Prime Minister	147	Great Britain—N.U.S.E.C.: British Women and League of Nations Day	154
Injustice of the Inter-state Inheritance Laws	148	Prospects for our Bills	154
Position of Deserted Wives; Maintenance Orders Reciprocal Enforcement	148	Summer School, St. Hilda's College, Oxford	154
Précis of Information re Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance Orders	148	Coercion of Wives	154
Österreich	148	Women Eligible for all Judicial Offices	154
Austria—Founding of a League of University Women	149	Another Barrier Down	154
First Woman Solicitor before the Courts	149	Hungary	154
State Welfare Workers' Association	149	India—Compulsory Elementary Free Education in Bombay City	155
Canada—First Woman Graduates in Medicine at McGill University	149	Women's Council of Bombay Presidency	155
Chile	150	Women on Local Councils	155
Czecho-Slovakia—Equal Pay for Women Teachers	150	Women's Right to Insurance Money	155
Denmark—Dr. Estrid Hein appointed Member of the Advisory Committee to League of Nations on Traffic in Women and Children	150	Passing Away of a Woman Pioneer	155
Protest against Double Moral Standard	150	Political Treatment for Political Prisoners	155
Finland—Rosina Heikel	151	Justice for Indian Girls	156
		Equal Franchise for Burmese Women	156
		Italy—Federation Central Committee	156
		Suffrage Bill	156
		Luxembourg	156
		Norway—Women on Penal Law Commission	157
		Roumania	157
		Sweden	158
		Suisse	158
		United States of America—Women at Work	158
		Visits to Serbia and Turkey	160

WORLD'S Y.W.C.A. SUPPLEMENT

CENTRE PAGES.

PEERESSES AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA, in commenting on her case, says:—

"The case has been a curious one. My claim was based on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, passed by the present Government, which says: "A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function," yet that claim was defeated owing to the action of a leading member of the Government which was responsible for the Act. Left to itself the Committee for Privileges appointed by the House of Lords on March 2 last agreed to the claim by a majority of 7 to 1. But at this point the Lord Chancellor (Mr. F. E. Smith, now Lord Birkenhead) intervened, and insisted that the claim be referred back to the Committee for further consideration. When the second Committee sat he guided it carefully but energetically into the path he desired it to follow. It is a case of the Government, through one of its leading members, having set itself to defeat the spirit of its own Act."

RHONDDA.

It is interesting to record the opinion of one of the Peers who supported Lady Rhondda's claim:—
"Lord Wrenbury said that Lady Rhondda was not disqualified from exercising any public function

which a holder of the peerage was entitled to exercise. To sit and vote in Parliament was such a public function. In his opinion she was entitled to succeed on this petition. The majority of their Lordships being of a contrary opinion, that view would not prevail. It remained, however, that in no court of justice, from the lowest to the highest, including their Lordships' House, could this case hereafter be cited as an authority upon the proper construction of the statute. The Committee was a mixed tribunal of laymen and of those generally styled "learned in the law." The former did not, before giving their vote, even wait to receive such assistance as their legal colleagues could give them in applying the law to that which was a purely legal question. The opinions which some of their Lordships had expressed would no doubt be read hereafter with the respect and consideration which was their due, but no judge would be bound to follow the present case as any authority upon the true construction of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919. Belated as was the opportunity which he had had of learning the grounds upon which the Lord Chancellor based his opinion, he had considered with every care the arguments upon which the Lord Chancellor rested his conclusion, but he could not concur in the Lord Chancellor's view."