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REPORT
on the Activities
of the
International Council of Women
since the last Council Meeting,
Dubrovnik, 1936

(Reports of the President, Hon. Secretary-General, Hon. Treasurer, I. C. W. Representative at Geneva, Liaison Officer with the League of Nations Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, Liaison Committee of Major International Organisations, Representatives on the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations and on the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations, Executive Secretary and Editor of the Bulletin).

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President's Report

It is a little less than 2 years since our last Council Meeting which took place at Dubrovnik in October 1936. This short space of time, — 21 months! — has seemed all too short, I assure you, for the new I. C. W. President, who has been obliged simultaneously to learn her new duties and to organise the Edinburgh Congress as well as to get familiar with the daily routine work of the office. This Congress will commemorate both the 50th anniversary of our International organisation and the long years during which the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Témair has presided over its destiny. May it develop according to our wishes and hopes.

First, allow me to express my deepest gratitude not only to our dear Lady Aberdeen, who continues her affectionate collaboration with me, but also to my colleagues of the Board of Officers and Executive Committee who have made my task as easy as it was in their power to render it. I particularly wish to mention the most valuable help that Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, First Vice-President of the I. C. W., has accorded me. I wish also to thank very specially the Headquarters Office Staff who have accorded me unlimited and devoted support.

Since our last Congress, the I. C. W. has suffered a great loss in the person of Mrs. Sanford. Her influence among our members both as I. C. W. Treasurer, — which post she occupied from 1904 to 1930, — and as President of the National Council of Women of Canada, is incalculable. It is not only with great gratitude that one remembers all that Mrs. Sanford did in undertaking this heavy burden in extremely critical times but also her work in carrying the message to many countries, where until she visited them our ideals had not been sufficiently realised. She was instrumental in helping to found National Councils in many places and to infuse new life and enthusiasm into many others. It is my sad duty to render this last homage to the devotion and activity of our late Treasurer and Hon. Vice-President and I am sure that all our members will hold her in grateful remembrance.

Our National Council of Women of Greece was grieved in September 1937, by the sudden death of Madame R. Georganta;

the passing of this warm hearted, active and capable President was a great loss both to the Greek National Council and to her country.

Shortly afterwards the sad news of the death of Madame C. Lena de Argerich reached us. She was the Hon. President of the National Council of Women of the Argentine which she founded in 1900 and of which she had been the valued President during many years.

Our members will share our regret at the loss of these competent women who were such devoted colleagues in the I. C. W.

At my request Lady Aberdeen has, since her retirement, consented to continue to correspond with some of our Overseas Councils, this enabling me to conclude successfully certain negotiations which has been begun under her leadership. I am thus in a position to give you the most satisfactory news of the National Council of Women of Burma. The N. C. W. of Burma was already connected with the I. C. W. through being affiliated to the N. C. W. in India and the Council Meeting at Dubrovnik authorised the President to accept direct affiliation of the Burma Council as soon as the new National Constitution, which made the country independent of the Indian Government took effect. Thus, when a request for affiliation was submitted by the National Council of Women of Burma we had the great pleasure of acceding to it.

With regard to Southern Rhodesia although a number of women desire to form a National Council no satisfactory formula has so far been found; the question is open, but the presence in Edinburgh of a Fraternal Delegate of the Federation of the Women's Institutes of Southern Rhodesia, — the most important institution in the country — will make it possible to come into direct contact, which will we hope further the definite formation of a National Council of Women.

In South West Africa, a Council of Women has been constituted which applied for affiliation in a letter dated November 17th 1937. In March last, the Board of Officers, met in Brussels and after examination of the Constitution of this new Council of Women which showed it to be in accordance with that of the I.C.W., it was decided to accept the application. This action will

have to be ratified by the Council Meeting in Edinburgh before we can greet them among us.

Mlle van Eeghen, our General Secretary, during a journey in Egypt made intensive propaganda towards the formation in that country of a Council of Women and we should be very happy if her efforts were crowned with success. She will herself give you a detailed report on the subject.

Considering that the time had come for the I. C. W. to be better known in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, I made the acquaintance of a lady there who seemed the right person to found a Society suitable to develop into a National Council of Women which could be ultimately affiliated to the I. C. W. Several meetings have already taken place, and I shall be delighted if I can carry with me to Edinburgh the good news of the coming into being of this latest member of our great international family.

After this hopeful news about our new Councils, I have to own that certain of the old ones have caused us anxiety. Peru is one of these and as I know that the National Council of Women of Peru has sent a Circular Letter to the other National Councils, explaining its attitude and point of view, it is with great joy that I can now tell you that they have resumed their place among us. It is particularly pleasant to publicly thank the President of the National Council of Women of Peru, whose wise insight and broadmindedness have so much helped towards our rapprochement, and also Mrs. Gallagher Parks, who, during a trip to Europe gave much time and thought to the study of this question. Some private conversations allowed us to find a « terrain d'entente » on which, I have no doubt, we shall be able to renew our collaboration and from which we may expect the most satisfactory results.

Alas! certain clouds darken our horizon, and we think especially of the National Council of Women of Austria from whom we have had no direct news at the time of this report going to press. It is understandable that the deep perturbations which have taken place in the country have placed our Austrian sisters in a difficult position but we still hope that our great idea of international fraternity can be admitted beyond the frontiers in a large movement of women's co-operation.

As to ourselves, do not let us be cast down by any vicissitude. We are convinced that the future belongs to those who, like ourselves, believe that active collaboration between all women, whatever their way of thinking, or the colour of their skin, can alone provide more happiness, more stability and therefore more peace in a world which is momentarily unsettled.

Wishing to come into personal contact with various organisations and to become better acquainted with the greatest possible number of I. C. W. collaborators, I went to Geneva in April 1937 during the sessions of the Consultative Committee on Social Questions of the League of Nations, and again in September of the same year during the Assembly, at the time when the Ad Hoc Committee on the Status of Women, — which was created under the auspices of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations was in session.

I had the privilege of being in London during the Coronation and in assisting at a Conference organised by the National Council of Women of Great Britain as well as at a dinner in honour of Lady Aberdeen's 80th birthday. In July 1937 I presided at the first meeting of the International Congress on Women's Activities in Paris which was organised by the National Council of Women of France and the success of which I am glad to be able to report here. Lastly I took part in various meetings of the Liaison Committee of Major International Organisations as well as in the One Day Conference held by the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations at The Hague in March 1938. I was also present at the meeting of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations in Paris in May of this year.

By these means I was able to acquaint myself not only with the various activities of our organisation but also with the multiplicity of the tasks which await us, and of the necessary ubiquity that an active President should possess when she dares to accept such a responsibility.

It is fortunate that the I. C. W. Board of Officers is formed of people capable of helping the President, whose essential task, according to my mind, is to remain at the helm of the ship she is guiding, and all my thanks are due to those who have helped me in this task. Firstly, to Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, who,

during a journey to Australia, where she was the guest of the New South Wales Government, for the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Australia, kindly devoted much of her leisure to establishing contact, — and what useful contact, — between the National Councils of that country and the I. C. W. we all know her competence and her talent and I need not tell you that she was an ideal Liaison Officer whose praise is sung in many enthusiastic letters received from Australia.

Fru Betzy Kjelsberg passed several months in the U. S. A., and while there, not only renewed friendly relations with a great number of members of the National Council of Women of the United States, but also strengthened the ties which already exist between that Council and Headquarters.

Some months before this, Madame Dreyfus-Barney had returned to her native country and used her talent, her judgment and her competence to further the same ends.

I wish also to recall to your minds the journey that Mlle van Eeghen made to Egypt, and to make a tribute to the talent of our excellent Treasurer, Fröken Karen Glaesel, who has her hands full with the troublesome question of allocating our financial contributions.

The removal of our Headquarters from Paris to Brussels at the end of 1936 caused a certain upset in the work which was rapidly overcome thanks to the good-will and collaboration of Miss Günther and Miss van Veen.

Thanks to our Representative in Geneva, Dr. Renée Girod, we had the good fortune to obtain a small but well situated office in the Palais Wilson which now serves as a meeting place and permanent office for the I. C. W. in that international city. Special gifts have been received towards this expense which was not covered by the budget approved at Dubrovnik.

I do not wish to close this report without mentioning the Bulletin of which more is said in another place. The Bulletin is the only regular publication of the I. C. W. and forms the link which unites our National Councils to Headquarters and to each other. By keeping them informed of women's questions in other countries, it can and should be our best means of propaganda. It might become by degrees a platform where the different feminine tendencies and all those problems which apply to

women could be ventilated and discussed, where the experiences of some, with their successes or failures loyally recognised, could become examples or lessons for others, where divergent opinions could confront each other for the wider development of ideas which we cherish. In this way the Bulletin would gradually bring to our members an echo of the lives of the women of the whole world, teaching them to know the opinions, the wishes, the efforts and the realisations of their more distant sisters. What a comfort it would be for those still struggling, to know, that in other lands, that which yesterday seemed utopian, has today become reality.

Marthe BOËL.

Hon. Secretary General's Report

In order to hold a Plenary Meeting of the International Council of Women in its Golden Jubilee Year, the period since the last meeting was once more limited to less than two years (October 1936-July 1938). During this short period the Board of Officers met three times : in May 1937 and in March 1938 at Brussels, where Baroness Boël, President of the I. C. W., received us with great kindness and hospitality, and in September 1937 at Geneva in the I. C. W. Office room at the Palais Wilson.

The *Standing Committees* had no opportunity of meeting, but the Conveners remained in touch with their members by correspondence and most of them met with the Board of Officers in 1937 and discussed the work with them. As it was felt necessary to review the scope of work of the Standing Committees, the Dowager Lady Nunburnholme was asked to coordinate the views of the Conveners each on her own scope of work; the Executive Committee in Edinburgh will take further decisions in this matter.

The *I. C. W. Liaison Committee with the League of Nations and the International Labour Office* met in September 1937 at Geneva to discuss the questions on the Agenda of the League Assembly, and the International Labour Conference. We were as usual much helped in our work by Princess Rădziwill, Miss McGeachy, Mlle Colin, Mme Thibert and Miss Hage.

On September 16th a deputation headed by Baroness Boël and composed of Mlle Zellweger, Miss Christitch, Dr. Girod and Madame Dreyfus-Barney, was received by Mr. Butler, Director of the I. L. O. when the question of the inquiry into the economic position of women was especially discussed.

On September 21st a deputation from the I. C. W., composed of Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, Countess Apponyi, Miss Forchhammer, Madame Dreyfus-Barney and myself, was received by His Highness the Aga Khan, President of the 18th Assembly. The members of the delegation dealt specially with the questions of world peace, refugees and stateless persons and the importance of the foundation of a Bureau in the Far East that should co-ordinate the work against the traffic in women in that part of the world.

The question of the *Status of Women*, now studied by the League of Nations in its political and civil aspects and by the International Labour Office in its economic aspect, is of the greatest importance to the I. C. W. Two questionnaires on the subject were sent to the National Councils in 1936 and Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon collected the answers received from 25 Councils on the political and civil Status of Women. An interesting report appeared in brief in the League Document A. 14. 1937. V. and was published in extenso by the I. C. W. In the final paragraph of the Introduction it said : « The I. C. W. expresses its conviction that the Assembly of the League of Nations in supporting an international Convention granting equality of rights and responsibilities to women would not only help to raise the status of women, but would thereby be serving the highest interests of peace and humanity. »

We are pleased to recall that at the request of the last Assembly, the Council of the League appointed a Committee of Experts (four women and three men) to study the legal status of women in the various countries of the world. During its first session in April 1938, this Committee held a joint meeting with representatives of various International Women's Organisations in order to hear their views. The I. C. W. was represented by Dr. Girod.

The answers from the National Councils to the questionnaire re the Economic Status of Women have been co-ordinated by

Miss Matheson, returned to National Councils for their observations and printed in time for the International Labour Conference of June 1938.

The question of equal rights for men and women in all domains is being studied in many National Councils. In the beginning of 1937, the Special Commission of 26 Women's organisations set up in 1925 under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Great Britain, submitted an important Memorandum to the Government in favour of equal political, civil and economic status for British men and women.

Women's Consultative Committee. It will be remembered that this Committee, in which Madame Vérone, Dr. Girod and I represent the I. C. W., addressed a letter to the President of the Assembly in 1936 asking for the inclusion of the following points in the Covenant of the League : « That the members of the League undertake that 1) there shall be no distinction based on sex in the law and practice regarding nationality; 2) the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on the ground of sex; 3) men and women shall have equal rights in all other fields; 4) men and women shall both be members, with full voting powers of all delegations to the Council and Assembly of the League and to all Conferences under the auspices of the League. »

These demands were also sent to Mr. Bourquin, Chairman of the Committee of 28 for the Revision of the Covenant.

The Women's Consultative Committee met in May 1937 in Paris, and in September at Geneva, and continues to work for equal nationality rights for men and women, as laid down in the Montevideo Treaty on Nationality, actually in force in 9 countries. As the Hague Convention on Nationality is now ratified and in force in 11 countries, the Consultative Committee has asked that steps be taken to bring the treaties into harmony by amending the articles of the Hague Convention that deal with the nationality of women.

Following up the statement in its Report of 1932, mainly drafted by Madame Vérone, that « Today the principle of equality must be laid down in international legislation », the Consultative Committee continued to advocate this principle and worked not only for the establishment of equal rights in matters of nationality, but also in all other domains. The I. C. W. Board, decided in

1937 that their representatives on the Committee should limit their collaboration to nationality questions.

During the last years several countries have extended the Nationality rights of women. In 1936 a bill was passed in Australia placing British women resident in Australia on a basis of equality with men in the matter of nationality. But in most countries, women have not yet got the right to keep or change their nationality in the same conditions as men.

Collaboration with other organisations. Our collaboration with the *Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations* and the *Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations* continued as usual and will be dealt with in separate reports.

At the proposal of Mr. Cohen, a meeting of organisations which are correspondent members of the Social Questions Committee of the League, was held in Paris on November 8th 1937, to discuss the desirability of co-operation in presenting their views to the Social Committee. The Dowager Lady Nunburnholme and I attended this meeting. At a second meeting held in Geneva in April 1938, at which no representative of the I. C. W. was able to be present, no definite steps were taken and it was only decided to meet again in September.

Since October 1936 the I. C. W. has been represented at 16 international Congresses.

Outstanding events in the I. C. W. In November 1936 the National Council of Women of South Africa commemorated the 50th anniversary of Johannesburg by holding a *Dominions Conference* which was an immense success. I had the honour of representing Lady Aberdeen and the I. C. W. at this Conference, which was attended by a delegation from the National Council of Women of Great Britain under the leadership of the Dowager Lady Nunburnholme, and by a large number of delegates and official visitors from all parts of South Africa, the British Dominions, Colonies and Dependencies. After the Conference I visited the National Council Branches at Pretoria, Benone, Springs, Maritsburg, Durban, Bloemfontein and Capetown. Extensive reports on the Conference and these visits have appeared in the I. C. W. Bulletin of January and March 1937.

I also had the opportunity of speaking with Mrs. Morrisby about the possible formation of a Council of Women in Southern Rhodesia.

In May 1937 the National Council of Women of Great Britain held a *One Day Conference and Dinner* in London in honour of Lady Aberdeen, at which our President was present.

The National Council of Women of France organised a most successful « *Conference on Women's Activities* », in Paris from June 26th to 30th 1937, which was attended by delegates from Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Poland, China, Siam and Roumania. Baroness Boël presided the Opening Session.

The National Council of Women of Australia took an active part in *Australia's 150th Anniversary Celebrations*, February 1938, at which the I. C. W. was represented by Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, who had been officially invited by the Government of New South Wales.

At the end of 1937 and beginning of 1938 Fru Kjelsberg visited the U. S. A., where she gave a series of lectures and was most heartily received by Mrs. Ottaway, President, and other members of the National Council of Women of the United States.

In May 1938 I had the pleasure of visiting the National Council of Women of Bulgaria.

In January 1938 I visited Egypt and was able to help in the formation of an Egyptian Council of Women. (See Article in Bulletin, March, 1938).

In closing I wish to draw attention to the *Exhibition on the aims and work of the I. C. W.*, organised by the National Council of Women of Latvia. I know from experience in Holland how much such an Exhibition can contribute to make the I. C. W. known to men as well as to women. May I therefore express the hope that in this Jubilee Year many National Councils may find it possible to arrange for an exhibition of what the I. C. W., during its fifty years existence, has done for the improvement of the position of women and for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

Louise C. A. VAN EEGHEN.

Treasurer's Report

«*It might be worse*». It is always encouraging to see signs of progress, and I think, I am justified in saying that the financial position of the International Council of Women has, in the last few years shown progressive improvement, and has now attained a state of convalescence, which permits us to look forward soon to quite sound health!

We have now an established method of payment. A. the affiliation fee on a fixed gold-standard of July 3rd, 1934, and B. the mutual contribution to the rest of the approved budget on a scale of units, each Council being placed on the scale according to the figure of income as stated by the Council itself and counted at the current rate of exchange.

It has now been proved that in this way it is possible to balance the budget without having to resort to a more or less arbitrary assessment, and the Councils have confirmed their belief in the justice of the scheme, by the satisfactory way in which the fees and Supplementary contributions have reached the Treasurer at the appointed time.

As the accounts have been circulated, there is no reason to go into details; but it is quite interesting to examine and compare a few figures of recent years as a Report.

The present Treasurer took office on September 1st 1934 — *oustanding liabilities* were then £ 222.18.4. At the end of the year there was a balance in our favour.

1934-35. Budget Total was £ 2180.10.0. Expenditure £ 1867.12.2
To this the Councils had contributed £ 759.0.2, the Bazaar £ 538.11.6 Taking these sums together the Councils had covered half of the budget.

1935-36. Budget Total £ 1823.0.6. — Expenditure £ 1695.17.9.
Balance in favour. To this the Councils had contributed £ 816.19.2, not quite half.

1936-37. Budget total £ 2044.18.1. Expenditure £ 1728.15.7.
Balance in favour. To this the Councils contributed £ 936.7.3, slightly more than half. At the end of the year we moved to Brussels.

1937-38. Budget Total £ 1692.18.0. Expenditure £ 1097.9.10.
Balance in favour. To this Councils have contributed £ 831.12.2, slightly more than three quarters.

(1935-1936 was the last whole year in Paris, 1937-1938 the first whole year in Brussels.)

But we must not forget that, as soon as possible, it is necessary to increase our budget, so as to be able to provide some financial relief to the many people who are now shouldering a large part of the expenses, and I want the Councils to realise that as a matter of fact, the figures before us only show about half the actual cost of «*running the business*», and that our Hon. Officers and Conveners often find demands heavy, which ought, as a matter of course, to be provided for on the general budget and covered by the Council-contributions, so please, if you should happen to feel inclined to grumble, bear in mind how much is provided for you «*free, gratis and for nothing*».

The increase of Triennial Contributors to the International Council of Women has in some countries been very satisfactory, and the Councils should remember that here is a practical way of covering part if not the whole of the Supplementary Contribution, which the Council is guaranteeing, as the contributions sent to the I. C. W. by Triennial Contributors are accredited the account of the Council to which they belong.

I cannot end this little résumé without the warmest expression of thanks to all the friends, who have helped us along — to Officers, to Contributors, to our Belgian colleagues who have helped in numerous ways and to our very much appreciated Executive Secretary and Editor.

Thank you every one and all.

Karen M. GLAESEL.

Report of the I. C. W. Representative at Geneva

During the period 1936-1938, an important feature for the I. C. W. at Geneva has been the hiring of an Office, almost immediately after the Dubrovnik Council Meeting, in the old League of Nations Building, which, thanks to the generosity of the Swiss Government has become an International Centre, where a great many (30 at present) international organisations have their offices.

Our President kindly undertook the furnishing of this Office which consists of one comfortable room where piles of Minutes, periodicals and books are accumulating. It has already rendered great services and has shown that it meets a need.

I had the honour to represent the I. C. W. at all the meetings held at Geneva of the Executive Committee of the Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations which has also found its home in the International Centre. I have followed closely the activities of this Committee whose President, Miss Mary Dingman, directs its work with such ability and such magnificent enthusiasm. One of the pioneers in Peace work, Madame Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, founder of the World Union of Women for International Concord, passed away last spring and I represented the I. C. W. at the funeral.

In December 1937 I attended as I. C. W. delegate the meeting of the « Union de Secours ». This international organisation has been formed to organise assistance in natural disasters such as inundations, earthquakes, etc.

One or more League of Nations Committees meet at Geneva every month. Those which deal with social questions are of special interest to the I. C. W. I have often had the pleasure of finding amongst the delegates I. C. W. members and friends whom it was delightful to meet and of discussing with them subjects on which they are specially qualified to speak. Such friendly intercourse provides a splendid opportunity to the I. C. W. Representative to learn how women can best help to solve present day problems.

In April 1938, the Committee of Experts formed by the Assembly of the League to study the question of the Status of Women, invited the representatives of the women's international organisations to a joint meeting to put forward their wishes and points of view and we thus had the privilege of being able to discuss the matter with distinguished lawyers. This meeting was without precedent but we hope that it will be repeated in future. Women today can collaborate with men to change an old and sick world. Ladies, as we *can* do so, it is our duty *to do it*.

Dr. Renée GIROD.

Report of the I. C. W. Liaison Officer with the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation

In spite of political difficulties, economic upheavals and social problems which have occurred during these last two years, the work of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation has developed according to the usual procedure and in the direction of universality of collaboration and thought.

This will not surprise the International Council of Women because moral and intellectual values impose themselves with more weight in hours of anxiety and crisis.

It is impossible to describe in a short report the whole field of activities undertaken by the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation since the last Meeting of our Council in Dubrovnik. We must however mention that its activity continues to develop in many fields of international intellectual life : scientific study of international relations; the influence of the modern means of spreading international and intellectual information; social sciences; international collaboration of Universities; co-ordination of national centres of educational records; relations between Arts Museums, scientific Museums, national libraries; development of documentation; defense of the rights of intellectuals, etc.

It seems advisable to mention here only those points which bear particularly on our work and efforts.

As stated in the I. C. W. Bulletin of November 1937, an «Intellectual Co-operation Month» was held at the Institute in Paris, in July last, on the occasion of the International Exhibition of Arts and Techniques. Perhaps the meeting which best showed the work accomplished, was that of the *National Committees of Intellectual Co-operation* which had not met since the first conference seven years ago. 41 countries, amongst them some non-members of the League of Nations, took part in the proceedings. Both Americas as well as the Near and Far East were well represented. By the presence of these remarkable delegates grouped around long tables, it looked as if the whole world were represented !

The debates showed the unanimous wish to realise, outside all politics, intellectual co-operation on as large a basis as possible. Special importance was attached to educational questions and your Liaison Officer felt how desirable it would be that a more regular collaboration should exist between our National Councils and the National Committees of Intellectual Co-operation.

It was during the same «Month» that the Draft International Act concerning Intellectual Co-operation was proposed with the following aim : (1) to favour the formation and development of the National Committees, (2) to increase the resources of the Institute, the executive headquarters of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation. Since last July, this Draft Act, following a resolution of the League of Nations Assembly in 1937, has been sent to the States Members and non-membres in order to receive their observations. In May, 27 Governments had already replied expressing their interest in this Draft Act and the Council of the League of Nations at its meeting on Friday, May 13th 1938, adopted the advice of the Executive Committee of the International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation and unanimously requested the French Government to convene a diplomatic Conference charged to draw up an International Act concerning Intellectual Co-operation. It is expected that this Conference will be able to meet in October or November next.

We have therefore noted with interest that the I. C. W. Board of Officers decided in March to draw the attention of National Councils to this Draft Act which, under the present circumstan-

ces when the world is in dire need of real universal comprehension, is so rich in possibilities.

It is satisfactory to see on the Edinburgh Programme, page 12, par. d, a resoluting dealing with this matter, proposed by the N. C. W. of Belgium.

Since September 1936, we have followed closely certain activities of Intellectual Co-operation undertaken many years ago. Lady Aberdeen will remember that it was at the House of Cromar during the summer of 1925 that she answered the question put to the States members of the League and to about ten International Organisations as to what was being done to teach to the young generation the aims of the League of Nations and to familiarise them to the consideration of international collaboration as a normal method of directing world affairs. It was then that our Council thought it important to create a Liaison Committee of Major International Organisations.

Following this inquiry of the League of Nations a Committee of Experts was appointed which met at Geneva at which the I. C. W. was represented. At a later date this Committee was made into a Consultative Committee at which our Council continued to have a delegate. During the last two years the Consultative Committee specially studied the means by which the teaching of geography and of existing languages could best serve to help forward a better international understanding and the question of how to use modern means of spreading news such as the Cinema and Broadcasting in the service of Peace.

Until the end 1937, when the Institute of Educational Cinematography in Rome ceased to exist, your Liaison Officer was in regular touch with its Director who in March 1938 wrote, that having been appointed Director of the National Institute for Culturel Relations with foreign countries, he hoped that the cordial relations between our Council and this new Italian organisation would continue.

The League of Nations will soon convene a Conference of 33 Governments which have adhered to the Convention for facilitating the international circulation of educational films. Our Council will no doubt follow with interest the work of this Conference as its National Councils have never ceased to work to make known this Convention and to get it applied.

For a long time the I. C. W. has been interested in the question of obtaining better films and developing the public taste regarding the Cinema. It was therefore with great satisfaction that we noted that the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation had started an enquiry on this subject in March 1938.

The International Convention concerning the use of Broadcasting in the interest of Peace has been signed by 30 countries and your Liaison Officer has been a member of two Committees of Experts which met in July 1937 and in June 1938 in order to study the technical and ideological aspects of the question.

The « Declaration of the Revision of School Text-books » has received much support from Governments; it has been registered by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations and came into force in November 1937. The members of the I. C. W. know that the revision of school text-books has been on the programme of our organisation since the first years of its foundation.

The Standing Committee for International School Correspondence which has been functioning at the Institute since 1929, has organised on the occasion of the « Intellectual Co-operation Month », a meeting of the Directors of the National Bureaux for International School Correspondence and it was noted that since its foundation until 1937 the number of National Bureaux had doubled.

Amongst the question dealing with Social Sciences, the study of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation on the problem of « mechanisation in the modern world » is also of great interest to the I. C. W. The contributions received by the Institute from 80 sociologists can be grouped as follows : Mechanisation and the Worker's World. Its aspects : general sociology; international and racial. Its control in the interest of men.

With regard to the efforts made by the Intellectual Co-operation to facilitate the situation of unemployed young intellectuals, mention must be made of the role of the International Bureau of University Statistics which is functioning at the Institute and which informs young people regarding the most crowded careers, thus allowing them to direct their studies in another direction.

We must also remember the importance, to the I. C. W. Arts and Letters Committees, of the recent activities of the Intellectual

Co-operation on popular art and museums, as well as the conversation on the « future destiny of Letters. »

The Intellectual Co-operation Organisation is collaborating in the preparation of the second International Conference on Rural Hygiene which will take place in 1939. Its task is to elaborate, together with the International Labour Office, plans for the use of leisure and for anything that can lift the intellectual level of life in rural districts.

Before concluding this long, — although incomplete, — enumeration of the activities of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, it must be mentioned that since 1936 important records have been published on various subjects, literary, artistic, scientific, educational, etc.

The relations between the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation and your Liaison Officer are most cordial. No week passes that she is not in touch with the members of the Section in Geneva and the Institute in Paris which guides the work with so much competence and devotion.

Let us not forget that we have also to be grateful for the hospitality offered by the Rome Institute in 1931 during our Cinema and Broadcasting Conference and by the Paris Institute in 1934 during our Council Meeting.

It seems necessary for the I. C. W. to develop the already existing collaboration in order to encourage the activities of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation, the aims of which are to enrich the common inheritance of the peoples through the collaboration of the mind.

Laura DREYFUS-BARNEY.

Liaison Committee of Major International Organisations

Origin.

It seems hardly necessary to recall that the Liaison Committee of Major International Organisations was founded in 1925, on the initiative of the International Council of Women, and that it has the character of a Permanent Conference, which enables the thirty large international associations who take an interest in the organisation of peace to learn to know each other better, to consult with each other, to take joint action or to agree upon common tasks to be undertaken in order to impress upon young people the necessity of looking upon intellectual co-operation as the normal method of conducting world affairs.

Relations with the I. C. W.

The I. C. W. is represented on the Committee by three delegates of different nationality : i. e. the I. C. W. President, our Representative at Geneva and the Liaison Officer with the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation. All the documents issued by the Committee are sent to the I. C. W. Headquarters, thus enabling the Executive Secretary to keep in touch with its work. The organisation is thus kept informed with regard to the Committee's activities.

The results of study and enquiries are submitted to the National Councils, or the Standing Committees whose work has a special bearing on the questions that are being dealt with, particularly the Committees on Peace and Arbitration, Education, Trades and Professions, Cinematograph, Broadcasting, Arts and Letters. The book « Ten Years of Activity » published by the Liaison Committee of Major Organisations as well as the leaflet summarizing its work has been sent to all the members of the I. C. W. Executive Committee.

Board.

As the Committee represents organisations of widely different character, members of the Board and the Executive Committee change frequently in order to bring various competent persons

successively to the fore. Thus, in January 1938 the President Mgr. Beaupin, — Secretary General of the Catholic Union for International Studies, — who during two years had admirably carried out the duties of his office, resigned, and was good enough to accept one of the two vice-presidencies. M. Gossard, — President of the International Federation of Associations of Secondary Teachers, — succeeded him, and Miss Butts, — General Secretary of the International Bureau of Education, — was elected second Vice-President. On the Executive Committee on which seven members serve (one of them being a permanent one) three members were replaced by Mme Steenberghe-Engeringh as President representing the International Union of Women's Catholic Leagues; Miss Woodsmall as General Secretary, representing the World's Young Women's Christian Association and M. Girard as Secretary General, representing the French Branch of the International Student Service. Mme Liard continues to serve the Committee as General Secretary.

Meetings.

Two Annual Meetings take place every year, one at the Headquarters of the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation in Paris and the other at the League of Nations Secretariat in Geneva. Since the Committee was formed, the Paris Institute has undertaken all the work connected with the Secretariat together with all the expenses. The Board meets frequently and from time to time, especially if prominent visitors from overseas pass through Paris, meetings of study groups are arranged.

Collaboration.

Co-operation exists not only between the member organisations which form the Committee, but also with other international bodies, chiefly with the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation the activities of which are closely followed, special attention being paid to the Consultative Committee on the Teaching of the Principles and Facts of Intellectual Co-operation, in connection with which M. Kullmann and Mme Dreyfus-Barney act as rapporteurs to the Liaison Committee. Beneficial relations with the International Labour Office have resulted from the Com-

mittee's study and action regarding such questions as unemployment and recreation. From time to time representatives of the Liaison Committee are delegated to attend international meetings such as the International History Congress, the Congress of Teachers of modern languages, the Congress on recreation for workers, and so on.

In July 1937, the Committee held its Annual Meeting at the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation and, during the Paris Exhibition, took part in the « Intellectual Co-operation Month ». At the Exhibition, the facts and milestones of « Intellectual Exchanges through the Ages » were demonstrated in one of the halls of the Pavilion of Modern Art and here the Liaison Committee had a mural panel, while on a long table the publications of the member organisations were on view. The literature had to be constantly replaced, as the visitors to the Exhibition carried the leaflets away by hundreds.

A resolution regarding the Liaison Committee was recently passed by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of which Professor Gilbert Murray is the distinguished President, proving that its work is appreciated, it reads as follows:

» The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation,

Having been informed by its Chairman of the important work accomplished by the Joint Committee of the Major International Associations at its recent meeting :

Notes with keen appreciation the account, in pamphlet form, of ten years of the Joint Committee's activities, and its valuable contribution to the study of unemployment among young university graduates;

Congratulates the Committee on the results it has obtained;

Thanks it for its assistance in promoting the work of intellectual co-operation;

And recognises that the help of the Associations represented by the Committee is a most precious adjunct to the endeavours of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation and of the League as a whole.»

Publications et documents.

In 1936 « Ten Years of Activity » was published by the Committee in French and was followed by an English edition. « Non-

Emploi des Jeunes Intellectuels » and « Aspiration ouvrière vers la Culture et les Loisirs des Travailleurs » appeared in 1937. The documents on which these two publications were based, were chiefly contributed by the member organisations. Previous to their publication a preliminary study of the two subjects had been submitted to the Committee, for comments and exchange of opinions by M. Dubois who is one of the most active members of the Committee on which he represents the organisation « Pax Roma ».

The Bulletin of the Institute for Intellectual Co-operation continues to publish accounts of the activities of the Liaison Committee, which are also reported in the publications of numerous other organisations.

An article by M. Gossard on The Teaching of History, summarising the results of an enquiry undertaken by the International Federation of Associations of Secondary Teachers, was published in the « Bulletin d'Enseignement » of the League of Nations, in December 1937.

As usual, the annual reports of the Committee for 1936-37 and 1937-38 appeared as a supplement to the Report which the Director draws up every year, for the Session of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

Another document compiled annually is the summary of the Conferences and Congresses organised by the member organisations. These summaries are particularly interesting this year as they witness to the development of world-wide efforts to overcome the obstacles to a better understanding between the differing peoples, races and classes.

Space does not allow enumeration of all the important documents that have been issued by the Committee since 1936. Mention must however be made, of the report of M. Théo Koeppé, a young member, representing the Boy Scout International Bureau, on the Franco-German Holiday Camp that was held at Alleux (France) in September 1937; from it we learn of the frank and open talks between young men belonging to the two nationalities and realise how they learnt to understand and appreciate one another.

Activities.

Some of the questions which have been studied since 1936 are :

- The relations between East and West;
- Modern means of disseminating information in the interests of Peace through Broadcasting, the Cinema and the Press;
- Unemployment among young intellectuals.
- Workers' Culture and Recreation.
- Education and International Understanding.

The procedure is as follows : after an exchange of opinion at an Annual Session or a Meeting of the Executive Committee, a study group is set up with a rapporteur, and the study of some question commences. Following the preliminary work and enquiry, the question comes before the meeting again in the form of a preliminary report which is discussed; if necessary, the organisations interested in the subject will take action. Example : The International Federation of Associations of Secondary Teachers and the International Federation of University Women are about to conclude an investigation on the Teaching of Geography as a means of developing mutual understanding and rapprochement between peoples.

The efficacy of the action taken depends on the delegates of the member organisations who are powerfully supported by prominent personalities such as M. Henri Bonnet, Director of the Paris Institute and his collaborator M. Secrétan as well as M. de Montenach, Secretary of the Intellectual Co-operation Organisation at Geneva.

Laura DREYFUS-BARNEY.

Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations

It will be remembered that in September 1935 the Assembly of the League of Nations referred the question of « Status of Women » to the Governments of the States-Members, asking them to furnish information as to the position of women under the laws of their countries. The Women's International Organisations were also invited to send statements on the subject to the Secretariat.

The Secretary-General made it clear that any memoranda on the subject for the Assembly must be limited to the *Political and Civil Status* of Women. The *Economic* questions concerning conditions of work came under Labour legislation and had been assigned to the International Labour Office.

Several of the Societies within the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organisations began in 1936 to collect facts through their national groups to form the basis of a statement. At their Meeting in London in November 1936, the member-organisations reported on the particular aspects of the subject which they were to present in their respective statements.

Three of the member-organisations were specially occupying themselves with problems of economic status, coming under the I. L. O. These were the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Business & Professional Women. The last-named at a later date prepared a memorandum for the « Assembly » purposes.

Four member-organisations of the Liaison Committee were preparing memoranda on the *Political and Civil Status* of Women. These were the « International Alliance for Women Suffrage & Equal Citizenship », the « International Council of Women », « St. Joan's Social & Political Alliance », « Equal Rights International ». Together with statements from three other Societies outside the Liaison Committee, these were afterwards printed and circulated (cf. League document A.14.1937. V. August 24th, 1937).

During the early months of 1937, a plan of action was discussed by the Liaison Committee with a view to support of the principle of Equal Status. It was proposed to carry on a brief, intensive campaign of propaganda through the months of August and September at Geneva; to appoint a skilled organiser and draw up as complete a system as possible for interviewing some member or members of the delegations attending the Assembly. As a suitable basis for common action it was suggested that the Committee affirm the following opinion, « *that the status of women would be raised by the adoption of an international Convention granting equality of rights and responsibilities to women* ».

These proposals were duly submitted to the Headquarters of each member-organisation, and it was not until the month of June that all had replied. Eight organisations were in support of a special effort being made of propagandist nature on the basis of the above text. Three were unfavourable for various reasons. The Liaison Committee could, therefore, not act as a body, and the eight organisations in agreement decided to act independently, calling themselves the « *Status of Women Group* » of International Organisations of Women. The organisations were the four named above who had sent memoranda, together with the « *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* », the « *World's Women's Christian Temperance Union* », the « *World Union of Women for International Concord* », the « *International Federation of Women Magistrates & Members of the Legal Profession* ».

Contributions to a special fund were made by the Organisations, which enabled them to take the necessary steps in Geneva. The group met there in June and appointed a sub-Committee. Mlle Manassewitch was appointed in July as Organiser and the part use of an office was secured which could also serve as a shop for window display of the pamphlets. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, as President of the « *International Alliance for Women Suffrage & Equal Citizenship* », led the campaign.

Preparatory to the Opening of the Assembly a Circular was printed in French and in English giving in concise form the reasons in support of the claim for *Equality of Political and*

Civil Rights and Responsibilities as between men and women, and signed by the eight organisations.

Meanwhile the Liaison Committee held their own meetings in Geneva in June, and London in July. The meeting at Geneva on 11th September, decided upon any action to be taken on the various points on the Agenda of the Committees and the Assembly of the League. On September 14th the Liaison Committee held a meeting with the women delegates and substitute delegates to the Assembly. The subjects mainly discussed were the « *Status of Women* », « *Traffic in Women* », the « *Far East Conference* », the « *Russian Women Refugees in the Far East* » and « *Nutrition* ». It was decided to make every effort to get the League to continue some form of protection for refugees and stateless persons until the Governments should come to an understanding in the matter.

Miss Woodsmall gave a brief account of the results of the Conference on « *Traffic in Women* » held in Bandoeng, Java, and the delegates were asked to press for funds to be voted by the Assembly for the establishment of the proposed Bureau in the Far East to co-ordinate the work of prevention of the Traffic.

The customary Evening Reception was given by the Liaison Committee in honour of the Women Delegates, substitute delegates and Experts. There were on this occasion 14 women on delegations and 3 Experts.

The subject of « *Status of Women* » was referred to the First Committee of the League, and Miss Hesselgren, Sweden, was appointed Rapporteur upon it to the Assembly. The women's campaign had to be extremely rapid. The interviewing was allocated among the members of the group on a card index system and done to time. A Luncheon was given on 20th September and invitations were accepted by quite a considerable number of the men delegates.

By that time, in the First Committee, the lines of a Resolution were being framed which, while it made no request for a Convention, proposed that prior to any decision a world-survey of the political and civil status should be made under the direction of a small *Committee of Experts*, composed both of men and women. This Committee might apportion different parts of the research

to the competent scientific and legal authorities and institutes and might consult the Women's International Organisations or ask their co-operation. It was expected that the enquiry might occupy two or three years.

The full text of the Resolution is lengthy and must be carefully studied. It was submitted to the Assembly by Miss Hesselgren in her report from the First Committee; there is a noteworthy admission at its beginning which says : « In general, the trend is for law to develop in the direction of equality between the sexes » (cf. League document A. 54. 1937. V. September 25th, 1937).

The Resolution was formally adopted by the Assembly on September 30th., 1937, and has been received with the greatest satisfaction throughout the women's organisations. The « Status Group » of Women's International Organisations expressed their thanks to many of the delegates who had given support. They held one or two further meetings and referred to the Liaison Committee as a whole the further work on « Status of Women » and the sending forward of suitable names for membership of the Committee of Experts. On 27th September, the final reports of the Organiser, Hon. Treasurer and others were received and the group was disbanded.

Towards the end of January, 1938, the Council of the League appointed a Committee of Experts composed of 3 men and 4 women (cf. C. 52. 1938. V). This Committee met in the month of April, 1938. Professor Gutteridge was appointed Chairman. The Committee of Experts held one session jointly with representatives of several of the Women's International Organisations, including the Liaison Committee.

It is now the immediate concern of women's international organisations to encourage their national groups to make a careful study, under the guidance of one or two jurists, of their country's laws affecting the status of women; to investigate any differences of law and practice; and to be preparing themselves to co-operate effectively should request for co-operation come from the Committee of Experts.

Maria Ogilvie GORDON.

Peace and Disarmament Committee of Women's International Organisations

Since the Dubrovnik Council Meeting the work of this Committee has been followed closely.

The permanent I. C. W. delegates are : Dr. Renée Girod, Miss van Eeghen and Princess Cantacuzène. Since 1931, when the Committee was formed, Madame Dreyfus-Barney has been one of its Vice-Presidents.

The Executive Committee keeps in regular correspondence with the I. C. W. and the other organisations, members of the Committee.

We note with satisfaction that all the big organisations which founded the Committee are still members. As a flag, it binds them together for a joint aim : i. e. to spread knowledge and to further understanding of fundamental conditions which are at the basis of the organisation of peace.

Following an excellent tradition, one of the two general annual meetings is held outside Switzerland where its Headquarters are. The last six meetings took place :

Geneva : September 21st & 22nd 1936.

Copenhagen : February 11th, 12th & 13th 1937.

Geneva : June 3rd & 5th 1937.

Geneva : September 13th & 14th 1937.

The Hague : March 1st, 2nd & 3rd 1938.

Geneva : June 14th 1938.

During the meetings a Study Conference which is likely to interest the public, is usually organised. Thus at Copenhagen, the subjects dealt with during the Study Conference were : (1) *The Present International Situation*; (2) *How to solve the crisis* (a) *by economic measures*, (b) *by political measures*. You will have read in the April Bulletin of 1937, the article written by Mrs. Hartree, Vice-Convener of the I. C. W. Peace and Arbitration Committee on this meeting. The Committee is in the habit of inviting experts to these public conferences. At The Hague the following question was under discussion : *The Economic Factors in the relations between nations*, and we

listened to Mrs. Barbara Wootton, the eminent English economist and Madame Ballande of the Institute of Economic Researches in Paris. Mlle Baetens, I. C. W. Recording Secretary, wrote a report of this greatly appreciated meeting in the April Bulletin of this year. Our President, Baroness Boël, gave on this occasion a message from Mr. van Zeeland encouraging women to give their attention to economic problems which are so closely connected with Peace.

Whenever the circumstances demand it, the Committee, after having consulted its member organisations, sends communications to the authorities who are in charge of certain questions. Thus :

in September 1936, identical messages concerning the war in Spain were addressed to the two opposing parties;

on October 2nd 1937 a letter was sent to Mr. Litvinoff concerning the refugee problem;

on November 4th 1937 a letter was also written to Mr. Spaak, President of the Nine Powers Conference in Brussels, concerning the Sino-Japanese conflict.

The Committee proposes to follow the policy initiated by its much appreciated Treasurer, Madame Clara Guthrie d'Arcis (who passed in May 1937) to organise a plebiscite among business men to try to prevent war and to build up peace.

The Committee sends its communications and documents to more than 30 countries, to the national sections indicated by the member organisations and to subscribers to the « communiqués », at the price of 5 Swiss Francs annually. During the last two years 70 to 80 articles and communiqués were sent out from the Geneva Headquarters in English and French, even to such far off countries as China, Japan, India, New-Zealand, Australia, South America, Mexico, etc. etc.

Since 1936 the members of the Executive have been able to go for special meetings to the Scandinavian countries, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, U. S. A. and Canada. Miss Dingman, the president, is untiring in her work and devotion to the cause. High tributes of appreciation must also be paid to the activities of Miss Courtney, Miss Manus, Miss Heneker and Mrs. Puffer Morgan, and mention must be made of the valuable help contributed by the prominent women

whom the organisations delegate to follow the work of the Committee closely.

Many friends of the Committee also render great services in facilitating its work either by offering hospitality as in Denmark and the Netherlands or by helping the office in the editing of articles and in translations.

For some time the Headquarters of the Committee have been at the Palais Wilson, the old League of Nations, which facilitates the contact with the many other organisations housed in the same building.

The Committee organises lunches, teas, evening receptions in honour of distinguished personalities and information can always be obtained in its offices where publications are at the disposal of visitors.

The Committee has further started Summer Courses at Geneva for « leaders » under Miss Kathleen Courtney and Mrs. Laura Puffer Morgan. The next one which will be held in August promises to meet with the same success as those of 1936 and 1937.

Collaboration has been established with the following institutes and organisations : League of Nations, International Labour Office, International Consultative Group, International Peace Campaign, World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches, World Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Associations, World Youth Movement, International Federation of League of Nations Associations, Oxford Church Conference, Federation of Private and Semi-official International Organisations at Geneva, Associated Country Women of the World.

In June-November 1937, during the World Exhibition of Arts and Technics in Paris, a wall panel in the Peace Pavilion was put at the disposal of the Peace and Disarmament Committee and thousands of pamphlets were distributed to visitors.

It is interesting to note that one quarter only of the funds which form the annual budget of the Committee, are provided by the member organisations. The remainder, apart from the contributions of some institutes, is contributed by the public which thus shows how greatly it is interested in this collaboration between the big women's organisations.

One of the principal aims of the Committee is to render public opinion conscious of its responsibilities by putting before it the real causes which may lead to war and by what means these causes may be reduced.

The existence of the Committee represents an important effort organised by women in favour of Peace.

Laura DREYFUS-BARNEY.

Executive Secretary's Report

Place of Headquarters Office.

The Executive Committee at Dubrovnik decided that the Headquarters Office should be removed from Paris to Brussels and in view of the fact that the lease of the Paris Office expired on December 31st 1936, the President, assisted by some members of the National Council of Women of Belgium, at once took the necessary steps to find suitable accommodation in Brussels. The removal took place just before Christmas and from January 1937 the office staff was able to take up its work in its new quarters which consist of three bright, airy and well heated rooms, very well situated and easily accessible to all visitors coming to the Belgian Capital. The new office has as further advantages that it is only two minutes distance from the President's house and that rooms for meetings may be hired in the same building.

Headquarters Office Staff.

Since the Dubrovnik Council Meeting the Editor of the Bulletin and the Executive Secretary have had the help of a half-time Assistant Secretary. Needless to say the staff has been kept fully occupied and at moments of great pressure of work it has been necessary for some typewriting and duplicating to be done outside the office. During three months, December 1937 and January and February 1938, we were grateful for having

the help of a Swiss voluntary worker, Fräulein Iselin from Basle, who rendered great services through her intelligent and conscientious collaboration.

Meetings.

The following meetings have been held during the period under survey.

The Board of Officers met in Brussels on May 19th, 20th and 22nd 1937, in Geneva on September 14th and 15th 1937 and again in Brussels on March 28th, 29th and 30th 1938. This last meeting was also attended by delegates from the National Council of Women of Great Britain as the various arrangements in connection with the Jubilee Council Meeting were discussed.

The Board of Officers together with Conveners of Standing Committees met in Brussels on May 20th and 21st 1937.

The Liaison Committee of the International Council of Women with the League of Nations and the International Labour Office held a meeting in Geneva on September 11th 1937.

Publications.

In accordance with a decision taken by the Council at Dubrovnik a *President's Memorandum* was published after the meetings. It contained Lady Aberdeen's Report, the list of resolutions passed by the Council at Dubrovnik and the list of the I. C. W. Officers, Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Standing Committees, National Councils and representatives of National Councils on the I. C. W. Standing Committees. Re-prints of the last mentioned list were made and distributed to all National Councils and I. C. W. members.

The Council Meeting at Dubrovnik having adopted the proposed revision of the Constitution, the printing of this new *Constitution* was a necessity. The International Council of Women owes sincerest thanks to Lady Nunburnholme who not only undertook to have the printing of the English edition done in England and to see to the correcting of the proofs, but who also paid all expenses in connection with the English edition. The French and German editions of the new Constitution were printed in Belgium.

The need for a new *propaganda leaflet* has been felt for some time and as, in her address at the Inaugural Public Meeting held at Dubrovnik on October 1st 1936, Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon gave in a concise form, an outline of the origin and scope of the International Council of Women, the Board of Officers decided that this address should be printed in the three official I. C. W. languages. Several of our National Councils ordered large supplies of this leaflet which they distributed to their members, especially when making their appeal for the Lady Aberdeen Fund of the I. C. W. In view of the present Jubilee Meeting it was thought however, that a more detailed propaganda leaflet was necessary which would also contain some information with regard to the purpose and work of the Standing Committees, and this *new leaflet* in an attractive form can now be had in the Information Office and from the Executive Secretary.

With a view to the « Status of Women » being on the Agenda of last year's Assembly of the League of Nations and the fact that the women's international organisations had been asked by the Secretariat to send in reports and observations, a questionnaire was sent to National Councils early in 1937. The replies from the National Councils concerning the *Civil and Political Status of Women* in their own countries were put into pamphlet form by Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon and published in time for the League Assembly in 1937. The arrangement of the answers from National Councils concerning the *Economic Status of Women* was entrusted to Miss Matheson, Convener of the Trades and Professions Committee, and are also published in a most interesting pamphlet. Copies of both pamphlets are on sale in the Information Office or can be obtained from the Executive Secretary.

Early in January 1938 the *Preliminary Programme for the Jubilee Meeting* was printed and distributed to National Councils and in May the *Final Programme* was issued in the three official languages.

Correspondence and Clerical Work.

During the period under survey a very pleasant and regular correspondence has taken place between most of the affiliated National Councils and the Headquarters Office.

The Office returns from October 1936 after the Dubrovnik Council Meeting to May 15th 1938 are :

1477 Letters received.

3647 Letters and parcels despatched.

These figures do not include the letters received and despatched by the Editor of the Bulletin which should be added to the above mentioned numbers in order to have a survey of the work done by the Headquarters Office and which, from October 1936 after the Dubrovnik Council Meeting to May 15th 1938 were :

1620 Letters received.

2439 Letters and parcels despatched.

During this same period the following Circular Letters have been sent out :

To the Members of the Board of Officers	6
To Conveners of Standing Committees	4
To affiliated National Councils	10
To Members of the Executive Committee	3
To I. C. W. Patrons	1
To I. C. W. Triennial Contributors	1
To Membres of the I. C. W. Liaison Committee	1

E. A. VAN VEEN.

Editor's Report

Changes since 1936.

Since the Editor submitted her last report to the Council, (Dubrovnik, 1936) the I. C. W. Headquarters Office has been moved to Brussels. At first the Bulletin continued to be printed in England, but the difficulties of this arrangement were increasingly felt, so estimates were invited from Belgian printers and submitted to the Board of Officers at its meeting in May 1937. As these estimates showed that the Bulletin could be produced at least as cheaply, if not more so, in Brussels than

in Yorkshire, the Board felt that the advantages of having a printer in the same town with the President and the Editor were too obvious to be ignored even though it would mean the severing of the connections with the obliging and always helpful English printer, Wadsworth & Co, who had produced the Bulletin for the I. C. W. for so many years. A contract was therefore made with M. Weissenbruch, Brussels, for a year beginning with the October number. It has enabled us to print the Bulletin in a more attractive form and yet to make a saving of £ 15 for the six months from October 1937 to the end of the financial year (March 1938), and this in spite of the fact that more copies (2150 instead of 2000) were printed during a part of that period.

Subscriptions.

A full account of the present position will be submitted to the Finance Committee. Suffice it to say here that the slight upward movement which the Editor was able to report at Dubrovnik has continued is.

While, in 1934, we had 1423 subscribers (794 Engl., 351 Fr., 278 Germ.) the total number which, in 1936 had risen to 1463 subscribers (842 Engl., 334 Fr., 287 Germ.) is today (May 1938) 1521 subscribers (887 Engl., 349 Fr., 285 Germ.)

The decision of the Executive Committee at Dubrovnik that the Triennial Contributors should be supplied with the Bulletin free of charge, has led to a widening circle of readers, as 299 (288 English, 10 French and 1 German) Triennial members received free copies. On the other hand, however, this has entailed a loss of over 70 *paying* subscribers, a loss which would have been greater, had not 100 British Triennial subscribers kindly consented to pay their subscription to the Bulletin till the end of the year when the whole question will be reconsidered by the Finance Committee in Edinburgh. As no funds were available for the printing of extra copies for the several hundreds of Triennial Contributors, the greatest possible economy was practised with regard to the number of additional copies that were ordered. As a result there has been a great shortage of copies for propaganda at Headquarters, several of the numbers which appeared this year being nearly exhausted.

Contents of the Bulletin.

Not content with the exterior improvement of the Bulletin, with which several National Councils have expressed satisfaction, we have also endeavoured to make its contents more interesting and in June 1937 a Circular Letter, signed by the President and the Editor, was sent to National Councils asking for their collaboration. Some Councils — but too few, alas ! — have responded to our suggestion to supply us with the names of competent women who would be willing to contribute articles of general interest, either on topics connected with international affairs or on national reforms instituted in their own country which might give a lead to women in other lands. Some Councils and press members can always be relied upon to report any headway that has been made or any event of importance that has taken place in the women's movement of their country. Some Councils do respond to the Editor's request for information and a few have, of late, complied with her wish to receive press cuttings referring to women's doings, and the appointment of women to important posts etc. but in general, the Councils have, got into the habit of only reporting their Annual Meetings, although it would perhaps be of greater interest to readers of the Bulletin the world over if each Council would endeavour to send in, once every year, a good article either by a competent member or an expert, showing what questions are uppermost in the minds of the women of their country, or with regard to which progress has been made, new legislation introduced etc. Only *one* such article from each Council in the ten months during which the Bulletin is published, would give our readers a fair idea of what women are doing and striving for in each country and enable our international review to reflect in its columns a 11 the efforts and achievements which might encourage and inspire other women who, in every country, work for similar aims.

This does not mean, however, that the Bulletin has felt any lack of material. The contrary has been the case, and the preceding suggestion is only dictated by the wish to improve the Bulletin *qualitatively*, in close collaboration with the National Councils. On the whole, pressure upon our space has been so great that at times it has almost amounted to a catastrophe !

It seems very desirable that, occasionally at least, we should be able to print more pages and we hope that the Finance Committee will keep this in mind when the Bulletin is being discussed, also that they will consider the establishment of a uniform subscription rate for readers in all countries. After the devaluation of the pound sterling the subscription price for readers in English speaking countries and those following their currency was not raised, but in various countries Councils and individual subscribers have continued to pay at the gold value. It seems therefore that an all-round adjustment of subscription rates should now be instituted.

Correspondence.

The correspondence with National Councils, and their representatives on I. C. W. Press Committee, together with individual collaborators, and subscribers as well as printers and other business firms which the publication of the Bulletin entails is as follows for the period from October 1936 to May 15th 1938 :

Letters received : 1620.

Letters sent : 2439.

This does not include the monthly distribution of the Bulletin of which the printer is in charge.

Advertisements.

In order to improve the financial situation of the Bulletin and to obtain additional funds which would allow us to print more pages in times of need, efforts to secure advertisements have been intensified. Our hopes in regard to the advertisement agent in Paris whom we engaged, following authorisation by the Board of Officers, were disappointed, and after the removal of the Office to Brussels he was replaced by the well-known publicity firm, the Agence Havas Belge. Unfortunately, the efforts of these agents have not met with much success, either. With a few exceptions the advertisements which we were able to secure after Dubrovnik were obtained thanks to efforts of individual officers like Lady Aberdeen, Madame Plaminkova and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, to whom we are much indebted for their continuous assistance. Members of the Belgian N. C. W. have also come to our help and special thanks are due to Madame Huisman. But

our warmest gratitude is to our President who has performed wonders in connection with the Jubilee Number of the Bulletin for which we were particularly anxious to secure advertisements in order to cover a part of the additional printing expenses. Baroness Boël has personally approached, interviewed and written to a number of possible advertisers with the result that we owe most of the advertisements in the Jubilee number to her painstaking efforts.

But these efforts have clearly demonstrated that it is impossible to build up a sound publicity section through individual devotion and influence alone and unless all the National Councils will take the matter up, and endeavour each to secure at least one advertisement for five or ten issues of the Bulletin, and unless we succeed in increasing the circulation of the Bulletin considerably, so that an agent finds it worth his while to take trouble about it, we must not look for additional funds for our paper in that direction.

Here as in every other respect the all-important question is how to increase the circulation which is small out of all proportion in comparison with the total membership of the I. C. W. This year, as in the past, we have seen how much can be done by the efforts of individual members to arouse interest, Fru Betzy Kjelsberg secured many new subscribers during her lecture tour in the U. S. A. and also Miss van Eeghen in Egypt and if only a few members of each Council would take a similarly active share in Bulletin propaganda, the circle of subscribers would be widened, the influence strengthened and, in consequence, its value as a means of publicity much increased.

G. M. GUNTHER.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country, and to a description of the progress of the various branches of industry and commerce. It is followed by a detailed account of the operations of the different departments of the public service, and of the measures which have been taken to improve the administration of the government. The report concludes with a summary of the principal events which have taken place during the year, and a statement of the resources and revenue of the country.

The second part of the report contains a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various offices during the year, and a list of the names of the persons who have been promoted to higher offices. It also contains a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to various offices, and a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various offices.

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G. L. GUNTER.

PAMPHLET