

WOMEN'S SERVICE

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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

JUS SUFFRAGII

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Married Woman again. In the section of Reports from Auxiliaries, we publish an article from Germany which is very grave news for feminists. It is not merely that some married women will be dismissed, but that here is a manifestation of public opinion voiced by a Government of a great country which directly cancels one of the equality clauses of the German Constitution. It has sometimes seemed that the Great War resulted in a single real gain, the gaining of equality in many ways by the women of many countries. That is also proving to be an illusion. Women have not yet lost the vote then gained, it is a very difficult thing to disenfranchise any class, but any true equality of status or influence is indeed now seen to be far, far off. And yet these attacks on women's most fundamental human right, the right to gain a livelihood, seem to have no power to re-create that solidarity which alone can give victory. It appears that most of those who spoke in favour of dismissing married women were women members of Parliament.

After Germany, Great Britain. Women are being heavily penalised in the matter of social insurance. After Unemployment Insurance with which we dealt some months ago, comes health insurance. By the Bill now under discussion two discriminations will be made against women. First all women's disablement benefit (which is a continuation of ordinary benefit in the case of long illness) is to be cut down; secondly married women are to suffer a general reduction in all sickness benefit. The reason given is that women, and particularly married women, make heavier sickness claims on the fund than men or than was anticipated, and the fund is threatened with insolvency. In fact certain of the approved insurance societies have a surplus, and women both in Parliament and by deputations from many women's societies, have been urging that the proper way to deal with the matter is by pooling resources. It certainly seems rather a paradoxical theory that the more any class of workers need help in sickness, the less they shall obtain it. If it is some comfort to note that women have done their best to secure that in this moment of difficulty, women shall not be singled out for sacrifice, it is very far from re-assuring to find once again how little power the vote has really given to deal with women's interest. The fact is that in every country the vast and amorphous task of educating public opinion to see women not simply as a special class, but as just a half of the population is still to be done. And every day almost sees greater difficulties in finding the workers and the money to do it with. Indeed fundamentally it is the lower status and pay of women which tend to make them a heavier charge on insurance. This "equal status" which is so difficult to define is in fact the right to live with equal independence and with equal assistance from society as men possess. Seen in its true perspective surely it should prove at least as great a rallying point as was the vote, in itself but a part and perhaps largely but a symbol of what the whole woman's movement means.

Women in the country. In our last issue, we published a brief notice of the Conference of Rural Women recently held in London. Fuller reports are now available and we are struck by the suggestion which was made that the fourth volume of the series of "What the Country Women of the World are doing" should deal with the old traditions of country-life, its customs and pageantry. This suggestion started in the writer's mind an old train of thought, namely how very much the outward aspect of the world as we see it is the product of man's rather than woman's mind. Until so very recently, all the town and rural authori-

ties were men, all the architects were men, if women worked in the fields, they did not lay them out; they did not plan and plant the woods, they did not determine the direction of the roads. As we travel the world in train or motor car, or even by the older, slower but still the best method for seeing—on our feet, the ugliness or the beauty we see are conditioned by the works of man, save in a few remote spots in hill or mountain where man has not yet erected electric generating stations or carried his cables on metal pylons. Perhaps it is idle to wonder what the face of the world would have been had the directing mind been woman's. Would it have been at once more gracious and more practical, or might it have been more painfully utilitarian, or even more defaced by false aesthetics? We do not know, it is one of the aspects of that riddle which cannot yet be solved, what are the full capabilities of women and how much do they differ from men. But in this matter of the physical aspect of the world, what need not be so speculative is the future. The whole world is changing its face: growing populations and the need for ever more and more dwellings; growing industrial needs, modern farming, electric expansion, the urge for quicker and quicker means of communication; these and other factors make up a resistless force. Are women alive to the need that they also must now have a hand in determining the direction of that force? No one less than the writer would urge the dispersion of women's energies in the face of the greatest need: the need for real and full equality, but one of the weapons in that fight is the use of those powers we already have. And this thing is happening, and will not wait. If the future aspect of the world is to reflect women's will as well as men, women must take a hand now. It sometimes seems that coming generations will necessarily have a new aesthetic as far as the look of the world goes, more and more the works of man will fill our outlook, less and less the works of Nature. Let us hope that if that must be so, the word "man" shall mean the common work of both divisions of humanity.

Education. There is a certain amount of controversy always going on in England as to the part women play in the education of boys, and what regrettable results may occur if boys lack the virile rule of a man. This of course refers to co-educational schools, and though presumably in most such schools the staff includes both men and women; what is so particularly dangerous is that the head teacher should be a woman. What then of the girls? If the head is a man, will not they run the same risk in losing the feminine influence which in other spheres is so greatly advocated? The fact is that really good teachers such as we should desire to see at the head of every school are the product of vocation plus training, and sex has nothing to do with their fitness. Since such posts are of course the best paid, it seems that the real root of the agitation lies there. Men must have the best posts and so a reason must be found why women cannot have them. It is all very sad because after all what really matters is that the children should get the best teachers, and any consideration which may block the way of a gifted teacher is an offence against the interests of all the children, whether boys or girls.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson died on June 8th at the age of 75. She was a very well-known worker and speaker for the militant suffrage movement, was for very many years a member of the Hampstead Board of Guardians, one of the first women to be appointed a Justice of the Peace in London, and among the first to be appointed to the Lord Chancellor's London County Justices Advisory Committee. Her husband is the

well known writer and former war correspondent, and her son, C. W. R. Nevinson is the painter. Mrs. Nevinson knew by experience in social work just what women's disabilities were, and her speeches were a delight to listen to, full of dry humour. Woe betide the "heckler" who had to deal with Mrs. Nevinson.

The death is reported from Australia of Mrs. Cowan, the first woman to sit in an Australian Parliament, having been a former member of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BABY WEEK MOVEMENT.

By CICELY N. TWINING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Formerly Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer, Kenya.

The first week in July in the British Isles is National Baby Week—the occasion of an intensive effort to draw public and private attention to some urgent problems in maternity and child welfare. The first National Baby Week was held in 1917—during the Great War—at a time when every effort to make good the terrible loss of life then sustained was called upon. At that time too, medical science was beginning to make it very clear that much of the ill-health, disability and early death in adult life arose from unhealthy conditions founded in childhood, conditions of ill-health which, in the main, were preventable. This teaching was crystallised when the first National Baby Week message went forth—"Save the Babies." Since those days, maternity and child welfare work in the United Kingdom has become an integral part of the State service. Infant welfare centres, maternity and child welfare Medical Officers, Health Visitors, are all now at work. The infant death-rate has gone down. Not only has there been much saving of the babies, but a substantial improvement in the health of the survivors. No small part in securing this improved state of affairs is attributable to the Baby Week movement, which in the United Kingdom now concerns itself more with enlightening public opinion upon the particular parts of the child welfare problem which are still in need of solution.

As is only to be expected, the Baby Week movement has spread overseas, and the Imperial Baby Week Challenge Shield, donated by "The News of the World," is awarded annually by the National Baby Week Council to the best local Baby Week held throughout the Empire, exclusive of the United Kingdom. At present, that Shield is held by Mombasa (Kenya Colony) Health and Baby Week Committee. In recent years, holders of the Shield have been the Baby Week Committees of Panadura, Ceylon; Kalutara, Ceylon; Benoni, Transvaal, South Africa; Bellary, Madras Presidency, India—a list of names which gives a good idea of the scope of this movement. Certificates of Merit have been won by other Committees as far apart as Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; Calgary, Canada; St. John's, Newfoundland; Dominica, British West Indies.

In the civilised parts of the Empire, local Baby Weeks are held very much along the same lines as they are in the United Kingdom, and for the same purpose, promoting the development of maternity and child welfare organisations.

Among primitive communities, however, the initiation of infant welfare work is viewed with grave suspicion. It is something new. The simple and ignorant native is very loath to try anything that is not hallowed by the custom of generations. He or she will listen politely to the health worker, promise to come to the

welfare centre and then think no more about it. Perhaps there is witchcraft in it. No—if the children ail or die it is the will of God—call him Allah or Muungu or what you will. That is the native's line of thought.

A Health and Baby Week is the best method of educating these primitive peoples in all matters of health. Limitation of the Show to matters strictly relating to babies will not attract as many visitors as when the broader conception of a Baby Week is taken. The condition of the home and of the parents does reflect on the condition of the children.

All primitive people love a show of any description. A successful Health Show is very popular, extra police often being needed to control the crowds. They are intensely interested in what they see, ask apt questions and later, the seed sown does bear fruit. Mere words alone do not impress, but combined with pictures and models the idea is retained. It is an excellent plan to compare the good with the bad, side by side, and to explain simply the merits and demerits of each. They see a better house beside such a one as they are probably inhabiting, and there is somebody to explain what they need to do and how much it will cost them. They see not only better houses, better methods of sanitation, but how to keep their food uncontaminated and how to vary their diet; how to prevent against the commoner diseases and what to do to get well quickly when taken ill.

A Baby Competition when correctly conducted may be made a great educational agent, and a means of demonstrating to the public what a really well developed and healthy baby should be. Where it is possible these competitions should be restricted to those children who have been already attending at an Infant Welfare Centre. Each entrant should receive a present—for example, a suitable garment, and prizes should be given for the best in each class. The judging and the prize-giving should be as public as possible in order that those whose children are ineligible should see how well the children look whose parents have been trying in some fashion to follow the way of life illustrated in the Show, and attending the Welfare Centre.

Simple people, as met with in the natives of many of our Colonies, are very curious and very much interested in England and all that appertains to the King. The news that an account and picture of their Show have been sent to England makes them feel very important and they are very proud of it and pleased that people there can be interested in them, which all contributes to the success of their Baby Week effort.

RUSSIA.

The death occurred in Leningrad of Dr. Anna Nikolaevna Shabanova, President of the Society of Women Physicians, founder of the Society of Women Authors, a life long advocate of women's rights and an honoured member of many feminist societies in foreign countries.

Dr. Shabanova was 85 when she died. She was one of the first woman doctors in Russia and a renowned specialist in children's diseases. She belonged to the famous generation of the "Women of the sixties" of the last century who combined scientific and social work. She was particularly active in the promotion of medical education for women and fought against the obstacles put in the way of Women doctors by the reactionary forces. It was due to her untiring energy that the first Medical Institute for Women was opened in St. Petersburg in 1897.

Dr. Shabanova was the author of many books of medicine, and until recently worked as a specialist in the most important clinic for children in Leningrad.

—Soviet Union Press Service

THE LAW RELATING TO MARRIAGE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Two distinct forms of marriage are recognised in the Union of South Africa: the Roman-Dutch common law form of marriage in community of property, and marriage with Ante-nuptial contract.

Upon the celebration of a marriage in community of property, the separate estates of the two contracting parties are fused into one joint estate, half of which is deemed to belong to the wife and half to the husband, irrespective of the portion contributed by either spouse. The community extends not only to property in the possession of the spouses at the time of the marriage, but to all property thereafter acquired, whether by way of profit, inheritance or donation, or in any other manner.

During the subsistence of the marriage in community of property, all debts due by either spouse, whether contracted before or during the marriage are a charge on the joint estate; on dissolution of the marriage debts remaining unpaid will revert to the party contracting them.

Marriage in community of property confers on the husband the marital power by virtue of which he acquires sole administrative control of the joint estate; for under the common law form of marriage, the wife, no matter her age or ability, is deemed a minor with limited legal capacity, and under the guardianship of her husband; she has no independent legal status, but must in all her dealings be "duly assisted by her husband in so far as need be."

Upon the dissolution of the marriage, the joint estate is divided into two equal shares, one portion forming the wife's estate and the other the husband's estate.

By executing an Ante-Nuptial Contract before marriage, the parties thereto may avoid certain incidents attaching to a marriage under the common law. Clauses commonly found in Ante-Nuptial Contracts, exclude community of property between the spouses, whether obtained before or during the marriage, and any profits or loss attaching to such separate property. The wife then has sole ownership of her separate estate, but unless the "marital power" of the husband is excluded, she will not be able to administer her separate property, or to have an independent legal status, unless she is assisted by her husband; where the marital power of the husband is not excluded, the wife is deemed a minor in the eyes of the law, and all her legal relationships must be sanctioned by his authority.

Certain consequences of marriage remain unalterable, no matter the form of the marriage. The wife acquires her husband's domicile, and his nationality, and is under the personal guardianship of her husband, so much so, that even where a husband becomes incapacitated, his wife may be appointed curator of his property, but can never become the guardian of his person.

M. OBLOWITZ.

INDIA.

The Report of the Indian Franchise Committee, one of the Committees appointed by the Round Table Conference, has just been issued. Its recommendations on woman suffrage would involve the enfranchisement of some 6,600,000 women as opposed to 315,000 at present by requiring special qualifications as follows: literacy (as against the upper primary standard for men) and being the wife of a man entitled by property under the existing franchise to vote for the provincial Councils. It is not clear from the accounts at hand whether these are *in addition* to any direct property qualification which may be possessed by women, but it is to be so

presumed. As regards women members, the Committee propose that between 2 and 5 per cent of the seats should be reserved for women. The system they recommend is that a number of special constituencies should be created in which women candidates alone should be returned by both men and women voters. The actual Report is not before us, but this information is taken from reliable press summaries and may be taken as accurate. This is "fancy franchise" indeed. If it is considered that in open voting women would have practically no chance of being elected, what will the "special constituencies" think about having a woman member imposed on them in this arbitrary manner? These proposals affecting women are paralleled by other special recommendations for securing the representation of labour and the "depressed classes." The Report states "that most representatives of women's organisations desired equality with men on the basis of either direct or indirect franchise. But neither of these systems is practicable . . ."

The whole subject is extremely complicated, and would seem to call for great care in drawing up the electoral roll if these recommendations are adopted. At first glance it would appear that a simple system of adult suffrage would have been so much easier as well as more democratic and fundamentally equal in its application. But it is only fair to quote the following extract: "Having regard to the prodigious task of educating a mainly illiterate electorate, the fact that party organisation is still in its infancy and the burden both for the official machinery and for the candidates of dealing with 130 million voters, it seems to us to be the course of wisdom and statesmanship not to attempt to launch the new constitution on the basis of adult franchise, but to seek a more manageable basis, at the same time providing that the system of franchise will give reasonable representation to the main categories of the population."

The women's organisations will certainly not be satisfied with this basis of sex-differentiation. It is for them to judge whether they will accept the scheme if it goes through, continuing to affirm constantly the only just basis of "equal rights for men and women," and to work through the new constitution for those full rights which will surely come to them from an eventually self-governing India.

It may be remembered that after the recent troubles in the State of Kashmir, a Commission was set up to consider the introduction of constitutional reforms. This Report is now also available and it is disappointing to learn that the "general consensus of opinion was against an experiment in the direction of female suffrage. . . in view of the backward condition of female education." It is a very old story or perhaps a very old riddle: Which came first, the chicken or the egg? It would seem that it might be a good deal easier for women to secure education if a few at least of them had a voice in directing the public affairs of their country.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

France. It is stated that the Family Allowances Bill has now become law. The new Act requires every employer in industry, commerce, agriculture or the professions to become a member of a compensation fund or similar institution. It provides allowances for every child dependent on a worker up to school-leaving age, or up to 16 if it is continuing its studies. It will be remembered that family allowances on a voluntary basis have been paid in France through pools maintained by employers in a given industry.

The Institute of French Actuaries has awarded the title of licentiate to Mlle. Madeleine Normand, who is the first woman to obtain it.

Mme. Condat has been appointed Professor of the Chair of Therapeutics of the Medical Faculty of Toulouse. This is the first time a woman has held such a post.

Germany. For the first time since the town of Frankfurt instituted the Goethe Prize, this has been awarded to a woman, the well-known poetess, Ricarda Huch.

Great Britain. The University of Oxford has adopted a statute making women eligible for membership of the committee for nomination of examiners and the body of curators of the Taylor Institute, thus removing one of the last remaining barriers to women's equality in university affairs!

Miss A. M. Kilroy who was one of the first women to take the very difficult examination for the Administrative Class in the Civil Service, has been promoted to be Principal in the Higher Administrative Organisation of the Board of Trade, the first woman to hold such a post. A Treasury Committee is considering the whole question of women in the higher Civil Service posts.

The House of Lords has adopted an amendment to the Children's Bill on the motion of that real feminist, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, which removes the absurd sex differentiation inserted when the Bill was in the House of Commons under which a boy might begin to take part in public performances of a dangerous nature at 16, but a girl had to wait till 18. As this refers mainly to acrobats, it was manifest that it would be a real hardship for women performers in a profession where it is essential to begin young.

India. A new College for women has been opened in Nagpur, with a hostel attached.

On June 6th, a Bill to restrain the marriage of boys under 18 and girls under 14 was introduced into the Representative Assembly of Mysore State.

Norway. It is with satisfaction that we learn of the admission of the first woman to the Norwegian Council for the Protection of Children. As Advisor to children's Homes and Hospitals Miss Elise Bergum holds lectures and courses for their personnel on a variety of subjects relating to child psychology and education and on organising work.

In view of certain recent events the Norwegian Socialist Women's Organisation has again addressed a communication to the Storting and to the Government urging the extreme desirability of a law to the effect that when moral cases are in Court the Jury shall consist of an equal number of men and women.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The Annual Conference of the League was widely attended by representatives from many parts of the British Empire, and some of the discussions on a very full programme were quite specially interesting. Woman Suffrage, women's nationality rights, peace, are questions which are familiar to many women's gatherings, and what specially distinguished this meeting was discussion of inter-racial unions and the position of the children of such marriages. Miss Fleming, of the Anthropological Institute, gave an intensely interesting and courageous paper on racial inter-mixture. After referring to the fact that there is no such thing as a "pure" race, and that from earliest times man has mixed his blood freely, she went on to point out the effect of climate which causes man to adapt his energies to his life, and to the "diversity of gifts" which enables every race to make its individual contribution to the mass of human achievement.

We must quote some of the very wise things Miss Fleming had to say about children of mixed marriage: "So long as one race despised and misunderstood another, the offspring of unions between them must grow up in an environment of social isolation. . . These children generally have a definitely bad inheritance from the white side. . . or (referring to unions between coloured men and white women in great ports) the men are frequently detribalised natives while the mothers are the social failures of our great cities. The children of such parents are ostracised, and thus to poor moral and bad physical inheritance are added a cruel social environment. The effects of racial inter-mixture of this type cannot be good, yet it was often the only side of intermixture with which we were acquainted and it tended to strengthen prejudice. It is often thoughtlessly repeated that children of mixed marriages inherit the worst of both sides: that is an obvious biological impossibility. Nothing in anthropology or biology indicates that racial inter-mixture is bad for the human species. The immediate and most powerful of the objections are usually social and personal . . . the increased sources of discord when each partner may be ignorant of the other's traditions and taboos, and the possibility of social ostracism on one side or another."

Miss Fleming concluded with an appeal to women, since girls of mixed marriages tend to suffer more than boys both socially and economically, to set their faces against any taboo based on appearances alone: "Our part is to try to put ourselves into the attitude of mind which prepares us to appreciate the personality and traditions of those we meet, to bring towards the solving of racial problems a spirit of wide understanding that recognises not only the cruelty and insularity of refusing friendship to people of different race, but also the infinite possibility of loss of knowledge of the spiritual gifts which will result to humanity when all its diverse qualities are appreciated without any attempt to label them as better or worse."

DISARMAMENT.

On Monday, June 13th, representatives of the Disarmament Committees of: the Women's International Organisations, the Students' International Organisations, the Christian International Organisations, the International Federation of League of Nations Societies, the International Conference of Disabled Soldiers and Ex-service Men (C.I.A.M.A.C.) visited the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson to present a fresh declaration of their hopes for the Conference. In

all, the deputation numbered some sixty men and women drawn from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, India, Italy, Lithuania, Palestine, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America and represented twenty-eight organisations.

The President was supported by a number of the Conference delegates, amongst whom were His Excellency Eduard Benes, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Czechoslovakia and rapporteur to the Conference, Mr. H. Aghnides, Director of the Disarmament Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, Dr. Mary E. Woolley and the Hon. Claude A. Swanson (United States), M. Bourquin and Senator de Brouckère (Belgium), Mrs. Corbett-Ashby (Great Britain) and Baron von Rheinbaben (Germany).

The ceremony opened with a presentation to Mr. Henderson of a beautifully bound copy of "Vox Populi," the book in which are gathered together the speeches of February 6th and some of the many moving appeals that have been pouring into Geneva since that date. Mr. Henderson has himself contributed a personally signed foreword. Madame Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, the Chairman of the "Vox Populi" Committee in presenting the volume on behalf of the organisations, recalled the outstanding features of the demonstration of February 6th, and paid a warm tribute to the important part the President played in stimulating opinion favourable to disarmament.

The Declaration by the Organisations.

After the presentation, Monsieur de Watteville, Geneva representative of the C.I.A.M.A.C. read an address that voiced in no uncertain language the present anxiety of the peoples and their urgent demand that the Conference should on no account adjourn before it had taken definite steps towards achieving practical results. These results should in the opinion of the deputation comprise at least:—

- a substantial reduction of the national land, naval and air armaments;
- the abolition of the most aggressive weapons and
- the rigorous control, if not the suppression of, the private manufacture of, and traffic in arms.

Résumé of Mr. Henderson's Speech.

Mr. Henderson warmly thanked the representatives of the Organisations for the gift of "Vox Populi" and for the expression of appreciation of his work.

Replying to the Declaration he said, "My sense of the value of the work which your organisations are doing has steadily increased. In the organised expression of that public opinion which you represent lies the real hope for the success of the Disarmament Conference. It is because public opinion in every country has been so deeply aroused that my own hope is still alive." The President went on to say that he realised there had crept into the Declaration brought before him that day a new note of urgency translating the anxiety by which the public mind is possessed. He added, "The opinion for which you speak is, you say, justifiably alarmed. It is growing impatient as the days and weeks have passed without the achievement of practical results. I understand the anxiety you feel; very often I have shared it."

Reviewing the results achieved, Mr. Henderson laid stress on the following:

- the tremendous change worked in world opinion with the help of such organisations as those represented in the deputation. "There is no longer anyone," he added, "who believes that mere limitation of armaments at its existing level would be a tolerable result. Reduction, drastic and universal, is what the opinion of the world now imperiously demands."

- the proposals put forward by responsible governments and crystallised in the Resolutions of Sir John Simon on April 22nd. These laid the foundations on which might be solved many of the most acute political problems with which the Conference was faced.

- the work of the Committees on National Defence Expenditure and on Chemical and Bacteriological Warfare. The first had proved beyond a doubt that by means of the budgetary method an equitable and practical scheme can be set up, while the second had recommended not only that chemical and bacteriological war should be prohibited, but that nations should also be forbidden to prepare in times of peace the whole machinery by which such forms of warfare can be conducted.

In speaking of the work of the Land, Naval and Air Commissions, the President felt that while some of the conclusions had not seemed to lead to any very definite results, he, for his part, believed that this was a necessary stage through which at some time or other the Conference had to pass and he did not blame the experts for the fact that their work had not been more conclusive.

In conclusion the President said he felt that "the moment is arriving in which great decisions must and will be made. It is with the governments that responsibility for the success of the Conference must lie; and above all that responsibility lies with the Great Powers of the world. It is they who can give a lead; and if they do, they can be sure the rest of the world will gladly follow. I have at this moment a deep sense of the fatefulness of the labours in which we are engaged. At no moment since July, 1914, has there lain in the hands of statesmen such power to control events for good or ill."

"I hope that at this grave moment you will redouble the efforts you have made. I hope you will make your rulers understand that they cannot go too far for the peoples whom they rule in getting rid of the bloody machinery of war and in promoting that co-operation of the peoples by which alone the future of our civilisation can be assured."

The Women's Disarmament Committee desire to draw attention to material for use in the disarmament campaign as follows:

"Disarmament Review," 3 rue Butini, Geneva.
 "Vox Populi," 3 Place de la Tacconarie, Geneva.
 "Vox Mortuum," series of 12 post cards, from the World Union, of Women for International Concord, 17, Boulevard Helvétique, Geneva.
 Poster and card, "Désarmement" from 25 Quai du Mont Blanc, Geneva.
 Postcard "Les Armements ne donnent pas la Sécurité" from "Nie Wieder Krieg" Gartenhofstr. 7, Zurich 4.

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REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

CEYLON.

We have again to congratulate the women of Ceylon on the election of a second woman member to the State Council. Mrs. Naysum Saravanamuttu was recently elected to the important constituency of Colombo North by a majority of over 8,000 votes over the three other men candidates. Our readers will remember that already there is one woman member, Mrs. Molamure, and it appears that when the result was announced, Mrs. Molamure expressed her particular pleasure at having a woman colleague with her in future. It is evident that both men and women voters in Ceylon are remarkably free from sex prejudice, and will readily vote for a woman candidate. Congratulations again.

FRANCE.

La Française gives an interesting account of the recent Congress of the Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. The Congress members were received by the President of the Senate, who assured them that though his personal opposition to woman suffrage remained unchanged he would as President ensure that when this question comes up for discussion as promised on the 21st June, it is debated fully and freely. There was then a reception by the President of the Chamber, where Mme. Brunshvig reminded the deputies present that the cause of the women still needed their support.

The Union gave a great banquet to provide an opportunity of demonstrating to many senators and deputies who were present, that the women of the provinces no less than the group in Paris are in earnest in their demand for the vote. Speeches were made by women representing many of these provincial groups, and several parliamentarians also spoke. If the speech of Senator Viollette was of a kind to give little satisfaction to the feminists present, it was very pleasant that the Government was represented by M. Marchandea, who re-called the interest which the Prime Minister, M. Herriot, has always taken in the women's cause, and who was able to announce that the Government proposes to bring in a bill for giving women civil rights.

It is stated elsewhere that the Government proposes to give women the right to vote in municipal elections, and also to abrogate those articles of the Civil Code which puts the married woman in a state of absolute subjection to her husband. From the same source we learn that Mme. Kraemer Bach, who is well known to all those who have attended recent Congresses of the Alliance, is now the principal assistant of the Minister of Justice, and as Mme. Kraemer Bach is a lawyer, we may hope that she will have a hand in the drafting of the Bill, which in that case will certainly go as far in the direction of justice for women as can reasonably be hoped.

Just as the above words were being written, another note in La Française caught the writer's eye, which states that almost unbelievably the Senate has again postponed the discussion of the suffrage bill, it is true only from June 21st to June 23rd this time. This date appears to be definite, if any date for this discussion other than the Greek Kalends can be believed in, and the U.F.S.F. is calling upon its members to telegraph to their respective Senators to urge their presence, and to come to a meeting to take place immediately the result of the discussion is known, to demonstrate either satisfaction or discontent according to how the debate has gone. It appears probable that the news of what occurs will arrive too late for it to appear in our July issue, but we may here and now express our best wishes for success to our French members.

DENMARK.

Dr. Eli Möller, a daughter of the well-known suffragist Jutta-Bojsen Möller, has received the Gold Medal of Merit for her splendid work in connection with the building of a Hostel for women University students. Hitherto only male undergraduates have enjoyed the advantages of organised establishments and it was a proud day for the University Women of Denmark when they could offer the same facilities to girl students. Dr. Möller undertook the appeal for funds and within one year collected the magnificent sum of half a million kroner, thanks to enthusiastic support from women all over the country. The site for the Hostel was presented by the State and the building is now ready—it is calculated to accommodate 54 students and is equipped in every way to meet their requirements and comfort. The opening ceremony was held in May and presided over by the Queen of Denmark, who was also one of the numerous donors. Already too, several scholarships have been founded for the benefit of the women undergraduates. Dr. Möller is to be congratulated on her magnificent undertaking—the building is indeed a fine witness to the spirit of co-operation and progress among Danish women.

Some weeks ago Fru Julie Arenholt, a former President of the Dansk Kvindesamfund, gave in her resignation from the Board of the Telephone Company. She was first elected to the Board in 1919 and since then she has done a tremendous lot to improve the pay and the conditions of work of girls on telephone exchanges besides starting the Telephone Girls' Organisation. Later, on the invitation of the Minister of Communications, Fru Arenholt became State representative on the Board of the Telephone Company. In May this year she resigned—she started her activities there by urging for better pay and she left because she would not agree to cutting pay unnecessarily—because she would not let herself be made to vote against her own personal conviction of what was the right procedure for the company. Through this step Fru Arenholt has not only forfeited an income of 4,500 kroner a year and a prominent position in public life but is also risking political ostracism. Her courageous and honourable action has however won her great admiration among her countrywomen and should stand as an example to everyone in public life. If indeed the Minister wished his views to be presented to the Board of the Telephone Company quite mechanically there was surely no need to employ an intelligent thinking human being for this purpose. It is a noteworthy event in the history of the woman's movement that it is a woman who at last has had the courage of her conviction and taken the lead in breaking away from the growing menace of mere parrot-like repetition of instructions from higher quarters, which excludes any possibility of really useful discussion on important questions.

—Kvinden og samfundet.

GERMANY.

Women in the Civil Service: Reichstag Act,
May 12th, 1932.

The short last session of the Reichstag passed an act of the utmost importance and of most unfortunate import for women's work. It gives Reich Authorities permission at any time to dismiss married women in the civil service, provided their financial position is such that their permanent maintenance is safeguarded. The history of this deplorable act—which puts out of

force Art. 128 of the Reich Constitution which abolished all distinctions against women officials, and which therefore had to secure a 2/3 majority in the House—is of course closely connected with the problem of unemployment. Not that the fact that there are 1,200 married women in Reich service, of which at the most 900 will come under the new act, will make any palpable difference to the market. It is simply that public opinion will not stand the possibility that a handful of married women may find occupation without being driven to it by dire necessity. The grave questions as to how permanent material security can be assured in times like these, how many marriages can be concluded unless both partners are earning, seem of little importance to all those interested in barring public service to women. Another reason actuates some circles: the Roman Catholic population is adverse to married women's work because of the view taken of marriage by their Church: the husband being head of the family must be its sole director and provider, the wife's place being in the home. Consequently it was the fraction of the Centre (Roman Catholic) which put forward a bill to exclude married women from the Civil Service as far as possible, Frau Dr. Helene Weber being the speaker. In numerous committee sessions the bill was so far modified that it could count on a majority. A certain sum has been fixed as indemnification for old age pension, etc., which is lost to the women on thus leaving the service, and a better method of investigation and of securing evidence as to the necessity of a position being retained, has been secured; also the adoption of a similar act by the German States has been made a little more difficult. Nevertheless it is beyond question that such a break with the constitution would never have been inflicted on any circle of men civil servants. The striking feature during the discussions and proceedings both within and without Parliament, was that the biggest organisation of women civil service workers in the Reich service was driven to comply with the Reich measures, in order to prevent an absolute stop being put to women's work as officials in their department (with all the accompanying rights to payment, pension etc.).

The Act affects women in the Post, Telegraph and Railway Services and in the Reichsbank, but not, unless the States pass similar laws, teachers, social workers, clerks and other officials in the public service in Prussia, Bavaria and so forth. We have no illusion, however, as to the respective Landtage refraining from taking steps of their own.

The discussion of the bill on May 12th was chiefly carried on by women M.P.'s. Of the fractions that sent speakers (the Nationalists and small parties abstained), only the socialists' view was given by a man. Frau Reese (Communist) spoke against, Dr. Helene Weber (Centre), Frau Lehmann (Conservative) and Frau Eitner (Christian Party, i.e. Protestant) for the bill, while Dr. Gertrud Bäumer (Democrat) pointed out its dangerous tendencies. Of the 542 votes cast, 458 were in favour and 71 against, with 13 (Democratic) abstentions.

D.v.V.

GREAT BRITAIN.

St. Joan's Political and Social Alliance.

St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, formerly the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, celebrated its twenty-first birthday on the 30th of May, Feast of St. Joan, by a dinner.

After proposing the toast of His Holiness the Pope, His Majesty the King, the Chairman, Mrs. Laughton Mathews, proposed the toast of "The Spirit of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society." Mrs. Mathews reminded us that we were celebrating the birth of an idea

—and ideas conceived by people who can act, as well as dream dreams, gain by maturity. This idea of uniting Catholic women to do their share in the fight for women's emancipation came to two young girls, when waiting outside Holloway Gaol to meet suffrage prisoners to be released that day. Miss Jeffrey, who was present with us, was still on our Committee. Mrs. Mathews thanked the members of the clergy present who had befriended us in early days—Dr. W. H. Kent, Dom Gilbert Higgins, C.R.L., Father Arthur Day, S.J., the Very Revd. Bede Jarrett, O.P., Father T. J. Walshe, of Liverpool, who could not be with us, had done great things for us, as also the late Father Philip Fletcher. Among our early friends we also remembered Alice Meynell, who gave us her support to the end; Miss Abadam, whose eloquence had greatly helped the new Society; and Mr. Joseph Clayton, a good friend from the first. St. Joan's S.P.A. was still at work; we stand for equality between men and women—but recognise the difference between equality and identity.

The Very Revd. Bede Jarrett, O.P., proposing the toast of "St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance," spoke of the tragic days of the suffrage campaign, when to open a newspaper was to court horror and distress. He foresaw troubled times ahead, when the courage for which women are noted, would be needed more than ever before.

Miss Alison Neilans, in responding, said that in the founding of the Society and of our paper, the Alliance, like its great patron saint, apparently acted on voices and visions instead of following material common sense—but like the shepherd girl of old, success followed on these curious ways. She had never known the Alliance to compromise where principle was involved. We are grateful to Miss Neilans for her tribute to the work of St. Joan's S.P.A., from which we quote the following:

"To you of St. Joan's we tender our thanks, whenever the fight has been hardest, most confused, where sometimes others have turned aside, there in the forefront, fighting every inch of the way, was seen the blue, white and gold of the Alliance. And I think the reason is that you have, in your faith and courage, set aside the values of the ordinary world.

A word about the future. The Alliance has come of age. It has had a stormy childhood, and it attains its majority in times which look even more troublous and difficult. All your faith and all your courage is needed. In times of economic stress women tend to go to the wall. *The economics of death are being encouraged.* We are told the nation cannot afford the health of its married women, education, the birth of poor citizens, the toll upon wealth of the aged and the unfit. The word "sterilization" is more and more frequently heard. His Holiness has told you that "the whole economic life has become hard, cruel and relentless in a ghastly measure." It may fall to women, and not for the first time, to challenge the conscience of the civilised world and bring men back to true economics—the economics of the "life more abundant."

Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, replying to the toast in the name of the Alliance, pointed out that people were apt to forget that St. Joan died for many things that we stand for, and vindicated the right of woman to live according to her conscience, and to follow her vocation unhampered by artificial barriers.

Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, whose mother was one of the early pioneers, proposed the toast of "Woman Suffrage in France," to which Melle Lenoël replied. Melle Lenoël, as our readers know, is the founder of the French section of St. Joan's Alliance and also of its admirable paper.

Mr. Pethick Lawrence proposed the toast of "Women in Public Life," and in calling on him the Chairman reminded her audience that no man had suff-

INDIA.

The Women's Indian Association recently held its 15th Annual Meeting, and the account of the proceedings shows clearly what a vital and varied programme of work the Association is carrying out. With regard to woman suffrage, we have already published in a recent issue the Memorandum signed by the Association in co-operation with other women's organisations, and the meeting confirmed the demand for adult suffrage. Other resolutions were concerned with the enforcement of the Sarda (Child Marriage) Act; the removal of untouchability, the enforcement of the Immoral Traffic Act, and the establishment of a rescue home for the care of girls, former inmates of brothels; the furtherance of "swadeshi;" a protest against the Emergency Ordinances and a plea for conciliation.

The Association was founded in 1917 only, and it has grown until it now has 72 branches, 23 centres and over 4,000 members. One must admire the persistence and enthusiasm of Indian women in building up this great organisation when one remembers not only the distances in India, but the immense differences of race and language which exist under that single name. The very efficient organ of the Association, *Stri Dharma*, is published in four languages, English, Hindu, Tamil and Telegu.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Alexandra College Guild, Dublin.

This College founded in the sixties of the last century when opportunities for higher education were very few, continues to maintain the highest standards for education and for training in social work. The Guild carries on many forms of practical social work, tenement houses are owned, and so well managed that the little enterprise is able to pay a dividend of 4%.

Play rooms are organised and run by Guild members and many other activities of a beneficent nature carried on all workers being voluntary. The annual meeting and conference were held on May 21st and the members of the Guild had the great privilege and pleasure of hearing addresses from: Miss Margery Fry, J.P., M.A.; and Mrs. Stocks, J.P., B.Sc. Both papers were most brilliant and the audience was held fascinated. The hall, built to commemorate a former Principal, holds 400, and was crowded. Miss Fry dealt with the dangerous effects of habits, as for instance the habit of generalisation, and referred to the effects of national generalisations. How much of the friction between the sister islands, Great Britain and Ireland, was due to rash generalisation on both sides about both countries? University education should train the mind to clear itself from the film of habit.

Mrs. Stocks' paper dealt with the organisation of the modern Press in England and analysed the effect of commercialisation on the conduct of daily newspapers. She pointed out that profits depended on advertisements and advertisements depended on circulation and thus the tendency to give the public what would increase circulation and thus considerations of advertisement success tended to influence the character of the news supplied.

Miss White L.L.D., Principal of the College, in thanking the speakers, mentioned that she had received congratulations on her success in obtaining such speakers even before the meeting had been held.

Miss Fry kindly prolonged her visit in order to address a meeting arranged by the National Council of Women at their office. She gave an inspiring address on the progress of Penal Reform in England. The audience were much interested in her account of the work of the League of Nations for securing a minimum international standard in prison conditions.

ered more than Mr. Pethick Lawrence in the cause of women's emancipation; he had stood with his wife in the dock, and suffered imprisonment.

Dame Rachel Crowley, late Head of the Opium Control and Social Questions Department of the League of Nations, in reply, expressed her thanks to St. Joan's Alliance, which had been the first society of Catholics to co-operate, in 1920, with the League in the suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children. Mrs. Laughton Mathews proposed the toast "Our Guests," and in reply Dame Edith Lytton, British delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations, thanked the Alliance for its help in the matter of the Nationality of Married Women. There were many distinguished guests and representatives of societies whom we were glad to have with us: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Philippa Fawcett, Miss Jenner from South Africa, the Very Revd. Father Alfred, O.S.F.C., Father Herbert Vaughan, Father Bickford, and many others.

A memorable evening ended with a toast to Miss Barry, who received an enthusiastic ovation.

L.D.E.A.

—The Catholic Citizen.

The Women's Freedom League.

To commemorate the 88th birthday of our First-President, Mrs. Despard, we have had a series of birthday celebrations arranged by our Branches in and around London, at all of which Mrs. Despard has spoken with her accustomed vigour, urging her audiences to "Carry on—Carry on the work for the complete freedom of women!" We shall have the General Birthday Party at which we hope to welcome representatives from all our Branches in England, Scotland, and Wales, on Wednesday, July 6th, 7 p.m. to 9-30 p.m. at Caxton Hall, Westminster, when Mrs. Despard will be the chief speaker and Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will be in the Chair. We would cordially welcome all friends at home or from abroad at this Party.

We have protested against the reduction of benefits to women in the New Health Insurance Bill now before Parliament. We continue to urge that women in adequate numbers should be placed on all Committees and Commissions appointed under the Government, and we have specially urged the Minister of Health to include a *medical* woman on the recently appointed Mental Defectives Committee of Inquiry, which is to consider among other things the value of sterilisation as a preventive measure having regard to the physical, psychological and social effects, and to the experience of legislation in other countries permitting it.

The closing event of our Session will be a Dinner at The Minerva Club, 28a, Brunswick Square, London, W.C.1, when the distinguished economist, Sir George Paish, will be the Guest of Honour and Speaker. He will speak on "The World Situation and its Remedy." Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence will preside.

In the Autumn we are arranging a One Day Conference of representatives of women's organisations at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on "The Position of Married Women," and we hope this will arouse a good deal of interest.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

JAPAN.

On May 28th, the three suffrage societies, all affiliated to the Alliance, organised a "Women's Suffrage Day," with over 300 delegates in addition to fraternal delegates from about thirteen women's organisations. Mrs. Kubushiro was in the Chair and the meeting was a great success.

SWITZERLAND.

The way of the Swiss suffragist is hard. In the Canton of St. Gall the Council has recently rejected a bill to give women the right to sit on School Boards (Commissions scolaires), a right which women already possess in five of the other cantons. It appears that this very modest reform would have involved an amendment to the constitution, which required an absolute majority, and this was not reached.

In the Canton of Grisons, again, a proposed modification of the church law to give women the right to enter the ministry, was defeated, and this in spite of the fact that women have the right to vote on church matters in this Canton. It appears that in fact some parishes already had a woman minister, and it was only the refusal of the Synod to recognise one of these appointments which made an appeal to the law necessary. It is significant that these particular parishes voted heavily in favour of the amendment, which seems to prove that experience destroys prejudice.

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WHAT ARE CONSEILS DE PRUD'HOMMES?

It may be that among our English-speaking readers there are some who, like the writer, would be glad to have a clearer idea of what is meant by "Conseils de Prud'hommes", suffrage and eligibility to which constitute the sole electoral right yet granted to Frenchwomen. We therefore give a brief résumé of a very interesting article on this subject which recently appeared in "La Française".

These Councils are intended to adjudicate in cases of conflicts arising between employers and their workpeople. They are elected by those actually engaged in industry and are composed of equal numbers of employers and of work people. Women were given the right to vote for them in 1907 and were made eligible in 1908. The principle that employers and workers should thus adjudicate on their own proper difficulties is an old one, and after the Revolution when an older form of jurisdiction for arts and crafts disappeared, there was a demand for its re-institution.

The procedure is that any case comes first before a Conciliation Board consisting simply of one employer and one worker member. If the affair is not settled by this method of reaching agreement, the case comes before a court composed of two employers and two workers which can give a judgment. As the judges form an even number, in cases where their vote is equally divided, they must meet again under a Justice of the Peace who has the casting vote.

These Councils exist in most important towns. In big centres there are often sections for each branch of industry, and for commerce. In addition to their judicial function, they may be entrusted with various other duties, such as the custody of patented designs.

The author of the article, a woman barrister, Henriette Maltrait, very pertinently asks how it is that women seem so little interested in exercising the rights they have obtained in this respect, when in many branches of industry, such as dressmaking, women preponderate and have therefore a direct interest in trying to obtain as Councillors those whom they consider most likely to protect their interests, and among them women.

A CALL TO THE WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA TO DEMAND AN HONOURABLE NATIVE POLICY.

There is no more urgent national problem than that of the Native and Half-caste Population of our country, and delay in formulating and putting into effect a Conservative National Policy makes the solution increasingly difficult.

Such a Policy is Practicable

if it provides:

1. Conditions which will help the Natives to free themselves from undesirable customs, while encouraging them to keep the many admirable elements in their own culture.

2. Adequate territories to the Natives which they can occupy and develop for their living (even where Natives are not at present able to develop territories they will become able before long).

3. Education without discrimination for the Native and Half-caste boys and girls growing up, for at present there are thousands of intelligent Native and Half-caste children without any education or training whatever.

4. Protectors of Aborigines to be married men living with their wives and a Doctor to be appointed as a Travelling Protector to treat Natives suffering from diseases which have been introduced among them.

5. And the most important fundamental reform of all, "the right of women to the sanctity of the person," for it is a deplorable fact that to-day Western Australian women Natives and Half-castes have neither human rights nor protection against irresponsible white men.

To Ensure this Protection

in our State, Section 34 of "The Aborigines' Act" must be amended (a) by deleting subsection (1), and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection as follows:—

"Any person other than an aboriginal or half-caste who habitually lives with aboriginals, and any male person other than an aboriginal or half-caste who cohabits with or has sexual intercourse with any female aboriginal or half-caste, not being his wife, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Penalty: One hundred pounds or six months' imprisonment, or both.

Every male person, not being an aboriginal or half-caste, who travels accompanied by a female aboriginal or half-caste, shall be presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to be cohabiting with her, and it shall be presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, that she is not his wife."

And (b) by adding a new subsection as follows:—

"(3) Where a person who has been convicted of an offence against this section is the holder of a permit to employ aboriginals, the Court shall, in addition to inflicting a penalty for the offence, order that such permit be cancelled."

This legislation, if enacted, and put into operation without delay, will Reduce the Problem

which is becoming more serious year by year.

Further, Native and Half-caste girls and women who wish to free themselves from the polygamy and prostitution of the commercialised patriarchal system, shall be allowed to invoke and obtain the protection of the law of the land, and exercise their own free will in the choice of their husbands, and shall not be handed over to claimants as property.

A Well-informed Public Opinion

is necessary to demand definite reforms and we appeal to all women to help bring in definite Reforms, Justice and Protection for the Native race and Half-castes for whom we are responsible.

—The Dawn.

SECTION FRANCAISE.

LA REGLEMENTATION DU TRAVAIL FEMININ.

Me voilà bien en retard pour signaler aux lectrices de JUS une publication du B.I.T., qui ne peut manquer de les intéresser très vivement: je veux parler de la remarquable étude, préparée avec une conscience et une clarté admirables par une des fonctionnaires de cet organisme, spécialiste on la matière, et intitulée: *La réglementation du travail féminin*.*

Réglementation, et non pas protection: ceci devait être dit tout de suite. Car cet ouvrage, véritable mine de documentation détaillée et précise, présentée avec une objectivité toute scientifique, débute par ces mots qui montrent bien dans quel esprit il a été composé et rédigé: "Le travail féminin n'est qu'une des modalités du travail humain, et sa réglementation est faite par l'ensemble de la législation ouvrière." Et si ce travail féminin présente cependant des aspects spéciaux qui permettent de l'étudier pour lui-même, ce n'est pas seulement du fait de la différenciation physique entre la femme et l'homme; c'est aussi, et pour beaucoup, du fait des traditions sociales qui pèsent sur la femme, du fait de la situation que lui créent les codes civils, de l'indépendance plus ou moins grande qu'elle a acquise dans la vie extérieure, de la capacité professionnelle que lui a donnée une préparation plus ou moins poussée, si bien que, selon la pensée très clairement manifestée de l'auteur, le besoin d'une législation spéciale en matière de travail féminin varie suivant les pays et suivant la situation que la femme a su se créer dans chacun d'eux. "Lorsque, écrit l'auteur, on imagine la vie très riche en activités extérieures d'une femme scandinave, habituée à porter, à égalité avec l'homme, les droits et les responsabilités politiques, civiles et familiales, préparée dès l'enfance à ce rôle, formée professionnellement de façon à pouvoir en assumer les charges, accoutumée également à participer à toutes les formes de la vie collective, et sachant user, comme ses compagnons de travail, du moyen de l'organisation syndicale pour défendre ses intérêts professionnels; lorsqu'on compare son existence à la vie retirée d'une Orientale, retenue loin de toute activité collective étrangère à la famille, par des traditions religieuses et sociales séculaires, on comprend combien différentes peuvent être les réglementations qui ordonnent la vie professionnelle très évoluée de l'une, et protègent l'autre dans ses premiers pas vers l'atelier. . . . Entre ces deux types extrêmes de la vie féminine, toute la gamme graduée des activités plus ou moins évoluées pourrait être trouvée actuellement sur la surface du globe."

La protection de la maternité, la durée du travail, le travail de nuit, l'emploi des femmes dans les travaux dangereux insalubres et pénibles, leur emploi dans des travaux pouvant porter atteinte à la moralité, (dispositions curieuses que celles-là et risquant l'arbitraire) tels sont les problèmes du travail féminin réglés par la législation, soit nationalement, soit internationalement, de façon négative, si l'on peut s'exprimer de la sorte, je veux dire par interdiction ou limitation. Et problèmes aussi si connus de mes lectrices que, vu le peu de place dont je dispose, je ne puis entrer ici dans le détail à leur sujet. En revanche, il existe d'autres dispositions que, par opposition, je qualifierais d'ordre actif, en ce sens qu'au lieu de défendre ou de restreindre l'activité féminine, elles la favorisent et la facilitent. Voici d'abord cette curieuse loi cubaine de 1917 qui interdit l'emploi des immigrés masculins dans des librairies, des pharmacies, des magasins de modes, comme secrétaires, dactylographes, téléphonistes, etc., disposition qui fut étendue par la loi de 1922 à tous les

* *Etudes et Documents du B.I.T.*, série I, No 2, Genève 1931. Prix: Fr. suisses 7.—

hommes, immigrants ou non, et par celle de 1925 à une nouvelle catégorie d'emplois, dont 50% des postes doivent être réservés à des femmes. Une disposition analogue se retrouve dans des décrets de 1930 et de 1931 du Commissariat du peuple au travail de l'U.R.S.S., mais celle-ci évidemment surtout inspirée par les nécessités d'application du plan quinquennal. Voici aussi certaines législations nationales stipulant, à l'intention des femmes spécialement des dispositions obligatoires d'hygiène et de commodité (vestiaires, restaurants, salle de bains, sièges, etc.). Et voici enfin la grosse question des salaires féminins.

Les salaires évidemment ne sont pas d'une manière générale réglés par disposition législative, et dépendent bien davantage de l'action syndicale. Or comme les femmes sont malheureusement bien moins nombreuses et bien moins puissantes que les hommes dans les organisations syndicales, il ne faut pas s'étonner, soit du bas niveau de leurs salaires en général, soit de l'infériorité marquée du taux de ceux-ci comparé au taux des salaires masculins. Notons donc avec d'autant plus de satisfaction que l'article du Pacte qui établit le principe "à travail égal salaire égal" a trouvé son application, sous une forme plus ou moins étendue, dans quelques législations au Mexique, au Chili, en Chine, et en Australie méridionale. D'autre part, les législations sur les salaires minima, instituées pour lutter contre l'exploitation des travailleurs des deux sexes, touchent directement les femmes, parce que, justement, ce sont elles qui, dans certaines industries à domicile par exemple, sont surtout les victimes de cette exploitation. Seulement, voici ce qui arrive souvent: ces salaires minima, prévus en principe pour garantir aux travailleurs des deux sexes un minimum de moyens d'existence, soit un salaire vital, sont généralement établis en tenant compte des besoins du travailleur d'une catégorie donnée et dans un milieu donné. Or, ici peut se glisser un élément d'inégalité entre les sexes, toujours parce que, suivant un préjugé absurde et injuste, l'on évaluera plus haut les besoins de l'homme que ceux de la femme, parce que l'on songera d'abord aux charges familiales qui pèsent sur lui plus fréquemment que sur la femme; et aussi, il faut le relever, parce que souvent, ce travail à domicile est effectué comme salaire d'appoint par des femmes mariées ou des jeunes filles vivant chez leurs parents. Et il n'est pas de sociologue, au courant de cette question complexe du travail à domicile, qui ne sache et ne déplore l'avilissement des salaires ainsi créé par la concurrence que font ainsi des femmes, qui n'ont pas besoin de ce salaire pour vivre, à d'autres travailleurs dont il constitue l'unique ressource. C'est en croyant remédier à cette concurrence que l'on tente alors parfois de fixer le salaire minimal inégalement entre les sexes: mauvaise méthode, non seulement du point de vue féministe, mais aussi de celui des travailleuses auxquelles ce salaire vital est nécessaire, et qui sont ainsi désavantagées vis-à-vis de leurs frères de misère.

Il est donc bien nécessaire en matière de salaires, comme dans les autres domaines du travail féminin, que les femmes puissent participer directement à l'élaboration et à l'application des législations réglementant ces questions. Et le volume du B.I.T., de l'intérêt duquel j'essaie ici de donner une faible idée, renferme deux chapitres, tout spécialement captivants pour nous féministes, sur la connexion étroite des problèmes du travail féminin et du statut civil et politique des femmes. Droit pour la femme de conclure librement des contrats de travail et d'apprentissage, libre disposition de son salaire, droit pour elle d'ester en justice pour toute contestation relative à son travail, droit d'association de la femme mariée, soit droit d'affiliation à un syndicat, ou de participation à une

Société coopérative; droit au travail de la femme mariée; participation des femmes aux divers organismes du travail (tribunaux de prud'hommes, comités de salaires, etc.): tout ceci est à lire et à méditer par toutes celles que préoccupent ces questions, par profession, ou par intérêt scientifique, sociologique ou féministe. On y trouvera une abondance de renseignements de première main, des considérations et des constatations basées sur l'expérience, et un sentiment très net du rôle de la femme dans le monde du travail. N'en est-ce pas assez pour que chacune de nous fasse à ce volume une place dans sa bibliothèque?

E. Gd.

Pour connaître le travail des femmes

à GENEVE

Lisez

le MOUVEMENT FEMINISTE

Bi-mensuel.

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CONGRES FEMINISTE A IASSY (ROUMANIE).

La question féministe a rencontré à ses débuts en Roumanie l'obstacle le plus difficile à vaincre: la moquerie. C'est à Madame Eugénie de Reuss que revient l'honneur d'avoir tout d'abord affronté le choc en fondant la "Ligue des droits de la femme." Les sarcasmes de toutes sortes ne lui furent guère ménagés, mais pour la première fois cette singulière idée était portée devant l'opinion publique.

Ce n'est qu'en 1917 qu'a été fondé dans le palais de la Princesse Marie Morouzy à Iassy, L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme. Le comité a été composé de Mesdames Princesse Morouzy, Princesse Olga Stourdza, Hélène Meissner, Marie Baiulesco, C. Botez, Marie Pop, Eléonore et Thérèse Stratulesco. Cette fois la lutte s'annonçait chaude, car la solidarité de ces femmes de haute situation en imposait à tous. Dès la fin de la guerre elles obtenaient leur premier succès!

Le 22 Mai 1919 le gouvernement libéral sous la présidence de M. Jean Bratiano accordait la nomination des femmes dans les commissions intérimaires municipales.

En 1923 un point bien plus important était acquis; les chambres constituantes levaient "l'impedimento" barrant aux femmes la possibilité des droits civils et politiques.

Peu de temps avant Madame Ella Negrouzzi avait fait ouvrir le barreau aux femmes avocats.

En 1925 les trois sociétés féministes existantes: "L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme," "La Ligue des droits de la femme" et "Le Conseil National" joignant leurs efforts obtenaient par la loi sur l'organisation administrative l'éligibilité de certaines catégories de femmes dans les conseils municipaux et départementaux. Enfin cette année au mois d'Avril un but réel et pratique était atteint par l'obtention d'une partie des droits civils et l'affranchissement de la femme mariée. "L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme" y a joué un grand rôle. Les autres sociétés féministes ont d'ailleurs apporté une aide des plus efficaces, entre autres la dernière née "La Solidarité" fondée en 1926 par Madame Alexandrine Cantacuzène. Des réunions publiques organisées à Bucarest et à Iassy, remuèrent l'opinion et quelques villes de province ont tenu à suivre

l'exemple des deux capitales. Il a malheureusement été impossible d'obtenir pour le moment que la loi électorale soit déposée au bureau de la Chambre.

Néanmoins il y avait victoire, et victoire réelle quoique encore partielle, aussi "L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme" tenant à la célébrer, s'est réunie en Congrès à Iassy les 21 et 22 Mai. Vingt villes ont envoyées leurs déléguées et tous les partis politiques ont tenu à y être représentés. Le congrès présidé par Madame Hélène Meissner, Présidente générale, s'est ouvert devant un nombreux public. Dans un résumé concis Madame Meissner a rappelé les difficultés du début, les premiers succès et enfin cette année le but qui semble près d'être atteint. Un appel chaleureux a ensuite été fait par elle à toutes les femmes roumaines et à toutes les sociétés féministes, les priant de joindre leurs efforts jusqu'à l'obtention complète de tous les droits civils et politiques. Rappelant aussi les liens qui unissent l'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme aux diverses sociétés féministes de l'étranger, elle a attiré l'attention des congressistes sur le fait que ce sont précisément ces liens qui tendent à rapprocher les peuples et à diminuer les égoïsmes nationaux qui ne peuvent mener qu'au désastre et à la négation du travail accumulé par tant de générations.

Bien d'autres voix autorisées se sont fait entendre, comme celles de Mesdames Hélène Romniceano, Mme. H. Ghinlen, C. Botez, Marie Pop, Ghelmegeano, E. Negruzzi, Satmary, Marie Dimitriu Castano, Florica Georgesco, Eugénie Popovici, Silvia Constantinesco, etc., tandis que les représentants des partis politiques ont prononcés des discours des plus prometteurs et des plus courts.

Le Congrès s'est terminé dans une atmosphère de grande cordialité après avoir voté la motion suivante:

"L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme" s'est réunie en Congrès à Iassy, aujourd'hui le 21 Mai 1932, dans la salle du Cercle Militaire, sous la présidence de Madame Hélène Meissner, Présidente générale. Les partis politiques ont tous envoyé des représentants qui ont siégé auprès des déléguées de nos différentes filiales en Roumanie et d'un nombreux public. Après avoir écouté les discours qui ont apporté des remerciements tant au gouvernement actuel, qu'à tous les gouvernements précédents qui ont fait droit à une partie de nos revendications, "L'Association pour l'Emancipation civile et politique de la femme" demande aujourd'hui tant au Gouvernement qu'au Parlement d'accorder aux femmes les droits civils et politiques complets à égalité absolue entre les hommes et les femmes.

Ces droits doivent nous être donnés non seulement pour sauvegarder notre dignité et notre prestige familiales et comme récompense d'un travail égal à celui de l'homme, mais surtout parce qu'ils sont d'une nécessité absolue pour le progrès social, si l'on songe à l'influence grandissante de la femme dans la législation du pays.

INDE.

L'Association des Femmes de l'Inde a récemment tenu sa 15ème Session et le rapport montre quel vaste champ d'études cette organisation a couvert depuis sa fondation en 1917. Ses résolutions ont trait au Suffrage, et spécialement aux coutumes telles que l'intouchabilité, la Traite des Femmes et l'établissement de foyers pour les filles libérées de la prostitution, la propagande pour "Swadeshi," etc. Le rapport proteste contre les Ordonnances et plaide pour une politique de conciliation.

L'organe de l'Association, "Stri Dharma," est publié en anglais et dans trois langues de la péninsule. Il atteint 72 groupes et plus de 4,000 membres.

Sur la brûlante question du suffrage, les recom-

mandations du Comité nommé par la Conférence de la Table Ronde sont loin de satisfaire les féministes de l'Inde. Celles-ci, à quelque secte ou religion qu'elles appartiennent demandent le suffrage adulte et l'égalité entre hommes et femmes. Mais le Comité estime que l'ignorance des femmes et leur soumission à la coutume est telle qu'il serait à l'avantage, des candidats femmes d'avoir des sièges et électors réservés, soit à 5% des sièges, et des circonscriptions spéciales où les candidats seraient des femmes, mais l'électorat mixte.

Proposition étrange qui assimile les femmes au traitement des "minorités." Pour le vote, savoir lire et écrire, ou être la femme d'un propriétaire exerçant la franchise, serait une condition nécessaire. Ces mesures élargiraient l'électorat féminin, aujourd'hui de 315,000 seulement jusqu'à 6,600,000—C'est peu, malgré tout, lorsqu'on considère le nombre total des électeurs qui est de 130 millions. Les organisations féminines ne sont guère satisfaites de ce programme basé sur la différence du sexe et peu propre, à leur sens, à favoriser l'éducation politique des masses.

DANEMARK.

Dr. Eli Moller, une fille de la suffragiste bien connue Jutta Bojsen Moller a reçu la médaille d'or du Mérite pour avoir mené à bien l'organisation et la construction d'une Maison de résidence pour les étudiantes.

Les étudiants mâles possédaient déjà toutes sortes d'avantages dont les jeunes filles devaient forcément se passer. Dr. Eli Moller a travaillé, quêté partout, pour réunir les fonds et l'inauguration a été présidée par la reine du Danemark, elle-même l'une des donatrices.

Un événement qui a fait un certain bruit au Danemark a été la démission de Fru Julie Arenholt, déléguée par le Gouvernement au Directorat de la Compagnie des Téléphones. Julie Arenholt avait, depuis son élection comme membre du Directorat en 1919, fait tout en son pouvoir pour améliorer les conditions de salaire, de travail, et l'organisation des Demoiselles du Téléphone.

L'opinion du Gouvernement, et celle de la Compagnie étant que des réductions de salaire devaient être effectuées, Julie Arenholt s'opposa vivement à ce programme, et préféra donner sa démission et renoncer à un traitement annuel de 4,500 kroners plutôt que d'obéir au Ministre et voter contre ses convictions. Bel exemple de courage et d'honnêteté civique, que les femmes du Danemark admirent et dont elles lui sauront gré.

ALLEMAGNE.

LES FEMMES FONCTIONNAIRES. ACTE DU REICHSTAG DU 12 MAI 1932.

A sa dernière session le Reichstag a voté une loi dont l'application aura de bien tristes résultats pour les féministes allemandes. Le gouvernement du Reich exigera la démission des femmes fonctionnaires mariées, à moins que celles-ci puissent prouver que leur fonction est absolument nécessaire à leur subsistance.

Cette loi, contrevient à l'article 128 de la Constitution du Reich, qui abolissait toute discrimination contre les femmes fonctionnaires. Pour en assurer le passage il a donc fallu les 2/3 des votes de la Chambre. Sur les 1,200 femmes qui sont au service du Reich 900 tomberont sous le coup de la nouvelle loi. On ne voit pas très bien le soulagement que ces 900 victimes apporteront au chômage général. Mais l'opinion publique l'approuve et le Centre catholique, qui en a pris l'initiative, reflète l'état d'esprit des milieux catholiques allemands, où la femme, considérée comme gardienne du foyer, dépend exclusivement de l'homme pour son soutien et celui de sa famille.

C'est un recul marqué, pour les principes féministes. Comment, en des temps comme ceux que nous traversons, où le salaire de l'homme est bas et précaire, la sécurité du ménage reste assurée, si la femme ne travaille pas, quelle influence cette loi aura sur les mariages futurs sont autant de questions dont la réponse est douteuse.

Et le pire c'est que l'exemple du Reich sera certainement suivi par les Assemblées d'Etat.

Au Reichstag le projet de loi a été surtout débattu par les femmes. Dr. Helen Weber du Centre catholique s'en est fait l'apologiste et a été soutenue par Frau Lehmann (conservatrice), et Frau Eitner (Parti chrétien protestant). Frau Reese, Communiste, le combattit et Dr. Gertrud Baumer signala ses tendances dangereuses. Plusieurs partis s'abstinrent de prendre part à la discussion mais le vote donna 458 voix en faveur de la loi, 71 contre, et 13 (Démocrates) abstentions.

Dans les commissions d'examen de la loi, plusieurs remaniements furent faits au projet initial, notamment en ce qui concerne les méthodes d'investigation et les indemnités. La nouvelle loi affecte les employées des Postes, des Chemins de Fer et de la Banque du Reich mais pas encore—à moins que les Etats n'édicte des décrets similaires—les institutrices, employées de l'assistance ou des services publics en Prusse, Bavière, etc.

NECROLOGIE.

RUSSIE.

Dr. Anna Nikolaevna Shabanova vient de mourir à Leningrad à l'âge de 85 ans. Elle était présidente de la Société des Femmes médecins, fondatrice de la Société des Femmes auteurs, et une féministe internationaliste de longue date. Dr. Shabanova appartenait à cette fameuse génération des femmes de 1860-70 qui surent associer avec tant de succès leur travail scientifique et philanthropique avec la lutte contre l'esprit réactionnaire. C'est à elle qu'est due la fondation de l'Institut Médical des femmes, ouvert à St. Pétersbourg en 1897. Dr. Shabanova a écrit plusieurs livres de médecine, et récemment encore travaillait comme spécialiste à la plus importante clinique pour enfants, à Leningrad.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

Mrs. Margaret Wynne Nevinson est morte le 8 juin à l'âge de 75 ans.

Elle fut pendant des années membre de la Commission d'Assistance publique de Hampstead, et une des premières femmes juges de paix, à Londres. Son mari est l'écrivain bien connu et ex-correspondent de guerre—et son fils C. W. R. Nevinson, le peintre.

Mrs. Nevinson était une suffragiste militante. Ses adversaires craignaient l'humour et l'esprit caustique de ses interruptions.

AUSTRALIE.

On nous annonce la mort de Mrs. Cowan, la première femme élue à un Parlement Australien, ayant été membre de l'Assemblée de l'Australie de l'Ouest.

AFRIQUE DU SUD.

LE MARIAGE ET LE CODE.

Deux formes distinctes de mariage sont aujourd'hui reconnues dans l'Union des Provinces de l'Afrique du Sud.—l'une est la coutume romaine-hollandaise—l'autre le contrat anté-nuptial.

La première n'est pas autre chose que la coutume latine du mariage sous le régime de la communauté. Les propriétés respectives de chaque époux ne forment plus qu'un bien unique—et quelque soit la part apportée

par l'un des conjoints, chacun a droit à la moitié dans le cas de dissolution du mariage—Les dettes de l'un, deviennent la charge de la communauté. L'épouse cependant étant légalement considérée mineure, l'administration des biens revient au mari.

Le contrat anté-nuptial ne semble pas autre chose que le mariage sous le régime de la séparation de biens. L'épouse est seule propriétaire de ses biens, dont l'administration doit cependant être sanctionnée par le mari; mais il n'y a aucune solidarité de dette ou de profit.

SUISSE.

Le chemin des suffragistes suisses est semé d'épines. Le Conseil du Canton de St. Gall vient de refuser aux femmes le droit de siéger dans les commissions scolaires, droit qui leur est concédé dans cinq autres cantons.

Dans le Canton des Grisons un amendement à la coutume ecclésiastique qui permettrait aux femmes l'entrée du pastorat a été repoussé, en dépit du fait que les femmes ont le droit de vote en matière ecclésiastique dans ce canton. Quelques paroisses avaient déjà une femme pasteur, mais comme le Synode avait refusé de sanctionner l'une de ces nominations, un amendement à la loi devenait nécessaire. Il est intéressant de remarquer que les paroisses déjà pourvues d'une femme pasteur ont en majorité voté pour l'amendement: preuve que l'expérience détruit le préjugé.

LES CONSEILS DE PRUDHOMMES EN FRANCE.

Mme. Henriette Maltrait dans "la Française" donne un lucide compte-rendu de l'organisation judiciaire dite Conseils de Prudhommes, qui existait en France sous l'ancien régime, a été réinstituée après la Révolution et est le seul corps élu pour lequel les femmes ont droit de vote et d'éligibilité.

Le Conseil de Prudhommes est une sorte de Tribunal d'arbitrage pour les conflits qui surgissent entre ouvriers et patrons. Ses juges sont élus par les membres de chaque section industrielle ou commerciale. Le conflit vient d'abord, devant un Bureau de Conciliation composé simplement d'un patron et d'un employé. Si le conflit n'est pas ainsi résolu, il est porté devant un tribunal composé de deux patrons et de deux ouvriers qui peuvent prononcer le jugement. Au cas où le vote des juges serait également partagé, le tribunal se réunit à nouveau sous la présidence d'un Juge de paix qui assure le vote définitif. En plus de leurs fonctions judiciaires, les Conseils de Prudhommes ont d'autres attributions, notamment la garde des brevets.

Les ouvrières ou patronnes françaises qui ont le droit de vote et d'élection depuis 1908 montrent en général assez peu d'intérêt pour le fonctionnement des Conseils de Prudhommes. Ce qui est assez étrange, surtout dans des industries où la femme prédomine, comme celle de l'habillement.

POLOGNE.

Depuis plusieurs mois on s'entretenait dans les milieux scientifiques polonais de l'importante découverte de Mademoiselle Alice Dorabialska, agrégée, docteur ès sciences—Actuellement cette nouvelle peut être communiquée au public, puisque le résultat des recherches de cette savante a fait l'objet des débats à la dernière séance de l'Académie des Sciences, dans la section mathématiques sciences naturelles.

Les travaux de la Dr. Dorabialska qui datent de plusieurs années, sur l'énergetique des éléments, ont abouti à des conclusions grosses de conséquences. Déjà il y a quelques années cette jeune savante avait découvert après toute une série d'expériences, que certains minéraux de l'écorce terrestre sont une source d'énergie calorifique, qui ne résulte d'aucun

procès physico-chimique connu. Cette énergie calorifique était si infinitésimale, qu'il a fallu un appareil spécialement construit pour l'évaluer. Cet appareil surnommé microcalorimètre a été inventé et construit au Laboratoire de chimie physique de l'Ecole Polytechnique de Varsovie par le Prof. Swietoslowski et la Dr. Dorabialska.

Dans les recherches ultérieures il s'agissait d'établir les causes de la supériorité de la valeur calorifique de certains minéraux. L'analyse chimique a conduit la savante à conclure, que la chaleur anormale se produit là, où se trouvent les éléments du groupe de lantan et de l'yttrium.

Quelles sont les conséquences réelles de la découverte de Mademoiselle Dr. Dorabialska? En premier lieu en dehors du fait même d'une conquête scientifique importante, ouvrant un domaine nouveau de recherches, nous pouvons espérer dès aujourd'hui d'autres résultats. La voie tracée par Dr. Dorabialska permettra probablement d'élucider certains problèmes de chimie historique de la terre. De plus on a constaté jusqu'à ce jour l'émanation de l'énergie dans 11 éléments les plus lourds, on ne l'a point observé dans les éléments légers. La découverte du Dr. Dorabialska éclaire ces questions d'un jour nouveau et ouvre un domaine jusque là inconnu pour des recherches physico-chimiques C'est ainsi que se présente dans ses grandes lignes la découverte au point de vue scientifique. Ce qui importe pour tout lecteur c'est le fait, qu'une très jeune savante ait pu aboutir dans ses recherches à des résultats, qui peuvent faire naître un nouveau chapitre de la science. La découverte du radium par Madame Curie-Sklodowska n'a donné au début que des perspectives nouvelles. Les recherches de Dr. Dorabialska sont également un anneau dans l'enchaînement des efforts des savants en vue de fixer la notion de la matière et de rectifier la conception philosophique de la construction de l'univers.

Quelle était la base de ce système jusqu'à présent? L'indivisibilité de l'atome. Et voilà que la science nouvelle nous montre l'atome comme divisible et se transformant en énergie.

Qui sait si nous ne verrons pas l'avènement d'un nouveau système philosophique, qui mettra à la base de l'univers—l'énergie?

Dr. Dorabialska a publié déjà plus d'une vingtaine de travaux tant en polonais qu'en français dans les Annales de Chimie, ainsi que dans les comptes rendus des Académies des Sciences de Pologne et de Paris. Actuellement la jeune savante poursuit ses recherches à Varsovie au Laboratoire de chimie physique de l'Ecole Polytechnique du Prof. Swietoslowski, autour duquel se groupent les jeunes savants.

IRENE JABLÓWSKA.
—La Femme Polonaise.

GRANDE BRETAGNE.

LIGUE DU COMMONWEALTH BRITANNIQUE.

La conférence annuelle de la Ligue a été suivie par des déléguées de toutes les parties de l'Empire. A côté des discussions ordinaires sur la paix, la nationalité, etc., qui sont communes à toutes les réunions féministes, un discours a été particulièrement remarqué, celui de Miss Fleming de l'Institut d'Anthropologie sur les unions inter- raciales et la position des enfants issus de telles unions.

Selon Miss Fleming, la race "pure" est un mythe. Tout sang est plus ou moins mélangé et il faut considérer aussi l'élément climat et l'adaptation nécessaire, avec ce qu'elle entraîne d'énergies diverses de sorte que chaque race apporte sa contribution individuelle à la masse réalisée par l'humanité.

La position des enfants, issue d'unions entre différentes races, dont l'une est considérée supérieure à

l'autre, est particulièrement pénible. Rien n'indique, comme on l'a trop souvent répété, que les enfants héritent les mauvaises tendances de l'une et l'autre—c'est là une impossibilité biologique. Mais ils grandissent avec un complexe d'infériorité, à cause de l'ostracisme où sont tenus leurs parents. De telles unions en effet sont fréquentes dans les ports entre des hommes de couleur et des femmes déclassées. A une mauvaise hérédité physique s'ajoute l'effet d'un milieu social antipathique, peu ou point de vie de famille, et l'opposition entre les parents de traditions et de préjugés invincibles. Miss Fleming conclut en disant, que dans de telles unions les filles souffrent plus que les garçons; en conséquence elle adjure les femmes d'ouvrir leur esprit et leur cœur à la compréhension de coutumes, de traditions différentes des leurs de les examiner avec sympathie et sans aucun sentiment de supériorité raciale—car chaque race a ses connaissances et ses dons propres.

Refuser de les comprendre et de se les associer serait diminuer le patrimoine spirituel de l'humanité.

L'ALLIANCE POLITIQUE ET SOCIALE SAINTE JEANNE.

L'Alliance politique et sociale Sainte Jeanne a célébré son 21^{ème} anniversaire le 30 mai dernier, le jour de la fête de Jeanne d'Arc. Mrs. Laughton Matthews rappela l'histoire du mouvement parmi les femmes catholiques, et l'un des nombreux ecclésiastiques qui assistaient au dîner, le Rev. Bede Jarrett, répondit à son toast. Miss Alison Neilans assura que l'Alliance Ste. Jeanne poursuivait d'une façon pratique l'accomplissement de ses visions et de ses rêves.

Mrs. Belloc Lowndes dont la mère fut une des pionnières proposa le toast du Suffrage des Femmes en France auquel Melle. Lenôël présidente de la section française répondit. D'autres discours furent prononcés par Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Dame Rachel Crowdy et Dame Edith Lyttelton.

NOUVELLES BREVES.

Allemagne. Pour la première fois, depuis que la ville de Francfort a institué le prix Goethe, celui-ci a été décerné à une femme, la poétesse Ricarda Huch.

Grande Bretagne. L'Université d'Oxford a adopté un statut qui rend les femmes éligibles aux jurys d'examen et au bureau des conservateurs de l'Institut Taylor, de sorte qu'une des dernières barrières universitaires est désormais tombée.

Miss A. M. Kilroy une des premières lauréates du difficile diplôme de la classe administrative du Civil Service a été promue Chef d'administration au Ministère du Commerce.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, à la Chambre des Lords a fait corriger cette disposition absurde du Children's Bill qui assignait une différence d'âge pour garçons et filles—respectivement 16 et 18 ans—pour autorisation à s'exhiber en séances d'acrobatie—16 ans est désormais la limite d'âge pour les deux sexes.

Inde. Un nouveau Collège de femmes vient de s'ouvrir à Nagpur. Un home y est adjoint.

Le 6 juin dernier l'Assemblée des Représentants de l'Etat de Mysore a introduit un bill, restreignant le mariage des garçons au-dessous de 18 ans et des filles au-dessous de 14 ans.

Norvège. C'est avec satisfaction que nous apprenons l'admission de Miss Elise Bergum au Conseil norvégien de protection de l'enfance. Miss Bergum est une experte en matière de psychologie infantine et d'assistance publique.

L'Association des femmes socialistes de Norvège a adressé une communication au Storting, signalant la nécessité de faire une part égale aux femmes et aux hommes dans la composition des jurys, siégeant pour affaire de mœurs.

Ceylan. Il nous faut féliciter à nouveau les femmes de Ceylan pour le succès de leur deuxième candidate au Conseil de l'Etat: Mme. Naysum Saravanamuttu, vient d'être élue par Colombo Nord avec une majorité de 8,000 voix sur les candidats masculins. Mme. Molamure, la première femme membre du Conseil est particulièrement heureuse d'avoir une collègue et'il est agréable de constater que les électeurs de Ceylan n'ont aucun préjugé contre le sexe féminin.

FRANCE.

"La Française" donne un compte-rendu du récent Congrès de l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes. Les membres ont été reçus par le Président du Sénat. Celui-ci les assura, qu'en dépit de son opposition personnelle il ferait en sorte que le projet de loi fut discuté par le Sénat, en une séance plénière, désormais fixée au 23 juin. Le Président de la Chambre reçut aussi les Congressistes et Mme. Brunsvicq lui rappela que les femmes avaient encore grand besoin de l'appui des députés.

Le Banquet réunit avec des députés et sénateurs, les délégués des groupes provinciaux qui affirmèrent leur foi pour la cause du suffrage avec non moins d'ardeur que les groupes de Paris. Si le discours du Sénateur Viollette donna peu de satisfaction aux féministes présentes, du moins, M. Marchandeau délégué du Gouvernement réitéra la sympathie de M. Herriot pour le vote des Femmes et annonça que le Gouvernement propose d'introduire une loi pour leur donner les droits civils. Il est dit ailleurs que le Gouvernement propose de concéder le vote municipal et d'abroger les articles du Code Civil qui mettent la femme mariée sous la dépendance absolue de son conjoint. Nous apprenons également de même source, que Madame Kraemer Bach, bien connue des membres de l'Alliance, comme avocate et féministe est attachée au bureau du Ministre de la Justice, et nous espérons qu'elle prendra part à la rédaction du Projet de loi.

Nous regrettons que le résultat de la discussion du 23 juin, au Sénat, ne puisse parvenir à Jus Suffragi avant que nous mettions sous presse—mais nous adressons nos vœux de succès à nos collègues françaises.

Nous apprenons que le projet sur les Allocations familiales a désormais force de loi. Tout patron dans l'industrie, le commerce ou l'agriculture doit contribuer à un fonds de compensation, ou institution similaire. Un enfant de travailleur peut recevoir une allocation jusqu'à l'âge de 16 ans et même plus longtemps, s'il continue ses études. La chose n'est pas nouvelle en France si l'on se rappelle que certaines industries avaient déjà volontairement organisé un système d'allocations familiales.

L'Institut des Actuaire a décerné le grade de licenciée à Melle. Madeleine Normand, la première femme qui l'ait encore obtenu.

Mme. Condat est la première femme Professeur à la Faculté de Médecine de Toulouse, Elle a été nommée à la Chaire de Thérapeutique.

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