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THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE NEWS



THE MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

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CALL TO THE TENTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, PARIS, MAY 23-30, 1926.

THE International Woman Suffrage Alliance calls upon its thirty-six national Auxiliaries and upon the seven new societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to its Tenth International Congress to be held in Paris from May 23 to 30, 1926, the full quota of fully accredited delegates. It also calls upon all women's societies, both national and international, which support the object of the Alliance, to send fraternal delegates to the Congress, and promises a cordial welcome to all individual friends and supporters of the women's movement in all countries who may wish to be present at our deliberations.

Since our last Congress in Rome in 1923, it may seem that the wheel of progress has been turning more slowly than in former years. We have, however, to record an important victory in Newfoundland, where the long struggle of the women has been crowned with success, a suffrage measure having been passed giving women the right to vote, though not on absolutely the same terms as men. In India also three more Provinces have enfranchised their women, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal; as have also the Native States of Cochin and Mysore.

Elsewhere a great step forward towards the emancipation of women has been accomplished by the grant of the municipal vote, already in sight in Italy and Greece, and actually in operation in Spain. In France a suffrage bill is under discussion, and there is good hope that the women of France will also shortly have a victory to celebrate. In other fields covered by our programme, women are steadily advancing: consolidating their gains in the professions; reforming laws which have for centuries perpetuated injustices towards women; ceaselessly stating the women's claim to economic equality; and making their weight felt in the political life of their countries in every direction.

May we not then claim when calling our Tenth Congress that, if the flood of spectacular victories has somewhat abated, the rising tide is with the women of the world, and no obstacle can for long stem their progress towards that equality of freedom and opportunity which is the vital principle of the Alliance? Moreover, the creation of the League of Nations has opened to us a vast and hopeful field of work. It is significant that in this first effort towards world peace, women should have been placed on an equality with men, so that it lies with them to help in the achievement of this mighty aim, and thus to demonstrate their fitness for great responsibilities. The story of their endeavours and the details of their work will be among the most interesting features of the Congress in Paris.

As from period to period our Congresses increase in size and importance, so also does the complexity of the problems considered. At the Paris Congress we shall have first to deal with that most important subject, which is the very foundation of our programme, the enfranchisement of women in countries which have not yet attained this necessary reform; then will come the questions of the economic situation of women in the professions, in business, and in industry; of the equal moral standard of both sexes, with its concomitant fight against the infamous traffic in women; of the responsibility for the illegitimate child; of the nationality of the married woman; and finally, of the study of the system of family allowances.

These questions have indeed been discussed at our former meetings, but they are not static questions—they present a constantly changing front, and problems which call for all our courage and perseverance if they are to be solved in accordance with our ideal. Finally, it is impossible for the women of so many different nations to meet without discussing the greatest of all problems, on

which alone our constructive programme can be built up: Peace and Good Will among the Nations.

This Call to our Congress is not a Call to ease and personal satisfaction with work already done. Rather is it a Call to those who, conscious of the value of steadfastness and co-operation, wish to press forward with set purpose and high heart to the conquest of the Promised Land of justice and good-will. We know our friends and fellow-workers will not fail us, and, full of hope, we summon them to come from near and far to Paris, City of Light, to send forth the message which shall help the great women's movement all over the world to advance yet further on its predestined road to victory.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY, *President.*

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, *Hon. President.*

Anna Lindemann.	Emilie Gourd.
Paulina Luisi.	Avra Theodoropoulos.
Margherita Ancona.	Adele Schreiber Krieger.
Cornelia B. Pinchot.	Julie Arenholt.
Frances M. Sterling.	Germaine Malaterre Sellier.

PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE TREASURER OF THE INTER- NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

DEAR MADAM.—Having read the Call to the Congress to be held next May in Paris, you will need no further words to impress upon you the great work crying out to be done so that the countries of the world may move forward along the lines of progress already laid down.

Women, united in the bonds of a great ideal and a common task, are called to serve this end with a strength which such unity alone can achieve.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance has surely justified its existence a hundredfold in the last twenty years, but the coming Congress is critical. As the one held in Rome helped towards the Italian success (as was frequently stated in the Italian Chamber and Press), so, if this gathering is a brilliant one, the struggle in France may be most favourably affected; victory there must carry victory into other Latin countries and into the whole Continent of South America.

Every woman who cares for these ends must realise the need of straining every nerve to make the Paris Congress worthy of the occasion. Funds are most urgently needed; seven hundred pounds sterling must be collected if a Congress is to be held at all, and provision must also be made for the future of the Alliance. Will you give to the Paris Congress Fund, either through the Auxiliary in your own country, or direct to headquarters; and will you become a regular subscriber to the funds of the Alliance, that we may be able to carry on the work in future years?

We pray you give, and give generously, and give now!

Yours very truly,

FRANCES M. STERLING,
Treasurer.

WHERE WOMEN ARE REALLY EQUAL.

ACCORDING to Mrs. King, the pretty young Tibetan wife, who, with her husband, the late British Consul at Kham, Eastern Tibet, has just arrived in England, the sexes are on an absolute equality in Tibet, and always have been. Individual ability, not the mere accident of sex, is the universal touchstone of Tibetan standards. The Government of Tibet is in the hands of district headmen, or local governors, who have superseded the old chieftains of royal birth who once reigned over the country. (Mrs. King is herself the descendant of one of these royal chieftains.) In many cases these headmen are women, who rule over large tracts of country as big as an English county. They handle such intricate matters as taxation, and also deal with all crimes, except murder, in the local court. One district of Eastern Tibet, where the old chieftain traditions still linger, is ruled by a queen.

"Tibet is a country of culture, rather than education in the Western sense of the word," Mrs. King told our representative. "Children of both sexes are trained chiefly by means of oral teaching, which is handed down

from each generation. Reading and writing are taught by our lamas or priests, and in wealthy houses by chaplains. We consider poetry, music, art, literature, and the lives of great heroes to be of greater importance than mere dexterity with the pen or pencil. In addition, Tibetan girls are also taught household lore, for the Tibetan wife and mother is queen of her household, and even if she commands a whole retinue of servants, is never ashamed to take a broom in her hands. Tibetan servants, too, are friends rather than retainers, and live with the same family for a lifetime.

"There are no professions in the Western sense in Tibet. Medicine is mainly in the hands of the priests and priestesses, who occupy the highest position in society. After these come the great landowners, whilst merchants and farmers make up the rest. Women, however, have equal access with men to all these activities. Life in Tibet is simple and dignified. There are no industrial problems, and I hope there never will be. We have no poor."

Mrs. King was careful to deny with some vigour the erroneous reports frequently made by travellers that polyandry flourished in Tibet. She assured our representative that monogamy was the uniform practice in Eastern Tibet, and she believed it to be so all over the country. She is the first Tibetan woman to set foot on English soil, and is writing a book on Tibet, her husband acting as her secretary and amanuensis. *The Vote.*



Mrs. King.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN—DENMARK.

We have only just received authentic information that the Danish Parliament passed in March of this year an Act dealing with the nationality of married women on the same lines as the Acts already passed in Norway and Sweden. This Act does not concede all that the Alliance is working for, but under it a married woman does not lose her Danish nationality on marriage with a foreigner unless she thereby acquires the nationality of her husband, and even in that case she retains her Danish nationality as long as she resides in Denmark.

A DAUGHTER OF THE NEW WORLD MEETS A DAUGHTER OF THE OLD.

The Growth of the Feminist Movement in Turkey.

ONE of the vivid recollections of my visit to Constantinople in September of this year was the kind welcome extended to me by Nezieh Hanoum, in her women's club house. Miss Caris Mills, of the League of Nations House, had introduced two other Australians and myself to this courageous feminist leader. We found her tall, dark and good-looking, with plenty of short, black hair. She spoke excellent French, and entertained us with Turkish coffee and cigarettes. To look at her it was difficult to believe that we were in Turkey, but when one of the officers of the Turkish Feminist Movement joined us, with a black veil arranged upon her hair, we were perhaps right in recognising a link with the "dark mysterious ladies" of Pierre Loti's—"Les Désenchantées."

Nezieh Hanoum's club is close to the heart of Stamboul; not so far away are the great Mosques and the Sublime Porte. The age of the Movement can really be told in months, yet already its meetings are well attended in Constantinople, and its influence is being acknowledged by various ministers and deputies, while its reports on legal questions, etc., are being widely discussed. The Feminists mean to put up a candidate at the next elections, although they have slight hope of success. Nezieh Hanoum has visited Angora, and I understand Mustaphar Kemal strongly supports the Movement. All are, of course, aware of his sympathy with Western customs and, above all, his affection for Western hats. He is reported to wear a new one every day. At any rate, Broussa, which was a great Mussulman centre, has, to a man, thrown away its fezes, and vowed that it will go bare-headed until each citizen can obtain his own Western hat! This is really an insult to his religion, for who can prostrate himself completely, his head covered with a brimmed Heath hat?

However, Pierre Loti might be almost regretful to-day over the complete Westernisation of his little "Désenchantées," yet the admirable attitude of the Turkish men adjusts the situation. Nevertheless, such changes must be very hard on the older generation, and I was particularly struck with the statement of a Turkish lady to the effect that an influential and highly educated friend of hers had long been hesitating to visit Angora, as he could not support the idea of discarding his fez.

Nezieh Hanoum's Movement is, of course, faced with difficulties, and not the least is the urgent need of funds. She is unable to rouse distant centres to real activity, and the work of charity, which is part of the platform of the Movement, drains all resources. Nevertheless, she edits fortnightly a substantial paper. One issue has an excellent reproduction of Mrs. Corbett Ashby's photograph on the front page. This enterprising Turkish lady, besides her home duties, is the principal of a girls' school, organizes the Movement, and speaks and writes for it. The actual fortnightly proof-reading of her paper is five hours' work. Such vitality is indeed admirable. One feels that the charitable work of the Movement should again be stressed. There is still much sorrow in Constantinople, and the refugees of different nationalities offer many tragic problems. There are the Turks who have been exchanged from Greece, and many of them are still in concentration camps in Constantinople; there are hundreds of destitute Armenians and White Russians, while the Greeks—above all, the orphans and married women whose husbands have returned to Greece to try and provide for them—are suffering badly. Of course, charitable organisations are striving to help these unhappy people, and not least among them is the League of Nations House, through which Miss Mills distributes moneys and foodstuffs. An important section of these come from the British Save the Children Fund, for which I was travelling in the Near East.

Nezieh Hanoum, then, is a leader in more ways than one. Charity need no longer be offered *sub rosa* or by means of the servants of the harem, and to-day one can even visit a milk station and baby clinic in Constantinople

which is organised by the first Turkish woman doctor, Dr. Safeele.

We cannot but admire the courage of the intrepid Turkish women who are thus overthrowing centuries of traditions, and from Australia, with her full suffrage rights, will, I feel sure, go forth greetings and all good wishes for the Feminists of Turkey to-day.

MARGARET DARNLEY NAYLOR.

London, October 16, 1925.



Nezieh Hanoum (Mme. Mouhiddine).

BOOK REVIEW.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF MINNA CAUER (Minna Cauer: Leben und Werk). Friedrich Andreas Perthes, Gotha-Stuttgart.

This book has been written by Else Lüders, who was for many years a fellow-worker with Minna Cauer. Minna Cauer was implored in the evening of her long, full life to write her reminiscences; unfortunately, only fragments of an autobiography were found among her papers. Else Lüders has made a most interesting book from these fragments and from Minna Cauer's diaries, wherein we find the history of the German woman's movement as it is revealed in the life of this, one of its great leaders, with many a hint as to the currents which directed it. The Socialist women believed that no special woman's movement was necessary, as in their view the demands made by the women marched with those made by the proletariat. Opposed to them were those women who laid stress on the cultural needs of women voiced in the women's demands, and the need for a special woman's movement to unite all women's efforts in matters cultural, social, and ethical. While the women of the middle classes were absolutely at one as to the aim of their work, their ideas as to the way by which this goal should be reached were divided. The older generation all desired to reach it by the way of evolution, while the so-called younger generation, who adopted political aims and worked by political means, placed the question of rights in the foreground. It was to the latter group that Minna Cauer belonged. She first declared for woman suffrage, and her diary shows that she spared no pains and feared no struggles in order to attain this end. With Lily von Gyzicki (Lily Braun) she presented a petition in 1895 for the right of women to form political organisations; in 1888 she had already founded in Berlin the "Verein Frauenwohl,"

the object of which was to carry on the struggle for women's rights in every field. At last the wave of democracy which swept over Germany after the war brought the fulfilment of her hopes. When woman suffrage was an accomplished fact, Minna Cauer, now nearly eighty years old, laid down the presidency of the "Verein Frauenwohl," which she had led through the struggles of 31 years.

Hellmut von Gerlach, in the section of his reminiscences which deals with women and the woman's movement, gives a very striking appreciation of Minna Cauer. It reads as follows: "My experiences in Paris (International Women's Congress in Paris, 1900) led me to an ever closer connection with the German woman's movement. I worked hand in hand with Minna Cauer, in whom I learnt to value the best political brains of the German movement. Thanks to her long period of work in England, she was internationally minded, and had a very thorough knowledge of historical and social matters." It is from this note of his that we learn to understand why she roused hostility—she was a supporter of internationalism,—and we see that even her fellow-workers left her on this account. How Minna Cauer suffered because during the war the women of all lands would not form a strong unbroken phalanx to express their will to peace! For her the realisation of the ideal of peace was the loftiest aim of mankind.

Up to now we have only known Minna Cauer through her speeches and her books: Else Lüders' book, for the first time, permits us to know thoroughly this unique woman. We learn how she lived and suffered, tasting the full bitterness which the struggle for a great reform brings with it. On her eightieth birthday she wrote in her diary: "I have suffered much in life, but was that not my nature? I have lived through much, very much, but is not that the consequence of my way of life?" Minna Cauer was a fighter, but alongside the stern thoughts of struggle, we find the tenderness and goodness of a profoundly womanly nature. Throughout the diary there is a constant longing for harmony. Like so many combative natures, Minna Cauer had a love of solitude. In one entry we find: "I have to thank my beloved solitude for much, if not for all." In this book we read of much sorrow and much joy, and the whole time we are filled with admiration for the deep religious feeling, the rare sincerity, and the lofty morality of this famous woman, to whom not only the German women owe so much, and whose name is for ever bound up with the history of the woman's movement.

ELSE NEITZEL.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *International Woman Suffrage News*.

Dear Madam,—In the August-September number of the *I.W.S.N.* I find you quoting from the American feminist weekly, *Equal Rights*:—

"During the transitory Bela Kun Government in Hungary Mme. Rosika Schwimmer was appointed Hungarian Minister to Switzerland, but Bela Kun was overthrown before she had an opportunity for active service."

In correction of the fact of historic importance from the feminist point of view, as I had the doubtful "honour" of being the first woman Minister, I beg you to publish the following statement:

I was in Switzerland as a private person when on November 21, 1918, a telegram reached me with the information that the Cabinet meeting of the Karolyi Government had, on November 19, 1918, unanimously nominated me as Minister to Switzerland. Representing the pacifist-democratic Karolyi Government I did active service from the date of my nomination until the outbreak of Bolshevism on the 21st March, 1919.

I refused to continue service though Bela Kun's Co-Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Julius Alpári, urged me to serve under the Bolshevik régime. I refused because I did not, and do not, believe in Bolshevism. I do not believe in rule by class, sex, or race, nor in government by dictatorship, whether Lenin's, or Mussolini's, or the White Terrorists', nor in a régime

built on physical force either for royal, or commercial, or revolutionary imperialism.

Without any illusion about the wisdom of the masses, or their particularly reliable sense of justice, I stand for democratic rule in all aspects of human life, and could not serve as an official any régime based on other principles. The Karolyi régime tried to change feudal Hungary into a pacifist-democracy. That is why I could take the burden of serving it on myself.—Sincerely yours,
ROSIKA SCHWIMMER.

Chicago, September 19, 1925.

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Although we have already published a correction on this matter, we are glad to accede to Miss Schwimmer's request to include her letter in the November issue.]

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

"Women in Australia are as intelligent at twenty-one as are the men." So stated Mrs. Britomart James at the Six Point Group's Monday afternoon "At Home." Mrs. Britomart James is a member of the newly-formed British Commonwealth League, President of the Women Citizens' Association in Victoria, and Organiser of the Women's Section of "Country Party" in Australia.

She said that the women were not ready to exercise their vote in the country until it was pointed out to them that all the domestic affairs of life were closely linked with politics.

To have telephones installed, to insist on education for their children when their district was being passed over because less than twelve could be mustered, to obtain instruction in cooking, first aid, and dressmaking; these matters touched them so nearly that they formed themselves into a Women's Country Party, and now form a power in the land.

ERRATA.

In the October number, under the heading of "News of Divers Women," we published a paragraph stating that Mme. de Brown de Tiege was the first woman to become a Burgomaster in Belgium. We are now glad to learn that as a matter of fact there have been no fewer than six women Burgomasters since 1921. Therefore, the truth is better than the rumour—and we may call our first paragraph by this somewhat vague name, as items under this heading are extracted from the general Press, and we do not guarantee their accuracy.

We should also like to call attention to the fact that a footnote should have been appended to the very interesting article, "An Ardent Spirit of the Past," stating that a book on the subject of that article has just appeared in Paris, entitled "La Vie et l'Oeuvre de Flora Tristan," by Jules L. Puech, Rivière, Editeur, Paris.

NEWS OF DIVERS WOMEN.

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

ARGENTINE.

The Senate has approved the Bill granting women, single, married, and widowed, the same civil rights as men.

Up to now Argentine women have been unable to transact business, and even to own property, without the consent of their husband or father.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British Housewives' Association has just been formed for the purpose of raising the status of domestic work and in other ways to organise housewives and their assistants for mutual support and help. It has an office at 70, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Miss Violet Markham, C.H. (Mrs. Carruthers), chairman of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, is the only woman member appointed to the committee just appointed by the Board of Education and the Ministry of Labour to inquire into the public

system of education in England and Wales in relation to the requirements of trade and industry.

Miss Niven is the first woman student of Glasgow University to secure the Brunton Memorial Prize for the most distinguished graduation in medicine during the year. In addition, Miss Niven secured the double distinction of the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with honours.

JAPAN.

The latest career which has yielded to feminine pressure is that of law. By a decision of the Law Practice Revision Committee, dated June 12, Japanese women may now practise law on an equal footing with men.

JUGO-SLAVIA.

Miss Illic recently appeared in a criminal trial at Sarajevo as public prosecutor. This is the first occasion in Jugo-Slavia in which this office has been filled by a woman.

SOCIALIST WOMEN OF EIGHTEEN COUNTRIES MEET AT MARSEILLES.

By CRYSTAL EASTMAN.

EVERY new effort at organised expression on the part of women acting by and for themselves must interest a feminist. And I would ask my readers whether they belong so far to the right that they regard Labour and the Socialist International as a menace to the human race or so far to the left that they regard it as a pitiful counterfeit movement deserving only contempt—I would ask them in either case to consider this first independent step on the part of the women allied to that International with sympathy and enthusiasm.

There has always been a scattering of women delegates at the meetings of the Socialist International, and in recent years there have been two women on the Executive, Adelheid Popp, of Austria, and Mrs. Harrison Bell, of England. Two years ago, when the International met at Hamburg, the women delegates who happened to be present met together in an effort to form some permanent association. The attempt was not successful, however. The women present could not agree as to what the function of a woman's committee within the International would be; many of them were doubtful as to the wisdom of forming a distinct group. The only outcome was the election of a "Praesidium" of four—Dr. Marion Phillips, of England, Marie Juchacz, of Germany, Alice Pels, of Belgium, and Adelheid Popp, of Austria,—whose duty it should be to keep the project alive, to secure a permanent woman correspondent in every country, and to call a woman's conference in connection with the next meeting of the International. It is the conference which has just been held at Marseilles, the first official International Conference of Socialist women.

Coming to the main resolution, in which there was an attempt to embody the principles as well as the form and machinery of the proposed organisation, I will quote its main clauses in full, putting in italics the amendments added after discussion.

"I. For the accomplishment of Socialism it is necessary that the masses should be roused to assist in the active work of the reorganisation of society, and the masses consist of women as well as men. It is therefore essential that the Socialist parties in all countries should do their utmost to assist in the organisation of women within the Labour and Socialist movement, and in order to accomplish them every Socialist Party should regard the complete emancipation of women as the primary aim of their policy. It is their duty to work for the full political, economic and social equality of men and women, especially in regard to electoral equality and equality in laws dealing with the family, citizenship, and marriage, and equality of rights between legitimate and illegitimate children. They must also demand full freedom for women to enter administrative, professional, and industrial life, without regard to her family status

(whether married or not) and without regard to her need, and economic equality in regard to wages.

"II. As it is necessary that the policy of the Socialist movement should be based upon the needs of women as well as men, Socialist women in all countries should have the right to discuss and formulate for themselves their views of social problems of interest to women.

"III. The development of capitalist society has left women under many social and educational disadvantages, so that from a political and economic point of view their position is weaker than that of men, while the obligations and burden of motherhood require that they should have special care and protection in industrial life. It is therefore necessary that the Socialist movement should advocate all such measures of protection and care as the workers, and especially the women workers, think requisite, in order to secure the welfare of mothers and children.

"IV. In order to get full understanding between the Socialist women in the different countries, an International Advisory Committee of women should be formed consisting of representatives of the women, with the special duty of advising the Executive Council of the Labour and Socialist International, and to assist in organising an international conference of Labour and Socialist women in connection with each conference of the International."

Now that is not a good resolution; it is not brief and succinct; it is not eloquent; it is not even entirely clear or altogether consistent. My editorial pencil was itching to get at it all day. But considered as the output of women associated together in their own interests for the first time, considered as the first feminist utterance of women brought up in a movement whose primary attitude to women seeking equality has always been, "Help us get Socialism first and all their equalities will follow"—it is a surprisingly strong and purposeful declaration. There is the admission that the present order, hard as it bears on the masses of men, bears harder on the masses of women; and there is the demand that "complete emancipation of women" be put in the forefront of Socialist policy the world over. Surely this is all we ask of "la femme socialiste."

And these women seem to know what they mean by freedom and equality. They do not confuse it with humanitarianism or family welfare. This, I think, is suggested by the amendments which were accepted as a matter of course, and it was revealed still more clearly by the tenor and emphasis of most of the delegates' speeches on the resolution, which continued without a break from two o'clock until eight.

"The resolution is not clear enough on equality," said Mme. Budzynska, a Polish doctor, "we should demand equality not only in marriage laws, but in all civil laws."

"We must proclaim the right of women to work," declared Betty Karpisek, one of the two Czech delegates. "Too often women are excluded from the public service, or badly paid when they are allowed to remain."

Frau Wurm, a handsome, powerful-looking delegate from Berlin (member of the Reichstag, as nearly all the German delegates were), added a still more modern note to the discussion: "It is necessary to demand equality of opportunity to work, yes. Indeed, married women are in danger of being ousted altogether. This must not be. We must ask for protection of motherhood as proposed by the Washington Convention, but otherwise opportunities must be equal. I do not agree to the idea of a family wage. We need a change of mentality on the part of women. They must cease to consider their work or profession as a temporary thing, dependent on marriage."

"In my country, Latvia," said Klara Kalnin, "women are still under the tutelage of men, though they vote. It is all right to demand protection of motherhood, but that is not our only question. We must have full civil rights, men must be educated to a different attitude to us, we must have a complete transformation of family life."

"There is no atmosphere of equality between men and women in any country," said Mary Carlin, when it came her turn. Mary Carlin is a splendid big Irish

(Continued on page 27.)

REPORTS FROM AUXILIARIES.

AUSTRALIA.

Child Endowment in Queensland.

WHILE we desire that the principle of Motherhood Endowment be firmly established, because we believe it will help to stabilise the home, and raise motherhood and childhood to a securer position, we recognise that the Queensland scheme is open to much criticism, so far as the present basic wage provides for many mythical children. In the first place, to be successful, we think it should be a Federal scheme, based on a basic wage for a man and his wife, with payment to the mother for each child as suggested by Mr. Piddington in his book, "The Next Step."

The Queensland scheme comes into operation from July 1, 1926, and provides for an endowment to be paid to all children after the first child up to the age of fourteen years, on condition that the total annual income of the breadwinner does not exceed £400.

Funds are to be raised by means of a levy, not exceeding five per cent. on the total wages paid by employers, including the Government.

There will be a residential qualification in regard to beneficiaries, and it does not apply to aliens.

The endowment will be paid to the mothers at the rate of five shillings per week for each eligible child, which will be superimposed on the existing wage rates. It is gathered that the scheme will cost approximately £2,200,000 a year. About £200,000 will be collected from industry each month.

However thorny the path towards the stabilisation of the home, we feel that it is a sure foundation on which to build.

Abolition of Death Penalty.

The New South Wales Government is introducing a Bill to abolish the death penalty. The new Federal capital being in N.S.W. territory, the Attorney-General, in speaking of the measure, pointed out that any person convicted and sentenced to death for having committed a murder at Canberra would be liable to the death penalty, even if this State measure were on the Statute Book.

If a Labour Ministry were, however, in power, it would, he said, refuse to find a hangman, and the onus would then be thrown on the Federal authorities to perform the duty.

Queensland has abolished the death penalty.

In West Australia we are still asking for its abolition, and we sincerely hope the present Government may follow the example of these other States.

Capital punishment has been abolished in thirteen European countries, and in eight States of the American Union.

Interstate Conference of National Council of Women.

The National Council of Women of Western Australia appointed Mrs. James Cowan, O.B.E., and Dr. Roberta Jull to represent them at the Interstate Conference in Melbourne on September 22.

Indians in Australia.

The Commonwealth Electoral Act has been amended to give full status of citizenship to those British Indians already domiciled in Australia.

Besides conferring the franchise, full citizenship means participation in practical benefits such as the old-age and invalid pensions, maternity bonus, etc.

This carries out a promise made by two or three Prime Ministers at Imperial Conferences.

There are 2,300 British Indians in this country, and this measure will be welcomed by those interested in the progress of the British Commonwealth of Nations, as it must, undoubtedly, help to create a better understanding between India and Australia.

In New Zealand—with one exception—Indians enjoy all rights of citizenship. The only privilege they do not enjoy is any right to old-age pensions.

Nationality of Married Women.

The Nationality of Married Women is being kept well before the House of Commons, and sooner or later must find redress.

The question has arisen of the position of English women who marry Americans resident in England.

According to English law such a wife loses her British status and becomes an American.

According to American law she cannot become an American citizen before a year's residence in the States.

While this question of nationality is certainly of Imperial importance, there is a strong tendency on the part of the Home Secretary to shelter behind the skirts of the Dominions.

New Zealand has won a measure of reform on the question of nationality of married women.

There is every prospect that the Australian Federal House will pass a similar resolution to that passed without division in the English House of Commons.

—The Dawn.

DENMARK.

The Commemorative Festival of Danish Women's Admission to the Copenhagen University.

THE 17th September, which had been chosen for the commemoration of the fifty years passed since women were admitted to our old University, was really a "day" much spoken of in the press, and long to be remembered by those who were present in the magnificent festival hall of the University.

All the best people of our learned world, young and old—the Professors Höfding, W. Johannsen, August Krogh, and Niels Bohr, to enumerate some names known abroad,—had come with the Rector Magnificus, Prof. Theol. Fr. Form, at the head, to meet the University women, and bear witness that they were glad to have women as their pupils and co-operators.

The spokesman of women's thanks to the University was the first woman Cabinet Minister, Mrs. Nina Bang, Minister of Public Instruction, who has taken her degree at the Copenhagen University. In a well-formed and well-said speech the Minister, who is a Social Democrat, recognised that at a time of ultra-Conservative Government the University was fifty years ago opened to women in a most liberal way. Minister Bang recalled the fact that our University is indebted to a woman, Dorothea, Queen of Christian I, for its foundation. In 1478 Queen Dorothea made a pilgrimage to Rome, and returned with a papal bull containing the permission to open a university in Copenhagen. About 400 years later another pilgrim, a modest young woman from a small provincial town, Nielsine Nielsen, came and knocked at the door of the University, asking to be admitted to study medicine. The permission was given, and only one professor—of the medical faculty,—Mathias Saxtorph, was strongly opposed, for reasons of decency. The Minister praised the comradeship which had from the beginning, and until this day, existed between men and women students, and said that the University had a great part in the honour of breaking down the barriers between the two sexes in our country.

Thereafter Dr. (Phil.) Kirstine Meyer gave a lecture about one of the veterans of the University, Erasmus Bartholin, whose experimental work on double refraction of light in Iceland-spar made 300 years ago, might be regarded as the embryo of ideas developing later on in the theories of Niels Bohr.

Dr. (Med.) Marie Kregh (wife of Prof. Aug. Krogh) asked for a Chair of Physiology of Nutrition at the University, a wish which was set forth years ago by Dansk Kvindesamfund, but which may, perhaps, now be realised with the assistance of the Rockefeller Institution, which has donated to our University a new Physiological Institute with laboratories for Professor Aug. Krogh.

Dr. (Phil.) Lis Jacobsen, who had been the prime mover in organising the jubilee festival, closed with a very spirited philological causerie, "From Mother to Cabinet Minister," on the different names for men and women in trades and professions.

A cantata written for the occasion was a beautiful musical frame around the speeches.

Miss Clara Black, President of the Danish Branch of the International Federation of the University Women,

was chairman at the supper following, in the Students' Club, at which gathered Ministers, grave professors, and university women of all ages in a stylish and gay party, at which, amongst other speeches, a greeting was brought from the I.F.U.W. by Baroness Stjernstedt from Stockholm.

The Danish University Women's Book, published on the occasion of the Jubilee, is a stately book, richly illustrated, which does the editors, Clara Black, Estrid Hein, Lis Jacobsen, and Marie Krogh, much honour. A professor from each faculty has contributed, and they all recognise the value of women's university work. Most unreserved in praising university women's work as equal to that of men is, perhaps, Prof. Juris Viggo Bentzon, who was always a staunch supporter of women's rights—for instance, through his work for our new marriage laws,—and he encourages women to take up scientific work in his faculty.

Of course, prominent university women have contributed to the book, which also contains a statistical part and a short biography of all the women—about 400—who have during the past fifty years taken their final degree.

Whilst during the first years of women's admission to the University only such women who intended to pursue university work passed the student's examination, this has now perfectly changed, and many girls pass this examination as a termination of their school without the intention to continue, or following only a first year's university course in the elements of logic and psychology. This explains that 4,000 women have, during the past fifty years, passed the student's examination, and that only ten per cent. of them have taken a final degree, of which a great number (150) have chosen medicine, as did Nielsine Nielsen, the first Danish woman physician.

For women at large in our country it might seem of small importance that 400 women during fifty years have finished their university studies, and that some of them have won a doctor's degree and distinguished themselves in scientific work. However, apart from the satisfaction that the barrier excluding women from the highest education fell fifty years ago, we non-university women are grateful to our learned sisters. When we look around it seems to us that they must be much more numerous, probably because so many of their names are familiar to us in a pleasant way. We enjoy that our daughters, preparing their student's examination, have women teachers as well as men, we are glad to meet women in Government offices in responsible positions, and we are grateful to be able to consult a woman doctor or a woman lawyer instead of a man, if so be our wish. The only thing we still want is to see the women who have taken their degree in the theological faculty be admitted to serve in our churches.

The Parliamentary Session has just opened, and it is still impossible to say if it will bring much of interest to women. However, an old acquaintance has already been presented, the Bill concerning prohibition of women's nightwork, and other Washington conventions, which did not pass last year. Our Minister of Public Instruction, Mrs. Nina Bang, has announced that she will make proposals regarding a reform of our elementary schools.

LOUISE NEERGAARD

Corresponding Secretary Dansk Kvindesamfund.
Copenhagen, October, 1925.

GERMANY.

A Jubilee of the Woman's Movement.

IT was a splendid idea to celebrate the sixty years' jubilee of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein in Meissen, the birthplace of its founder, the German women's great pioneer, Louise Otto. At the same time, by a lucky coincidence, women delegates and representatives of the whole Reich were gathered together in Dresden for the 14th Biennial of the National Council of Women. This significant celebration, to which the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein had invited the executive and members of the National Council for October 3, was indeed a wonderful introduction to the serious proceedings of the following days in Dresden, and something like an intimate family festival. None of the many partakers will forget the delightful

impressions of this afternoon and evening in Meissen: impressions of the characteristic medieval town, and the lovely landscape along the river in the splendour of the golden autumn sun, crowned by the picturesque old castle and cathedral on the hill; of the hundreds of bright and gay looking women, old and young, arriving by train and auto.; of the ascent of the streets leading to the plain, old-fashioned house on the Baderberg marked by a memorial tablet, and with a small platform for this occasion adorned with flags and oak garlands, transforming for half an hour the small place, with its quiet corners, into an historical scene—not only for the strangers but also for the crowding population of Meissen in the windows and neighbouring streets. They listened eagerly to the impressive addresses of the President and Honorary President of the Allgemeiner Deutscher Frauenverein, Frau von Velsen and Dr. Helene Lange, in homage to their great fellow-citizen. The musical celebration in the Cathedral, executed by prominent women artists, was preceded by a delightful hour with old friends and fellow-workers on the vast Burghof, to which the picturesque scenery, the huge towers with the background of deep-blue sky, added a peculiar charm. The fine concert in the Dom was followed by a real German afternoon "Kaffee," with heaps of cakes and sandwiches on the flower-decked tables in the large hall of the Burgkeller, where the Dresden branch of the Verein welcomed their guests. The first of the greetings from abroad, Mrs. Corbett Ashby's kind message, was received with cordial thanks, though also with regret that she was unable to be present in person. The celebration reached its height when the well-known authoress, Jeanne Bertha Semmig, whose father had been Louise Otto's comrade in the hard revolutionary struggles of 1848-49, gave, partly from personal impressions, delightful poetical life sketches of the great pioneer, while carefully chosen pictures helped to renew her memory among the generation for which she had lived and fought.

At a late hour this unique festival of genuine love and gratitude came to its end, when in an effective torch-light procession the guests descended to the station for Dresden.

Meeting of the National Council of Women.

The Council embraces at present sixty-three national, state, or professional organisations, with about 5,000 local branches or societies, and over a million individual members. About 400 delegates, representing over 900 votes, and many guests and members of affiliated organisations, attended the 14th Biennial, which took place in the halls of the Exhibition Palace, and can be recorded as one of the most remarkable in the thirty-one years' history of the Council. It was preceded by a meeting of welcome on October 4 given by the local committee, with an attractive programme to which popular Dresden artists in music, singing, and dancing contributed, and concluded with a reception and banquet given by the city authorities in the festive halls of the new Rathaus.

The basis of the first two days' proceedings—the crowded business meetings beginning as early as half-past eight or nine in the morning, and ending, after a short pause for luncheon, at seven o'clock in the evening—was set forth in the excellent printed reports by Frau Dr. Matz, member of the Reichstag, and Frau Dr. Ulich Beil on "Women's Will in Cultural and Social Hygienic Legislation." After very lively and thorough discussion strong resolutions were passed, setting forth women's special claims, expressing appreciation or condemnation of the bills pending—on legal protection for the young in public amusements, against bad literature, on cinemas, on public-houses, on the new Reich's bill against venereal disease, and on paragraph 228 (abortion) in the new draft of the criminal code. The discussion on the latter most difficult question took up a whole afternoon and morning session. The matter was treated rather exclusively from the medical point of view by the many women doctors present, while its legal and ethical side, upon which Dr. Ulich's comprehensive report had specially laid stress, was rather meagrely dealt with not only in the proceedings but also in the resolution, which did not do full justice to all the modern aspects of this matter.

The last day was devoted to reports and discussion by distinguished women experts, on sanitary conditions for women in professions and girls in professional continuation schools. In two crowded public meetings the questions of the day were brought before the population of Dresden by two prominent speakers, Ministry Councillor Dr. Gertrud Bäumer and Dr. Rosa Kempf, whose comprehensive lectures on "Women's Will in National Culture" and "The Life Standard of the Professional Woman," aroused general enthusiasm.

MARIE STRITT.

Dresden, October 20.

GREAT BRITAIN. NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

THE most important work to be undertaken this autumn by the N.U.S.E.C. is the inauguration of a great Equal Franchise Campaign, which will culminate in a large mass meeting soon after Parliament re-assembles in February. Five distinguished speakers are being invited for that occasion, the main object of which is to demonstrate the force of public opinion in the country in favour of equal franchise. The date has been chosen with an eye on the Conference of Members of Parliament of all Parties, which the Prime Minister has undertaken to set up next session, to try to arrive at an "agreed measure" on equal franchise.

Although the Government stands for "equal political rights between men and women" it has refused to state its views as to the age at which the franchise should be given. The danger to be feared is that the Government will recommend what has indeed wide support amongst its own followers and others, i.e., that equal franchise should be given at the age of twenty-five. Such a proposal, if put forward seriously by any Government, would, of course, be political lunacy, if accompanied by a real intention to see it through. No Government would dare to take the franchise away from large classes of people already possessed of it. But the condition laid down by the Prime Minister that the measure should be one "agreed to" by the three parties, would save it from the disastrous practical consequences of such a proposal, as neither of the other parties could possibly agree to it. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has already indicated as much. All that the Government has to do, therefore, if it wishes to give the appearance of supporting equal franchise while denying the substance, is to put forward this proposal. It is our hope that in the course of the Equal Franchise Campaign this Autumn the attention of the country will be drawn to this danger.

Women and Health Insurance.

The Royal Commission on the National Health Insurance Act has heard evidence from the N.U.S.E.C. on the following points, among others:

1. The need for giving allowances to wives and children of insured persons, when the latter are ill.
2. The need for giving medical benefit to the wives and children of insured persons.
3. The need for increasing the provision for maternity.

We called a Conference of Women's Organisations on these points on October 29, in order that their conclusions could be sent to the Royal Commission before it presents its report, which will, presumably, be embodied in legislative proposals later.

Town Council Elections.

These elections were held all over England and Wales on November 2, and many of our societies supported women candidates. A questionnaire was forwarded to candidates, both men and women, in these elections, on questions such as the enforced retirement on marriage of women in the council's employ, opportunities for education and training for women, the need for taking active steps to improve housing conditions, etc.

Birth Control Information and Infant Welfare Clinics.

The N.U.S.E.C. is organising a campaign in order to have a motion moved in the House of Commons, calling

upon the Government to allow information to be given on birth control, at infant welfare centres in receipt of a Government grant. While expressing no opinion on the merits of birth control itself, the N.U.S.E.C. Council felt that adult married women should have the opportunity of receiving such knowledge in the best way if they desire it, and that they should not be debarred by poverty from the information which rich women can pay for if they wish.

Order in the Streets.

Women's organisations are pressing for the appointment of a joint select committee of both Houses of Parliament to inquire into various changes in the law which are being advocated by them, in order to avoid legislative or administrative measures which discriminate against women or special classes of women, such as "common prostitutes."

Other Plans for 1926 Session.

The N.U.S.E.C. is in process of drafting Bills:

1. To amend the Sex (Disqualification) Removal Act, 1919.
2. To abolish the restrictions laid on a married woman under Coverture.
3. To amend the Maintenance Laws so as to give a wife a share of her husband's income, and to prohibit the disinheritance of wives by their husbands.
4. To prohibit the dismissal of women on account of their marriage, by the State or by local authorities.

Further particulars of these will be given later.

Reception to the Duchess of Atholl, D.B.E., L.L.D., M.P.

The N.U.S.E.C. is giving a reception to the Duchess of Atholl and Miss K. D. Courtney on November 17, when speeches will be made by the guests, on the work of the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations.

E. M. H.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Our immediate work is in connection with the municipal elections, and our branches have forwarded to local candidates the following questions, as well as others framed by them of special local interest:—

Will you, if elected:

- (1) Make efficiency instead of sex the test for all workers employed by the municipality?
- (2) Do all in your power to secure that women and men employed by the Council shall have equal treatment in regard to opportunity and payment?
- (3) Work actively against the policy of dismissing women employed by the Council solely on account of their marriage, or requiring them to resign on marriage?
- (4) Use every effort to secure that unemployed women shall be included in all schemes devised by your Council for the employment of workless men?
- (5) Support the raising of the school-leaving age for boys and girls to sixteen?
- (6) Make efforts to secure greater purity of milk supply; further use of powers for maternity and child-welfare; the provision of wash-houses and warm baths (for women as well as men) in areas in which these do not exist; and adequate provision for dealing promptly with cases of tuberculosis, and supply of accommodation for advanced cases?
- (7) Uphold one moral standard for women and men in the eyes of the law, and resist any proposal to prevent venereal disease by so-called prophylactic methods at the expense of the ratepayers?
- (8) Press for further provision of houses for letting purposes?

We also urged our members and friends to work and vote for the women candidates standing in their districts, irrespective of the parties to which those women candidates belong.

Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21, we are having a Green, White, and Gold Fair at the Central Hall, Westminster, to be opened on the afternoon of the 20th by Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D., and on the 21st by Miss Lind-af-Hageby.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

Our first autumn meeting was held on October 24 to receive the reports of two Conferences, to which we sent delegates.

Mrs. Beer was our representative at the Fifth International Democratic Congress for Peace, held at Luxembourg in September. The matters dealt with by the Congress were divided into educational, political, and social. Mrs. Beer spoke on our behalf at the general meeting on social questions, and dealt with economic post-war problems, and suggested international action to solve them, particularly in the matter of trade boards.

At the National Council of Women's Conference held in Birmingham, Miss Fedden, who was our delegate, moved the following resolution, which was carried with one dissident: "This Council, believing that the laws and their administration should uphold the equal moral standard, asks the Government to appoint a committee of enquiry into the whole subject of the laws dealing with street solicitation, and is further of opinion that the sections specially directed against 'common prostitutes' should be repealed, and an equal law be substituted applicable to all persons who annoy or molest others in the streets or public places."

The committee had great pleasure in welcoming Miss McMahon from Victoria, Australia, at an At Home given by our chairman, Mrs. Crawford, when she gave us a most interesting survey of the position of women in the Civil Service in Australia. Our best wishes go with her in her work for full equality of opportunity between men and women in the Service. F. A. B.

INDIA.

Children's Protection Bill.

HALF a victory is better than none. This we have won from the Government of India, who, evidently repenting of their former attitude to the Children's Protection Bill, themselves brought up the Age of Consent Bill this session. This was not satisfactory from our point of view, as it only raised the age of consent for married girls from twelve to thirteen, and in all other cases to fourteen. Even this very limited reform was opposed by various members of the Assembly, and we are sorry to say that some of our Madras members were leading in the opposition, though Mr. T. Rangachariar has, evidently, undergone conversion, as he said that he accepted the Bill and thought it would be a wise step to take, which the Assembly would not regret! Dr. Datta moved an amendment that the age be raised to fourteen, which he finally had to withdraw, and Sir H. S. Gour moved an amendment to raise the age for unmarried girls to fifteen; with regard to this, the Home Member offered to circulate the amendment to all the local Governments for an expression of their opinion upon it, and, pending this, Sir H. S. Gour withdrew his motion. Finally, after a great deal of discussion, the motion was put to the House and the Bill was passed, the voting being 84 for it and 14 against, a decided improvement on the voting last March. This is a small step forward in reform along the lines of decent behaviour to little girls, but it is still bad enough to know that children of thirteen years may legally become mothers. We quite realise that in India reform along these lines has to be slow, and therefore we accept with mild gratitude even these small steps forward that are taken. To us one very hopeful sign has been in working for this Bill, the great deal of support that the raising of the age for motherhood has obtained from the men and women of India. A large number of meetings were held, and I myself have received copies of 76 resolutions that have been passed at public meetings, and, of course, there have been numerous others which have not sent me copies of their resolutions. We are quite certain that it will

not be so very long before there will be a further reform along these lines, as now India is awakening to a sense of the great part that she has to play among the nations of the world, her people must come to realise that child parenthood makes for inefficiency of the race and lowers India in the estimation of the world. Apart from these motives, we know that Hindu people, when once they begin to seriously consider this matter, must realise that it is cruel, contrary to the laws of God and nature, and inhuman to force motherhood on children. We congratulate the Assembly on the step that they have taken, and urge them to prepare their minds to take a further step in the near future.

Allahabad University.

Fine meetings were held by various women's organisations in Allahabad to protest against women students being excluded from the University. Unfortunately, the Executive Council of the Allahabad University has refused to reconsider its decision, but is willing to regard favourably the application of girls to continue their studies who have already been one year in the University. This is a hopeful sign, and it is possible that if the women continue their agitation perseveringly and steadily, they may be able to get the order rescinded. Our best wishes to them in their fight.—*Stri Dharma.*

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

Housing Week in Dublin.

IN far away times, a Gaelic poet, meditating sadly on social conditions, wrote lines which, translated into modern Ulster dialect, read:

There's many a house in Dublin,
But many a man and wife wantin' a house,
It's a pity of the childer without a house,
A brave wee house and a right good meal.

These words have been taken as the motto for a Housing Week campaign, organised by a Housing Council, representing seven women's societies and several kindred associations. The formation of this body was due to the initiative of the Irish Women Worker's Union. During the week from October 18 three public meetings were held, lantern lectures were given, conferences carried on, dealing with such vital questions as costs, transport problems, etc., and an exhibition organised of tenement rooms, as they are and as they might be, with all manner of labour-saving devices. To quote from a Dublin Civic Survey, "Housing in Dublin is more than a question and more than a problem, it is a tragedy." Over 21,000 families of from one to twelve persons are living in one-room tenements, and 251 families are living in houses condemned as dangerous to the public safety. The objects of the campaign are to rouse the public to a sense of the urgent need, to study the best methods of overcoming the difficulties of the problem, to assist in the formation of public utility societies, and to raise money for existing housing schemes. All the churches have been approached, and are giving aid; and such organisations as the Rotary Club, Civic Institute, and the Dublin Christian Citizenship Council are helping in the work. The whole movement is an embodiment of the feeling expressed in one of the Housing Council's leaflets, "The housing problem will not be solved until everyone takes a hand."

The Senate Elections in the Irish Free State.

These elections presented some special features: the method of voting, the nation-wide constituency and the selection of candidates by Parliament, and the franchise limited to citizens over thirty years of age. The method of voting was by proportional representation. There were grave fears lest the scheme should prove too severe a test for proportional representation, involving as it did a choice of 19 candidates from a panel of 76. Nearly all who voted, by common consent of those who have been present in the counting rooms, selected their choice before they went to the poll, and marked their papers with intelligence. The transfers were evidence of this. For example, when Colonel Howard Bury was eliminated, General Hickey derived the most benefit: when Mr. Fitzgerald's votes were transferred, Mr. Foran,

a candidate of the same party, received 4,635 votes; but another candidate from the same county, not belonging to the same party, received 637. The counting occupied twenty-four days. The publication of the transfers day by day enabled the electors to follow exactly what influence their votes had on the results. The whole process has been of great value as political education for the community, and in a self-governing country the need for this cannot be overstressed." I quote these remarks from a special article in the *Irish Times*. The same journal had noted in an editorial article the unfortunate fact that of the three women candidates none were returned. The writer pointed out the grave disadvantage involved by this failure to represent the interests of the women of the nation, and suggested some effort should be made to guarantee such representation in future elections. Were such an innovation attempted, the Irish Free State Government would again have proved itself a pioneer in the matter of constitutional regulations.

DORA MELLONE.

JAPAN.

Madam Yajima.

IT was on the morning of Sunday, June 14, that I went to the Yajima Home to preach to the inmates of the Women's Home, as our dear Azuma was away on a rest trip to one of the South Sea Islands.

As usual, I quietly walked into our dear Madam Yajima's room and spoke to her; but she looked as if she were very tired or sleepy. She generally put out her hand to greet me, or anyone, on entering her room.

Madam Yajima tried to look back at me, for I was standing behind her; so I at once went round to see her straight to her face, and put out my hand to shake. She gave me both her hands and stroked mine so gently, while she just stared at me and gave me such a tender yet beaming smile. She did not speak much, and I left her without ever thinking that that handshake and smile would be the last I should ever get from her. As a matter of fact, it proved that I was the last one of the National officers who saw her before she left us for Home.

About half-past six the next morning I received a short note from a girl in the Women's Home, who had been left in charge of the Yajima Home, asking me to come, as she thought our old lady was worse than the night before. I never dreamed that it would prove to be her last illness; but I got up and hastened to her bedside.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Kubushiro was away on a lecturing tour, and the matron of the Home was not in the city on account of her sister's illness, though both were called back the following day.

Our President appeared on the scene about 10.30, and we anxiously watched by the bedside of the patient; yet we were unable to do anything, and it seemed as if her soul had already left her body. She never recovered consciousness after the evening of the fourteenth.

On Monday afternoon a special messenger arrived from the Palace bearing gifts from H.I.M. the Empress. These consisted of four boxes of fine cakes, and a box of new-laid eggs from her own yard.

Nothing occurred during the day in the way of a change, and by evening nearly all her relatives had assembled at the bedside. Many of the officers who were in Tokio at the time were also there in the evening. It was an anxious time for us, and we prayed for special guidance from above.

We so much regretted the absence of Azuma, that we decided to have Madam Yajima's picture taken while she still had breath, and this project was carried out.

Midnight passed, and we were wondering whether she would live to see another dawn; but at ten minutes past one on the morning of June 16 the last call came for our beloved leader to yield up her earthly struggle, and go to the mansions above. It was a solemn moment for us. We eagerly watched her face, and felt some mysterious power as we watched her home-going in perfect peace. She had often expressed her hope that she might pass away without physical suffering, and this prayer was graciously granted. It was greatly to be regretted that neither her beloved Kubushiro, nor Moriya, were present at her end; but Mrs. Kozaki and myself were allowed

to witness this solemn occasion while her nearest relatives were all there.

I felt as if, in my mind's eye, I could actually see her spiritual mantle falling off her shoulders, and lighting on the strong and able shoulders of her successor. When Dr. Fujii announced that her heart had ceased to beat, we simply bowed our heads and prayed, and thanked the Lord for her beautiful life.

The Hon. Mr. Tokudomi, representing our deceased's relatives, gave his consent for her to receive a W.C.T.U. funeral, so we at once set to make the necessary preparations. Miss Mitani, dean of the Joshi Gakuin—the school which Madam Yajima had ruled as principal for over thirty years,—was one of the first to come and take up the responsibility with us.

A message came from the Cabinet that they were asking the Emperor's sanction for the bestowal of a court rank, in recognition of her great services as an educationalist and social worker.

About four o'clock that afternoon I went with Mrs. Watase to the Premier's official residence to receive the official document giving her the rank of *Jugoi*. We were informed that this was an unprecedented honour for a woman without rank. We reverently placed the document on a table at her head with numerous presents from the Empress, given her from time to time, as well as her decoration. People brought offerings of beautiful flowers, until at last her deathbed looked like an Easter morning pulpit.

A short but very impressive service was held in her home at four o'clock on the seventeenth, being conducted by her pastor, Mr. Tajimi. After the service Mr. Kitamura, one of the foremost sculptors, took her death-mask. The remains were cremated that evening.

The casket containing her ashes was kept in the room she occupied one day after her death until the twenty-sixth, when a public funeral was held in one of the largest public halls, the Aoyama Kwai Kwan. This hall was, in fact, built under the auspices of her nephew, Mr. Tokudomi.

It was one of the most impressive and beautiful services the writer ever witnessed. Nearly three thousand people were present to pay their last earthly tribute to this wonderful veteran. Over four hundred girls from her beloved Joshi Gakuin filled the right side of the hall. The centre front seats were occupied by the relatives, the left front was reserved for, and well filled, by Government representatives and special guests, behind them sat the members of the Executive. The front seats in the gallery were occupied by journalists.

The following day her ashes were taken to the Tama Cemetery, a place newly opened by the municipal authorities. It is really an appropriate resting place for a great soul like our leader. Great pine groves sing a perpetual song of praise to God and her Saviour.

May her soul rest in peace, and may the work which she so loved and laboured for, go on and on until the Kingdom of our Lord is realised in this world.

CONSTANCE T. GAUNLETT.

Tokyo-fu, August, 1925.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

INDICATIONS everywhere point to a busy winter season for women's organisations. Ever since October 1, when official and social Washington joined in a hearty welcome to delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the capital city, the winter's programme has been in full swing.

Although it is almost two months until the United States Senate takes up the World Court proposal, proponents of the Court are already mapping out plans for an impressive gathering of "interested spectators" in the Senate galleries on what has now become an important date—December 17. Women's legislative work will get under way at the meeting this month of the Women's Joint Congressional Committee, composed of representatives of twenty-two women's organisations, and more familiarly known as the women's lobby. Mrs. John D. Sherman, president-general of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and chairman of the Congressional Committee,

will call the meeting. A law-enforcement conference, similar to the one held at Washington last winter, is scheduled to be the drawing card in Washington on December 10 and 11.

The headquarters of the various women's organisations in Washington have been the scene of many conferences on arrangements for the year's work. The National League of Women Voters had had within the last month its Executive Committee and chairmen of standing committees for special meetings. Many State leagues are conducting State conventions in the fall and early winter months, and national officers will be represented at every State gathering. Miss Belle Sherwin, President of the National League, has been the honoured guest of four conventions this last month, and will attend three more this month.

Miss Sherwin had the distinction last month of being one of three women invited to a Conference on Adult Education, which was sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation. The Conference took place in Cleveland, and lasted two days. In the words of those arranging the Conference, "there is no phase of current educational development that is making more rapid and significant strides than adult education, and it therefore offers extraordinary opportunities for co-operation, constructive suggestions, and representative leadership." Forty-eight persons were invited to participate in the Conference.

The League is welcoming to its group of committee chairmen a new child welfare leader, Mrs. Percy T. Walden, of New Haven, Conn., who is a recognised expert on child welfare work. Her interest in welfare began in her college days at Radcliffe, and had its first expression in the thesis prepared for a Ph.D. degree from Yale University. The thesis was a digest of Massachusetts labour legislation, a stupendous job which is published and used as a reference textbook. Mrs. Walden has been especially interested in delinquency. In memory of her parents Mrs. Walden and her sister, Mrs. Fred. Derrien, gave the City of New Haven a "Children's Building" or detention home, with a disciplinary school attached. She has met her theories by practical tests, including the opening of her home to delinquent boys, who otherwise would have been sent to the reform school. Mr. Walden is professor of chemistry and dean of freshman at Yale University, while Mrs. Walden's collegiate interest is now centred in Wellesley, of which college she is a trustee.

Women in Politics.

Women in Politics was one of the most important features at the fourth annual exposition of the Women's Arts and Industries, in New York City recently. There were Republican and Democratic booths, with scores of party women on duty day after day. The New York City League of Women Voters had one of the most popular booths. It contained a new voting machine, which is to be used in every New York election precinct. League members showed voters how to operate the up-to-date voting equipment. In all, there were 200 exhibits of commercial, artistic, and educational enterprises in which women have a part.

As was expected, President Coolidge named a woman successor to the late Mrs. Helen H. Gardener, a member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Miss Jessie Dell, who has been in the Government service twenty-five years, and a Democrat by inheritance and environment, was given the honour of being the second woman to sit on the Civil Service Commission. As two members of the three-headed Commission are Republicans, Mrs. Gardner's successor had to be a Democrat, in accordance with the specifications set forth in the statute establishing the Commission. Virtually, all of Miss Dell's Government work has been in the War Department, where she began as a clerk.

Miss Pattie Field, the first woman to be an American vice-consul abroad, is expected to take up her new duties at Amsterdam, Holland, this month. Miss Field's assignment comes closely upon the heels of the appointment last June of Miss Lucille Atcherson, the first woman in our diplomatic service abroad. Miss Atcherson is one of the secretaries at our legation in Berne. Our diplomatic and consular services are now united in what is called the Foreign Service.

Miss Field is just twenty-four years old, and undoubtedly, one of the youngest in our Foreign Service. She was graduated from Radcliffe College in the class of 1923, and took her foreign service examinations during the next year.

Mrs. Sylvester Wells, recently chosen city clerk of Kansas City, Missouri, and the first woman to hold an executive position in that municipality, is putting into practice what she has long held as a conviction—that home and political office go hand and hand in a woman's life. Mrs. Wells has two adopted children, a boy of five and a girl of two. She was one of the two women delegates-at-large from Missouri, to the Republican National Convention last year.

Hardly a day passes without word of a new woman candidate for some of the larger public offices. A woman's hat is in the political ring in Boston. Miss Frances G. Curtis, for thirteen years a member of the school committee, has announced her candidacy for Mayor of Boston. She is a member of an old Boston family, and has long been active in political, educational, and chitable circles.

A woman governor of Texas would cease to be a novelty if Mrs. Edith Wilmans, formerly a State representative from Dallas County, has her way. She has announced she will be a candidate for Governor next year. Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson, the present Governor, has not yet announced her candidacy for renomination. Mrs. Wilmans said that if elected, one of her first undertakings would be the formation of an advisory cabinet, composed probably of the President of the Texas Senate, the Speaker of the House, the head of one or more important State departments, and at least three Texas women leaders.

Ohio is boasting of its first woman Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Rachel Owens Yaw, of New Lexington, has been appointed a County Superintendent of Schools. She has had sixteen years' school experience, serving three years as Assistant County Superintendent, and four years as a high school teacher.

In the little town of Confluence, Maryland, nomination is equivalent to election. Therefore Mrs. Thea Walton Marquart is to be the next mayor. She had the unique advantage over her opponent of being nominated on three primary tickets, Republican, Democratic, and Prohibition.

ANNE WILLIAMS.

SOCIALIST WOMEN IN MARSEILLES.

(Continued from page 21.)

woman, who is the National Woman Organiser for the Transport and General Workers Union of Great Britain, and she ought to know. "Our International Advisory Committee will be a step forward, it will give us a chance to bring forward our special viewpoint. Men are very gracious, but we do not enjoy equality even in the Socialist Party."

And Frau Popp: "Political equality does not correspond necessarily to real social equality. We have the vote in Germany and Austria, but women's labour has gone back since the war. Women are being driven out of all the better-paid positions. We shall get ahead faster with our equality programme if we have a central committee and can co-ordinate the reforms in different countries. It is not enough to have two women on the Executive—we must have our own international committee in contact with women in every country."

Towards the end of the afternoon a French woman spoke, Louise Saumoneau, editor of *La Femme Socialiste*, for many years on the Executive of the French Socialist Party. She is a small, keen, grey-haired woman, with deep burning eyes and a look both shrewd and earnest. The resolution, she said, was too theoretical. "We must go into details in our demands and in our criticisms. For example, two Socialist Governments of Europe, when they had the opportunity to achieve political equality for women, failed. We should not be quiet about this." One of these was the Catholic Socialist Government of Belgium, which, as a Belgian delegate admitted, voted against woman suffrage at a critical moment when the issue was precipitated by its enemies as

a means of embarrassing the Government and precipitating its downfall. The other must have been MacDonald's Labour Government in England, which failed to extend the vote to women over twenty-one, although with the help of the Liberals it had the power to do so.

Mrs. Dollon, who spoke soon after Louise Saumoneau, agreed that Socialist leaders could not always be trusted to stand up for equality: "For example, when the question came up in England of dismissing married women, large numbers of Socialist members of Parliament were in favour of it."

In the point raised by the last two speakers I have quoted lies the answer to the question whether women should maintain separate committees or merge completely as individuals in the political parties with which they are in sympathy. Morris Hillquit, one of the five men who spoke in greeting at the opening of the conference, said, among other things: "I hope you will soon grow to the point where you will abolish your separate existence, to the point where women will take their place in the general movement for the emancipation of the working class."

The answer to Mr. Hillquit, as I am sure most of those Socialist women at Marseilles would agree, is this:—

"When the Socialist parties of the world do genuinely decide to make equal rights for women a primary aim of their policy, never to be side-tracked for political expediency, then, and not till then, will we abolish our separate existence."—Extract from article in *Equal Rights*.

TABLE OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The following is a brief resumé of the present position of woman suffrage all over the world. Founded in the main upon the Alliance publication, *Le Suffrage des Femmes en Pratique*, published in 1923, great care has been taken to bring the information up to date. If, however, any of our readers find inaccuracies, we shall be most grateful for correct information.

Australia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies, State and Federal Parliaments.

Austria.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies and Parliament.

Belgium.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility for municipal councils. Eligibility for Parliament and provincial councils without suffrage, except for a limited class of war sufferers.

Canada.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies, both Federal and Provincial, except that women are not eligible as Federal senators, and that they have not suffrage or eligibility for the Province of Quebec.

Channel Islands.—Equal suffrage and eligibility.

Czecho-Slovakia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Denmark.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Estonia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Finland.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Germany.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Great Britain.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility. Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, with other inequalities.

Greece.—Limited measure of municipal and communal suffrage, without eligibility, to come into force in two years' time.

Hungary.—Actual terms of municipal suffrage not known. Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, and with other inequalities.

Iceland.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

India.—In British India women have equal suffrage in the Provinces of Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal, but without eligibility. The Province of Burma had equal suffrage granted by a special constitution, with the right to grant eligibility by a resolution of the Legislature. In certain towns, such as Bombay and Madras, women have municipal

suffrage and are eligible. In the native States suffrage has been granted in Cochin, Travancore, Jahalwar, and Mysore.

Ireland.—Free State: equal suffrage and eligibility. Northern Ireland: unequal suffrage with eligibility as in Great Britain.

Jamaica.—Equal suffrage without eligibility.

Kenya.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Lettonia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Lithuania.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Luxembourg.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Netherlands.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Newfoundland.—Municipal suffrage without eligibility. Political suffrage and eligibility at age of 25, as against 21 for men.

New Zealand.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Norway.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Palestine.—Women have equal suffrage and eligibility for the Jewish National Assembly, but they have no voting rights under the constitution.

Poland.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Rhodesia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Russia.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

South Africa.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility.

Spain.—Limited measure of municipal suffrage and eligibility.

Sweden.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Trinidad and Tonga.—Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in the Council.

United States.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

Windward Islands (Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, etc.).—Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in the Council.

INDIA'S ONLY WOMAN RULER.

THE Begum of Bhopal, who is revisiting London after a period of fourteen years, is the only woman ruler of a native Indian State. The country of Bhopal, Central India, indeed, has had women rulers for nearly eighty years.

The Begum, or to give her her full title, Her Highness Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., C.I., was born in 1858, and came to the throne in 1901. Educational advancement has been the outstanding feature of the Begum's rule, and has been promoted by the introduction of free and compulsory education. The girls' schools at Bhopal, in which the Begum is especially interested, are models of their kind in India. The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, now the Moslem University and the largest centre of Mohammedan education in the world, has also enlisted her sympathy and support.

The Begum has decided opinions upon women's sphere, and does not approve of open competition in public life between the sexes.

Although not accountable to a Parliament or any other authority for what she does with her revenue, the Begum spends it almost entirely for her people's welfare. She has built hospitals and dispensaries for women, and has included an Englishwoman doctor amongst her entourage. The Begum has been twice mentioned in New Year's Honours lists, and was the first woman to be decorated with the Order of the Grand Commander of the Star of India.

The Vote.

SECTION FRANÇAISE.

NOUVELLES INTERNATIONALES.

Appel pour le 10^e Congrès de l'Alliance Internationale, Paris, mai 23 à 30, 1926.—L'A.I. pour le suffrage des femmes fait appel à ses 36 sociétés nationales auxiliaires et aux 7 nouvelles sociétés en voie d'affiliation pour qu'elles envoient au Congrès de Paris le nombre maximum de leurs déléguées; elle fait le même appel à toutes les sociétés intéressées à la cause. Depuis le Congrès de Rome, 1923, il semble que le progrès se soit ralenti; nous devons cependant noter la victoire importante de Terre-Neuve où les femmes ont obtenu le suffrage; aux Indes aussi, trois provinces nouvelles ont accordé le suffrage: les Provinces-Unies, l'Assam et le Bengale, et, auparavant, les états de Cochin et Mysore. Ailleurs un pas a été franchi par l'obtention du vote municipal en Espagne et bientôt en Italie et en Grèce. En France, un projet de loi est en discussion, et nous espérons qu'il aboutira. Les autres parties de notre programme se réalisent sérieusement peu à peu: Consolidation des avantages professionnels, réforme des lois annulant des injustices séculaires envers les femmes, appui de leurs revendications économiques, accroissement de leur influence sociale et politique, etc. Nous pourrions donc assurer, à notre Congrès, que malgré le ralentissement actuel, aucun obstacle ne pourra plus arrêter la marche du progrès vers l'obtention des libertés et des opportunités égales pour les deux sexes, qui est le principe vital de l'Alliance. De plus, la création de la Ligue des Nations a ouvert pour nous un nouveau champ l'activité, vaste et plein d'avenir, où les femmes tiennent une place importante. Mais le point essentiel sera la discussion des moyens à employer pour obtenir l'affranchissement des femmes dans les pays où elles n'ont pas obtenu cette réforme; puis viendra la question de la situation économique des femmes dans les professions libérales, le commerce et l'industrie; de l'égalité de morale des deux sexes, avec son corollaire: lutte contre la traite des femmes; de la responsabilité pour l'enfant illégitime; nationalité de la femme mariée, et, enfin, étude du système de la pension alimentaire. Ce Congrès sera un congrès de travail et de coopération internationale, où l'on sera amené à discuter le plus grand des problèmes, base de notre programme de construction: paix et bonne volonté entre les nations.

MARGERY I. CORBETT-ASHBY, Présidente.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, Hon. Présidente.

ANNA LINDEMANN, PAULINA LUISI, MARGHERITA ANCONA, CORNELIA B. PINCHOT, FRANCES M. STERLING, EMILY GOULD, AVRA THEODOROPoulos, ADELE SCHREIBER KRIEGER, JULIE ARENHOLT, GERMAINE MALATERRE-SELLIER.

Société des Nations.

Sixième Assemblée.—L'Assemblée a fait de bon et solide travail, et des propositions qui ont été présentées et acceptées auront un effet important dans l'avenir. Mais on ne peut que regretter l'arrêt dans la marche vers la coopération internationale, la rejection du protocole et le refus par le gouvernement britannique d'accepter un système d'arbitrage obligatoire même limité. Du point de vue continental, la Grande-Bretagne a été la pierre d'achoppement au progrès coopératif. Le résultat a été de donner à la France la part directrice dans les délibérations de l'Assemblée; part que la force et l'éclat de sa délégation méritaient. Et non-seulement, les nations amies ou satellites de la France, mais les Scandinaves, les Pays-Bas et la Suisse proposeront le maintien du protocole, et, il faut bien le dire, aucune nation n'a soutenu la Grande-Bretagne sur cette question. Et pourtant, sans la Grande-Bretagne, toute approche directe vers le protocole était impossible. Donc, pour le moment, les choses restent en l'état. La 7^e Assemblée s'ouvrira au moment le plus critique de l'histoire de la Ligue; mais on espère que la Grande-Bretagne apportera des propositions plus "constructives."

La plus sérieuse décision de cette année a été d'organiser un comité pour étudier les méthodes en vue d'obtenir le désarmement universel, aussitôt que la

sécurité générale le permettra. Une autre proposition d'importance est celle de M. Loucheur, d'organiser une conférence pour étudier les causes économiques de la guerre. La proposition a été modifiée par Lord Cécil, qui a demandé que l'on en référât au Conseil pour qu'il étudie la question avant la réunion de la Conférence. A citer aussi la décision d'envoyer à tous les états de la Ligue le projet de convention contre l'esclavage.

Grande-Bretagne.

Union nationale des Sociétés pour l'égalité civique.—L'œuvre la plus importante de cet automne est l'inauguration de la campagne pour la franchise égale des deux sexes qui atteindra son point culminant par un immense meeting, aussitôt après l'ouverture du Parlement. Cinq orateurs distingués démontreront la force de l'opinion publique dans le pays en faveur de cette cause. L'U.N. a soumis à la Commission royale les points suivants: nécessité d'accorder une allocation aux femmes et aux enfants des assurés si ceux-ci sont malades; d'étendre à la femme et aux enfants le bénéfice des soins médicaux; d'élever la somme accordée pour la maternité.

Elections municipales.—Ces élections auront lieu dans toute l'Angleterre le 1^{er} novembre, et les sociétés féministes présenteront des candidates. Un questionnaire est envoyé à tous les candidats par l'U.N., ainsi que par la Société pour la liberté des femmes, sur leur attitude à l'égard de l'enseignement, de l'apprentissage des femmes, de la crise du logement, du renvoi des fonctionnaires mariées, etc.

Association des maîtresses de maison.—Cette société vient de se fonder dans le but d'élever le statut du travail domestique et d'organiser une aide mutuelle. Bureau: 70, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Divers.—Miss Violet Markham, présidente du Comité central pour l'apprentissage et l'emploi des femmes fera partie du comité formé par les ministres de l'Instruction publique et du Travail pour étudier le système d'enseignement public en Angleterre, et ses rapports avec le commerce et l'industrie.

Miss Niven est la première étudiante de l'Université de Glasgow qui ait obtenu le prix Brunton pour la thèse de médecine la plus remarquable de l'année.

Etats-Unis.

Ligue des Electriciennes.—En vue de la date importante du 17 décembre, où le Sénat discutera le projet de loi sur l'entrée des Etats-Unis à la Cour internationale, le "Joint Congressional Committee" des femmes, appelé familièrement Lobby féminin, composé des représentantes de 22 sociétés féminines, se réunira ce mois-ci. Les sociétés diverses de Washington ont organisé beaucoup de conférences et de réunions pour l'année prochaine.

La Ligue a reçu dans son groupe de Présidentes de Comités Mme. Percy Walden, du Connecticut, qui a fait une remarquable thèse de droit sur la protection de l'enfance. Elle s'intéresse à l'œuvre des jeunes délinquants pour lesquels sa mère et sa sœur avaient déjà fondé un Home.

Divers.—L'Exposition annuelle de New-York sur l'industrie et les arts féminins, qui comprenait 200 branches, contenait cette année une exposition sur le rôle politique des femmes. Le public pouvait voir la nouvelle machine à vote qui va être employée à New-York, et une démonstration en était faite à toutes les femmes.

Miss Jessie Dell a été nommée membre de la Commission du service civil. Miss Pattie Field, la première femme Consul, va entrer en fonctions à Amsterdam ce mois-ci. Elle est âgée de 24 ans. Ohio se vante d'avoir la première femme superintendante des écoles; c'est Mrs. R. Owens Yaw. Mrs. Thia Walton a été présentée pour être maire de Confluence, Maryland. Trois femmes ont été invitées à une conférence sur l'enseignement des adultes organisée par la Corporation Carnegie, en Cleveland, qui a duré deux jours et a réuni 48 personnes. De toutes les questions d'enseignement, c'est celle de l'enseignement des adultes qui fait le plus de progrès et provoque le plus d'initiatives.

Irlande.

La semaine du logement à Dublin.—Le Comité du logement a organisé une campagne contre la crise effroyable qui sévit en Irlande. Cette campagne est due à l'Union des ouvrières irlandaises. Pendant la semaine du logement, trois réunions publiques, des conférences avec projections et une exposition ménagère ont éclairé le public sur la question. A Dublin, plus de 21,000 familles de 1 à 12 personnes vivent dans une seule chambre, et 251 familles vivent dans des maisons condamnées comme dangereuses. Toutes les Eglises et beaucoup de sociétés vont s'unir pour parer à cette crise.

Les élections au Sénat.—Ces élections ont été spécialement intéressantes par : la méthode de vote, le mode de scrutin national, le choix des candidats par le Parlement, et la franchise limitée aux citoyens de plus de 30 ans. Le vote se fait par représentation proportionnelle et malgré la complication de cette méthode, les électeurs s'en sont tirés à leur honneur. Toutefois, il est regrettable que les trois femmes du Parlement n'aient pas été réélues, et les journaux eux-mêmes expriment le regret que les femmes et les enfants du pays ne soient pas représentés.

Belgique.

Nous avons, par erreur, dit que Mme. de Brown de Tiege, était la première femme-bourgmestre. Nous apprenons avec plaisir qu'il y en a 6 depuis 1921.

Danemark.

Fête commémorative de l'admission des femmes à l'Université de Copenhague.—Cette fête du 17 septembre a eu un grand retentissement dans la presse et dans le pays. C'est Mme. Nina Bang, ministre de l'I.P., qui a fait le discours de remerciement à l'Université. Elle rappela le fait que l'Université elle-même fut fondée par une femme: Dorothea, femme de Christian 1^{er}, qui, en 1478, rapporta de Rome une bulle papale l'autorisant à ouvrir l'Université de Copenhague. 400 ans plus tard, une autre femme, Nielsine Nielsen, se faisait ouvrir les portes de l'Université. Un riche volume auquel ont contribué tous les membres de l'Université a été publié.

Session parlementaire.—La session vient de s'ouvrir. Le Bill concernant la prohibition du travail de nuit pour les femmes a été présenté. Mme. Nina Bang va présenter un bill sur la réforme des écoles élémentaires.

Nationalité des femmes mariées.—Le Parlement danois a passé une loi semblable à celles de Suède et de Norvège. Par cette loi, la femme danoise ne perd pas sa nationalité en épousant un étranger, à moins qu'elle n'acquiesce la nationalité de son mari, et même, dans ce cas, elle garde sa nationalité tant qu'elle réside au Danemark.

Allemagne.

Le 60^e anniversaire de l'Union générale des femmes allemandes a été célébré à Meissen, le berceau de la grande fondatrice Louise Otto. Au même moment, tous les délégués et représentants du Reich étaient réunis à Dresde pour la 14^e réunion biennale du Conseil national des femmes. Ce fut une fête magnifique. Le Conseil national s'étend maintenant à soixante-trois sociétés, avec 5,000 branches locales, et plus d'un million de membres. Des résolutions furent votées en faveur de la protection légale de la jeunesse dans les lieux d'amusement public, cinémas, etc., contre la mauvaise littérature, les cabarets, etc., sur le projet de loi contre les maladies vénériennes, sur le code criminel, etc. Ces questions furent traitées surtout au point de vue médical, par les femmes médecins présentes, plutôt qu'au point de vue légal. Le dernier jour, les discussions portèrent sur les conditions sanitaires des professions féminines.

Yugoslavie.

Miss Illic a paru récemment comme procureur général dans un procès criminel à Sarajevo.

Turquie.

Nezieh Hanoum a fondé le premier club féminin à Constantinople. Les réunions sont très suivies et leur influence est admise par beaucoup de ministres et de députés. Les féministes présenteront une candidate aux prochaines élections, bien qu'elles n'espèrent pas encore

le succès. Mustapha Kemal est en faveur du mouvement féministe. N. Hanoum rencontre beaucoup de difficultés naturellement; la principale est le manque de fonds qui sont presque tous employés à secourir les réfugiés si nombreux en ce moment; la seconde est la difficulté d'intéresser au mouvement les lointaines provinces. Cependant elle publie un journal bi-mensuel. Une autre femme, Dr. Safeeale, a fondé une "Goutte de lait" et un hôpital d'enfants à Constantinople.

Indes.

Bill pour la protection de l'enfance.—Le gouvernement a élevé l'âge du consentement pour les filles non mariées de 12 à 14 ans, et pour les filles mariées de 12 à 13 ans. Cette réforme si incomplète a cependant été combattue par quelques membres et la loi a passé par 84 votes contre 14.

Université d'Alahabad.—Les sociétés féministes ont protesté contre l'exclusion des femmes de cette Université, mais la décision n'a pas été rapportée.

La Begum de Bhopal.—Elle est la seule femme souveraine dans un état hindou. Elle est née en 1858 et a succédé à une autre souveraine en 1901. Son gouvernement a amené une ère de réformes et de progrès. Elle a fondé l'enseignement gratuit et obligatoire, les écoles de filles sont des modèles du genre dans les Indes; mahométane, elle scutit le Collège anglo-oriental mahométan d'Aligarh, devenu la plus grande université musulmane du monde. Elle a fondé des hôpitaux, des dispensaires pour les femmes, et elle dépense presque tout son argent pour le bien-être du peuple.

Thibet.

L'égalité des sexes est absolue au Thibet et l'a toujours été. L'habileté individuelle est appréciée et payée sans égard pour la différence de sexe. Le gouvernement est entre les mains de gouverneurs locaux, hommes ou femmes, qui ont remplacé les chefs de sang royal. Un district de l'Est qui a gardé ses anciens chefs royaux possède une reine. L'enseignement et la médecine sont entre les mains des lamas (prêtres ou prêtresses). Les prêtres occupent les plus hautes positions, puis viennent les propriétaires fonciers, puis les marchands et fermiers, tous indifféremment hommes ou femmes. Contrairement aux assertions des voyageurs qui parlent de polyandrie, la monogamie est générale.

Japon.

Le dernière carrière qui restât fermée aux femmes, celle du droit, vient de leur être ouverte, avec tous les avantages accordés aux hommes, par une décision du Comité de révision sur la pratique du droit, publiée le 12 juin.

Argentine.

Le Sénat a approuvé le projet de loi accordant aux femmes, célibataires, mariées ou veuves les mêmes droits civils qu'aux hommes. Jusque maintenant, les femmes argentines ne pouvaient traiter aucune affaire sans le consentement de leur mari ou de leur père.

SUISSE.

T. S. F. et féminisme.—Jeudi, 22 octobre, de 9 h. à 9 h. 15 du soir, le poste de Radio-Genève émettra, sauf imprévu, la première des "chroniques d'intérêt féminin" que l'on entendra dorénavant tous les quinze jours, sous la direction de Mlle. Emilie Gourd, rédactrice du *Mouvement Féministe*. Avis à tous les sans-filistes qu'intéressent nos idées, et dont nous serons heureuse de recevoir les appréciations et les observations.

On sait que, dans la plupart des grandes villes étrangères, et en Suisse à Zurich, les programmes comprennent également régulièrement une chronique féminine. Nous sommes très heureuses que Genève ait son tour, et en exprimant notre vive reconnaissance à la Société Radio-Genève pour son amabilité, nous espérons que ce nouveau moyen de faire connaître notre mouvement contribuera par cette voie tout à fait moderne au succès de nos idées.

LISTE DES PAYS QUI ONT RECONNU AUX FEMMES LE DROIT DE VOTE SOUS UNE FORME OU SOUS UNE AUTRE.

Afrique du Sud.—Suffrage municipal (électorat et éligibilité).

Allemagne.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Australie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour les Conseils municipaux, les Parlements l'Etat, et le Parlement fédéral.

Autriche.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour les Conseils municipaux et le Parlement.

Belgique.—Suffrage municipal (électorat et éligibilité). Éligibilité sans droit de vote pour les Conseils provinciaux et le Parlement, électorat seulement pour une catégorie limitée de femmes victimes de la guerre.

Canada.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus dans la province ou dans la domaine fédéral. Toutefois les femmes ne sont pas éligibles comme sénateurs fédéraux, et n'ont encore aucun droit de suffrage (ni électorat ni éligibilité) dans la Province de Québec.

Danemark.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Espagne.—Suffrage municipal restreint avec éligibilité.

Etats Unis.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Estonie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Finlande.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Grande Bretagne.—Suffrage municipal (électorat et éligibilité). Suffrage parlementaire seulement pour les femmes âgées de plus de 30 ans, alors que la majorité politique des hommes est de 21 ans; toutefois les femmes sont éligibles à 21 ans. Quelques inégalités encore.

Grèce.—Suffrage municipal et communal restreint sans éligibilité, d'être mis en vigueur en 1927.

Hongrie.—Pas de données sur les dispositions actuelles du suffrage municipal. Suffrage parlementaire seulement pour les femmes âgées de plus de 30 ans, alors que la majorité politique des hommes est de 21 ans. Quelques autres inégalités.

Ile de Man.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité).

Iles de la Manche.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité).

Indes.—Dans l'Inde anglaise, suffrage sans éligibilité dans les provinces de Bombay, Madras, les Provinces Unies, l'Assam et le Bengale. Dans la Province de Burmah le droit de vote a été donné par un décret spécial qui permet à l'Assemblée Législative de donner le droit d'éligibilité par une simple résolution. Dans quelques villes, telles que Bombay et Madras, suffrage municipal (électorat et éligibilité). Dans les Etats indigènes, le suffrage a été reconnu aux femmes dans les états de Cochin, de Travancore, de Jahalwar, et de Mysore.

Irlande.—Etat Libre: suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus. Irlande du Nord: électorat et éligibilité comme dans la Grande Bretagne.

Islande.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Jamaïque.—Suffrage sans éligibilité.

Kenya.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Lettonie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Lithuanie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Luxembourg.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Norvège.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Nouvelle Zélande.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Palestine.—Les femmes n'ont pas aucun droit de vote sous la constitution, mais elles ont le droit de vote et d'éligibilité à l'Assemblée nationale juive.

Pays Bas.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Pologne.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Rhodesia.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Russie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Suède.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour les corps élus.

Terre Neuve.—Suffrage municipal sans éligibilité. Suffrage politique (électorat et éligibilité) pour les femmes âgées de 25 ans, alors que la majorité politique des hommes est à 21 ans.

Tcheco Slovaquie.—Suffrage intégral (électorat et éligibilité) pour tous les corps élus.

Trinidad et Tobago.—Suffrage sans éligibilité pour les femmes âgées de plus de 30 ans, alors que la majorité politique des hommes est de 21 ans.

Windward Islands (Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, etc.)—Suffrage sans éligibilité pour les femmes âgées de plus de 30 ans, alors que la majorité politique des hommes est de 21 ans.

FRANCE.

Le vent tourne.—Mme. Brunschvicg, présidente de l'U.F.S.F., a été désignée par arrêté du 11 août, 1925, pour faire partie du Comité Consultatif du Haut-Commissariat du Logement, rattaché à la Présidence du Conseil.

Qu'une femme soit appelée à prendre part aux travaux d'un comité dont le but est de permettre que les foyers soient plus nombreux, voilà qui est bien. Et nous sommes enchantées, surtout, de voir qu'on commence à comprendre dans les milieux officiels l'utilité de recourir, en certains cas, à l'expérience pratique des femmes.

EGYPTE.

Une Industrielle Egyptienne: Helama Abdel Malek.

Commerçant et industrielle dirigeant elle-même ses propres affaires, telle est Mlle. Helana Abdel Malek de Tantah.

Elle est née dans cette ville en 1875. Son père et sa mère faisaient le commerce des grains. Bien jeune encore, elle entreprit pour son propre compte et pour un certain temps le même commerce que son père. Puis, dès 1895 elle tourna son activité du côté du commerce du coton. Elle l'achetait aux villageois pour le revendre à Tantah, sans égrenage, car cette opération n'était alors connue que de fort peu d'égyptiens.

Son inlassable capacité de travail jointe à une grande probité lui assurèrent le succès. Aussi, ne faut-il pas s'étonner qu'elle ait été parmi les premiers qui envoyèrent leur coton à Alexandrie égrené pour être ensuite expédié à l'étranger.

A Tantah, Mlle. Helana Abdel Malek possède une usine à égrener le coton utilisant non moins de quarante employés permanents de diverses races et religions auxquels elle paye environ trois cents livres égyptiennes mensuellement.

Elle a en outre à Alexandrie une succursale et une chounah pour l'emmagasinage du coton. Les employés de cette branche au nombre de vingt et pour la plupart des étrangers, touchent environ quatre cents livres égyptiennes par mois.

Tête et premier moteur de ses entreprises, Mlle. Helana Abdel Malek dirige à elle seule ses importants travaux. Considérée à ce point de vue, elle est un titre de gloire pour l'Egypte et même pour tout l'Orient.

La fortune de cette éminente femme d'affaires s'élève à un quart de million de livres égyptiennes. A ses besoins personnels, elle ne consacre qu'une bien mince part de ses revenus. Elle pourvoit aux frais d'instruction de ses parents (neveux et nièces) et nulle œuvre charitable ne fait jamais en vain appel à son bon cœur.

Une femme très occupée, telle se présente à nous Mlle. Helana Abdel Malek, occupée de choses qui intéressent l'Egypte au plus haut point. D'une part, ses œuvres philanthropiques telles que l'assistance aux déshérités de la vie, la réparation des églises, des moquées, des hôpitaux et des asiles. De l'autre: son commerce, son industrie source de prospérité pour le pays. Si le coton

peut être considéré comme le roi de la richesse égyptienne, nous n'exagérons pas en disant que Mlle. Helana Abdel Malek est la reine du coton.—*L'Égyptienne*

LA FEMME DRUZ.

A l'occasion de la nouvelle révolte des montagnards druzes contre l'autorité française, en Syrie, disons quelques mots sur les mœurs de la femme druze.

En temps de paix, elle est l'aide puissante et indispensable de l'homme dans les travaux pénibles, tels que ceux des champs, aussi bien que dans les diverses occupations du ménage.

En temps de guerre, on la voit se transformer en un véritable soldat dans toute l'acception du mot, apprêtant les armes, ravitaillant de munitions et de vivres ses compatriotes en plein champ de bataille, ou vacant au village à diverses besognes masculines, lorsqu'une force majeure l'empêche de suivre son mari, son père, ou son frère au combat.

En un mot, elle est une précieuse suppléante de l'homme en toute occasion.

L'on a vu souvent au combat des femmes druzes enflammer le courage des hommes par des hymnes guerriers. Enfin se jetant dans la mêlée, armes en mains, battre l'ennemi avec une rare vaillance et remporter une éclatante victoire.—*L'Égyptienne*.

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